



Perris News

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Housing Fair Welcomes New Residents and Helps Fill Homes

The Perris Housing Fair offered recent residents everything they wanted to know about the community while providing information aplenty for people pondering a move to the City.

More than 50 vendors offered advice on City schools, businesses, real estate, home-buying opportunities, mortgage rates and loan packages available for first-time buyers or those interested in refinancing.

The City's Planning Department and Redevelopment Agency showcased innovative programs—like the Homebuyers Assistance Program and the Foreclosure Homeownership Program—credited with helping dozens of families purchase homes in Perris. Those programs make use of low-interest loans, education programs, seminars, brochures and community outreach to put eligible residents into homes.



Danielle Lefridge hugs Associate Planner Sabrina Chavez during the recent Housing Fair. Chavez worked with LeFridge to help her purchase a home in Perris.

But it would be wrong to label the gathering in Foss Park as just an attempt to attract prospective buyers.

The day's festivities also included a chance for the City of Perris to welcome people who have taken advantage of home-buying opportunities to learn more about their new community. There were representatives from Perris schools, the Perris Community Partnership, the Cesar Chavez Public Library and local shopping malls. There were pony rides, face painting and jumpers for the kids. There was music for the older set.



Pony rides were offered to kids at the Sept. 11 Housing Fair.

"We really want residents to know what's happening in their community," said Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin.

"This is about community outreach."

Danielle Lefridge, 41, could not stop beaming during the Housing Fair. She took advantage of the City's Homebuyers Assistance Program to purchase a three-bedroom two-bath home on Perris' north side. She and her three children won't be living in a 700-square-foot apartment any longer.

Lefridge received \$8,000 in down payment assistance through the City program.

"Without their help, I would not have a home," said Lefridge as she fought back tears. "Me and my family are going to make Perris a better place."

Lefridge singled out Associate Planner Sabrina Chavez and Redevelopment Project Coordinator Sara Cortes-Diaz for special praise. She said the pair helped her complete the necessary loan arrangements in less than a week.

"Where do you find people like that who care so much about others?" she said. "They are just top-notch!"

Marlene Gutierrez came seeking information about becoming a homebuyer. She brought her two daughters with her.

"Rent is so expensive," she said. "This is a great event. The staff has been so friendly to us."

Perris City Councilman Al Landers brought several members of his staff at the real estate company he owns to answer questions from the public. Landers said he was pleased with the turnout, which numbered several hundred visitors.

"We are very aggressive and progressive in promoting programs that benefit our residents," Landers said. "Our City is committed to quality for our residents. This event is great for our City, great for the community and great for the vendors. We are making possible the American Dream."

Realtor Jose Marin said he welcomed the opportunity to inform people about the many innovative programs available in Perris.

"The City of Perris is encouraging deserving and responsible people to own homes," Marin said. "I applaud their efforts."



Michael McCormick, Assistant Superintendent of the Val Verde Unified School District, shows off a schematic of a new high school in Perris.



The City's Planning and Redevelopment Agency Staff passed out information about Perris housing programs to many visitors. Sabrina Chavez, Rebecca Miranda, Sara Cortes-Diaz and Luis Natera.