

## Perris News

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## Rehabilitation Loans Help Perris Residents



The Gomezes are surrounded by Perris Housing Division Staff

Jose and Connie Gomez say it's like getting a brand new home without having to leave their old one.

The Perris couple became the first residents to take advantage of the City's substantial rehabilitation program, which provides up to \$50,000 in low-interest loans to repair and upgrade carpeting, cabinets, floors, ceilings, interior and exterior paints and appliances.

The couple took full advantage of the two percent interest loan.

The funds paid for wood floors, new carpets upstairs, interior painting, an energy-efficient dishwasher and stove, new ceiling fans and lighting. Renovations took three months.

"We always wanted to do a major upgrade to our home but we never had the funds," said Jose Gomez, a U.S. Postal Carrier.

"We would start a job and then have to finish it because we did not have the money. Without this program, we would not have been able to make all the improvements. We love the City of Perris and we've lived here for 20 years. It's great to get all the work done at once."

Connie Gomez smiled broadly during an informal open house Monday that included a visit from City Manager Richard Belmudez, Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin and other staff members.

"We are really pleased to be able to participate in this wonderful program," she said.

Properties that can be considered for the Substantial Rehabilitation Program must be owner occupied single-family residences. Homeowners must meet income eligibility guidelines established by Riverside County. The loan becomes due at the time the home is sold.

The Gomez family learned about the program after reading a flyer. They contacted the City which in turn helped them through the application process. Associate Planner Sabrina Chavez said the program aims to "promote pride in neighborhoods" while upgrading family homes.

Chavez said Perris has received five additional applications from people interested in participating.

advantage of this rehabilitation program."

"It's a great program, and we are proud to offer it," she said. City Manager Belmudez presented the Gomezes with a gift basket courtesy of City staff.

"This continues our efforts to help turn houses into homes," Belmudez said. "We are delighted you have taken

Jose Gomez said the new look will make it more inviting when he invites his buddies to watch Monday Night Football.

"It made all the sense in the world to take part in this program," he said. "It's like buying a new house."

More information about the Substantial Rehabilitation Program is available on the City's website, affordable housing <u>programs</u>.

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Program.



City.

basket to Jose and Connie Gomez, the first residents to take advantage of the City's Substantial Rehabilitation