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## New Community Garden Opens at Seventh Day Adventist Church



Pastor Wade Forde, pastor of the Fifth Street Seventh Day Adventist Church, prepares to cut the ribbon on a community garden at the church campus Aug. 30. With him are various dignitaries from the City of Perris, Western Riverside Council of Governments and gardening enthusiasts. Perris Mayor Michael Vargas stands next to Forde, while City Councilwoman Rita Rogers is pictured on

City of Perris representatives joined with members of the Fifth Street Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Western Riverside Council of Governments and green thumbs from the community Aug. 30 to cut the ribbon on the 13th satellite garden. The partnership with Pastor Wade Forde marks the first garden at a faith-based organization as the ongoing Perris Green City Farm Program continues advancing toward its ultimate goal of 30 community gardens. The first 12 satellite gardens have been located at various school campuses throughout the City. The Green City Farm Program seeks to make available fresh fruits, vegetables, spices and herbs to all Perris residents as a way of encouraging healthier eating and improving overall health.



Perris Mayor Michael Vargas said the City's first community garden at a church expands the commitment to healthy eating. The first 12 satellite gardens have been located at various elementary, middle and high-schools throughout Perris.



Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, who contends with high cholesterol and diabetes, welcomed the new community garden as a place where can obtain healthy foods.



Anthony Godoy, 10, a fifth-grader at Perris Elementary School, points to some of the crops he planted at the Seventh Day Adventist Church garden, including tomatoes, cilantro, zucchini and onions.



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