



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY DEDICATES HARDING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

PLEASANTON, Calif. — The City dedicated its newest neighborhood park, Harding Park, this morning in a simple ceremony that included the Mayor and City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission members and other members of the community.

Located at 5801 Gibraltar Drive (at the intersection Gibraltar and Hacienda drives), Harding Park is near two apartment complexes next to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART. As parks and other public amenities are often key aspects of larger-scale residential developments, Harding Park was constructed by Essex Property Trust, Inc., the developer of The Galloway at Hacienda and The Galloway at Owens apartment projects.

The park features two playgrounds (one for 2-5 years old and the other for older kids) along with picnic tables, benches and a small grass area surrounded by native, drought-tolerant plants and shade trees.

Harding Park is the 35<sup>th</sup> neighborhood park in Pleasanton, with 10 additional community parks. The distinction between neighborhood and community parks is largely due to size. Neighborhood parks, such as Harding Park, are generally 10 acres or less and designed to address the daily recreation needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Community parks are 10 acres or more and provide active recreational opportunities for Pleasanton residents at-large. There are 10 in Pleasanton, some of the most recognizable parks in the city such as Ken Mercer Sports Park, Bernal, Val Vista, Amador Valley, Centennial, Augustin Bernal and Alviso Adobe.

Harding Park was named after Warren and Harry Harding. In July 2015, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public meeting to consider several potential names for the park. Several people spoke in favor of Harding Park as a way to honor the legacy of son Warren Harding and father, Harry Harding, who had both dedicated their lives to the Pleasanton community and had been important influences. Warren Harding served on the City Council between 1960 and 1968, and served as Mayor from 1960-1962 and again from 1966-1968. He was viewed by many as the guiding hand behind the City's first General Plan.

Mayor Jerry Thorne spoke at today's dedication, as did former Pleasanton Mayor Bob Philcox.

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