



San Jose City Councilman George Shirakawa, left, who grew up less than a mile away, helps break in the new pool at the renovated Mayfair Community Center January 31, 2009 during a celebration of the center's opening. The facility was once the decrepit symbol of all that had gone wrong in the East Side community -- a hub for drug dealing, truancy and fencing. But neighbors got together and lobbied the city for change, and San Jose responded, by stepping up police and code enforcement and rebuilding the community center. The new community center, which features a pool, skate park, water spray park, public art, a commercial kitchen and banquet hall, computer lab, conference room, classrooms and activity rooms. City officials, including Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilwoman Nora Campos were on hand. Reed and Campos cut the red ribbon that stretched across the building's front door. (Pauline Lubens/San Jose Mercury News) (Pauline Lubens)

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