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Spring Egg Hunt Brings Out Smiles and Community Spirit

Volunteers from the City of Perris, local schools, Girl Scout troops and community helped turn the annual Spring Egg Hunt at City Hall from another community event to something eggstraordinary.

Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez and City Clerk Nancy Salazar helped check in folks who had registered to take part in a breakfast buffet that included a yogurt bar loaded with healthy fruit choices.

Rodriguez also touched based with several vendors who provided food gift cards, thanking them for supporting a yearly City event that always draws a huge crowd.

High-school students from the City's Youth Advisory Committee helped feed the crowd of more than 350. Girl Scouts and chaperones from several Perris troops kept the hunting grounds—mazes of hay bales set up in front of City Hall—well stocked with eggs sought out by eager children.

Perris resident Esperanza Steward with her sons, Kannon, 4, and Kason, 5: "I'm definitely raving on the City of Perris."

Rodriguez commended City staff for including healthy fruits and yogurt into the breakfast menu. Nutritious food choices represent a pillar in the City's "Live Well Perris" ongoing healthy-eating active-living campaign, which continues April 26 with a Community Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall, 101 North D Street.

 "We are not just talking the talk, we are walking the walk," Rodriguez said. "Events like our egg hunt draw so many divergent people. These are the kind of events I went to before I was elected to the City Council. It's incredible."

Eduardo and Jessica Ocampo chaperoned their daughter, Jasmine, 7, and 11 other youngsters from Girl Scout Troop 95 who worked the egg hunt. The day showed the value of community spirit and volunteerism. It was also fun.

Volunteer Girl Scouts help a youngster search for goodies during the April 12 Spring Egg Hunt at the City Hall Campus.

"I get to play with my friends and put out eggs so other kids can collect them," Jasmine said.

Eduardo Ocampo said the family moved to Perris three years ago from Los Angeles. It was a good choice.

"I wouldn't go back," he said. "Perris is a great place to raise kids. We love it here."

Jessica Ocampo said she enjoys watching the kids enjoy themselves.

"I just like to see a smile on their faces," she said.

Perris City Clerk Nancy Salazar and Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo check people in at the annual Egg Hunt, which drew more than 350 participants

I Esperanza Steward came to the egg hunt with her sons, Kason, 5, and Kannon, 4. She said the City of Perris is big on offering family-friendly events, activities that prove popular with parents as well as children. She takes advantage of other City programs, enrolling the boys in youth soccer leagues.

"I am definitely raving on the City of Perris," Steward said. "I am very pleased to bring them here. They get to be outside and get to have fun. To me it doesn't get any better."

Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez dropped by the Spring Egg Hunt to lend his support for the activity. He is pictured with Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo and City Clerk Nancy Salazar.

family for three years. This year, she came with girls, Estefanee, Elizabeth, Angelo and Raquel. The kids loved the breakfast, took photos with the bunny and scooped up plenty of eggs to take home.

"It's a fun time for all," Gonzalez said. "I love the City of Perris because it is so pro-active in organizing family-type events like this. The City of Perris is fantastic."

Media Contact

Joe Vargo
Public Information Officer
📞 951-956-2120
✉ jvargo@cityofperris.org

Perris City Hall
101 N. D Street
Perris, CA 92570

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