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## City to Launch Festive Boat in Lake Perris Parade

The City of Perris and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department are teaming up to decorate a launch a boat Saturday (Dec. 7) during the 15th annual "Lights on the Lake Holiday Boat Parade" sponsored by the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough will be leading a team of City volunteers who are decorating the sheriff's dive-team boat. It's one of the highlights of his holiday season.

Yarbrough is encouraging City residents to come to Lake Perris to launch their own boat or watch the parade, which typically features 25 or more boats decked out in spectacular displays of lights, reindeers, Santa Claus figures, cartoon characters and other festive offerings.

"The Lake Perris State Recreation Area carries the City of Perris' name," Yarbrough said. "It's a treasure right on our doorstep. The boat parade is a great holiday tradition and one that I am proud to take part in."

Yarbrough said that while the boat parade is always spectacular, in coming years, Lake Perris will become even more majestic. The State of California has approved major renovations to strengthen the lake's dam against earthquakes, which forced the reduction of the water level. When improvements are completed in the next year or so, the lake level will rise significantly, which will make boating, fishing, water skiing and sailing even more spectacular.

Yarbrough spent several weeks this year rounding up local support for the dam renovations.

Besides the parade of boats and lights, the upcoming event includes the appearance of a disc jockey, food and beverages, face painting and coloring contests for the kids. There may even be a special appearance by Santa Claus.

Judges for the event will be awarding park passes to boat parade participants. Others are welcome to enjoy the parade from the shoreline.

Admission is free for all contestants and anyone donating an unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more. This year we are encouraging visitors to donate \$10 towards the purchase of children's wagons that will be used at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

These special wagons can hold all of the medical equipment and allows the staff at Loma Linda the ability to give the children some much needed time outside of their hospital beds.

Last year, 47 wagons and a handful of gaming systems were donated to Loma Linda's Children's Hospital by joint effort between the California State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Pre-registration for Saturday's boat parade is recommended. To enter a vessel or for further information contact the park at (951) 940-5600 or email Ranger Kenneth Gordon at [kenneth.gordon@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kenneth.gordon@parks.ca.gov).



A highly festooned boat is launched into Lake Perris as part of the annual "Lights on the Lake Holiday Boat Parade." This year's event takes place on Dec. 7.