



Perris Press Release

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer
Phone: 951-956-2120
jvargo@cityofperris.org

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights Community Spirit

A record crowd of nearly 1,000 people took advantage of a City-sponsored Spring Egg Hunt Saturday to gather up some holiday goodies, enjoy a hearty breakfast and get a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Smiles were all around as Parks and Recreation workers and volunteers seeded a portion of the City Hall Campus with 3,500-plastic and hard-boiled eggs before letting groups of children loose to track them down and place them in bags and baskets.

The City also provided bales of straw for kids to romp around in while searching out for treasures filled with candy.

Long lines of children and their parents gathered early to take part in the fun. Some residents said they never miss a Spring Egg Hunt or any of the other programs offered by the City, like Strutt Your Mutt, Movies in the Park or the annual Halloween Festival. Others said Saturday's Egg Hunt was the first time—but not the last—they participated in a City-sponsored event.

"This is fantastic," said Phyllis Thompson, who brings her great-granddaughter to the Egg Hunt every year. "The City of Perris is very family friendly. I look forward to coming out here and taking advantage of the great programs offered. If we don't take advantage of them, whose fault is that?"

Thompson said she enjoys watching the Egg Hunt because it lights up the faces of all the children taking part. It's a safe place to share community spirit, meet other Perris residents and enjoy holiday charm.

"The kids are so cute and so excited to take part," she said.

Gabriel and Erin Martinez brought their sons, Ethan, 5, and Nathan, 3, to the Egg Hunt. It was their first time. Grandma Sharyn Hampton came along too.

"It's nice to see the kids have fun and have a good time," Gabriel Martinez said. "It's really nice. It brings families and friends together."

Mary Castro brought her four children—Martin, 12; Timmy, 4; Savannah, 3, and Isabella, 1. Castro said she enjoys watching the kids enjoy themselves as they pick up eggs and eat the goodies inside.

"It doesn't get any better than this," she said. "It's nice because everyone can afford this and everyone here is friendly."

Arcena Upson said she came to the Egg Hunt with her children, Aaliyah and Kaliyah, 9 and Angel, 8, because she wanted to be part of a community that is all about "togetherness and family."

"Perris is a family community," Upson said. "It's just a beautiful city."

Saul and Kathleen Ochoa brought their son, Owen, 3. The Egg Hunt provided a great opportunity for family time and to learn about other exciting events happening in Perris. The family discovered the City offers pee-wee soccer for youngsters. Owen saw his mom-and-tot teacher helping out at the Egg Hunt.

"It really gives us an opportunity to see what's going on in the community," Saul Ochoa said.

City Staff from the Public Works and Parks and Recreation made the Egg Hunt possible. They were assisted by six volunteers from the California Military Institute and two others from the City.



Parks and Recreation employee Stacie Dain prepares to place eggs on a field of straw during Saturday's annual Spring Egg Hunt. Behind her, lines of children and their parents await the action eagerly.



Mary Castro and daughter, Isabella.



Ethan Martinez and his brother, Nathan, display the eggs they captured at the big Egg Hunt, while their parents, Gabriel and Erin and grandmother, Sharyn Hampton, look on.



Saul and Kathleen Ochoa with their son, Owen.