



Perris Press Release

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Perris Tidies Up on Annual Spring Cleaning Day

Everything including the kitchen sink got thrown away during the City's annual Spring cleaning day.

Volunteers teamed up with City crews to tackle a series of problem areas from one end of Perris to the other while hundreds of other residents took advantage of the one-day throw-it-all-away-for-free offer from the City and its refuse collector, CR&R.

Pickups, vans, station wagons and sedans were waiting at the former Perris Police Station on G Street when the big clean-up began at 7 a.m. Saturday. Some people said they took advantage of the one-day offer to clean up years of accumulation in the attic, backyard or shed.

Others said they needed to haul away waste generated from an ongoing home-improvement project. All said they were grateful for the City for making the Spring-cleaning opportunity available.

When all the work was done, and the final tally of trash was totaled, Perris residents had thrown away 335.55 tons of garbage—more than 671,000 pounds. The total far surpassed last year's total of 307.98 tons.

Elsa Flores and her mother, Rosalinda Flores, said they tore down a mobile home and needed to get rid of the leftovers. They said they would haul away as many truckloads as possible during the one-day cleanup.

"Lots of loads, as many as we can," said Elsa Flores. "We don't have the money to pay someone to take away all this trash. I wish we could do it more often. It's really great."

Rosalinda Flores said the mobile home was an eyesore and fire hazard.

Elsewhere, Perris residents unloaded old sofas and chairs, toys, plastic furniture, wood scraps, household trash, green wastes, rocks, tires, plastic bottles, tubing, mattresses and concrete.

"This is a great opportunity to clean up your house and get rid of everything lying around," said Reynaldo Garduno. "It makes the house look better, it makes Perris look better."

Julian Moody said he cleared out 15 years worth of junk from his rafters and backyard.

"It sure as heck makes everything look better," he said. "This is one of the best programs the City offers."

While an assembly line of vehicles off-loaded tons of trash on G Street, at Perris Boulevard and Third Street a dozen volunteers and City public works employees tackled a residence overrun by piles of garbage. While City employee Mike Tanney manned a front-end loader, volunteers carried out buckets of rocks—the owner apparently thought they contained gold—and other trash, including a mummified duck, broken furniture, e-waste, household trash and tree branches.

Perris Planning Commissioner Dwayne Hammond was among those who put on gloves and work boots to clean up the property.

"This place needs a little tender loving care," Hammond said. "I enjoy doing things to help keep the City clean. I know this helps."

At Harley Knox and Webster avenues in Perris' north end, volunteers from the Hacienda Christian Life Campus worked within site of the runway at March Air Reserve Base, pulling tires and heaps of buried trash from the ground and tossing them into waiting bins. Public Works employee Juan Lemus provided the muscle with a City bulldozer.

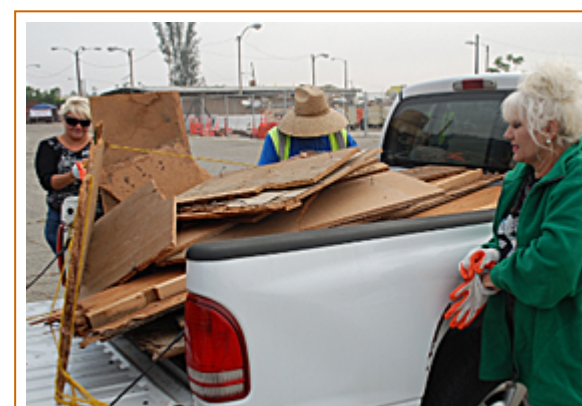
Pastor Donnie Callihan said the volunteers from the campus want to be part of the Perris community. They have volunteered at the big clean-up for several years.

"We try our best to be active participants in making Perris a better place to live and work," Callihan said.

Perris City workers who made the Spring clean-up a success included Eddie Gutierrez, Arturo Garcia, Juan Lemus, Steve Pedigo, Ignacio Alvarez, Joe Kircher, Shane Hidey, Mike Tanney, Cora Soto, Cindy Sesma, Raul Castillo, Jose Zelaya and Rene Avila.



Perris Planning Commissioner Dwayne Hammond removes trash from a residence on Third Street.



Elsa Flores (left) and her mother, Rosalinda, toss trash from a mobile home they tore down.



Discarding tires proved popular for many Perris residents during the big annual Spring Clean-up.



Public Works employee Mike Tanney works a bulldozer as he removes trash during the big clean-up.



Volunteers found a mummified duck at one location.