



Perris Press Release

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Perris Residents Clean Up

Perris residents threw out 540,000 pounds of trash during a one-day community cleanup last week while the City collected \$1,078 in recycling fees for collecting e-waste and electronics like television and computer monitors.

The line of cars and trucks began even before the 7 a.m. official start of Saturday's big fall cleaning and the pace did not slacken throughout the day.

The City conducts two cleanup days every year in conjunction with CR&R, Perris' contracted waste hauler.

"It's quite a show," said Gilbert Luna, who orchestrated the parade of vehicles dropping off green waste, household trash, furniture and other refuse. "It's managed chaos. We have a great collaboration with the City of Perris to work to keep it clean. If the trash doesn't end up here, it ends up in a landfill or at the side of the road."

While thousands of residents took advantage of the free one-day fall cleanup offer, small groups of volunteers descended on two locations to remove trash and blight. Volunteers from two church ministries cleaned up a home on Sixth Street in Downtown Perris and a lot on Mapes Road near the Perris Valley Airport.

Homeowners at both locations praised the City for working with them to improve their properties. Jose Munoz, who owns the property on Sixth Street, praised City Code Enforcement Officers Cindy Sesma and Richard Toth for working with him as he rehabs a once-vacant home for use by his brother, who is moving to Perris from Northern California.

"The City has been working with me to rehab the home and I am grateful," Munoz said.

Members of the Free Indeed Christian Fellowship and Hacienda Christian Life Campus worked on Sixth Street, raking up trash, scooping rocks and broken cement in trash bins and tossing the mess into a Dumpster.

"This is a way to reach out and extend our hand to help people do the right thing," said volunteer William Churchill. Another volunteer, Jason Devinny, said of the cleanup effort: "It's a good way to help clean up the City. No one wants to live in a trashed area."

Devinny said the work was rewarding, but no picnic.

"It's fun, but it's hard work," he said. "It's a little strenuous on the back, feet and legs."

At the seven-acre homestead of Roland and Harvey Minnich, City workers teamed up with volunteers to remove refuse including wood scraps, corrugated plastic, foam rubber and piping. Much of the heap resulted when the owner of a mobile home stored on the property gutted the trailer before leaving. There was also a lot of tree limbs and branches to be hauled off.

The brothers are long-time City residents. Their father served on the City Council and school board, published the Perris Progress newspaper and was part of the Orange Empire Railway Museum. Their mother is a member of the Perris Valley Historical and Museum Association and volunteers on behalf of the Perris Library.

"The City of Perris has been enormously helpful in getting this cleaned up," Roland Minnich said.

Roland Minnich said Code Enforcement Officer Joe Kircher was particularly helpful in working with the family to clean up their lot. Kircher and Public Works employee Eddie Gutierrez were at the site Saturday. Gutierrez operated the front-end loader that scooped up the refuse.

"We have had nothing but good experiences with the City of Perris," Harvey Minnich said. "There are not enough good things I can say about the City. I love this town. It's nice to see the City is willing to help us out."



Zac Mullinax helps load a Dumpster while working at a house on East Sixth Street.



Perris Public Works employee Eddie Gutierrez operates a loader while cleaning up at a residence on Mapes Road near Perris Valley Airport.



Homeowner Jose Munoz says the City of Perris worked closely with him to help clean up his Downtown property.



William Churchill and Jason Devinny clean up at the home of Jose Munoz on East Sixth Street.