



Perris Press Release

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

Annual Boat Parade Lights up Lake Perris

A record 45 boats took part in the recent "Parade of Lights" at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area and City staff members were on hand giving out goodies to make the night on the water a special one.

The annual boat parade on Lake Perris always features a flotilla of festooned crafts all decked up for the holidays. Owners decorate their boats with lights, wreaths, trees, garland, Santa Claus and cartoon characters.

The boats then circle a cove at the lake to show off their decorations to the people on shore.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough, Ted Norton, CEO of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce and Police Chief John Hill led the City's contingent. Volunteers decorated the department's dive boat for the occasion. The Chamber of Commerce and City of Perris shared booth at the parade. City staff workers gave out Perris-logged mugs, stuffed animals and candy canes.

Santa Claus rode in on a City of Perris fire engine.

"It's important for the City to take part in this important community event," Yarbrough said. "It's important to wave our flag. The City celebrated its Centennial this year and this was another way to get out and tell people that we've had a great year." Norton called the parade of lights a "fantastic event" that catered to families.

"The floats were beautiful, the environment was great," Norton said. "All in all, it was a great night. I would definitely go out there again."

Norton said he thinks the Chamber of Commerce should work to promote the Parade of Lights and the City of Perris'

Christmas Parade, which usually fall on the same day. Hill said that police officials gave out stickers and coloring books to kids who made it to the Parade of Lights. He said he was extremely impressed by the turnout and spirit of the holidays that dominated the night.

"I was fully amazed that there were so many boats on the water," Hill said. "That was something."



A woman in a kayak was among those taking part in the annual Parade of Lights Dec. 10 at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area. (Photo by Ted Norton).



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough readies mugs for distribution at the boat parade. (Photo by Ted Norton).



This brightly colored entry lit up the lake during the boat parade. (Photo by Ted Norton).