



## Perris News

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### Perris Cleans Up During Annual Spring Cleaning Day

Perris residents came out to throw out a huge assortment of household trash, construction materials, masonry, furniture and other refuse Saturday at the City's annual spring cleaning day.

A line of vehicles loaded with garbage formed before the official kickoff of the community cleanup at 7 a.m. at the old police headquarters on Fourth Street.

Perris residents tossed heaping piles of broken chairs and mattresses, garden equipment, carpet scraps, propane bottles, cardboard, green wastes and Christmas decorations into large bins. In a process repeated countless times throughout the course of the day, a car or truck loaded with refuse would pull up to a Dumpster and one or more pair of hands would begin to unload weeks, months and in some cases, years of accumulated trash.

Minutes later, an empty vehicle would pull out of the collection center and be replaced by another one waiting to unload.

Cora Soto, who works in Development Services for the City and who helped coordinate the big cleanup, said that by day's end Saturday 307.98 tons of garbage were taken off of Perris streets and backyards.

Several residents praised the annual cleanup day, and noted that Perris has come a long way in recent months. D Street has undergone major renovations, ground will break on a new intersection at Highway 74 and Interstate 215, the City recently purchased and upgraded the Perris Theatre building and will soon dedicate the historic Bank of Perris.

"This City is making big progress," said Les Lowe as he dropped off a truck load of carpet scraps. Lowe said he appreciates the City's efforts to spruce up Downtown. He's also grateful for the annual cleanup event.

"It will make a big difference around the house," he said.

Harry Rivers took advantage of the big cleanup to unload a truck full of broken plumbing fixtures. As he unloaded the trash, he came upon a black widow spider.

"This is going to make the house look a lot better," Rivers said. "I wish the City had these cleanups more often." Robert Thomas led a contingent from Eagle's Wing Christian Church, who brought chairs, wood, and broken athletic gear for the scrap heap.

"Some of this stuff has been sitting around for years," Thomas said. "Perris is a special place. It's a small community with that down home type feel. We're glad to take part in this event, because it helps beautify the City."

City workers also tackled a lot on Third Street that had become a graveyard for derelict boats. Public Works employees using backhoes and bulldozers pulled about six boats from public property and loaded them into Dumpsters. Some of the craft had been exposed to the elements for years, officials said.

The City team of employees who helped make the Community Clean-Up Day a success included Soto, Juan Lemus, Arturo Garcia, Greg Lee, Mike Tanney, Rebecca Miranda, Shane Hidey, Steve Pedigo, Cindy Sesma, Joe Kircher, Raul Castillo and Ignacio Alvarez. Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin led a team of City workers who cleaned out the old Police Headquarters Building on Fourth Street, which the City is rehabilitating.

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A pile of trash awaiting discarding. The annual event netted nearly 308 tons of trash.



A City bulldozer hauls away a boat from a field on Third Street.



Robert Thomas, of Eagle's Wing Christian Church, gets ready to toss out broken furniture and athletic equipment.