



Perris News

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Get Ready for the 11th Annual Rods and Rails Extravaganza!

It's Perris' annual homage to fins, fenders, running boards, hood ornaments, dual-carburetors, chrome wheels and lots and lots of car polish.

And don't forget the parallel celebration of Perris' historical agricultural roots.

The 11th Annual Rods & Rails Extravaganza and Historic Potato Festival will take place June 12 at the Orange Empire Railway Museum 2201 A Street. Admission to the event is free, as is parking. The daylong festival also includes food vendors, a youth talent show and bicycle show.

"This is the time for Perris residents and visitors to see one of the City's truly unique venues while taking a tour through America's automobile past and learning something about the agricultural heritage of Perris," said City Councilman Mark Yarbrough. "Where else can you see all that? And it's free to boot."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said the City cherishes Rods & Rails because it "offers something for everyone."

"It's a great community event and showcase," Busch said. City Councilman Al Landers said the festival brings tourists and business to Perris all while promoting the community.

"That's what I call a win, win, win situation," he said.

Former Perris City Councilman John Motte, a longtime supporter of the Rods & Rails celebration, said event has grown substantially in recent years. Once held on historic D Street, Rods & Rails moved to the railway museum to accommodate the growing number of vehicles and attendees.

Last year's festival included coupes and convertible, vintage Chevys and Fords, pickup trucks and sedans.

"It's a very nice event," Motte said. "Usually we know all the people there and folks don't have to drive a long distance to make it. It's a very nice venue. I am grateful that the word is getting out about Rods & Rails. I believe the City should continue promoting it."

Motte said he is planning on bringing two classic cars to the show—a 1931 Cadillac and a 1935 Auburn. The Cadillac comes equipped with a V-8 motor, three-speed standard transmission, a rumble seat and driving lights. Those are lamps that turn with the steering wheel. The interior is all leather.

The Auburn represented luxury-riding during the Roaring 20s. Known for their advanced engineering as well as their striking appearance, Auburns were favored the Hollywood set and other high-profile users.

"Both these vehicles are A-list cars," Motte said.

The Rods & Rails Extravaganza and Historic Potato Festival run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available by calling 951-943-6603 or by visiting the City of Perris website, www.cityofperris.org



Bright-colored cars like this are part of the annual Rods & Rails Extravaganza.



A volunteer explains the City's agricultural roots to visitors during last year's event.



City employees Sara Cortes-Diaz and Cindy Sesma worked a City booth at the 2009 festival.