



## Perris News

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### Perris Senior Citizens Honored on Annual Recognition Day

The City of Perris paid its respects to senior citizens, particularly the ones who make the golden years a little more golden for their peers by volunteering at the Perris Senior Center.

This year's annual Senior Recognition Day drew more than 70 people who help call out Bingo numbers, organize Bunco games, help package and distribute food to less fortunate residents and assist in line-dance classes.

"They are making a difference in the lives of other seniors and making the community a better place to live," said Erica Tello, Senior Center supervisor. "The experience they have makes this a happier place to be."

Senior volunteers were treated to lunch and received certificates of appreciation from the City. Three members of the Perris City Council also attended the ceremony and thanked the seniors for their contributions to the Senior

Center, the City of Perris and the entire Perris Valley. The Senior Center also received accolades from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging.

Geoffrey Dooley, 79, received an award for volunteering as a Bingo caller. Dooley said he volunteered for the City of Riverside for years but never received an attaboy.

"Perris is a nice little town that cares about its people," Dooley said. "I like coming here and mingling with my fellow seniors. There are lots of great people here and lots of great friendships. The staff is wonderful. The people are so friendly."

Noreen Levine, 79, said she helps organize Bunco games every Tuesday. The games draw 16 regular players. Besides the fun, Levine said her peers provide inspiration and good cheer in her battle with breast cancer.

"You find mutual support," she said. "You laugh and get over your problems."

Mayor Pro-Tem Rita Rogers led the City Council contingent, which also included Councilmembers Al Landers and Mark Yarbrough.

"We truly have the utmost respect and compassion for you and your accomplishments," Rogers said. "You are our role models."

Landers told the audience that senior citizens have "elevated this City to where it is right now."

"We love our seniors," he said. "We want to protect them and take care of them."

Yarbrough said "we owe everything to our seniors."

"They paved the way," he said. "To not honor them would be shameful. We need to give them anything and everything they need."



Perris City Councilman Al Landers chats with Mark Wenker, 85, during the annual Senior Appreciation Day.



Mayor Pro-Tem Rita Rogers addresses the audience: "You are our role models."



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough talks to Yolanda and Gilbert Williams.