



Perris News

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Volunteers Shovel, Rake, and Gather Over 200 Tons of Trash in Perris

City workers and volunteers fanned out across Perris Saturday, raking, scooping, shoveling and loading hundreds of tons of trash in the annual Fall Cleanup Day sponsored by the City of Perris.

Drop-off locations were set up at the old Police Headquarters on Fourth Street and at various other locations throughout Perris so residents could dispose of household trash, green waste, furniture, tires and old computers. A team of volunteers, Perris Public Works and Code Enforcement personnel also descended on a residence in the City's west side to remove tons of garbage that had been accumulating for years.

"Every cleanup day makes a big difference," said Rene Avila, Assistant Director of Development Services. "The community really takes advantage of this and we're glad they do. The difference is amazing."

At the end of the day, the total amount of trash collected was 242.22 tons.

Planning Commissioner Dwayne Hammond was among those who volunteered.

"I love volunteering for the City of Perris, that's the absolute truth," Hammond said. "There is a real sense of satisfaction. It's great to be able to help people."

Hammond helped staff a collection center at San Jacinto Avenue and Navajo Road. That location, in the Enchanted Heights area of Perris, always draws a heavy turnout of residents who took advantage of the free event.

Despite an early morning rain, a steady stream of cars and trucks were waiting when the collection center at the former police building opened at 7 a.m. Jose Alvarez unloaded a truckload of carpets.

"This is a great idea," he said. "It's expensive to take trash to the dump. I really appreciate the City offering this service."

Tim Powell said he saved \$80. Powell delivered four loads of tree branches after cleaning up his lot.

"I have been out of work for two years and paying to get rid of this stuff is very expensive," Powell said. "I appreciate the City of Perris doing this. A city that does this kind of event is a good city to live in. We need to keep the City clean."

Ponciano Garcia came with his son, Ponciano Jr., to drop off a load of wood scraps and bricks. He arrived early while a steady drizzle fell.

"A little bit of water doesn't bother us," Ponciano Garcia said. "It's a great feeling to know the City does this to help its residents keep their homes nice and clean. Not a lot of cities do this."

About 10 volunteers from a men's ministry at God's Helping Hand Church spent hours removing toys, tires, propane tanks, computers, household trash and a boat from a site off Highway 74. Code Compliance Officer Cindy Sesma said the residence was one of the worst in the City. Public Works employee Juan Lemus manned a front-end loader that scooped trash and deposited it in a huge bin.

"We're glad the church is here to help out," Sesma said. "This condition took years to happen. This is going to make a big difference."

City volunteers all received certificates of appreciation for their efforts. City workers who helped out in the big clean-up included Rene Avila, Cindy Sesma, Joe Kircher, Rebecca Miranda, Juan Lemus, Eddie Gutierrez, Cora Soto, Shane Hidey, Steve Pedigo, Ignacio Alvarez, Jose Zelaya and Raul Castillo.



Perris resident Tim Powell unloads green waste during the City of Perris' annual clean-up day. Powell says he saved \$80 in waste removal fees.



Public Works employee Juan Lemus operates a loader at a residence in the City's west end.



Perris Planning Commissioner Dwayne Hammond volunteered at the cleanup. "I love volunteering for the City of Perris."



Code Compliance Officer Joe Kircher throws tires at the cleanup.