



Perris News

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Halloween Festival Highlights Family Fun

The City's annual Halloween festival brought out all the creatures that make the holiday unique—cartoon characters, ghosts, monsters, fairies, pirates, princesses and children dressed like condiment bottles.

Sponge Bob made an appearance. So did the Power Rangers. As did Dora the Explorer, Spiderman, Dracula and the Egyptian goddess Isis didn't miss the fun either.

The 2010 version of the Halloween Festival featured lots of families too, moms and dads who brought out infants, toddlers, adolescents and teen-agers. More than 1,000 people came to the Cesar Chavez Public Library parking lot to join in the celebration.

Robert and Blanca Moreno typified the family atmosphere. The couple came with their five children, Jennifer, 12; Valerie, 11; Robert Lee, 9; Vilka, 2 and Giovanni, 3 months.

Their evening became even better when their youngest child took home first place in a costume contest for infants. Giovanni came dressed as a pint-size ghoul.

"We are having a great time," said Blanca Moreno. "We are having fun with the kids."

Her husband echoed those sentiments.

"This just shows what a great place Perris is, a community of people that values families and their kids," he said.

City Parks and Recreation staff made sure to roll out the red carpet to everyone who came. There were puppet shows and face painting demonstrations.

Ashlee Sarver brought her year-old son, Caleb, to the Halloween fest. He came dressed as a calf. Sarver said this year's Halloween festival marked the first time she's taken advantage of the City event.

"I thought it would be fun to bring him down here," she said. "It's really nice. Just seeing him have fun makes it all worthwhile."

Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans sold tickets to games that allowed youngsters to win candy and other prizes.

"This is for the kids," she said. "Why would you not want to come out here? It's just wonderful and I am glad to take part in it."

Stephanie Graf brought her two daughters, Sahmara, 4, and Reagan, 2, to celebrate Halloween Perris style. Both were dressed up as fairies. Graf said she thought the event was a safe and fun time for her children.

"It's nice to celebrate the holiday in a community environment," she said. "It's nice to be able to take your kids to a celebration like this."

Anna Padilla liked the fact that she could take her family out for a night of fun without spending a lot of money. It's nice that the City of Perris offers easily affordable events for residents in these challenging economic times. "We don't have a lot of money right now," she said. "We're on a low budget."



Robert Moreno and his son, Giovanni, at the annual Halloween Festival in Perris. The little guy won a prize for the best-costumed infant.



Ashlee Sarver came to the festival with her son, Caleb, dressed as a calf.



Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans and her husband, Iral, sold tickets to games during the festival.



Stephanie Graf and her daughters, Sahmara, 4, and Reagan, 2. "It's nice to celebrate the holiday in a community environment."