



## Perris News

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### Perris Cleans up

A group of City officials, staff members and the public descended on a lot overgrown with weeds and strewn with junk, spending hours to remove the trash and beautify the property and surrounding community.

The effort on Navajo Road took place during Saturday's massive City clean up day, an annual effort that resulted in the removal of 253 tons of trash from vacant lots, roadways, yards and Perris homes.

Elsewhere around the City, work crews hauled away tires, wood scraps, televisions, broken furniture, rugs, metal, glass, rocks and green waste.

City Manager Richard Belmudez donned work gloves to help toss trash away. Other City officials taking part in the cleanup included Mayor Daryl Busch, City Clerk Judy Haughney, Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin and numerous staff workers from the Code Compliance and Development Services departments.

"I am very pleased to see all the community support," Belmudez said. "City staff has come out in droves to support the community and it's great to clean up the community. These volunteers just wish to help their community. They are working without recognition and we are grateful for their support."

City Planning Commission member Dwayne Hammond said he spent several hours raking, cutting and tossing the Navajo lot. He'd like to see a small park there one day. Until then, it's important to keep the lot as clean and appealing as possible. By day's end, Hammond's shirt was soaked with sweat and he was dragging. But it was a good sort of being tired, he said.

"I love the City of Perris and it's important for me to do my part," Hammond said. "I will do everything I can to make Perris look as beautiful as possible. We can at least show residents that we are taking an active part in cleaning up our community."



Perris High School students Joana Luna and Dalia Varela lend a hand.

High school seniors Joanna Luna and Dalia Verela said they exercised muscles they seldom do. The pair shoveled and scooped trash for much of Saturday morning.

"We're helping the environment," said Luna, 18. "That makes me feel proud."

Varela, 17, said her hours of community service made her feel like she made a difference for her city.

Patricia Arellano said she lives near the Navajo lot and is concerned about fires. Dead branches and leaves accounted for a large percentage of the trash hauled away.

"I like the City to be clean," Arellano said. "This area looks clean now. The effort was hard but it was worth it."



Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez tosses a tire into the back of a truck for removal.



Mayor Daryl Busch, City Clerk Judy Haughney and Maintenance Crew Leader Arturo Garcia with the load of tires they collected.

**See photos from the event:**