



Perris News

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First Annual FSA Fun Day a Great Success



Perris Municipal Workers represented the City well

More than 150 bicyclists, runners and walkers came to Lake Perris over the weekend to get in their exercise while raising money for a great cause.

Organizers and participants labeled the first annual Family Service Association fun day an unqualified success. More than \$2,500 was raised to help pay for meals that are delivered to low-income Riverside County senior citizens by taking part in a 20-mile bike race, a five-kilometer competitive run and a one-mile pleasure walk around Lake Perris.

"The support from the City of Perris was superb, the weather was great and you could not ask for anything better," said Dave Renno, who coordinated the big event. "It's been a neat event, and one that we will definitely organize again next year."

The bike race around Lake Perris drew the interest of hardcore bikers and extreme athletes. The course wound its way around the scenic recreational area and provided nice vistas of the north side of Perris.

The City was well represented.

IT Support Specialist Edgar Trenado easily won the event, completing the course in just 56 minutes, at least five minutes ahead of the second-place competitor. City Manager Richard Belmudez and Rene Avila, Assistant Director of Development Services, also scored well.

"It was tough with the hills," Trenado said. "But I'm glad I did good in my own back yard. I appreciate the support of my family and my co-workers at the City and I owe this victory to both."

Other cyclists said they were pleased the City had a hand in organizing the fun at Lake Perris. Jesse Norton said he grew up in Perris and could not miss the action.

"I rode around the lake for fun," Norton said. "It is a challenging race and the view is really scenic. You see deer and bobcats. To see my hometown taking a part in organizing this event is very heartening. People in the bike-riding world know where Perris is."

Don Wilbanks, another bicyclist in the 20-mile feature, said he trains constantly to stay in shape, riding about 80 miles a week. But for him, the day was all about having a good time.

"I live near Lake Perris," he said. "I am here to have fun." Perris Public Works employee Juan Lemus, an Iraq war veteran, took second place in the five-kilometer run while several City employees walked for fun and to raise money for senior nutrition. Those included City Clerk Judy

Haughney and Public Works Manager Daryl Hartwill.

Haughney's aunt and uncle, Lou and Muriel Berger, also completed the walk. Both are 80.

"I just want to keep in shape," said Muriel Berger. "The course was all right and there were plenty of water stations along the route."

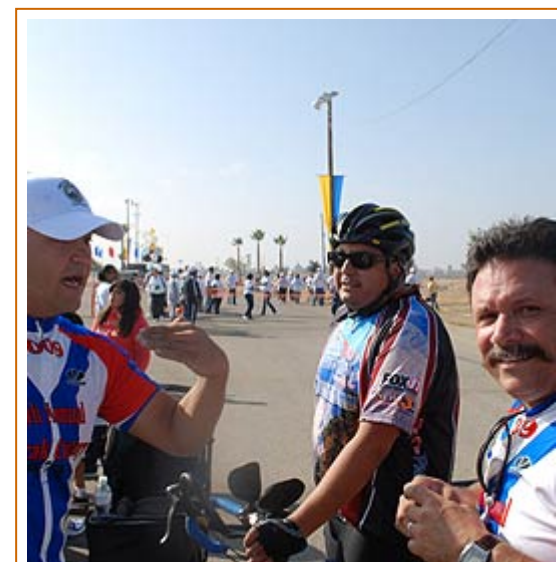
Lou Berger agreed the event was top-notch.

"This was really, really nice," he said.

See a Video from the Fun Run



IT Support Specialist Edgar Trenado breaks the tape at the end of the 20-mile bicycle race around Lake Perris, capturing first place by covering the course in just 56 minutes.



Trenado, City Manager Richard Belmudez and Rene Avila, Assistant Director of Development Services, hold a post-race discussion.



Public Works Employee Juan Lemus leads a pack of runners in the 5K race.

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