



Perris News

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Thomas the Tank Engine Clean up Day!

Thomas the Tank Engine always proves a big hit when he rolls out of the Orange Empire Railway Museum and through the streets of Perris.

So about 40 volunteers will gather Saturday, Oct. 25, to make sure those streets, and the rail sidings that run along the route, are nice and clean when Thomas makes his annual appearance in November.

Mayor Daryl Busch, City Council members, City staff and more than 40 members of the Perris Rotary Club will remove tumbleweeds, cardboard and paper and other trash in preparation for the Day Out With Thomas fundraiser, scheduled for Nov. 8, 9, 11, 15 and 16 at the railway museum.

"A few years ago, there was trash alongside the route and that did not present a good image of our City," said Busch, who will be among the volunteers Saturday. "We want to present an image to our visitors that we care."

Mayor Pro-Tem Al Landers said the Orange Empire Railway Museum is one of the major attractions in Perris and Thomas' visit is always a highlight. The cleaner the route he runs, the better.

"It sends the message that the people who live here care what their community looks like," Landers said. "A clean city invites people to live here and businesses to move here."

The clean-up takes place from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers will gather at Rotary Park at Ellis and A streets before getting under way.

In addition to volunteers from the City and the Rotary Club, CR&R waste services will be donating Dumpsters and students from the Rotary's Interact Student Clubs at Nuvview Bridge Early College High School and Heritage High School will be helping to pick up trash and weeds.

"We want to give the visitors to the museum a great impression of Perris," said Carl Sarjeant, president of the Rotary Club of Perris.

More than 30,000 railroad lovers and fans of the classic children's literary character Thomas the Tank Engine attend the Day Out With Thomas event each year. The festival is the largest fundraiser for the Orange Empire Railway Museum, one of California's largest museums of its kind.

This year's Day Out With Thomas will feature Thomas, Sir Topham Hatt and popular PBS character Bob The Builder. Visitors can ride Thomas and several trolleys, enjoy storytelling, live music and much more.

"We want to give the visitors to the museum a great impression of Perris," said Carl Sarjeant, president of the Rotary Club of Perris.

Volunteers are advised to wear long pants, bring gloves and not forget the sunscreen.

For more information about Day Out With Thomas, call (951) 657-2605 or visit www.oerm.org.

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