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Rachel Pinedo Named Perris Citizen of the Year



Perris Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo holds the Citizen of the Year award presented Aug. 30 by the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce.

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Rachel Pinedo says her job at the City of Perris is all about fun and games.

As a Recreation Coordinator, Pinedo's responsibilities include organizing signature Perris events like the Rods & Rails Festival, the Tree-Lighting Ceremony, the Veterans' Day and Christmas parades and helping at the Harvest Festival, Breakfast with Santa and Snow Day. She works with event sponsors and vendors to ensure wide support for community events. She's developed programs like robotics, woodshop, cheerleading camp, basketball and football skills camp and youth-related activities at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

She's also coached youth soccer, ran the City's archery program and served as a Moms and Tots class teacher.

Pinedo recently earned another title: 2018 Perris Citizen of the Year.

The Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce presented her with an award August 30 during a ceremony at the Bomb Shelter restaurant at the Perris Valley Airport.

Mayor Michael Vargas, Mayor Pro-Tem Malcolm Corona, City Councilman David Starr Rabb, City Manager Richard Belmudez and Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley were among the City dignitaries when Pinedo was presented the award. The Citizen of the Year Award is given to the person who "has gone above and beyond for the betterment of the community."



Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo received plaques from the California Senate and Assembly as well as from Riverside County for being named Citizen of the Year.

"It was such an honor, I cried," said Pinedo, 30, who has worked in the City's Recreation Department for 12 years. "I don't do my job to win awards. I do it to help my community. My job enables me to bring happiness to my community. Every time I see a kid smile, I feel blessed to be able to help my community."

Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez said her recognition is well-deserved.

"We're very proud the business community in the City of Perris recognizes Rachel and the dedication and hard work she does on behalf of our residents," Belmudez said. "She is a great asset to our Perris team and most deserving of the award given her by the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce."

Chamber of Commerce President Joshua Naggar called Pinedo "a beautiful choice" for Citizen of the Year. He said he was particularly impressed with her work when several community organizations fed dozens of homeless and underprivileged residents last year.

"This community has been impressed with Rachel for a long time," Naggar said. "Rachel is synonymous with the Perris community. She's always ready to help the community."



Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo hands out prizes to kids during the Tot's Indoor Drive In Sept. 7 at the Bob Glass Gym.

But much of her job entails chatting with children and parents, working in the City booth at special events, putting on Halloween makeup during the Harvest Festival or dressing up like a bobby soxer and moving to the beat of a doo-wop band. In short, creating a good time by enjoying herself on the job.

"Rachel's job with the City is fun, and she's good at her job," Naggar said.

Sabrina Chavez, Director of Community Services and Housing for the City, is Pinedo's boss and praised her for her continuing commitment to make Perris great.

"The Citizen of the Year Award appropriately reflects the endless hours Rachel has spent to produce top-notch quality events for the Perris community, of which she's most passionate to serve," Chavez said. "On behalf of our Community Services Department team, congratulations Rachel on winning the Citizen of the Year Award!"

Pinedo and her husband, Jessie, are the parents of two daughters—Revelry, 7, and Garnett, 5—and will welcome another child early next year. Away from the job, the family enjoys visiting Knott's Berry Farm and other amusement parks.



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