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End of Summer Splash Draws 500 Residents to Mercado Park



Perris resident Maryjane Smith attended the Sept. 15 End of Summer Fling with her son, Seneca, 3, and daughter, Maisie, six weeks.

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The City of Perris bid farewell to summer with a bash that drew 500 people to Mercado Park.

The End of Summer Splash Sept. 15 offered something for everyone, and lots of kids and parents took advantage to enjoy one last warm night to enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities.

There was face-painting, lazer tag, a dunking booth, free ice cream, a jazz ensemble who played hot licks, a photo booth, the chance for one last romp on the Mercado Park splash pad and, of course, the sunset showing of the movie "Wonder Woman."

Perris Mayor Michael Vargas said that while summer activities have concluded, Perris residents will continue to enjoy a variety of City-sponsored fun-filled events in the coming weeks. Those include a series of hikes, the Perris Got Talent competition, the Harvest Festival and Veterans' Day and Christmas parades.

"As one season of events closes, another opens," Vargas said as he chatted with visitors while strolling through Mercado Park. "What a way to end our summer activities! To see families and kids have fun is very uplifting. When I see residents posting photos and comments and tagging other at our events I feel what we are doing matters to a lot of people."

Perfect event, perfect location



Perris Mayor Michael Vargas welcomes the crowd who gathered at Mercado Park to watch the movie, "Wonder Woman" and enjoy other family-friendly activities as part of the End of Summer Fling: "What a way to end our summer activities!"

Julie Laureles and her friend, Yesenia Molina, came from Riverside to enjoy the night at Mercado Park. Laureles brought her daughter, Azaliah, 5, while Molina came with her daughter, Leah, 7, and son, Armani, 4. Both were impressed with the turnout and the variety of activities available.

"It's nice to see a City give back to its community," Molina said. "Families with little ones will benefit. It lets people know that the City of Perris cares about the people who live here."

Laureles said there was plenty to soak in at the End of Summer Splash.

"The people, the atmosphere, the excitement!" she said. "It's exciting to see everyone having a great time. This is the perfect place to do it."

Perris resident Maryjane Smith called the End of Summer Splash a great way to meet neighbors and make friends. She attended with her son, Seneca, 3, and daughter, Maisie, just six weeks old.

"It's priceless," she said. "This is a memory that will last forever."



The Gonzalez and Quinonez families are all smiles as they wait for the start of the movie "Wonder Woman" at End of Summer Fling. The families included (back row) Julian Gonzalez, 13, Anabel Gonzalez, Jennifer Quinonez and Nicole Quinonez, 15, and (front row) Eliana Gonzalez, 4, Elisa Gonzalez, 5, and Rachel Quinonez, 6.

Making memories is important to Smith. Her job as a tattoo artist often kept her working late at night and on weekends. Her family moved to Perris because "it is a family oriented community," Smith said.

Jennifer Quinonez and her friend, Anabel Gonzalez brought their five children to Mercado Park.

Like other residents, the pair said they appreciate Perris for its commitment to providing quality, affordable events for parents and children. Quinonez said she also appreciated seeing Mayor Vargas attending the show.

"The appearance of elected officials shows they care," she said.

Gonzalez said the End of Summer Splash allows her kids to get out of the house, enjoy a movie and spend time with friends.

"Perris tries to organize events for the family," she said.



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