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## Kids Frolic in the Perris Snow



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Perris Mayor Michael Vargas enjoys Snow Day with his granddaughter, Abigail.

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Snowballs, snow angels and sledding down specially created hills made Snow Day 2017 a rollicking success for hundreds of Perris youngsters and their families.

The City went all out for the January 21 Snow Day, ordering twice as much snow as in previous years—42 tons compared to the usual 21 tons—to ensure everybody had plenty of the wet stuff to grab, throw and slide upon. The weather cooperated as well. The rains stayed away and the sun shined brightly on all the little participants, their moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas and friends.

Mayor Michael Vargas and his wife, Julie, attended with their 4-year-old granddaughter, Abigail. He said Snow Day not only drew Perris residents but those from other communities as well.

"It was a very big success," Vargas said. "It's a great community event and provided us another chance at community engagement. A lot of our children never get to see snow up close or play in it. The joy in their faces was fantastic. I am very proud that our City can sponsor these type of events."

Vargas said Abigail made some snowballs and targeted grandpa.

"I got lots of snowballs thrown at me," he said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Starr Rabb said the event was "well planned, well attended and very much enjoyed."

"It was a great turnout and the kids were well-behaved," he said. "I'm pleased that we are able to put on this event for our children whose families do not have the resources to take them to see snow in the mountains. For some of our children it was their first time to ever see snow up close."



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Perris Mayor Pro Tem David Starr Rabb and City Councilman Malcolm Corona provide the muscle power to propel a youngster down a hill as part of Snow Day 2017 activities.

City Councilwoman Tonya Burke said she was pleased to see Snow Day children and parents patronize nearby businesses once the frolicking ended.

"It's not only a community and recreational event but it helps drive our economy," Burke said. "It brings people to our City and they get a chance to see and experience what Perris has to offer. Snow Day is one of our events that is most demanded by our residents. As a City Council we made a commitment to open engagement with our community. It's important for us to bring people together to show that we are always connected to our community."

City Councilman Malcolm Corona brought his son, Malcom, 20 months, to play in the snow. Along with Mayor Pro Tem Rabb, Corona helped launch kids-on-sleds down a small hill that added to the overall fun of the event.

"It is very important that our community provides safe and fun events for our families," Corona said. "The kids had a great time. City staff worked very hard and the City Council came out to support it."

City Councilwoman Rita Rogers and her grandson, Jordan, 5, have for years come out to Snow Day. This year was no different. Rogers said she saw plenty of parents taking pictures and videos of their children to post on social media platforms. She also praised the staff for creating two play areas—one for youngsters 5 and under and the other for older children.

"Jordan had a blast," Rogers said. "It's wonderful to see all the kids running around like the free spirits they are. Everyone truly enjoyed this event! It's always great to start off the new year with a great event like Snow Day."



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