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Free Day at DropZone Makes a Big Splash with Perris Residents

Hot temperatures, refreshing water and lots of fun activities made for the annual City of Perris day a smashing success at the DropZone Waterpark.

The City works with operators of the DropZone to set aside one day for Perris residents to stroll through a lazy river, surf the waves on a man-made hydroplane flowrider, rocket down a long and steep water slide, play beach volleyball or get dunked by a huge bucket of the wet stuff.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and City Councilmembers Tonya Burke and Mark Yarbrough led a contingent of elected officials who greeted residents, took in the sights and sounds and saluted what they said is rapidly becoming one of the City's signature celebrations.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch waves as he strolls down the Lazy River attraction July 15 at the annual Perris Day at the DropZone Waterpark.

Busch noted that Perris officials worked with their counterparts in Riverside County to bring the DropZone to the City and partner with the business owners to set aside one day for residents. The City provided 1,700 passes to Perris residents for the July 15 extravaganza.

"The community has embraced this facility and that makes us very happy," Busch said. "Our City has worked diligently to bring this waterpark to Perris. The DropZone benefits the City in several ways. It provides employment, tax revenues and it's a great place for our community to enjoy."

Busch said that Perris residents enjoy many different types of sports complexes. Next door to the DropZone is the Big League Dreams sports complex, which highlights baseball and soccer. Patriot Park is both a football and soccer complex. "I don't know of any other cities that are so committed to their residents," he said.



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough and resident Daniel Gutierrez chat during Perris Day at the DropZone. Yarbrough: "This is the sort of thing that makes memories."

Burke said the parking lot was packed by the time she arrived shortly after Perris day commenced. The temperature reached 100, meaning there were plenty of eager people ready to cool down by getting soaked.

"This is another great program put on by our City," Burke said. "We are committed to this community and its residents. This events continues our Live Well Perris program and it is important for our residents to have this activity available."

Burke welcomed the wide range of the residents who took part in playing in the water, from those who dipped their toes in a pool to those who got drenched by the big bucket.

"From teeny tots to seniors, this is a good day to be dipping in the water," Burke said.

Yarbrough said of Perris day at the DropZone: "This is the sort of thing that makes memories."

"This is an event that enhances the quality of life in Perris," he said. "It's a great event in a great environment. Free fun doesn't get much better than this."



Perris City Councilwoman Tonya Burke visits with Ebony Johnson and her family during the annual Perris Day at the DropZone Waterpark.

Residents enthused

Perris officials walked the DropZone periodically throughout the day to gauge sentiments of the crowd. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

"Thank you," said Daniel Gutierrez, who moved recently from Lancaster to Perris. "I enjoy living in Perris. It's very family friendly. It's a beautiful community."

Gutierrez said he waded in the lazy river and took a plunge down a water slide.

Ebony Johnson brought her family, which included son Gregory, who celebrated his seventh birthday at the DropZone.

"It's the perfect place to celebrate his birthday," Johnson said. "It's been a great and enjoyable day."

Shauntee Smith tackled the flowrider, a device that incorporates elements of surfing, body-boarding, snowboarding and wakeboarding. Flowers ride on artificial waves known as sheet waves. Smith called the exercise "very intense."

"The water is pushing up against you," Smith said. "It takes a lot of efforts to stay on the board. It's a lot harder than it looks."

Like other residents, she appreciated what the City did to cool off folks like her for one day.

"I think it's awesome the City did this, it was very generous of them," Smith said.



Perris residents get ready for the big splash July 15 at the DropZone Waterpark.

Darrell and Vanessa Guidry are the parents of six children, ages 13 to 4 months. Perris Day at the DropZone marked their first visit to the venue. Mom and dad appreciated the opportunity to let their family enjoy some fun outdoor activities.

"It's hot and it beats being at the computer," Darrell Guidry said. "It's good for the kids to get outside and not be chasing Pokemon!"

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