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Summer Ends with an All-out Splash



Perris mom Jamelia Adams with her sons, Jordan Griffin, 5, and King Akens, 4, making Minions on paper plates during the Sept. 16 End of Summer Splash at Mercado Park.

Summer ended with a bang in the City of Perris.

The “End of Summer Splash” Sept. 16 drew an estimated 700 people to Mercado Park, where the crowd sampled the fares offered by a food-truck festival, a dunk tank, arts and crafts, a bounce house, music from a jazz ensemble and the screening of the popular movie “Minions.” The splash pad at Mercado was turned on for the kids to enjoy.

Raffle prizes were given out to youngsters.

An interpreter from the Lake Perris State Recreation Area brought displays of animals native to the lake area and answered questions about programs and activities.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, Mayor Pro Tem Rita Rogers and City Councilman Mark Yarbrough headed the elected contingent.

“We’re sorry to say goodbye to summer but this is a great way to celebrate,” Busch said. “It’s nice to share this event with the community and it’s obvious they appreciate it because they’ve turned out in droves. We’re very pleased with the turnout—especially the kids.”

Busch said the City built Mercado Park in Downtown Perris because the area lacked another recreational area. Many people living near the park do not own cars and they appreciate Mercado’s proximity to their homes. Busch said the City is committed to expanding parks and recreation services and in recent years has added football, soccer and baseball fields in Perris.

“That translates into a better place to live,” he said.

Rogers called the summer splash at Mercado a “great way to end summer time in the City of Perris.”

“We have a wonderful night, the weather is perfect and the whole City has turned out,” Rogers said.

Yarbrough said events like summer splash indicate that residents like what they see at Mercado Park. He said the City’s commitment to adding parks continues with the recent purchase of property in Enchanted Hills.

“If you like what you see here, you’ll love what’s going to happen there,” he said.



The Martinez family gets ready to watch the feature film, Minions, during the End of Summer Splash. The families includes Jordan, 9, Madison, 4, Anthony, 3 months, Zachary, 8, along with mom, Dannielle Martinez and dad Jose Martinez.

Family friendly

Jose and Dannielle Martinez attended the End of Summer Splash with their four children—Jordan, 9, Zackary, 8, Madison, 4 and Anthony, 3 months. The family has attended other events at Mercado Park and enjoys movies at other Perris parks. The Martinez family has watched other movies at City parks, including “Zootopia,” “Box Trolls” and “Hotel Transylvania 2.”

“It’s a chance to get out of the house and spend time with family,” Jose Martinez said. “The City staff is very friendly.”

Dannielle Martinez said her children also take part in Perris sports programs like flag football, t-ball, soccer and special events like Snow Day.

“We appreciate that the City uses its time for the children,” she said. “It makes us feel that kids matter.”

Resident Juliana Twittyrigg voiced similar sentiments. She attended End of Summer Splash with her children, Kenneth, who celebrated his 6th birthday, and Jenna, 3.

“It’s great to be able to get out,” Twittyrigg said. “I think it’s wonderful the City of Perris organizes events that benefit the community and families. It’s always nice to bring the kids out to meet their friends.”

Jamelia Adams spent time at the arts and crafts table, watching her children make Minion characters on paper plates to take home. She said she enjoys events like the End of Summer Splash because it allows her family “meet and greet people in Perris and do positive things.”

Adams came to Mercado Park with her children, Jordan Griffin, 5, and King Akens, 4.

“I’m proud of the City of Perris because it promotes a great family environment,” Adams said. “I’m glad to see they care so much about kids.”

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