

More San Pedro, October 20, 2007

## Fall Foliage

### **Volunteers ready to plant trees on Pacific Avenue.**

By Justina Ly  
Staff Writer

Nearly 26 blocks of Pacific Avenue stretching from Oliver to 23rd Street will get a makeover next Saturday when volunteers plant more than 40 trees into the sidewalk.

The foliage will add much needed shade and greenery to one of San Pedro's busiest streets.

"Hopefully once these go in, people will like the way they look," said Sue Castillo, a member of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, who is spearheading the project.

The Pacific Avenue event is part of The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project, the largest single-day urban tree planting effort in the South Coast Air Basin, initiated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Other plantings are scheduled to take place Saturday in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and other areas of Los Angeles County.

Castillo and other council members have canvassed Pacific Avenue for the past month asking business owners to approve the project.

She said many independent merchants complied, but that franchise businesses were unresponsive to the project.

Cindy Bradley, an artistic director at the San Pedro Ballet School, was initially concerned that the trees would block her studio. Instead, two trees will flank both sides of her business.

Bradley believes the foliage will enhance the street's appearance.

"I'm really excited about it," she said.

Bernie Sloan, owner of British European Auto, agreed.

"We just figured it would look nice on the street," he said. "It would add a bit of color and cheer the place up a wee bit."

Four different types of trees, sweetshade, Brisbane box, golden trumpet and purple orchid, which are provided by the Port of Los Angeles, will be used in the project. They are expected to grow to approximately 25 to 35 feet

The trees will help increase the shade that San Pedro lacks. The Harbor Area has 9 percent tree canopy cover, which is the second lowest in Los Angeles County.

The Pacific Avenue project is jointly funded by the United Voices for Healthier Communities, a coalition that advocates tree canopy, Tree People, a nonprofit organization, and the South Coast AQMD.

Together they provided a \$70,000 grant for the project. The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council allocated an additional \$10,000. The money will pay for the trees, concrete cuts, a truck and refreshments for the volunteers.

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council teamed up with Central and built the website [www.sanpedrotrees.org](http://www.sanpedrotrees.org) and canvassed the blocks from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> St. which are within its council boundaries. They will also be providing the sound system and volunteers on planting day.

Hope Chapel donated its parking lot, which will be used as a staging area for the trees and volunteers.

The concrete sidewalks on Pacific Avenue between Oliver and 23rd Street will be cut next week prior to Saturday's planting to provide space for the trees.

The Saturday project will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will be served a light breakfast and lunch. They will work in supervised groups of four to six people per tree.

There are currently 86 volunteers, but more than 100 are still needed.

For more information, visit [www.sanpedrotrees.org](http://www.sanpedrotrees.org) or [www.sanpedrocity.org](http://www.sanpedrocity.org) or call Sue Castillo at 310-489-3026.

WANT TO

HELP?

WHAT: The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 27.

WHERE: Pacific Avenue, from Oliver to West 22nd Street.

INFORMATION: Go to [www.sanpedrotrees.org](http://www.sanpedrotrees.org) or [www.sanpedrocity.org](http://www.sanpedrocity.org), or call Sue Castillo at 310-489-3026.

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