



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**City of Chico**

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March 4, 2010

### **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AT LITTLE CHICO CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

This year's City of Chico Arbor Day event will take place on Monday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m. when city staff will help third grade students at Little Chico Creek Elementary School plant trees. The students will learn how to plant trees, as well as how to care for them. According to Urban Forest Manager Denice Britton, "Planting trees is a wonderful way to focus on the future and to help kids understand that trees are living organisms. They can watch the trees grow over the next few years while they are attending the school. Many years later they can remember that they had a part in the tree's planting." Having the children participate in planting trees gets them involved in both the nurturing and protection of the trees in the future.

Two Chinese Pistache and a native California Black Oak will be planted on the south side of the school. The Pistache trees are to replace others that have died since the school was opened. The City assisted the school by having the stumps of the old trees ground out and will be planting new 15 gallon sized trees.

In addition, a 24" box California Black Oak will be planted in an open area west of the parking lot. This tree can become quite large, and will eventually provide significant shade to the parking lot and will become a focal point in the landscape as it grows.

Britton will meet with the students to talk about the history and significance of Arbor Day prior to the planting ceremony and the City's tree crews will assist with the planting. California's Arbor Day is celebrated each year in early March to honor Luther Burbank, a well-known horticulturist from Santa Rosa.

A second planting event in honor of Arbor Day will take place Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at Enloe Medical Center.

For more information, contact Urban Forest Manager Denice Britton at the General Services Department at 896-7802 or a [dbritton@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:dbritton@ci.chico.ca.us).

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