

Celebrate the planet

Earth:

Earth Day Festival to inform attendees on best green practices

By Jamie Berry

Transcript Staff Writer

“We’re the planetees, you can be one too!

‘Cause saving the planet is the thing to do.” These theme song lyrics from the old “Captain Planet” television show relay the message behind Norman’s upcoming Earth Day Festival.

From noon to 5 p.m.

Sunday at Reaves Park, residents can visit close to 50 booths, meet mascots and hear family-friendly entertainment. Green, reusable bags will be given to the first 1,000 people.

A tree will be planted at the park to commemorate the event.

Debbie Smith, environmental services coordinator

in the city’s utility department, said this is the 18th year for the festival, which encourages residents to make a

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difference on environmental issues.

“It’s great for kids. It teaches them,” Smith said.

She said the event is free to residents and vendors, and some entertainment includes Mike Hosty, Jahruha and marimba players from Terra Verde Discovery School.

Smith said this year’s event will have a little more entertainment than previous years. Some Irving Middle Schoolers will have a “Students for Solar” booth, and the day will include a recognition contest for the “Water’s Worth It” elementary school poster contest. Terra Verde fifth-grader Molly Neary, who won grand prize, will have her work featured on Earth Day T-shirts that will be available at the event.

In the past, Smith said between 3,000 to 5,000 people have attended the festival.

She said the environmental services division, Parks and Recreation and the Cleveland County Conservation District organize the event each year.

“We need to take care of the environment. There are things we can do to make the environment better,” Smith said.

She encouraged residents to not be wasteful. And for those wondering what they can do to make their lives more green, Smith said to come check out the festival.

“I encourage everyone to come. It’s fun,” Smith said.