



For Immediate Release

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Tree Lafayette to Gather at City Hall for Earth Day Planting, 2012, and to Share Story of the Oklahoma City ‘Survivor Tree.’

Tree Lafayette will hold its annual Earth Day planting this year on Friday, April 20, 2012, at 1 p.m., in the Lafayette City Hall parking lot, on the corner of South Street and Sixth Street. **The event is an excellent photo opportunity.**

Lafayette City Councilmember Ronald B. Campbell, Dis. 2, will be reading a proclamation for Earth Day in place of Mayor Tony Roswarski, who is unable to attend the event.

One Red Maple Tree will be planted during the event. A special presentation will be made to tell the story of a surviving tree at the Murrah federal office building in Oklahoma City after the terrorist attack on April 19, 1995, when 168 people lost their lives. An American Elm tree survived the blast, and still stands to this day.

Gail Brock, who serves on the board of Tree Lafayette and is the Earth Day project manager, will tell the story of the surviving tree, which is a symbol of hope and peace.

“The ‘Survivor Tree’ in Oklahoma City is a remarkable story of a common tree with uncommon resolve,” says Brock. “This tree was situated about 500 yards in front of the Murrah federal building. When the bombing occurred, the tree had cars pushed against it, the tree caught on fire, and glass was imbedded in its bark, yet the tree survived.”

Tree Lafayette board members and supporters will attend the Earth Day event in Lafayette. The event lasts about an hour.

Tree Lafayette Seeks More Volunteers for Arbor Day, 2012 on May 5.

Tree Lafayette plans to plant 71 trees during its annual Arbor Day celebration—this year scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2012, at 9 a.m., meeting in the flagpole area of Tecumseh Junior High School in Lafayette. The organization is seeking 200 volunteers for the event to help plant the trees at Tecumseh Junior High School and Jefferson High School. Interested individuals and groups are asked to sign up ahead of time by going online at <http://tinyurl.com/tree-lafayette-arbor-day> or contact Matt Green, who is Chairman of the Arbor Day event at mgreen@heritage-interactive.com.

Attachment:

**Aerial photo of the Oklahoma City Survivor Tree
Courtesy Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum**