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Open Streets Event Draws Fine Crowd

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By Kaley Patterson

Four blocks of Southwest C Avenue in downtown Lawton was closed to traffic Saturday for the first Open Streets event. Children ran while squirting water guns, families walked their dogs and other community members participated in activities such as Zumba and salsa dancing.

The Southwest Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition and the City of Lawton put on the Open Streets event. Vendors, businesses and organizations lined Southwest C Avenue from Second through Fifth streets in front of Central Mall in downtown Lawton. Each held a game for spectators to participate in, ranging from giant Twister to a relaxing massage.



Sinanna Beauregard plays with chalk in the middle of Southwest C Avenue on Saturday. The road was closed for four blocks, Second through Fifth streets, for the first Open Streets event.

Ashley Green, event coordinator for Open Streets, said the day was better than she had dreamed it to be.

“It has turned out funner than I envisioned,” Green said, “especially for our first time event. I wasn’t expecting this many people to come out and receive this much support.”

Each activity was divided up into four different zones: active, chill, relax and play. All games, fitness programs and crafts were free to anyone who wanted to participate. Various food trucks lined the streets and store fronts had shopping available out on the sidewalk. Green said the community and Lawton businesses were a pleasure to work with.

“We’ve had really great partnerships with everyone,” Green said. “Everyone has really been really wonderful coming here and getting set up and kind of doing what they need to do. We haven’t had any issues.”

Open Streets had opportunities for every member of the Lawton community to participate. Krysta Peterson has lived in Lawton for two years and toted her two children to Open Streets. Peterson said the event was perfect for her active children and for her fitness interests.