Imagine... A Day at Our Place at Ben Washer Park

A Friday in the Spring

7:00am  Café opens for breakfast. Neighbors begin to stop in for a quick cup of coffee and a grab and go breakfast item before work.

8:00am  Employees from Family & Children’s Place, Simmons, Spalding and other local businesses come in for a quick breakfast.

9:30am  A 23-year-old entrepreneur walks across the street from Simmons College of Kentucky after he finishes class. He has been working with a ThinkLab staff member on his business plan and has a 10am meeting with her. He stops by the café for a hot, healthy breakfast first.

10:00am  Seniors from Christian Care walk across the park to the cafe for breakfast. They stop by to greet a friend who is stretching her legs at the wellness station. They chat for a while and check out the latest community announcements hanging on the little library. She decides to join them for breakfast.

10:30am  Children from a nearby daycare come to the playground and play on the equipment and natural elements in the area. Before they leave, their teacher brings them to the rain garden to add their observations of the plants, bees and butterflies they see there. The children are taking part in a community project, organized by older youth, to encourage wildlife in urban areas. Scientist Jerald Smith, STEM Educator and a member of the Limerick Community Garden are meeting inside about the upcoming growing season. They come out to discuss the children’s observations and show them some new plants that are emerging. Jerald tells the teacher about an upcoming ThinkLab workshop for kids to build Purple Martin bird houses for the garden.

11:00am  Our Place staff meets with a young woman who wants to schedule space for a monthly book club meeting. On her way to the office, she passes through the ThinkLab and greets a young man using the computer to work in a cookbook and a team of 3 people editing a promotional video for their project.

11:30am  Lunch rush begins. Today’s special is a Congolese dish! Terese, our guest international chef for the week is on hand with Our Place Chef Mark Hoosier to introduce the dish to customers.

12:00pm  On her way into building for lunch, a Spalding student stops at the photo display wall honoring the Limerick neighborhood and Ben Washer. She tells the cashier she thinks it’s cool that the neighborhood has such a rich Irish, African-American and Jewish history.

12:30pm  A lunch patron asks about the WELL Building certification sign he notices on the wall. Executive Director Stacy Bailey-Ndiaye takes him on a quick tour of the building pointing out the small plaques that highlight WELL features of the building. She invites him to an upcoming talk by Sy Safi about how people can integrate WELL living into their own homes.

1:00pm  A woman decides to treat herself to the earrings from Senegal she has been...
admiring while she enjoyed her lunch. She stops by the Discovery Shop to purchase them on her way out.

1:30pm A bicyclist wheels his bike over to the repair station at the solar pavilion for a quick fix. He charges his phone from solar power while he works on his bike. He stops to chat with a neighbor walking her dog who has stopped at the pet station to give her dog a free treat and a drink of water.

2:00pm As lunch winds down, the staff begins prep for Saturday brunch. Chef Mark gets to “show off” on Saturdays and he’s planning a few culinary surprises for the menu. Jerald does Nice Cream prep for a birthday party Saturday afternoon. The café staff prepares some “brain food” snacks for young people who will come into the ThinkLab after school.

3:00pm A group of Presentation students stop by the Café for Nice Cream.

A group of high school and college students head into the ThinkLab to work on their campaign to decrease violence in the city. They invite the Presentation students to join them upstairs after they finish their ice cream.

3:30pm A 75-year-old man and a 14-year-old boy meet for their scheduled Walk and Talk in the park. They pick up any trash they pass as they stroll. Their last stop is at the wellness station where they are happy to find an open table for a game of chess.

4:00pm The Science Club at the Mizizi Homeschool Co-op is meeting at Our Place today. They join Scientist Smith and Chef Mark in Our Place’s Laboratory Kitchen to extract flavor from lavender. Chef Mark and the kids prepare some lavender lemonade for the group to taste along with their healthy snacks.

5:00pm A Girl Scout Troup comes into the ThinkLab to put the finishing touches on their design for a clever way to irrigate community gardens. Charles Nasby has been helping them with the design and they are creating their materials list to build their system. Scientist Jerald Smith has been helping too and stops in check on their progress. He is on his way to conduct an interest meeting for potential counselors for BKI’s 7 Generations African Heritage Culture Camp.

ThinkLab staff are preparing for tomorrow evening’s class on financial planning.

5:30pm YAMAH (Young Adult Mothers of African Heritage) has scheduled a Hearthfire Kitchen session with Chef Mark. They have invited other community members to join a discussion in the Café area about meal planning on a budget. Afterward they will move to the kitchen to prepare a shared meal.

6:00pm A family stops into Our Place to check out a giant lawn bowling set to play in the park.

7:00pm People gather in the park for an outdoor movie night sponsored by the West St. Catherine and Limerick Neighborhood Associations. Our Place has a mobile snack cart and Nice Cream for the event.

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