

Fund Drive to "Keep the Bee" at Randolph Elementary School

By Kathy Holland

The bee is at risk! Nationwide, it is actual bees suffering from colony collapse disorder. Here in midtown Lincoln, it's the one known as "Little Wonders" at Randolph School. What do you think? Should we "Keep the Bee"? We are happy to use the Witherbee BUZZ to join the conversation.

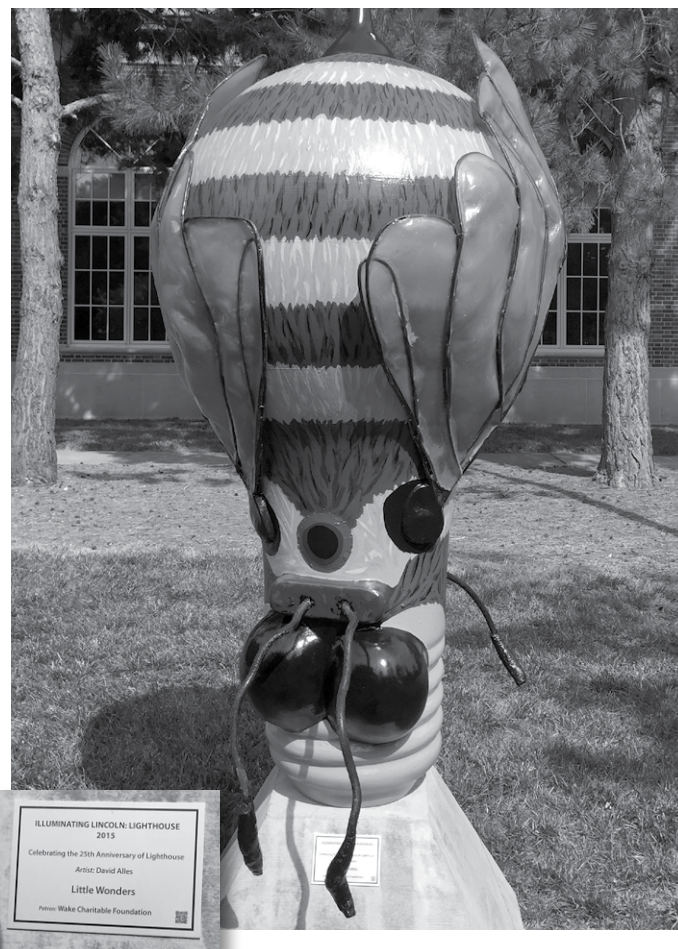
Have you driven by Randolph Elementary School recently and noticed a light bulb turned into a bee? Like other light bulbs around town, this work of art was created to ultimately benefit the Lighthouse program. Randolph School hopes to keep the bee when all of the light bulbs are auctioned off in October. With this goal in mind, Randolph supporters have been raising money in order to be able to place the highest bid on this particular light bulb. Randolph School is especially attached to the bee for two reasons. First, it is named for "Dr. B", the name Dr. Wendy Bonaiuto used with all children and parents during her tenure as Principle at Randolph Elementary. After serving Randolph for 20 years, Dr. Bonaiuto retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Secondly, the bee was designed and created by David Alles, a Witherbee neighbor and a Randolph parent.

We will hear more about this project at our September meeting when we will be joined by Tanya Kiesling and Jayne Draper who will tell us more about "Keep the Bee" at Randolph Elementary.

In the meantime, if you would like to support this project now, donations can be submitted directly to the school or through Witherbee. Checks dropped off at the school should be made out to the Randolph Courtesy Committee. However, the school cannot issue charitable donation tax receipts. If you'd like a charitable donation tax receipt, please send donations to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association, with "Keep the Bee" in the memo line. Witherbee will collect funds and forward the entire amount to the school.



Bee Illustration on the Wall



Little Wonders Light Bulb at Randolph Elementary School

About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each
month at Tabitha LifeQuest Center,
48th and J.

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www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message



Rick Bagby

The year is racing by! We've already held three of our four main annual activities. Working together we advance enhance and make livable our tree-lined midtown oasis of family life. We moved the Ice Cream Social and Pool Party to July because of the early start of school. Also a factor was the need to work around the State Games of America. Once again a great turnout. The annual Neighborhood Cleanup in May was again the resounding success with tons of materials sent out of the neighborhood to recycling, to Goodwill, to Ecostores Nebraska, and to the landfill. Thank you to Dan Wesolowski, Mike Kreikemeier and Bryan Hurst for leading this effort this year. Witherbee Garage Sales returned in June with a new organizing committee. Forty sales joined our effort with great success. The new signs were popular and we even had participation from Bryan School with the their parking lot sale.

None of these activities are possible without the help and support of all of you reading this newsletter participating in anyway you can. As with all volunteer groups when you pitch in great things happen. We are reminded of this with Ice Cream Social and Pool Party as we mark the passing of Mary Kay Kreikemeier. Mary Kay was one of the early organizers of this now annual celebration, just one of the ways Mary Kay found to shape the place we call home. Thank you Mary Kay, and thank you Mike and the Kreikemeier family for sharing her with us.

October Topic & Speaker



Topic: Lincoln Parks & Rec. Dog Use Facilities – Master Plan process.

Speaker: JJ Yost, Parks & Rec planner.

Ever wonder how changes are made to our parks, who decides and how? Now's your chance to see the effort in progress. JJ Yost, Lincoln Parks & Rec planner will review with us the process and plan taking shape for Lincoln's Dog Use Facilities (Dog Runs).

Witherbee has been gathering ideas and data for a Stuhr Park Master Plan update. We want to be ahead of the curve when it comes time to renovate the Park. Opinions and fundraising by neighbors and stakeholders greatly influence the process. See how in October.

Mr. Yost offers this to whet your appetite:

Dog Use Facilities Master Plan – Goals and Objectives

The planning process for the Dog Use Facilities Master Plan was initiated by Lincoln Parks and Recreation to explore potential for adding new dog use facilities in the future as demand grows. The success of Lincoln's existing dog use facilities and the demand for additional off leash facilities supports this planning process and the study of new policies and locations for additional off leash facilities in Lincoln.

Goal: The goal of the planning process and the master plan is to develop reasonable and effective solutions for increasing the use of parks by dogs and their owners, and to foster healthy relationships between dog owners, non-dog owners, and all park users.

A Tribute to Long Time Neighbor and Former WNA Board Member Mary Kay Kreikemeier

By Jackie Varicak with Words by Jane Holt

Mary Kay Kreikemeier passed away July 25th leaving her beloved husband Mike and children Alec, Chloe, Elise and Liam at the age of 51. They lost a dear wife and mother and the rest of us lost a dear neighbor, friend, parishioner and Witherbee Neighborhood Association member. Mary Kay was one of the early neighbors to serve the association and board when the Witherbee Neighborhood Association began about 12 years ago. She served as secretary and helped with events and meetings. She was instrumental in the conception and planning of the first annual Swim Party and Ice Cream Social held at Wood's Pool and Tennis Center and she was also key to the first few annual meetings held every November with food and entertainment.

Apart from the WNA Mary Kay was always helpful in carrying out Woods Avenue block parties, holiday cookie exchanges and simple gatherings for close neighbors that always included her home baked goodies. I had the privilege of being a close neighbor for 18 years and can attest that if Mary Kay borrowed an egg or a half a cup of sugar, in return I would be surprised to receive a plate of whatever she was baking. I soon came to love when she needed to borrow something! She simply went the extra mile in everything she did and watching out for and helping others was who Mary Kay was.

She will be greatly missed because she enthusiastically enriched her church and her children's schools at St. Teresa's Parish and Pius X High School with creativity, action and love. She was also employed by Lincoln Public Schools as a librarian for Norwood Park Elementary.

At her wake one of her best friends and neighbor, Jane Holt, spoke about her. It is fitting to print her words here because it shows how deep friendship and love can be found in a neighbor.

"Ten years ago, it was a dog and geography that brought Mary Kay Kreikemeier and me together. And, really, it was only the geography that we shared, although—for years to come—Mary Kay would go on to provide treats and poop bags to my family pets.

You can imagine why, after that first driveway meeting with Mary Kay, I forever altered the route of my daily dog walks. Who among us would pass up a chance to spend a little time with Mary Kay? Under her spell, I became like a child, forever hungry to play with my neighborhood friend, never once considering that my unending knocks on her side door might be intrusive.

That's because Mary Kay always opened the door to me.

True, there were times when I walked through that door and thought I was on the set of Little House on the Prairie—her kitchen counters covered in freshly-sealed jars of homemade salsa or just-out-of-the-oven fruit pies. And always in quantities that boggled the mind.

The fact that she always let me in, though? That was Mary Kay's magic—this ability to open doors and meet us where we were. And even though there were a thousand things that Mary Kay had mastered that I would never do particularly well, if at all—mothering and baking and living in Africa and volunteering and driving a bus come to mind—I never felt unworthy around her. She just made me feel more. . . me.

Mary Kay Kreikemeier's arrow always pointed outward, towards those people and things and ideas that she enthusiastically encountered. She was a tender of fires, stoking her kids' passions, helping an elderly neighbor find a new dog, picking the perfect book for a young reader. And we are all better for having had Mary Kay stoke the fires in our lives.

I think that this rare quality of hers is one reason her kids walk on such solid ground.

As I ponder how to make my way through this life without my regular "Mary Kay" fixes, I am heartened by the reverberating influences of that life lived so large. How many of her family members and friends, for instance, have I come to know and love in this last chapter of her life? And I know that, because of Mary Kay, I will open my own door for someone who has wandered my way. . . although I may not let them in the kitchen.

I love you, my dear friend. And I do not doubt that—right now—you are standing on your heavenly driveway—fresh-baked kolaches in hand--greeting a group of celestial neighbors and happily meeting them right where they are."

Mary Kay inspired Jane and countless others by the way she lived her life to the fullest while embracing them with openness and kindness and by the way she fought her cancer in the end, with love and hope brought on by the strength of her faith and by leaning on all the love returned back to her from family, friends and neighbors. May she rest in Peace!

WNA Calendar

Sat., Aug. 22 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Veyance Technologies: 4021 N 56th St.

Thurs., Sept. 3 – WNA monthly meeting; 7:00 pm; Tabitha LifeQuest Conference Room, 48th & J Street. Keep the Bee Speaker: Jayne Draper, Tanya Christensen, Randolph School Parents

Tues., Sept. 8 – Tabitha Summer Concert. Eastridge Presbyterian Praise Band 7 p.m. on the east lawn at Tabitha, 48th & Randolph. Free

Sun., Sept. 13 – 9/11 Remembrance, National Day of Service. UNL Student Volunteers, 2-4 pm <http://goo.gl/forms/DkNVuxVjjA>

Sun., Sept. 13 – Stuhr Park Neighborhood Potluck, 6:00 pm

Sat., Sept. 26 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Lincoln Industries: 600 W E St.

Thurs., Oct. 1 – WNA monthly meeting; 7:00 pm; Tabitha LifeQuest Conference Room, 48th & J Street. Lincoln Dog Use Facilities Master Plan Speaker: JJ Yost, Lincoln Parks & Rec. Department Planner.

Sat., Oct. 3 – In the Neighborhood Conference, 8:30am - 4:30pm Omaha Metro Community College South. Neighborhood Leadership Training www.intheneighborhood.org

Thurs., Oct. 8 – Witherbee Quarterly Board Meeting; 7:00 pm; Tabitha LifeQuest Conference Room, 48th & J Street.

Sat., Oct. 24 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Woods Park: South 32nd & J St.

Save the Date
Witherbee Annual Meeting
November 5th

Summer 2015

Where can you
turn when you
have
questions
about Elder
care?

11_0415_AD(WitherbeeBz)_TAB

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Witherbee Connect Happenings

UNL Community Service Day

On Sunday Sept. 13th 2-4 pm. UNL will send students into the community for two hour service projects.

At this event, students will be volunteering in the Lincoln area in honor of the victims and heroes affected by the tragedies of 9/11. If you have any one-day service opportunities to offer, such as yard work, painting, or debris cleanup, we would be happy to send students your way. We would especially like to send students to the sites we were unable to fulfill for The Big Event due to the rain. Hopefully the weather will be more kind to us this time around! If you would like to sign up a service opportunity, for a registration form go to: <http://goo.gl/forms/DkNVuxVjjA>

Contact Witherbee Connect through Kathy Stastny
402-488-3314



June Yard of the Month

634 South 45th St.

By Sandi Mahoney

Lisa and Rich Ball, 634 S 45th Street, were honored with “Yard of the Month” in June. If there was a yard of the year award, they just might take that top honor too! They both enjoy tending to their yard and their efforts result in a picturesque scene that could measure up to a Better Homes and Garden display! Almost daily, after returning home from their jobs, they can be seen working in the yard. The couple has lived in the Witherbee neighborhood since 2006. When they purchased the house one thing they liked about it were the large trees, a buckhorn in the front and a maple tree in the back, that provided a lot of shade on the property. All that changed in May of 2008 when a storm took out two of the large branches on the maple tree. The damage was so severe the tree had to be removed and all the shade plants had to go.

In the spring of 2009 Rich expanded the back patio, added a cedar pergola and planted blue moon wisteria for some shade. The wisteria is a breathtaking sight when blooming its tiny blue flowers. There is no mistaking the sweet fragrance as it perfumes the patio area.

Lisa’s uncle, Bud Dasenbrock, gave them a 4’ bald cypress that he had grown from seed. This tree is now 20’ tall and is an added attraction to the back yard. Every year Lisa and Rich continue to add and rearrange in the yard, using many lilies and decorative grasses. They say they like to call their outdoor surroundings their “slice of paradise.”

Besides caring for a beautiful yard, they are avid gardeners. I am privileged to be their next-door neighbor and Rich plants and cares for tomatoes and peppers in a small space in my backyard. He welcomes me to help myself to the produce any time. You can’t beat that for being neighborly!

Rich said “sometime ago I developed an interest in cactus and succulents and I have accumulated a nice collection.” He built his own greenhouse a few years ago!

They are environmentalist too. They made a system for recycling water, a rain barrel. Lisa, with the help of her grandson, Nolan, painted it red, white and blue. Several years ago, Rich created an outdoor compost system.

Thanks Rich and Lisa for contributing beatification to our Witherbee Neighborhood!

Summer 2015

July Yard of the Month

135 South 35th St.

By Kathy Holland

The July Yard of the Month is the home of Kyle & Corey Barnes at 135 South 35th St. According to Kyle this property was a rental and was known as the “party house” before they purchased it in 2011. They have been working to improve the yard since they relocated to Lincoln four years ago. Improvements have included the removal of a dying willow tree in the front yard and landscaping a terraced area. This required lots of weeding, putting down a weed barrier and mulching the area twice. They have been gradually adding plantings to this area in order to stretch their yard improvement budget. In order to create a sustainable landscape they lengthened the down spouts from their gutter so rain water empties directly into the mulched area.

Kyle and Corey have done a lot of work to improve their property and it shows! We are grateful to have these good neighbors in the Witherbee neighborhood!

Tabitha Free Concert Series

Toe Tapping Tuesdays

FREE, outdoor concert

series featuring live, local acts!

7 p.m. on the east lawn at 48th & Randolph.

Tuesday September 8, 7 pm Eastridge Presbyterian
Praise Band.



Tabitha Carnival



Tabitha Carnival
Volunteers

A Wonderful New Neighbor: The Cat House

By Jackie Varicak



When I learned the Cat House was moving into a space three blocks from my home (within the Witherbee Neighborhood Association boundaries) I informed my 8 year old son Daniel about the move. I told him we would make a visit as soon as possible and he couldn't wait. The time finally came around the end of June when they held their first open house and we made our first visit. Currently we are a "dog and hamster" family and having a cat in the near future is out of the question. But due to grandparents having a cat I knew Daniel loved cats and had a way with them. So the idea of having the Cat House so near for him to visit was very exciting.

When we made that first visit a kind volunteer greeted us and gave us a tour of the entire 7800 square foot facility which is located at 3633 O Street. The volunteer gave us a little history of the Cat House and showed us all the cats room by room. She was able to tell us about most of the cats, knowing them by name and personality. The building on "O" street is now owned by the Cat House, making it a new permanent home after renting space at 1935 Q St. for the past 10 years.

The tour was very educational and fun at the same time for Daniel. We first visited all the special needs cats that had been treated for feline leukemia or feline immunodeficiency virus (they are held on the East side of the upper level) and learned that special care needs to be taken for them and the necessity of washing hands in between each room. We found out it is important when making a visit to the Cat House that due to their lowered immune systems we should see them first so we don't expose them to any possible germs or viruses from the other cats.

After visiting those healthy yet special needs cats we got to visit all of the rest. There are around 90 cats being cared for and each gets to be in a room with one other or several other cats depending on the size of the room, the disposition of the

cat and the dietary needs of the cat. The first room we visited had a window facing "O" street and held two cats, one named Ezio and the other named Penny. Penny is a quiet cat that enjoys laying around while Ezio is more energetic, friendly and younger. After visiting all the cats Ezio was one of the most memorable for Daniel due to his youthful and playful personality. He also really enjoyed Oreo, a one eyed cat that immediately sat on my lap, and Dorothy, who was extremely friendly with him. He loved how Dorothy climbed on him and rubbed up against him. Daniel went home and talked about Dorothy all the next week and determined she missed him and that we had to make another visit.

Since then we have stopped by several times checking in and petting those three cats and their companions and any other cats that caught our attention.

The Cat House is a great addition to the Witherbee Neighborhood due to their mission and ability to provide neighbors the opportunity to volunteer for a great cause. Their mission is to adopt cats into caring, permanent homes and to improve the lives of feral cats. The Cat House was formed in 1998 by a group of cat lovers who saw the tremendous need for additional feline rescue and adoption resources. From the beginning, Cat House Volunteers have pledged that the life of no cat in their care will be ended unless a medical condition has affected the cat's quality of life to the point where euthanasia is the last act of kindness that they can give.

The Cat House is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who care for an average of 150 cats every day (90-100 in the shelter and 50 in foster homes). There are many opportunities to volunteer and you can fill out a volunteer application at the shelter or on their website at www.thecathouse.org.

Cats become adoptable after they have been spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for feline leukemia virus, and given rabies and standard distemper combination vaccinations. Unaltered male cats also are tested for the feline immunodeficiency virus. To visit the Cat House and find a new pet to adopt visit them during open hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or Sundays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Garage Sales 2015

By Sandi Mahoney



Thirty-nine neighbors participated in the annual Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales on June 25-28. This year we coordinated our sale with 40th and A Street neighbors. Additionally Bryan Community coordinated with us and sponsored a “Junk in the Trunk” sale on Friday.

The garage sale committee,

Rick Bagby, Fred Freytag, Kari Gentzler, Cheryl Hejl, Christine Nesmith and myself worked diligently leading up to the event, organizing sale entries, coordinating advertising efforts, ordering garage sale signs, and delivering materials to garage sale participants.

In terms of advertising, the list of participants’ addresses and a short description of their sale was listed on multiple sites on-line, including the WNA website and Facebook page and Craigslist. Additionally, the garage sales were advertised on the KFOR/KFRX calendar of events and KLIN calendar. An advertisement was placed in the Lincoln Journal Star for four days leading up to the sales. If you did not host a garage sale this year, consider having a sale next year to take advantage of all of this excellent advertising for a great value, as registration is only \$5.00!

One new feature for the sales this year were the yellow Witherbee Garage Sale signs. After much

discussion, our committee decided to purchase professionally printed garage sale signs that can be reused many years. The plan is to use these corrugated plastic signs for the next 4 years or longer. Obviously, we must be diligent in caring for the signs and we asked participants to do the same. All signs were picked up after the sale and are being stored until the event next year. THANKS to the many who left them by their front door, as requested on the general information sheet delivered to participants before the sale.

The weather was beautiful during the weekend of the sales. A bonus for guests who visited the garage sale at 642 S. 45th St. was a lemonade stand run by Landon and Asilynn Easley. The smiles of these cute young entrepreneurs brought lots of enjoyment to young and old. Even their great grandparents came from across town to purchase a drink and support the little ones in their endeavor!

I heard many positive comments during and after the sales. Some inquired as to why there is not a neighborhood garage sale in the fall. My response was, “because it takes many volunteers to plan and execute any event”. The Witherbee needs more members to step up and volunteer at whatever level works for them. Many hands make light work!

We would like to express our thanks to all neighbors, sellers and shoppers, for making the 2015 WNA garage sales a huge success. See you next year!

Neighborly “Shout Out”

By Sandi Mahoney

With this edition of the “Buzz”, we are announcing the launch of a new recognition we have named “A Neighborly Shout Out”. Each “Buzz” will feature a Shout Out to a Witherbee resident/residents who were noticed helping another resident in an exchange that displayed kindness and a neighborly gesture or someone who shined in a special way to deserve recognition.

Our first “Shout Out” goes to thirteen year old Mat Campbell. Mat helped me deliver WNA newsletters on his block. As I was delivering the “Buzz” door to door and feeling a bit weary, I noticed Mat and a friend skateboarding. I asked them if they might be willing to help me distribute newsletters. It was Mat, after quizzically thinking about my request, who smiled and said yes. After a quick review of delivery tips, Mat took off on his skateboard, making quick work of the task. His generous help was a big assist to me! Mat and other

teens in our neighborhood are an integral part of making Witherbee great. While we are limited to recognizing Mat and future awardees to a salute in our newsletter, we hope it stands to reinforce what gives us a solid sense of community cooperation and a shared interest in making our neighborhood the best it can be!

A Shout Out to our neighbor Cheryl Hejl. Cheryl made her debut at the Lincoln Community Playhouse in “The Music Man”. She had a friend in the show who encouraged her to audition and the rest is history. Cheryl says, “it was a fun thing to do at this stage in my life.”

If you would like to give a neighborly shout out to someone, please email or call myself, Rick Bagby or Kathy Holland. You will find our contact information on the second page of this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mat and Cheryl!

Annual Neighborhood Cleanup a Smashing Success

By Rick Bagby

May 9th brought out the neighborhood to clean out the garage, the attic, the back shed and more! In an ongoing tradition, Witherbee Neighbors gathered at 48th & M to cast off tires, windows, computers, chairs, shingles, picnic table, grills, refrigerators, bicycles, clothes, and more. With refreshments provided by Braeda and HyVee, volunteers invested a morning in cleaning and improving the neighborhood. Kathy Holland organized neighbors to walk the public spaces of the neighborhood, picking up an estimated 180 pounds of litter.

Led by Mike Kreikemeier, Dan Wesolowski and Bryan Hurst we sent nearly two tons of metals, a dozen appliances, and more than 75 tires to recycling, a half ton of usable building materials to EcoStores Nebraska, 1200 pounds of household goods to Goodwill and more than 7 tons of refuse to the landfill. Thank you to Fred Freytag and FM Lawncare for use of their trailer for a headquarters, The Health Department and Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) coordinated

grant funding for the rental of rolloff rubbish containers. Adam Rhoads at KLLCB reports that our efforts over the years have earned us nomination for a Great American Cleanup award. Congratulations and thank you to all cleanup participants and volunteers who continue to make Witherbee a great place to live.



Dan and Cheryl Wesolowski supervise.



Metals off to recycling.

Ice Cream Social and Pool Party at Woods Park, July 19th

Neighbors of all ages, 11 days to 90+ years came out on a hot evening to celebrate summer, reconnect, cool off in the pool.

Woods Pool saw about 250 cool off with swimming diving splashing and wading in respite from the hot day. On the plaza outside Woods Tennis Center we again served over 400 bowls of ice cream. Neighbors enjoyed the tennis courts and kids filled the plaza with sidewalk chalk art. Bob Boyce set up the bicycle safety wheel where one at all could pick up bike safety tips in an effort sponsored by the Great Plains Trails Network. Officers from LPD spent the evening us on the plaza and even out on the tennis courts.

A hearty thank you goes out to all who support Witherbee with memberships and donations. We couldn't do this without you, especially Kevin Heim and the Woods Tennis Center staff, and Nick Kelso and all the associates at Super Saver.



Young Girl enjoys the Water Park



Police Officer and Family take a photo while at the Park



Kids and Their Families Stay Cool at the Water Park



Ice Cream is served to a mother and her two children on a hot summer day.