

June 13, 2011

PARK PICKS

**by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS**

Join us today! Become a member and help make Allentown's great park system even better.



Words of wisdom by Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.

Words may show a man's wit, but actions his meaning.

Well done is better than well said.

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.



Adopt-a-Flowerbed @ Franklin Park



As visitors walk through the entrance at Franklin Park they will notice the beautifully maintained flowerbeds. Led by

Tom and Carolyn Albright, members of Ripple Church adopted these beds and enjoyed planting flowers and sprucing up the park.

Stay tuned, there is more to come! The next time you visit the park you might even join in on a game of "hopscotch." Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop # 6194 (based at St. Thomas More Church) plan to create a hopscotch and foursquare painting at the park.

Franklin Park

Allentown's Franklin Park was established around 1910, named after Pennsylvania's own Benjamin Franklin. During the French and Indian War, Franklin often travelled through the area on his way to Jim Thorpe (formerly known as Mauch Chunk) where he erected Fort Hamilton. And as one of the most well-known early and influential Pennsylvanians, many businesses and landmarks have been named after him.

Franklin Park is located next to the old Franklin fire station (founded in 1901) and the Franklin school, so the park's name was probably chosen due to the proximity of these establishments. A local baseball team, the Franklins, may have played in the park or been associated with the area.

In the 1950s and 1960s, a group of children, nicknamed the Boys of Franklin Park, were a friendly group who played before and after school as well as all day during the summer. The "Boys" still meet today, once a month, to share stories about the heydays of Franklin Park.

Thirty years later, in 1995, the local community answered a call to action and created the Franklin Park Civic Association. The members were determined to clean up the park and create a safe environment for the local children. The Association initiated a reconstruction of the park and the multiple basketball courts were eliminated to make room for playground equipment. Similar to a crime watch group, members advocate for greater police presence and improvements to the park itself.



**Come and visit!
Franklin Park
on Emmett Street between
N. Franklin & N. 14th Streets**



In May, the Franklin Park Civic Association placed a "Peace Pole" in the park to symbolize the efforts they are making to create peace amongst all people, with an emphasis on cross-racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

Today as in the earlier years, Fourteenth Street in Allentown is a place where people come together.
Contributing writer: Ms. Shannon Tomlinson (Creative Writing student, Muhlenberg College).

**Friends of the Allentown Parks
3000 Parkway Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18104**

**Phone: 610-437-7750
www.allentownparks.org
info@allentownparks.org**



For more information on becoming a member of Friends of the Allentown Parks contact us info@allentownparks.org