

Friendship Park rededicated under Northside 2027

The Bethlehem Gadfly Neighborhoods, Northside 2027, Serious Issues July 3, 2019

(the latest in a series of posts on Northside 2027 and Neighborhoods)

“There is no reason why good cannot triumph as often as evil.

The triumph of anything is a matter of organization.”

(Kurt Vonnegut)

Nicole Radzievich, “Always want a tree house? Check out the newest amusement at Bethlehem’s Friendship Park.” Morning Call, July 2, 2019.

Kurt Bresswein, “Bethlehem’s newest playground has a 1st for a city park.” lehighvalleylive.com, July 2, 2019.

Friendship Park was rededicated Tuesday, the first step in the Northside 2027 project, whose roots go back four or five years. As Vonnegut says, and as Gadfly loves to quote, “the triumph of anything is a matter of organization.” We see the first fruits of that organization here.



“Our future goals at all of our parks are to promote more green space, benches, and trails for all of our residents to enjoy.” (Recreation Director Jodi Evans)

“This is really what neighborhoods are about. . . . To have a park come back to life like this really attracts middle-class families.” (Mayor Robert Donchez)

“This [Northside 2027] is what a comprehensive approach looks like. It is about playgrounds, it is about recreation, but it’s also about services for the neighborhood, it’s about our neighborhood public schools, it’s about economic development, it’s about walkability. . . . [This



playground] needs to stand as an example of what happens when everybody does their little part. (Councilman Willie Reynolds)

“How can a city government build a sense of community? I think it’s by investing in attractive, safe public spaces that bring residents together.” (Anna Smith, Director, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley)



Gad

fly, who always has a ball in the car in case a court needs christening, was chosen to make sure the baskets worked and to provide



entertainment. Here he is shown performing his signature “flying ball” trick.

Tip o’ the hat to the City! Good luck, Friendshippers!

