

# POP'S REDEDICATION CEREMONY



Three Kensington soldiers who lost their lives over 60 years ago helped the local community celebrate the rebirth of the playground bearing their names. This summer, a Community Drumming Festival and Rededication Ceremony kicked off this new beginning at Pop's Playground, located at the intersection of Huntingdon Street and Trenton Avenue.

The playground was named after three young men (Samuel Black, Charles Coyle, and Albert McBride) who grew up in Kensington in around the playground. All three were killed in action in WWII. In 1957, the playground was dedicated and officially named after the fallen soldiers. The playground affectionately came to be known as "Pop's", after a popular neighborhood figure that ran the playground and organized activities and games. Unfortunately, the playground had deteriorated over time, becoming unsafe for children. The community celebrated a new beginning for the playground, which is currently hosting a 6-week art camp and fun family activities this summer. The festival served as a rededication of the playground to those brave soldiers it was originally named after, including the unveiling of a new "Welcome" sign which features the likeness of all three.

In addition to the military rededication, numerous local drummers were present, including Dan Scholnick and Tabla Extensis, Mike Stevens and Unidos de Filadelfia, Jesse Mell and the Kensington CAPA Drumline, and Julius Rivera.

Thanks to ongoing partners and supporters: *East Kensington Neighbors Association, Friends of Pops, The Wachovia Foundation, The City Department of Recreation, Philadelphia Activities Fund, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the 5-County Arts Fund.*