



BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

300 School Street, North Wales, PA 19454

Phone: 215-699-4424 • Fax: 215-699-3991

<http://northwalesborough.org>

The Mayor's Corner

July 1, 2020

Seeing Clearly

Having 20/20 vision is considered perfection. You can't do any better (although some will tell you that the great Ted Williams had 30/20 vision). 20/20 vision allows us to see clearly, and when we slip below that we do all that we can to return to "perfection". How fitting, therefore, that we are currently in the year 2020!

This year, thus far, has been an eye-opener. We are being given an opportunity to see things more clearly. One might say that figuratively speaking, we are being given 20/20 vision.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has opened our eyes to: our mortality, the strengths and weaknesses of our healthcare systems, the dedication of our "often taken for granted" first responders and our ability to adapt to situations, among others.

The tragic death of George Floyd has re-opened our eyes to the need to ensure that all are treated equally. It has also opened our eyes to the need to continually go about this in an efficient and well thought out manner; rather than knee-jerk reactions. It is too important to the future of our communities and our nation.

Just as eyeglasses, contact lenses, and surgery improve our vision, the year 2020 also offers remedies to improve how we see things. Here are three:

First, allow history (both good and bad) to educate us. Our nation will be 244 years old on July 4th. That means there were plenty of opportunities to make mistakes and to learn from them. Thank God we live in a country that allows us to correct our mistakes and to use them as a way to strengthen and improve the future. Our nation started out as an "experiment". In a way, that experiment has been ongoing; continuously being tweaked, so that it will never be considered a failure and tossed out with the trash.

Second, recognize that there is a difference between feelings and judgments. While your feelings can be neither right or wrong; your judgments (and opinions) can be. This means that the person who disagrees with you isn't always wrong. You don't prove your point by shutting (or shouting) down the other side. You'll never truly know if you are correct unless you look at both sides of the issue. Remember, too, that you'll never correct, or convince, someone, unless you have two-way communication.

Third, appreciate your right and recognize your obligation to vote responsibly. As I have often said, people have fought and died to protect that right. Be an educated and informed voter. Elect people who are up to the "task"; rather than just voting for a particular political party.

Yes, 2020 could be the year in which we improve our vision. This will only happen if we open our eyes (and minds) and take advantage of various "remedies" afforded us.

Have a Happy and Safe July 4th!