



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

November 10, 2020

Ticky tacky?

In 1962 folksinger/songwriter Malvina Reynolds composed *Little Boxes*, which began with the lines:

Little boxes on the hillside,
Little boxes made of ticky tacky,
Little boxes on the hillside,
Little boxes all the same.

The song continues about the people in the houses, how they went to the universities, how they play golf and drink martinis, how they have beautiful children who go to the universities, get married, etc.

Throughout the song there are the recurring lines:

And they're all made of ticky tacky,
And they all look just the same.

Although many thought this song was about Communism, it was really a knock at the Post-World War II suburban housing developments that were being built by William Levitt (and others). In these developments there was a sameness that permeated everything.

North Wales Borough is certainly not built on a hillside and it has a variety of housing styles. More importantly, we have residents with differing backgrounds and with differing ideas as to education, religion, and politics, to name a few. This "variety" is part of the fabric of our Borough. It is why last year we celebrated our 150 years of rich history. We did not celebrate 150 years of sameness.

Now we are coming out of a difficult election season that saw folks strongly verbalize their political views. Unfortunately, some have forgotten that different opinions are part of the "variety"; instead, viewing them as personal attacks. (I wrote about this in my July 1 and August 11 *Mayor's Corner* postings.) Comments are still being made that, at best, show a desire for "sameness", and, at worst, intolerance and a lack of respect for those with opposing views.

It's time to stop the hateful rhetoric and let others see who we really are and have been for 151 years.

We are North Wales Borough and we're not made of ticky tacky.

Just something to think about.