



BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

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The Mayor's Corner

December 30, 2020

Good-bye
To
A Year That Will Live In Infamy

On January 1 many of us were basking in the afterglow of the Borough's Sesquicentennial Year and listening to the melodic sounds coming from the Bells of 2020. The Economy was good. Unemployment was at an all-time low, as were mortgage rates. We were anticipating another productive year for the Borough: improved street lighting and major re-paving, continued demand for housing, completion of the preliminary work for increasing walkability in the Borough; to name a few. We eagerly looked forward to another successful Earth Day Celebration on April 25 and our Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. Families were planning birthday celebrations, vacations, weddings, etc. (The younger family members were concentrating on their own birthday celebrations, little league start-up, proms, school breaks and vacations, college selection, and getting a part-time job.)

Suddenly, the melodic sounds of the Bells of 2020 ceased and were replaced with a thump. Coronavirus (aka Covid-19) began to wreak havoc across the Nation. This resulted in Society operating under new and often changing rules. Schools have reverted to virtual classrooms; non-essential businesses have been ordered to close or limit their operation, often with catastrophic results; working from home has become the norm; face masks have become part of our daily attire. Hospitals have been stretched to the limit as countless patients require inpatient treatment. Mental health providers have also seen an increase in patients, as both young and old have faced long-term isolation.

As if a pandemic wasn't enough to devastate 2020; the Country has had to deal with racial unrest, riots, a "cancel culture" run amok, a lack of respect for police officers, and a tumultuous election season.

The Borough has not been immune to the Pandemic. To date there have been 83 positive cases and, sadly, 3 fatalities.

Since Friday, March 13 the Borough has been under the Governor's Emergency Declaration. At different times, local businesses have been forced to close. Our churches have had to limit attendees, and public events have been cancelled. Even our own North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC) has felt the effects. Its Social Club has been closed since March; resulting in a major loss of needed revenue.

Amidst all of this, North Wales Borough has shown that we can face, adapt to, and overcome whatever problems we are dealt.

The Borough Administration under Manager Christine Hart and the Borough Police Department under Chief Michael Eves made changes early on to their respective operations. They maintained a safe environment for both their employees and the Public, without sacrificing service.

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Borough Council Meetings are being held virtually. These meetings are open to the Public via Zoom.

The NPVFC began offering curbside takeout dinners on every other Friday. This has been well received by our residents. (BTW, fire service to the Community has never been diminished by the Pandemic or loss of revenue.)

Earlier this year, members of the Community came together for a peaceful rally in support of racial justice and equality. There was no resulting rioting.

Our residents have shown their continued support for our police officers by placing "Back the Blue" signs on their lawns. There was also a gathering in late October in which folks expressed their support.

People have been finding new and creative ways to help those in need. Lest I forget, this would include residents selflessly spending countless hours; converting reams of material and spools of thread into face masks for the Community.

Now with only two days remaining in "The Year that Will Live in Infamy", we're all wondering about 2021. Will its bells, like the Bells of 2020, produce thumps? As North Walians, we should remain hopeful. Having said that, I believe we'll soon be hearing "Tomorrow" (from Annie) coming from those bells and soon after that "I Can See Clearly Now". Wouldn't that be nice.

Roseann and I Wish You A Happy and Safe New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roseann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail.