



## Sunday Comment From the Mayor Sam - 4/13/2020

As Mayor I must take care and attend to how much weight my words carry. In this, a disclaimer is needed. I am one of five who carry the responsibility of City policy decider. So, what I say below is my opinion as one of the five, not to be taken as any sort of City directive. That said I am a resident with a long and sincere respect for our community, this is my home until I go feet first.

A definition first; Residents (locals and sometime locals), businesses and visitors together. Combined with the marvel of this location and the history that makes CB so special.

Right off I will say that in the near future decisions must be looked at not in terms of 'when' but 'how'. Before I dive into that discussion, a brief history as I recall it...

In sixty-four a tidal wave hit, (the proper term then) soon after a headless horse (person?) haunted our streets until the bridge was rebuilt and tourism rebounded. A strangely unique message of community solidarity permeated the town. And yes, the headless horseman was mounted and pooped, get over it, that was then.

In the late seventies a gas crisis hit, nobody wanted to travel, dire times bode for dismal business prospects. A man named Dickens came to our aid. Scrooge and cast created a town wide atmosphere of old England, spawning our first true commercial festival. It included street lighting and other heart felt traditions we now cherish.

Sure, some may argue the Sandcastle Contest was before that, it was. Its' origin was not honestly to bring in tourism, it was a children's activity that grew into an event quick enough.

Back to today. How we come out of this pandemic is the question. Unique as we in CB are, this is global, and this is personal. This is ever changing and yet is a plot crafted better than the best thriller author could imagine. Between a rock and a hard place, pandemic and depression.

I believe CB as gifted with location as it is. When the time does come, we will see business return with a fury. People have been cooped-up and our sands are too much the temptation to resist. With this weather as it has been and the natural healing power of the waves, they will come.

Therein lies the concern we have, I have. How?

The city has some say in this, but, underline but, Economic Resurgence may be another kind of Tsunami. We must be ready to share again. Us locals have cherished this me-time in our magic location. And be aware it will be a hard share. Hemlock downtown will suddenly one day go from six cars to one hundred and sixty, and we will be dumbfounded. Caught in our comfy pants.

The City will do what it can.

Pardon me but I must show my colors, if the Idiot-in-Chief opens the flood gate too soon there will be hard effort required from our front-line-troopers and they will be hard pressed and in the danger zone.

I hope the Governor and near-by Governors can hold their heads above the fray and choose wisely too. Because we are somewhat at the whim of those higher powers.

That said I will keep the closed sign up as long as possible. Watt coined it correctly. Balance. There is a point when the bug meets the windshield and the dollar will demand attention. Our lively hood depends on our capability to share. Share that which what I have recently re-seen is more wonderful than even I recall.

The City must keep the water flowing and the police patrolling. Seaside did what works for Seaside. Our reserves may keep all our city departments functioning. City operations are as much dependent on our visitor stream as are the hotels, restaurants and shops. That said, our community reserves are a limited resource and must not be overly endangered.

Ideas are flowing, plans are being bantered and tested in the face of unknowable possibilities. It may seem city is sitting back and doing little. We have battened the hatches down, but the storm is yet to bring its full gale. Recovery will be a Bi...(sorry, mixed audience)!

If the City can find a means to proffer aid to residents and businesses, it is my intent we do so. How is the issue. I prefer not to act with a knee jerk reaction. Aid now would be a thing, I agree, aid later will be as much a thing and it will have been thought out to our best ability. Taken with care for the benefit of all.

Paying the bills this month will be hard. Next? My guess harder and then we are all behind, striving to catch up with the few visitor dollars that begin to flow.

And, heaven forbid the bug rebounds next winter. We absolutely must see that we have tipped the balance at the right moment.

On this Easter day, bless us all, however you prefer to send this message; May we all come through this healthy and prosperous. And may we, the residents of CB, reaffirm the Magic of our home as well as the simple pleasure of sharing.

Mayor Sam

PS, yes there are such a thing at typos and grammar errors, it happens. And I like commas, their fun, in a curly kinda way.

PSII, the city committed to the purchase of the Old School site long before this bug strove to interfere. We will, as a community I hope, embrace this Gathering Place with open hearts as soon as we can Gather again. Can any body say "Town party"?