

As I begin to write this, it's a cold January day with a forecast of a significant snowstorm. Did I ever tell you I hate winter?

Almost universally we wanted the year 2020 to end. And now January 2021 is almost over. The election and the inauguration are over, but Covid is not. We still need to be cautious, wear a mask, wash our hands and avoid big crowds. The vaccines are here but supply is still limited.

But wait! Is that a glimmer of light I see on the horizon? Somehow, most businesses have survived. The government has promised additional stimulus that even includes non-profits like Chambers of Commerce.

Whatever the Groundhog says, Spring will be here in six weeks. And we are promised a huge ramp up in vaccine delivery. There seems to be an undercurrent of optimism that will break through to the surface soon. And hopefully that will lead to a release of pent-up economic demand.

Mayor Maddasion has kicked off the social media "Mayor's Spotlight", looking at all the positives going on in our community. And as we begin to open up again we look forward to hosting RAGBRAI in July and the American Queen riverboats during the summer. Also, baseball will return to NelsonCorp Field with the LumberKings participation in the Prospect League - a 16-team Collegiate Wood Bat league.

So, take the 'Ole Irishman's word for it.... better times are almost here!