

May 2016

I'm issuing another "adage alert".

Here goes: "You can't live with 'em, and you can't live without 'em". Or how about the old proverbial "double edged sword"? We've all had to choose whether we want the "good news or bad news" first. Then there is the ever popular "blessing and a curse", and "2 sides of the coin".

There is nothing in our present culture that these adages apply to more than that wonder of modernity known as social media. You may be using it right now to read this article.

I think I'll tackle the "good news" side of the coin first.

I love Facebook. It helps us keep you informed better than ever before. Our City Public Information Officer, Morgan Ash, does a great job of posting all the "real" things going on in Seguin to our City Facebook page. If you want to stay informed about what is going on in the city on an almost hourly basis, go to our Facebook page, "like" it and click "allow notifications". You will then be sent email notifications every time something is posted to our page.

Everything from street closures, utility outages, storm alerts, community activities, city council actions, police and fire activity, and new businesses – virtually everything that touches city government in a real way is posted on this page every day. It's an incredibly valuable information resource of "real" information for the community, and a "real" blessing.

Other real blessings are the great photos, videos and personal milestones real people post and share with their friends – real or imagined.

Truthfully, I appreciate the public comments people make on Facebook– both positive and negative, but only if informed, intelligent people who use facts and logic to reinforce what they say make them. Hearing thoughtful criticism from concerned citizens is part of my job, and I need to hear it all – good or bad.

I will admit that being in public office has made me kind of numb to much of what is "discussed" on Facebook. I've gotten used to the fact that whatever I do, or whatever event occurs in the city, there will probably be a mention on Facebook. I have come to expect the snarky comments that some people put on public display in social media. I get it. I'm in the public eye, and a very big target. I'm not going to sit here and whine about it. If I took every snarky comment made about the city or me to heart, I'd probably be on suicide watch. On the other hand – I absolutely love the many kind and wonderful positive comments made by intelligent and thoughtful people as well.

I've done all this set-up to get to the "bad news" side of the coin. I understand snarky comments will come my way – they're a trait of classically insecure people who somehow need to express anger brought on by their own self-hatred. It's one of the things we have to put up with in a free society.

Snarky or not, what I find so incredibly sad is the amount of abject ignorance some people display with their comments. There is no excuse for it.

To wit: A couple of weeks ago, while making a negative remark Facebook about the city, a citizen stated that nothing had changed in Seguin for 20 years. Now that really frosts me folks! It was the most abjectly ignorant comment I have ever heard. I didn't look much further in the thread, but I'm sure there were other ignoramus agreeing with him/her. Yes, folks, right here in Seguin we have real ignoramuses!

These people live in a fake fantasy world with their noses buried in their cell phones so permanently, and so deeply that they can't even see all the great things that real people have been building in this real city for the past decade. You can't drive or walk more than a few blocks anywhere in this town and without seeing where something real has been repaired, replaced, improved or added. To these poor people, I say, pull your noses out of your cell phones and look at the real city growing, changing and improving all around you, for crying out loud!

Gosh I love this town!



It's real.

