

MAYOR'S MEMO

SECOND QUARTER 2019



In my opening note for this edition, I'd like to touch on an issue that has recently been reported by local media outlets. During recent meetings, representatives of Forsyth County government have stated that they would like to "look at how much city residents are using county-funded resources" and potentially "look retroactively at what is owed."

I find these types of comments and suggestions to be extremely frustrating for several reasons. First, *all* City of Cumming residents pay *Forsyth County* property taxes, which are used for schools, fire services, libraries, maintenance and operations throughout the entire county, not just within the City Limits. Secondly, the City of Cumming provides a number of services and amenities equally to residents of the city and county. For example, our Recreation Department, including the Aquatic Center, serves approximately 99 county residents to every 1 city resident. We do not charge county residents more than city residents. Should we start? And if so, why stop there? Should we charge county folks a fee for activities such as watching

parades in town, or maybe higher admission fees to the fair? ABSOLUTELY NOT! We are ALL neighbors and this type of rhetoric needs to stop.

County Commissioner Molly Cooper represents City of Cumming residents, as well as others outside the City Limits. Every citizen in the City of Cumming is also a county resident. The county government represents us as well. We are not lesser people, and while our great city is smaller, it certainly isn't lesser on any level.

Sincerely,

Troy Brumbalow
Mayor

About the Mayor's Memo: A publication by the City of Cumming used to help inform our residents, businesses, newcomers, and visitors of all the great things going on in the City of Cumming! Presented each quarter in addition to the City's monthly e-newsletter. Mailed at the close of each quarter and shared electronically at cityofcumming.net and at City of Cumming-City Hall on Facebook.

To stay up-to-date on the City of Cumming, **please sign up** for our **monthly e-newsletter** by emailing cldeford@cityofcumming.net (Subject Line: E-newsletter Signup) and liking us on **Facebook** ([facebook.com/cummingcityhall](https://www.facebook.com/cummingcityhall)) and **Instagram** ([@cityofcumming](https://www.instagram.com/cityofcumming))!

(Over)

Second Quarter 2019 Highlights



Nine high school students – seven from Forsyth Central High and two from Alliance Academy for Innovation (the two high schools within the Cumming City Limits) – were sworn in by Mayor Troy Brumbalow as the City of Cumming’s first ever **Youth Council (YC)**. These students were selected by a committee from a pool of about 30 applicants from the two schools. Much like the City of Cumming’s elected body, the YC meets monthly, and members elected the leadership roles of Mayor, Mayor Protem, City Administrator, and Clerk. The purpose of the YC is to serve as an advisory board to the Cumming Mayor & City Council by providing insight into today’s youth. They will provide ideas for ways to better connect with young people and to serve the community as a whole. YC members are, from left to right, top row to bottom row: Jake Gant, Mayor; Caleb McWhorter, Mayor Protem; Alana Murray, City Administrator; Grace Gant, Clerk; Eva

Sell; Jake Dutton; Riley Brumbalow; Mary Beth Lowe; and Zach Furbush.

The City unveiled a **1969 Chevrolet Impala**, which was restored to look like the Sheriff’s Department vehicle in which Deputies Bill Cantrell and Larry Mulkey were murdered during a traffic stop on Jan. 10, 1972. The vehicle will serve as a monument to their memory, as well as to all Cumming and Forsyth County law enforcement officers and emergency responders killed or injured in the line of duty. The Impala made its debut during the June Fridays at the Fairgrounds event, and was a highlight of the July 4th Thomas-Mashburn Steam Engine Parade. Eventually, the Impala will be permanently housed and displayed at the Cumming City Center as a tribute to all local law enforcement and emergency service responders. The restoration of the vehicle was funded through private financial and in-kind donations from businesses and individuals.



City Center Update: The Downtown Development Authority hired a full-time employee to serve as the City Center Property Manager. The Property Manager is currently conducting research into the best practices of other similar developments around the state, and exploring various retail and restaurant opportunities for the spaces that will be available when the Center opens. After the Center opens, the Property Manager will

oversee all day-to-day operations at the facility. It is anticipated that groundbreaking for the City Center will begin by the end of August, and the project is anticipated to be complete by late 2021.

On the Horizon – More summer music events have been scheduled at the Cumming Fairgrounds: Rock for Rescue (Benefitting the Humane Society of Forsyth County) on Aug. 17 from 3-11 p.m.; Big Hair at the Fair on Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. to midnight; and Joe Nichols in concert on Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. Also at the Fairgrounds, work on the **new pedestrian sky bridge** is moving along. This new walkway, which will cross over Castleberry Road, is slated to be finished by early fall.