

# MAYOR'S MEMO

## FOURTH QUARTER 2019



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone already. 2019 was a whirlwind of activity, with many wonderful things happening throughout its course. During our fourth quarter in the City of Cumming, we finished a great year with some wonderful accomplishments and events.

Since taking office two years ago, one of my main focuses has been on fiscal responsibility. Myself and City Council all believe in being good stewards of the City's money, so I am happy to report that the City's General Fund expenditures for 2019 are anticipated to come in approximately \$2 million less than revenues. This continues a trend started in 2018, when the General Fund came in at almost \$3 million under budget.

Despite our work to continually lower expenses, we are still able to bring our community wonderful projects funded primarily through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) revenues. In 2020, those efforts will continue as we move forward with projects such as connecting Cumming Industrial Park to Castleberry Road to help create a bypass around downtown, and installing air conditioning at the Dobbs Creek Recreation Center, among other projects.

Park to Castleberry Road to help create a bypass around downtown, and installing air conditioning at the Dobbs Creek Recreation Center, among other projects.

Come with us as we continue to move the City of Cumming forward during this new decade!

Sincerely,

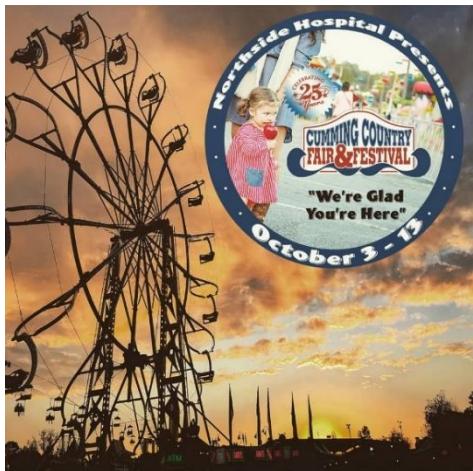
Troy Brumbelow  
Mayor

**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](http://cityofcumming.net) and at City of Cumming-City Hall on Facebook.

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(Over)

## **Fourth Quarter 2019 Highlights**



The **Cumming Country Fair & Festival** marked a huge milestone in 2019 by celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year! The 11-day festival featured all the old favorites our community has come to love, including the Heritage and Indian Villages, and rides, games and carnival food along the James H. Drew Exposition midway. This year's event also offered stellar daily ground acts and two top-notch concerts featuring nationally-known artists: Colt Ford, and "The Roots & Boots Tour" with Aaron Tippin, Collin Raye, and Sammy Kershaw.

Patrons were also able to utilize the new **pedestrian sky bridge** and **six-window ticket booth** for the first time. These additions improved the flow of crowds coming into the fair, and greatly reduced traffic back-ups on Castleberry Road. Fair patrons also enjoyed the new **2,000-square-foot mural** along the Fairgrounds' retaining wall, which was completed through a partnership with the Sawnee Association of the Arts and several local schools.

In November, City Council selected Beltan Properties, Inc. of Flowery Branch to serve as the **General Contractor for the Cumming City Center**. Beltan was selected from five respondents who submitted proposals for the project. Under the Construction Management Agreement, Beltan will be paid \$2.5 million for General Contractor services.



Our second annual **Cumming Christmas Parade and Festival** was a big hit with thousands of people in attendance. Nearly 100 entrants took part in the parade – everything from student groups, bands, churches and animal rescues to businesses, civic organizations, political candidates, and more. Following the parade, huge crowds gathered at the **Fairgrounds Festival** to celebrate the season with plenty of family-friendly activities such as photos with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting, s'mores, hot cocoa, and vendors. **Mountain Lake Church** provided live music and a "Santa's Workshop" where kids were able to create several holiday-themed arts and crafts projects.

During the final City Council meeting of 2019, **outgoing City**

**Councilman Lewis Ledbetter** was honored with the Georgia Municipal Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his **49 years of continuous service**. He was also named "Grand Marshall" of the Cumming Country Fair & Festival, and an area at the Fairgrounds will now be known as the "Lewis Ledbetter Overlook" in his honor.



**On the Horizon** – 2020 will be a big year in the City of Cumming as we continue to move forward with **construction of the City Center**. Vertical construction is slated to begin this summer in anticipation of the center's **opening in August of 2021!**