

# MAYOR'S MEMO

SUMMER 2024



Exciting things are happening in the City of Cumming! One in particular that I want to take time to address at some length is the **relocation of the City's Veterans War Memorial** from the previous location next door to the Cumming Police Department on Veterans Memorial Blvd. **to its new home at the Cumming City Center.**

Last fall, members of City staff formed a committee with representatives of our community's 3 national veterans' organizations (VFW, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America). Together, this committee worked for several months to plan the new memorial, which is located around the reflecting pool at the rear of the Lou Sobh Amphitheater. The new Veterans War Memorial carries over the most important aspects of the former site: Names of Forsyth County residents who were killed in action during each major military conflict from the Civil War to present; descriptions of each major conflict; flags recognizing our nation, each branch of the Armed Services, and Prisoners of War; and the sculptural elements by artist Gregory Johnson. Additionally, the new site has added plaques honoring each branch of the Armed Services; plaques recognizing the VFW, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America; and benches, one of which honors veterans and active duty military personnel still fighting the ongoing Global War on Terror.

City Council and I made the decision to relocate the memorial for several reasons. First of all, due to the previous memorial's age, it had developed many structural problems in recent years which had created safety issues and cost the City thousands of dollars to repeatedly repair. Additionally, with the upcoming relocation of the Cumming Police Department to the City Center, we did not want to leave the memorial at a location where it could not be properly overseen. Lastly, we felt it was important to bring the memorial to the City Center where many more people can interact with it. At the new site, all the thousands of visitors to the City Center can enjoy and learn from the memorial; I have seen so many parents and grandparents already walking through the new memorial and discussing the importance of veterans and service to our nation. Additionally, we had a wonderful Memorial Day Ceremony at the new location, which drew the largest crowd the event has seen in several years! This was truly my goal in relocating the memorial: placing it in an area of prominence where the most people can be made aware of and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. If you have not yet, I hope you will come visit the new Veterans War Memorial in the near future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Brumbalow". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Troy Brumbalow, Mayor

(Over)

## Winter and Spring Highlights



The new **Veterans War Memorial at the Cumming City Center** is located at the rear of the Lou Sobh Amphitheater, around the reflecting pool.



In December, I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon and officially opening the **Fire Museum at the Cumming City Center** along with Forsyth County Fire Chief Barry Head and retired Cumming City Council members and former City of Cumming Volunteer Firefighters Quincy Holton, Lewis Ledbetter, and Rupert Sexton. Located next door to Myth & Legend Coffee House, the Fire Museum honors all firefighters throughout the history of Forsyth County and the City of Cumming. Some of the features include old newspaper articles, fire suits and various firefighting apparatus, and the centerpiece: the City of Cumming's vintage 1980's Fire Truck. The Fire Museum is free and open to the public during Myth & Legend's business hours, as well as during some special events at the City Center.

The **Cumming Fairgrounds** will soon have a **brand new livestock barn**. In January, City Council approved tearing down the old livestock barn due to structural damage. After an inspection, it was determined that it would be safer and in the City's best interest to completely demolish the previous barn and build a new one on the same site. It will be wonderful to have a brand new barn to house the livestock and other animals at this year's fair in October.

