

### Happy New Year!!!

### IN THIS ISSUE

The Comprehensive Plan will go before the City Council at the meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. Please take some time to review the plan on our website at [cumming.iowa.gov](http://cumming.iowa.gov) or request a copy from City Hall.

If you have anything that you would like to see changed or added now is the time to let council know! You can mail your comments to City of Cumming, PO Box 100, Cumming, IA 50061, drop in the drop box outside City Hall or email to [artichie@cumming.iowa.gov](mailto:artichie@cumming.iowa.gov)

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# Letter from the Mayor

Happy New Year! 2022 was a very exciting year in Cumming with various projects beginning, as well as some concluding. Overall in the past year, our city has seen an 18% increase in our population.

The Great Western Crossing continues to add homes after the successful Home Show in 2021. Two Villas were built with one being occupied and another being built. The Mercantile opened and continues to add events to their calendar. The business area is under construction currently with another section of the walking/bike path complete. This year we hope to see new business in this area and townhomes.

The Hy-Vee project paused construction then restarted with plans to open the distribution center in 2024. They are currently scheduled to open the Fast & Fresh and Smokey Row late fall of this year. We intend to have a walking/bike trail from the Great Western Trail to the Fast & Fresh this year.

Iowa Distilling has almost completed their new building.

Our city annexed 556 acres of land south of Cumming Avenue for Wilson's Orchard, the Agrihood and I-35 business development. Wilson's Orchard planted apple trees and strawberries last spring. They hope to be open for a limited selection this year. We are continuing to work with Diligent on the development of the land directly south of Old Town to continue our business district south.

Last year residents, Planning & Zoning members, Park and Recreation Board members, City Council members and business leaders spent all year working on a Comprehensive Plan for our city. We have a public hearing on January 9th and would like input. If you are unable to attend please send an email or call with suggestion and comments to Angie Ritchie, City Clerk: [aritchie@cumming.iowa.gov](mailto:aritchie@cumming.iowa.gov)

Last year Bob Fagen, City Administrator, announced his retirement effective January 31, 2023. Bob was a great find for our city in our time of many moving pieces of new building and businesses. Congratulations Bob, thank you for your service and we wish you the best in your future endeavors. We hired Rita Conner to replace Bob in this role. We are a very small city to have an administrator but we are in a unique situation with our current and potential growth. Rita comes to us with many years of experience in different cities. Rita is part-time and has hit the ground running maintaining a relationship with Bob to not miss any current and upcoming actions. Rita Conner: [rconner@cumming.iowa.gov](mailto:rconner@cumming.iowa.gov)

We are a small community and have a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other. One way is to volunteer to meet more people and help our community. Park & Recreation is made up of volunteers and hosts many great events throughout the year. They host Easter, Halloween, Friday movies and Christmas events for our community. They have also put up the Free Little Library in City Park. They are also responsible for the parks, Christmas lights and many other activities.

Cumming Hometown Pride is another group of volunteers responsible for the Yard of the Month including Halloween and Christmas. They also sponsor Front Porch Cumming held monthly in the summer. This is a fun event to gather and meet your neighbors. They also completed an art project for our community with artistic banners placed around our community. We are so thankful to award winning and local artist, Hilde De Bruyne, for donating her time and creative abilities in order to design the banners. These committees and others would not be possible without volunteers, please consider helping our community improve. Check our website for current openings.

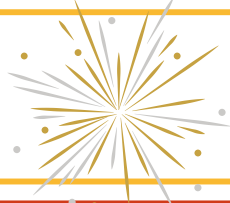
We have a very busy 2023 in front of us and many years of activities and changes. Please be involved to share your thoughts and ideas. Let me know how to better communicate with you. Please feel free to contact me or your council members.

Brent Highfill, Mayor  
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Phone: 515-238-8056

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Larry (Dino) Goode, Jr., [cmdgoode@gmail.com](mailto:cmdgoode@gmail.com)  
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Martin Squier, [pzmsquier@gmail.com](mailto:pzmsquier@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Events

January 1 -  
New Years Day!



January 16 -  
Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Day!

January 24 -  
International Day  
of Education



## January Meetings

All meetings are held in person  
at City Hall and via Zoom

**January 9**

City Council - 7pm

**January 23**

City Council - Work Session - 7pm

**No January Meetings for:**

Planning & Zoning  
Park & Recreation  
Hometown Pride



## West Des Moines Public Library

There are fun activities for all ages at the library. Here are a couple of the events this month!

### Winter Reading Challenge

December 15 - January 15 - Register online and enter to win a prize basket

### Friday Craft for Adults

January 6 - All Day

### After School Adventures - Lego Club!

December 11th 3:45 pm - 4:30 pm

### Sensory Spaces @ WDM Library

December 29 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

For more information and to register for any classes go to [www.wdmlibrary.org](http://www.wdmlibrary.org)



If you would like to celebrate with our Sister City, Shijiazhuang, China to welcome the Lunar New Year it is on January 22. 2023 is the year of the Water Rabbit. This is the first time the water rabbit has been celebrated in sixty years and with it comes great change. A look at the last two water rabbit years:

1963: We saw 250,000 people march on Washington, D.C. for civil rights and Martin Luther King, Jr., deliver the "I Have a Dream" speech, JFK was assassinated

1903: We saw the recreation of flight, film, and an iconic car; Wright Brothers first flight, silent movies first film debuted, Ford released the first Model "A".

## Cumming City Hall

649 N 44th St. PO Box 100

Cumming, IA 50061

**Hours:** 10AM - 2PM

**Phone:** 515-981-9214

**City Administrator:** Rita Conner

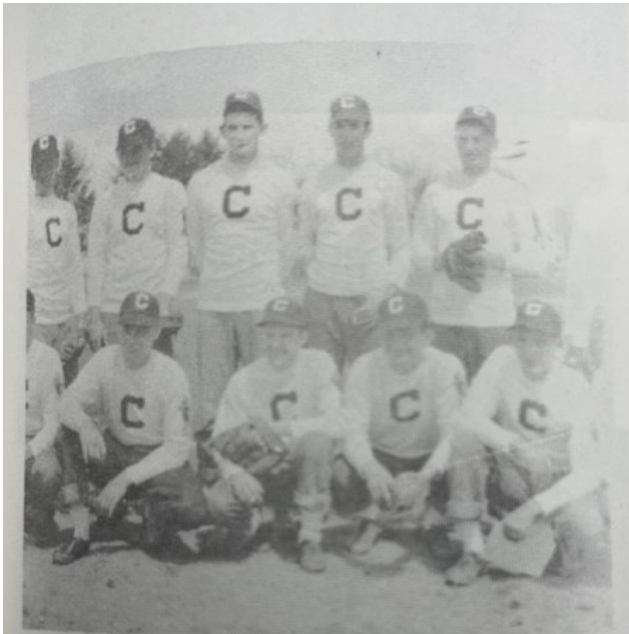
rconner@cumming.iowa.gov

**City Clerk:** Angie Ritchie

aritchie@cumming.iowa.gov

## Cumming Historical Fact

Cumming had a baseball team!!



*Cumming Ball Team  
1950:*

*Mike Duffy, Dennis Spencer,  
Jack Spencer, Connie Jamison,  
Gary Spencer, Teddy Duffy,  
Verl Anderson, Jr. Spencer, Cal Tovrea*

