

Mystery of the 'S'

Cumming was founded as a railroad community in 1888. The station was built at the end of N. 44th (previously known as Station Street) and Cumming Ave. This is where the American Legion is today.

In this picture below of the old railroad station the name of our city is listed as "Cummings." Wait.. what? Why is there an 'S' at the end of our name? Find out why on page 5.



Depot at Cumming, IA on the Chicago Great Western Railway. Year unknown. The railway began in 1888, as did the town.

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events	Page 2
October Meetings	Page 2
WDM Library Events	Page 2
Letter from the Mayor	Page 3
Event Flyers	Page 4
Happy Birthday Cumming	Page 5
Thank you Hometown Pride	Page 6
City Contact Information	Page 6
On the Nov. 8 Ballot	Page 6

Upcoming Events

Indigenous People Day
October 10th

Founders Day
October 26th



 **Beggars Night**
October 30th, 6-8pm

October Meetings

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

October 3

Special City Council - 7pm

October 4

Park and Rec - 7pm

October 10

City Council - 7pm

October 19

Hometown Pride 6 pm

October 25

Planning & Zoning 7 pm



West Des Moines Public Library

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

October 10 - 6:30 pm -7:30 pm
Halloween Balloon Workshop

October 12 - 3:45pm - 4:30 pm
After School Adventures - SLIME

October 24 - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Teen Book Club and Writing Group

October 28 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Live Action Clue Pizza Party

For more information and to register for any classes go to www.wdmlibrary.org



NOMINATE YOUR
FAVORITE FALL
YARD OF
THE MONTH

It doesn't matter if you decorate with witches and ghosts or pumpkins and lights, we want to see them!

Send nominations for your favorite decorated yard to aritchie@cumming.iowa.gov

Dear Residents of Cumming,

There have been a lot of positive changes in our community since my last letter to you, three months ago. Dirt is moving as development begins in both the commercial and townhome areas of Great Western Crossing (GWC). There are at least two potential businesses in negotiations with the developer to build near the Mercantile. GWC has also welcomed new families this quarter in addition to more homes being sold and construction near completion on others.

The steering committee is close to completing the comprehensive plan. The completed plan should be available soon.

We are just days away from the completion of the long-awaited annexation of approximately 700 acres south of Cumming Ave. This will include the land for the Agrihood and potential business opportunities on the I-35 corridor. (See page 5 for Annexation Map.)

Our City Engineers are working on plans to create a bike/walking trail from the trailhead along Cumming Avenue to the Hy-Vee Fast and Fresh which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

Cumming Hometown Pride is working on placing decorative art banners in key areas of our city. Our city parks, notable buildings and bike/walking trails are some of the places you might find them. (See page 5 for mock up of banner.)

As our community continues to grow, so does the need for volunteers. We currently have openings on the following: Park & Recreation Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustments, and the Hometown Pride Committee. If you would like to fill any of these positions, please contact City Hall or visit our website (cumming.iowa.gov) for more information or to complete an application.

Cumming Sewer Rates		
Date	Availability	1000 Gallons
Currently	\$ 15.00	\$ 6.75
7/1/2023	\$ 15.45	\$ 6.95
7/1/2024	\$ 15.91	\$ 7.16
7/1/2025	\$ 16.39	\$ 7.38

And last but not least, let's talk about our sewers. Cumming is a member of the Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) which handles all of our wastewater needs. The WRA is in the first phase, of several, to increase their capacity and meet strict wastewater regulations. What does that mean for us? It means that an Ordinance Amendment is before the City Council to increase rates to meet our obligations. The increase is three percent (3%) annually for the next three years, see chart below. If you have any questions or concerns about this please reach out to us or attend the next regular council meeting, October 10, at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Be safe and greet your neighbors.

Respectfully,

Mayor Brent Highfill

cmbhighfill@gmail.com

Middlebrook Fall Fest

October 1, 2022

10am to 2pm

Live music, food trucks, farmers' market, pumpkin decorating, face painting and more!



TED LARE
Garden Center

presents

FALL HARVEST ART SHOW



FREE ADMISSION

OCTOBER 8, 2022

9am - 3pm

25+ Local Artists
Fall + Holiday Art
Local Musicians
Local Food Trucks + Winery
Face Painting
+ MORE

tedsgardens.com



Time to Rock and Ride!

the great iowa fall ride

OCTOBER 8, 2022
CUMMING, IA



The 37-mile ride loops from Cumming to Easter Lake and back



CITY OF CUMMING

11th ANNUAL FALL FEST

October 22, 2022

ENJOY FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

AT MAYOR TOM BECKER PARK
10:00AM - 12:00PM



COSTUME PARADE - CINNAMON ROLL TRUCK
ARTS & CRAFTS - BUMPER BALLS - GAMES

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call: 515-981-9214

www.cumming.iowa.gov

Happy Birthday Cumming!

On October 26, Cumming turns 134! Here is an article from 1988 about some of our history.

CUMMING, IOWA

By Rena King

Cumming was founded in 1888 when the Chicago Great Western Railroad was built through Orilla, Cumming, and Churchville. It was laid out in three additions by Frazier Callison.

The railroad construction took approximately one day to lay one-half mile of track. Trains, called locals, ran morning and evening into Des Moines for shoppers and workmen.

Mr. Callison donated the lot to build the first house in Cumming, on Main Street, to Addie and John Fagan. The builder was George Bowers.

Albert Cross built the first grocery store in Cumming, sort of a commercial building. It was later occupied by Joe Bell for a hardware store and was located at the southern end of Main Street which is now Station Street.

There were three churches built - The Friends (Quaker) Church was built on Cyrus Callison's property in 1880, the Cumming Methodist Episcopal Church (now Cumming Community) built in

1892, and St. John's Catholic Church built in 1892. Charles Snyder, owner of the Cumming lumberyard, was the builder and contractor of the churches.

By 1908, the town had two general stores, a physician, a bank, two blacksmith shops, barber shop, harness shop, feed mill, meat market, implement store, lumberyard and post office.

Coal mining began just east of Cumming about 1920 and continued for some 8-10 years until the coal ran out. This brought many migratory workers, some who have continued to live here. A railroad spur connected the mine with its main line. The coal was some 325 feet below the surface, with hallways running out in three directions. The hallways were lighted by carbide lamps and hanging electric bulbs.

At this time, Cumming was probably at the height of its business life with a population of 170.

The roads were starting to be graveled in the area in 1922. The road between Cumming and Norwalk was paved in 1963.

THE "S" MYSTERY

By Sally Huntoon

When we began coverage of the Cumming Centennial, it was interesting to read the articles area residents were writing about their community. When the photos started rolling in, it was equally fun to look at the dress of 100 years ago.

One of the most curious things to be seen in the photos, however, was the sign posted on the old depot. It quite spectacularly declared the community as "Cummings" - with an "s." It would have to be something we would check into for a story, our staff decided.

Then calls began coming into the newspaper office wanting to know about the mystery "s." One lady said her husband told her to "Call Sally - I'll not be able to sleep until I find out about that 'S'."

A call to Rena King, who has turned in several of the articles about Cumming, helped with the story, but all we have to go by is hearsay. It appears as though the community was named Cumming, and research has come up only with the fact that -- the railway goofed. The "S" should never have been put on the sign.

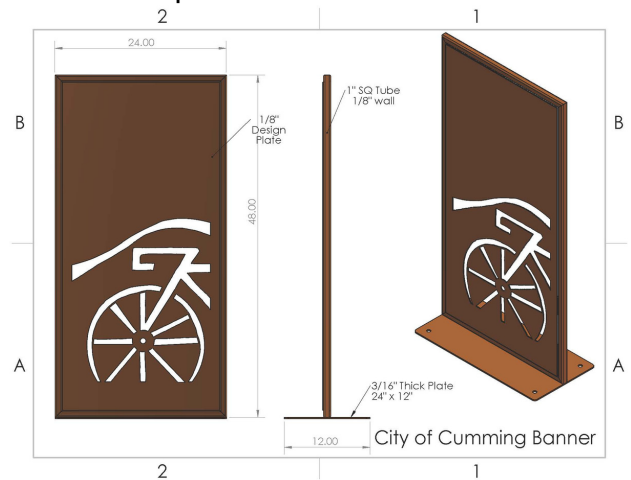
Too bad there isn't more to the mystery. But, it is comforting to know that mistakes were made -- even back then!

(Mayor Letter Continued from Page 3)

Location of Rezoning Request



Example of revised Banner



Order Iowa native trees for Fall planting now on the DNR website:

<https://nursery.iowadnr.gov/test-fall-sub-cat.html>

PEEK SALES & SERVICE

Super Market of Air Cooled Engine Parts
 Authorized Service Dealers For
TECUMSEH · KOHLER ·
BRIGGS & STRATTON
 (See our ad in the Telephone Book Classified pages)
 961-0511 Indianola, Iowa Hwy. 92 West

Cumming City Hall

649 N 44th St. PO Box 100
Cumming, IA 50061

Hours: 10AM - 2PM

Phone: 515-981-9214

City Administrator: Bob Fagen

bfagen@cumming.iowa.gov

City Clerk: Angie Ritchie

aritchie@cumming.iowa.gov

Deputy Clerk: Jessica Smith

jsmith@cumming.iowa.gov



We would like to say thank you to the Hometown Pride Committee for making Cumming beautiful. Thank you to all the members who took time out of their weekend and picked up trash at the Fall Clean up on September 24! We appreciate everything you!



November 8th!

Along with the candidates that you will find on the upcoming ballot you will also find a Public Measure, as well as, an amendment to the Iowa Constitution.

For the public measure you will be voting either in favor of or against two additional Board of Supervisor members. There are currently three and they are requesting two additional members.

Iowa Amendment 1, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms Amendment, is on the ballot in Iowa as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 8, 2022.[1]

A "yes" vote supports adding a right to own and bear firearms to the Iowa Constitution and require **strict scrutiny** for any alleged violations of the right brought before a court.

A "no" vote opposes adding a right to own and bear firearms to the Iowa Constitution and require strict scrutiny for any alleged violations of the right brought before a court.

The wording "strict scrutiny" is where the controversy arises so please do your research before heading to the polls this November 8th!