

TOWN of CARY



TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT

TOWN OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2021 SECOND QUARTER

CARY MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP, VISION, AND SETTING THE CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE FOR OUR ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU TO KEEP CARY CARY.



Mayor
Harold Weinbrecht



Mayor Pro Tem
Don Frantz



Council Member
Lori Bush



Council Member
Ya Liu



Council Member
Jennifer Robinson



Council Member
Jack Smith



Council Member
Ed Yerha

ON THE COVER:

Downtown Cary shined extra bright this season. For several weeks in November, citizens walked among and marveled at a series of towering, colorfully lit structures resembling flowers not of this world at the “Botanical Lights” exhibit.

IN MOVING CARY FORWARD

The second quarter financial and operational report for FY 2021 closes out a historically challenging and unpredictable year.

Yet, while we anticipate 2021 to hold many more challenges, it also holds great promise. The last days of the quarter were a sign of things to come when the first Cary employees, our firefighters, received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a voluntary compliance rate nearly double the average of North Carolina's largest communities.

Throughout 2020, our staff continued to adapt to evolving circumstances to ensure Cary remains a vibrant place we can all be proud of. For instance, this quarter, we learned Cary will retain its Class I ISO rating, and we were once again recognized for our top performing wastewater collection and water distribution systems. Our staff also used their ingenuity to lift people's spirits with a Chinese Lantern display downtown when COVID-19 made it necessary for us to cancel the larger event. Additionally, we made significant progress on several Shaping Cary's Tomorrow parks and transportation bond projects, including finalizing the construction plans for the much-anticipated Downtown Park.

We look forward to providing additional updates at our next Quarterly Meeting on March 11, where we will provide financial, development, and safety updates for the quarter. Despite a tumultuous year, I'm incredibly grateful to work for this organization and live in a community like no other.

Together we continue to move this great community forward. Thank you for your partnership in making Cary, Cary.

#BeSafe

#BeKind

#BeCary

Sean R. Stegall

Sean R. Stegall
Town Manager



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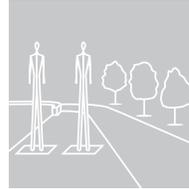
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The audit of Cary's financial statements for FY 2020 concluded in Q2 with the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The financial statements and supporting details demonstrate that Cary remains in good financial condition. Cary has capital resources, revenue capacity, and an expense management culture to provide Council with choices on how best to fulfill the vision and highest priorities in the Imagine Cary Community Plan. For further details on Cary's audited financial statements, visit www.townofcary.org/CAFR.

The effects of COVID-19 continue to impact citizens and financial results as illustrated in this report. At the end of Q2, 3% of Cary's utility customers were on a payment plan for balances that had accumulated from March through July of 2020. These plans provide ratepayers 12 months to pay without penalty or interest and are set to conclude in August 2021. Disconnections for non-payment, late fees, and other fees remain suspended as the pandemic continues to impose economic hardships on a segment of Cary's ratepayers. Cary will continue to work with citizens facing financial hardships through a variety of methods. This includes guidance on financial assistance programs for citizens and businesses, which can be found at www.townofcary.org/assistanceprograms.

Financial planning and budgeting for FY 2022 also commenced this quarter. Members of the leadership team continued to expand their understanding of Cary's holistic financial picture, which strengthens their ability to develop a recommended budget for the town manager.

2021 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

GENERAL FUND

FY 2021 Q2 GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2021 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenues	\$ 217.3	\$ 122.5	56%	\$ 109.9	\$ 12.6	11%
Expenditures	217.3	99.2	46%	86.7	12.5	14%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ 23.3	-	\$ 23.2	\$ 0.1	0%

*The above and following tables are represented in millions. Revenues, authorized expenditures, and transfers between funds are classified and summarized differently for the Council budget ordinance and for accounting and reporting purposes. Individual line items are consistent. The annual budgets referred to throughout this report reflect the budget as of the quarter end as adjusted (ADJ) by Council action or staff action where authorized.

Overall, net results for Q2 are consistent with prior year's second quarter. Revenues and expenditures have increased over 10%. Details on notable revenues and expenditures by category follow.

FY 2021 Q2 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

	FY 2021 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Property Taxes	\$ 114.3	\$ 97.1	85%	\$ 82.2	\$ 14.9	18%
Other Taxes & Licenses	31.3	11.0	35%	10.6	0.4	4%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	10.9	2.8	26%	2.9	(0.1)	-3%
Restricted Intergovernmental	0.3	0.2	67%	0.3	(0.1)	-33%
Permits & Fees	4.2	2.2	52%	2.3	(0.1)	-4%
Sales & Services	19.3	7.6	39%	9.7	(2.1)	-22%
Miscellaneous Revenue	3.1	0.9	29%	0.8	0.1	13%
OPERATING REVENUES	183.4	121.8	66%	108.8	13.0	12%
Non-Operating Revenues	33.9	0.7	2%	1.1	(0.4)	-36%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 217.3	\$ 122.5	56%	\$ 109.9	\$ 12.6	11%

Overall, FY 2021 General Fund revenues are up \$12.6 million, or 11%, over the same period in FY 2020. This is primarily due to the Wake County property tax revaluation that took effect January 1, 2020 in combination with Cary maintaining its \$0.35 tax rate for the current fiscal year.

OPERATING REVENUES

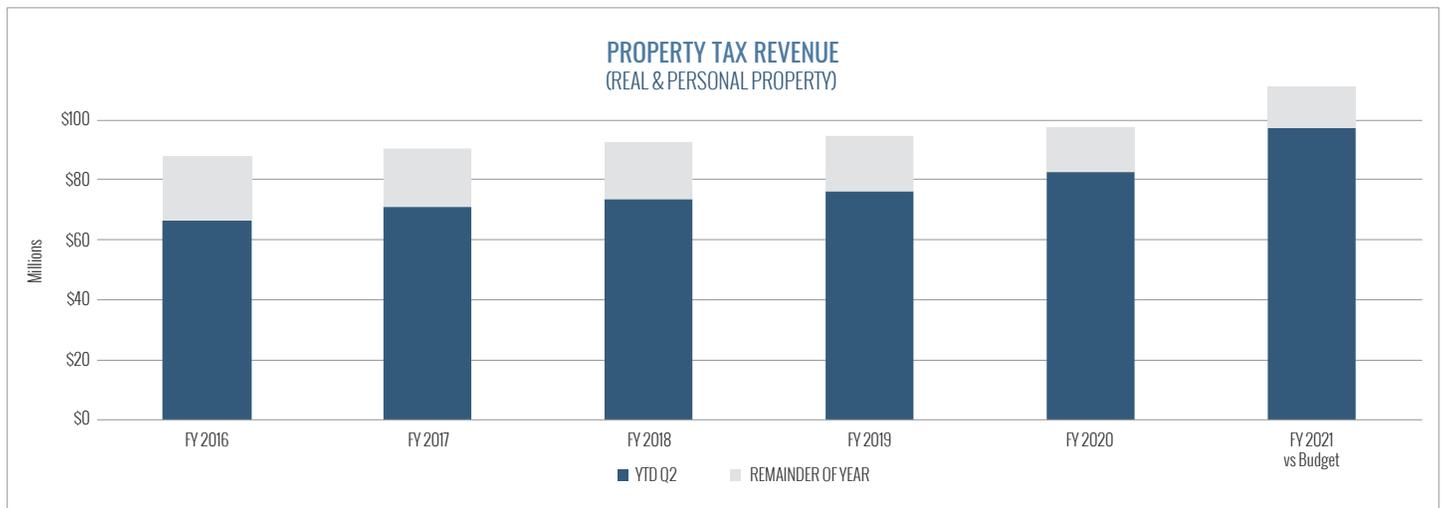
Property tax revenue is 53% of total budgeted revenue and is the largest revenue source for the General Fund. Taxes are based on an ad valorem tax levy on real and personal property. Real property are items such as land and buildings, while personal property are items such as vehicles and commercial business equipment. Real property taxes were billed in July 2020 and were due no later than January 5, 2021. Therefore, most real property tax revenue is received during Q2.

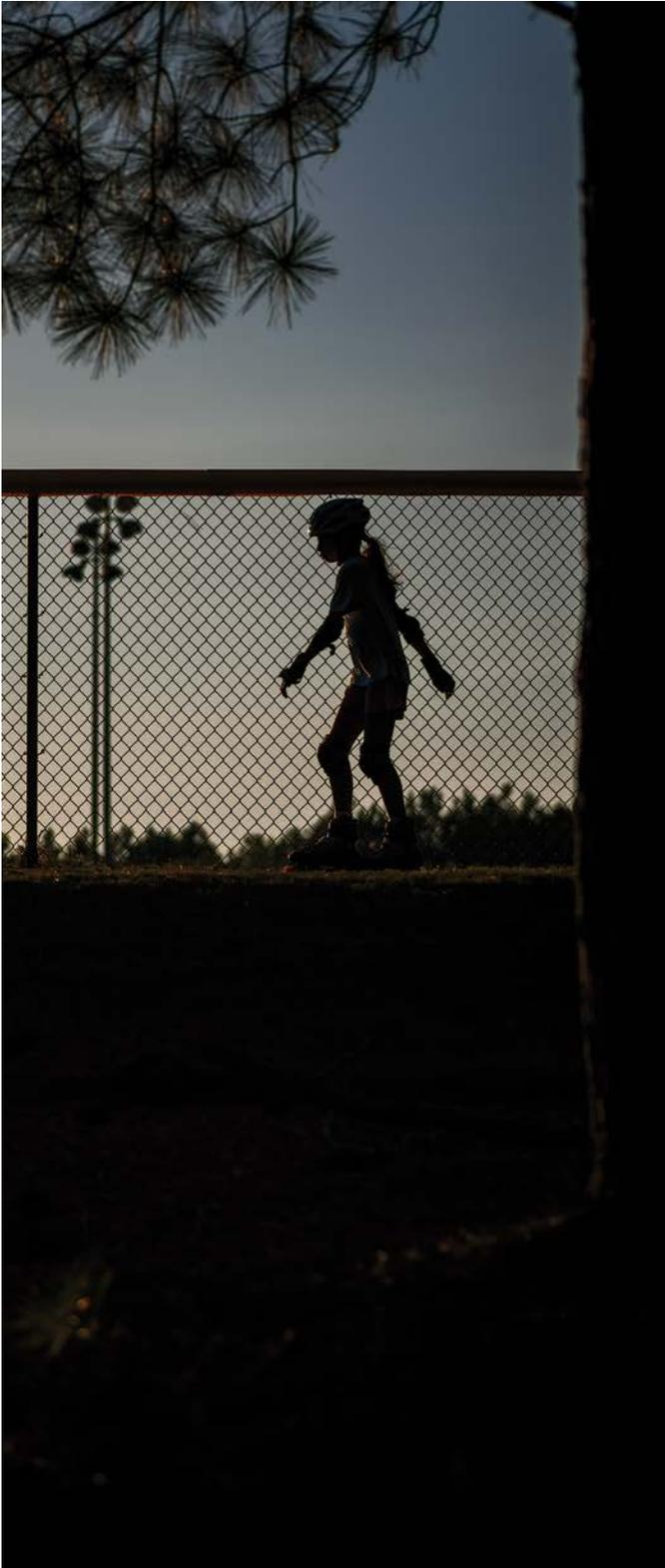
Personal property tax revenue, however, is collected throughout the year based on the State of North Carolina’s Tax and Tag program, which combines the vehicle ad valorem tax collection with the State’s vehicle license renewal process.

The FY 2021 budget for real property tax is \$108.5 million. Q2 ended less than a week before the property tax due date, and by the end of the second quarter, Cary received \$93.9 million, or 87%, of the real property tax budget. This is a 19% increase from FY 2020 that, as previously stated, is primarily due to the Wake County property tax revaluation and Cary maintaining its \$0.35 tax rate. The FY 2021 budget for personal property tax is \$5.8 million.

As of Q2, Cary received \$3.1 million, or 53%, of the personal property tax budget. Based on historical trends of the amount of property tax collected through Q2, both real and personal property tax revenues are expected to meet budget.

Sales tax revenue is 13% of budgeted General Fund revenue and is a component of the Other Taxes & Licenses category noted in the FY 2021 Q2 General Fund Revenues table. Sales tax revenue through Q2 is \$700,000, or 7%, more than the same quarter of last fiscal year. This revenue stream is distributed to municipalities by the North Carolina Department of Revenue about two and a half months after the month when taxable sales occurred. Through Q2, Cary has received three distributions for July through September sales. The first three sales tax distributions appear to be consistent with FY 2020 Q2 results and suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted the buying power of Wake County residents. At the time of adoption of the FY 2021 budget, the economic impacts of the pandemic could not be predicted, and the sales tax budget was set to accommodate a 20% decrease in sales tax revenue. Since this revenue has not declined as anticipated, the additional sales tax revenue will help offset other revenue shortfalls. This will primarily help offset the shortfalls in program revenues for Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, which have been more severely impacted by the ongoing pandemic.





Collectively, **Permits and Fees** revenue decreased 4% when compared to prior year. However, permits for all types of construction increased 3% compared to prior year totals. Single-family, residential permits increased 65%, and permits for residential alterations and additions increased 9%. Most permit charges are based on the square footage associated with the permit. The revenue decrease reflects a decline in square footage of current construction activity despite the increase in the volume of permits. This decrease was anticipated during the FY 2021 budget process, and as a result, FY 2021 year to date permit and fee revenues are in line with budget.

Overall, **Sales & Services** revenue decreased by 22%. Sanitation fee revenue, which represents 62% of this category, is performing as expected with little or no impact from the pandemic. However, revenues declined in Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources (PRCR) due to the closure of community centers and the cancellation of in-person camps and events in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline in PRCR revenue accounts for most of the \$2.1 million decline in the Sales & Services category from the previous fiscal year. To address the challenges posed by the pandemic, PRCR has implemented virtual programs to engage the public. At the time of FY 2021 budget adoption, the end of pandemic restrictions could not be projected. PRCR program revenues were budgeted to decline 20% from the prior year. Given Cary's values for safety, public gatherings, including PRCR programs are still on hold, and PRCR program revenues are not expected to meet budget. As mentioned above, the growth in sales tax revenue will likely cover this shortfall. Overall, the FY 2021 total revenues are expected to meet budget.

NON-OPERATING REVENUES

Non-operating revenues through Q2 decreased 36% compared to the same period in FY 2020. This decrease is due in part to decreased investment earnings. For more information, see the Cash and Investments section.

FY 2021 Q2 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2021 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
General Government	\$ 39.7	\$ 14.8	37%	\$ 13.1	\$ 1.7	13%
Public Safety	55.0	24.2	44%	24.0	0.2	1%
Operations (PW & PRCR)	52.3	19.3	37%	23.6	(4.3)	-18%
Development & Infrastructure	16.8	6.4	38%	6.8	(0.4)	-6%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	163.8	64.7	39%	67.5	(2.8)	-4%
Non-Operating Expenditures	53.5	34.5	64%	19.2	15.3	80%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 217.3	\$ 99.2	46%	\$ 86.7	\$ 12.5	14%

Overall, General Fund expenditures increased by 14%. This is primarily driven by the \$15.3 million increase in non-operating expenditures for increases in transfers to capital projects. Reductions in operational expenditures slightly offset the increase in capital spending. More specifically, the 4% decrease in General Fund operating expenditures reflects the \$4.3 million decrease in Operations (Public Works and PRCR) spending. For the safety of citizens, Cary’s facilities remain closed to the public, limiting normal operations and decreasing the need for temporary salaries and overtime. Conversely, spending in General Government increased \$1.7 million due to the timing of software maintenance and renewals and capital lease equipment charges for computer hardware.

Encumbrances represent funds that have been reserved in Cary’s financial system to satisfy a commitment to make a purchase. The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances in the financial system that remain at the end of Q2.

When including these encumbrance amounts with year-to-date spending, the General Fund has \$100.8 million remaining in the Operations budget for the remainder of the year.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS -
FY 2021 REMAINING ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)**

General Government	\$ 4,976,700
Public Safety	983,242
Operations (PW & PRCR)	7,889,209
Development & Infrastructure	424,015
Debt Service	93,083
Contingencies & Reserves	2,935,473
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 17,301,722

UTILITY FUND

FY 2021 Q2 UTILITY FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2021 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenues	\$ 101.6	\$ 37.4	37%	\$ 41.2	\$ (3.8)	-9%
Expenditures	101.6	49.5	49%	32.9	16.6	50%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (12.1)	-	\$ 8.3	\$ (20.4)	-246%

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Utility Fund net results through Q2 of FY 2021 decreased by more than 100% compared to FY 2020 due to increases in non-operating expenses. The increase in non-operating expenses includes a \$5 million contribution toward the Utility Fund's Other Post-Employment Benefits obligation and increases in transfers to capital projects.

FY 2021 Q2 UTILITY FUND REVENUES

	FY 2021 ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Water Service	\$ 30.6	\$ 14.3	47%	\$ 16.4	\$ (2.1)	-13%
Sewer Service	47.2	21.5	46%	23.0	(1.5)	-7%
Permits & Fees	1.7	0.9	53%	1.0	(0.1)	-10%
OPERATING REVENUES	79.5	36.7	46%	40.4	(3.7)	-9%
Non-Operating Revenues	22.1	0.7	3%	0.8	(0.1)	-13%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND REVENUES	\$ 101.6	\$ 37.4	37%	\$ 41.2	\$ (3.8)	-9%

Utility revenues decreased 9% through Q2 of FY 2021 compared to the same period in FY 2020. This decline reflects decreases in demand and rates. In FY 2021, demand decreased for irrigation due to a rainy fall season and decreased demand from commercial properties while many employees continue to work from home. In addition, the FY 2021 budget included a 4% volumetric water and sewer rate decrease as part of Cary's response to the economic hardships imposed by the pandemic and the financial impact of the January 1, 2020 revaluation on Cary citizen and business property taxes.

FY 2021 Q2 UTILITY FUND EXPENSES

	FY 2021 ADJ BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2020 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Administration	\$ 9.5	\$ 4.4	46%	\$ 4.8	\$ (0.4)	-8%
Field Operations	19.1	7.6	40%	6.8	0.8	12%
Wastewater (net of Apex)	11.4	4.7	41%	4.8	(0.1)	-2%
Water Treatment Plant (net of Apex)	9.3	4.2	45%	4.0	0.2	5%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	49.3	20.9	42%	20.4	0.5	2%
Non-Operating Expenditures	52.3	28.6	55%	12.5	16.1	129%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 101.6	\$ 49.5	49%	\$ 32.9	\$ 16.6	50%

The COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted utility operations to the same degree as General Fund operations. Utility operations and spending trends are consistent with FY 2020 and within budgetary expectations. As previously mentioned, non-operating expenses reflect a \$5 million contribution toward the Utility Fund’s Other Post-Employment Benefits obligation and increases in transfers to capital projects of \$5.7 million for sewer projects and \$4.9 million for water projects compared to FY 2020.

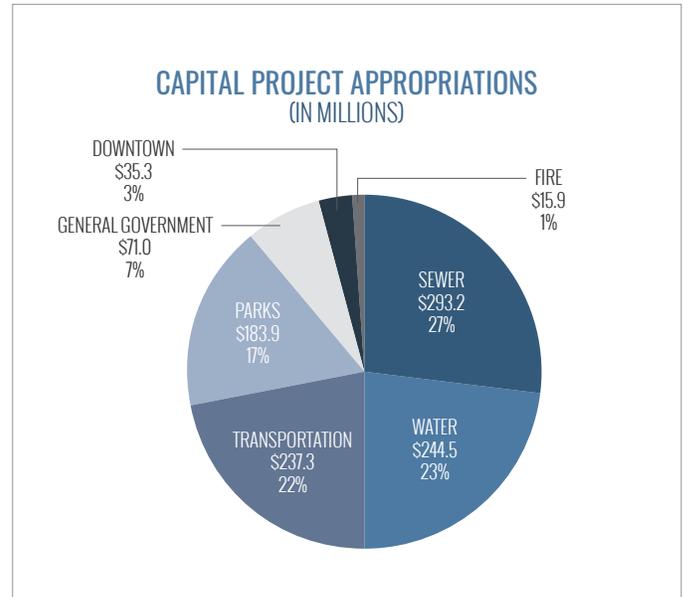
The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances for the Utility Fund that are remaining at the end of Q2. When including these encumbrance amounts with year-to-date spending, the Utility Fund has \$40.2 million remaining in the Operations budget for the remainder of the year.

**UTILITY FUND OPERATIONS -
FY 2021 REMAINING ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)**

Administration	\$ 566,656
Field Operations	1,036,387
Wastewater (net of Apex)	2,281,783
Water Treatment Plant (net of Apex)	3,134,088
Debt Service	3,166,231
Contingencies & Reserves	1,724,544
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 11,909,689

CAPITAL PROGRAM

Cary currently has 490 active capital projects with approximately \$1.1 billion committed in resources. Utility and General capital projects each represent 50% of the \$1.1 billion capital authorizations, representing \$537.7 million and \$543.4 million, respectively.



CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING THROUGH Q2 (IN MILLIONS)

	FY 2017		FY 2018		FY 2019		FY 2020		FY 2021	
Downtown	\$	0.1	\$	0.1	\$	7.1	\$	0.5	\$	0.8
Fire		2.4		1.0		2.9		4.1		0.5
General Government		1.6		1.5		3.2		3.1		2.9
Parks		5.5		3.9		2.7		8.0		18.3
Streets		1.7		2.6		3.0		5.1		11.3
Sewer		7.1		14.3		8.0		12.0		9.4
Water		4.4		5.0		12.2		6.7		6.5
TOTAL	\$	22.8	\$	28.4	\$	39.1	\$	39.5	\$	49.7

Capital project spending totaled \$49.7 million through Q2. The primary reason for the increase in capital project spending from the prior year is due to a \$13 million purchase of open space property in Chatham County, which occurred during Q1. Some of the largest investments during Q2 were \$1.9 million for construction of a diffused air system at the North Cary Water Reclamation Facility; \$2.9 million for street improvement projects; and \$1.7 million for construction on the Reedy Creek Road Improvement project.



BUDGET

MID-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2021 operating budget includes \$1 million to support emerging or unforeseen program needs during the fiscal year and \$2 million for yet to be identified, pandemic-related expenditures. There have been no appropriations through Q2 from these funds, leaving the full appropriations available. The table below summarizes mid-year capital appropriations year-to-date.

Q2 DELEGATED BUDGET AUTHORITY ACTION

Throughout the fiscal year, challenges and opportunities develop that warrant financial resources not included in the original budget. Often staff can repurpose existing resources to address the highest priorities and initiatives. The budget ordinance authorizes the town manager to approve inter-functional budget adjustments and requires reporting to Council. There were no inter-functional budget adjustments approved during Q2 FY 2021.



GOVERNMENTAL GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

FUNDING SOURCE	QUARTER	FUNDING USE	AMOUNT
GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	Q1	Purchase of Johnson Property	\$ 550,000
GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	Q1	Additional Appropriations of Grant and Cary Dollars for White Oak, Black Creek, and Higgins Greenway Projects	910,000
	Q2	None	-
		TOTAL 2ND QUARTER MID-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 1,460,000

BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Citizens are invited to share their budget priorities throughout the year specifically via social media, voicemail, and email. There were six budget public input comments in Q2.

CATEGORY	COMMENTS RECEIVED	PLATFORM RECEIVED	TYPE OF COMMENT
Pickleball	1	Email	Request for more pickleball courts given the fast-growing nature of the sport
Recycling	1	Email	Request for Cary to collect recycling every week as opposed to every two weeks
Sidewalks	2	Email Facebook	Request to add a sidewalk along Arthur Pierce Road from Kildaire Dairy Way to Beckford Road Request for more sidewalks at the GoCary Route 5 bus stop on Kildaire Farm Road
Street Repaving	1	Email	Request that more money be allocated to repaving main roads in Cary, such as High House Road to Bond Park
Traffic Calming	1	Email	Request to make the intersection at Griffis Street and West Cornwall Road a four-way stop and for the addition of speed bumps on West Cornwall Road between Griffis Street and Kildaire Farm Road
TOTAL	6		

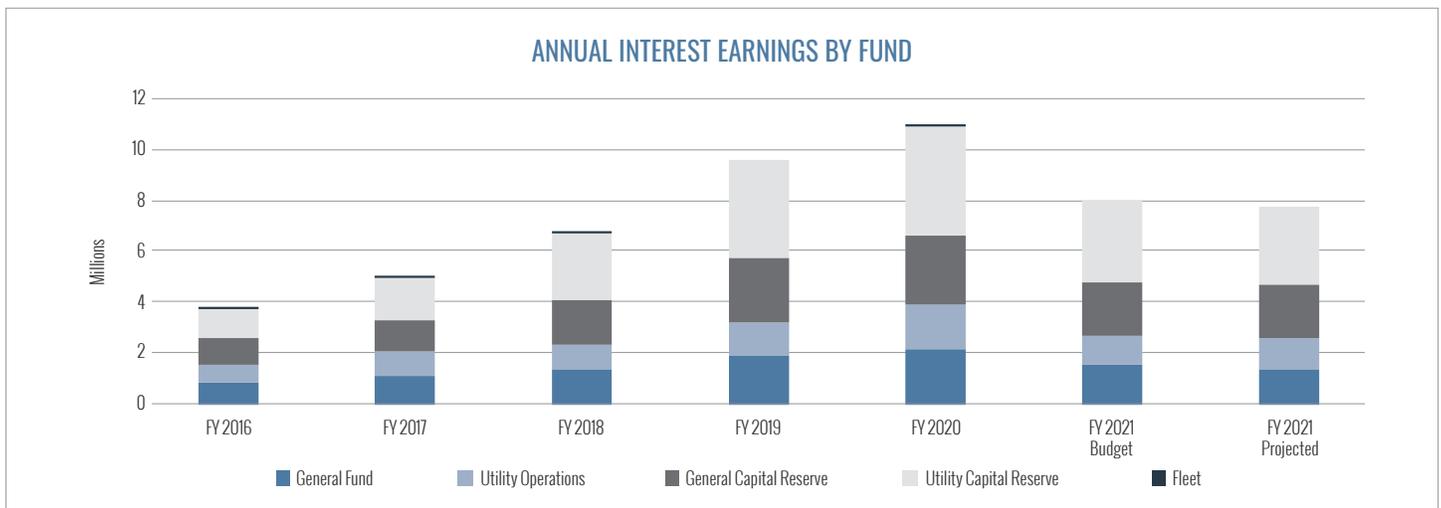
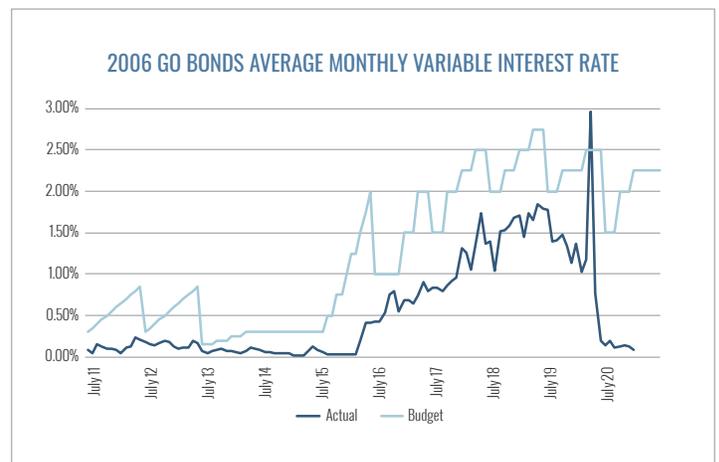
CASH AND INVESTMENTS

At the end of Q2, Cary's cash and investments totaled \$516 million. Cash balances increased in Q2 and will peak in the early part of Q3 due to the influx of property tax receipts, which were due in early January. The Federal Reserve began decreasing the federal funds rate in 2019 and cut the federal funds rate to nearly 0% at a COVID-driven emergency meeting held in March 2020. No further changes were made through the close of the calendar year. The Federal Reserve met in December 2020 and indicated rates will remain at near 0% until inflation is above 2% and the unemployment rate is about 4%. Current market conditions indicate the next rate increase will not occur until late 2023 or early 2024.

In Q2 of FY 2021, Cary invested more than \$75 million at an average rate of 0.33%. In comparison, Cary invested more than \$67 million at 1.6% in Q2 of FY 2020. The low interest rates this quarter impact current and future investment earnings expectations as higher yield investments mature and are reinvested at lower yields, which will minimize investment income for the next three to five years. Staff expects FY 2021 interest earnings to fall short of budget since a large part of Cary's pooled cash and investments are resources dedicated to capital projects. The projected decreases in interest earnings will reduce capital resources available to fund capital projects for the next three to five years.

DEBT

Cary has about \$26 million of variable rate, tax-supported debt. The interest rate on these bonds is reset on a weekly basis. Due to the low interest rate environment, the average interest rate paid during FY 2021 is currently 0.13% versus the average budgeted rate of 2.0%. As a result, year-to-date variable rate debt service is \$250,000 under budget. A 10-year history of the average interest rate paid and budgeted on the variable rate debt is shown in the following table for perspective. Using variable rate obligations for a portion of Cary's debt has been cost effective over the life of the 2006 general obligation bonds.





FOSTERING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS





CENSUS 2020

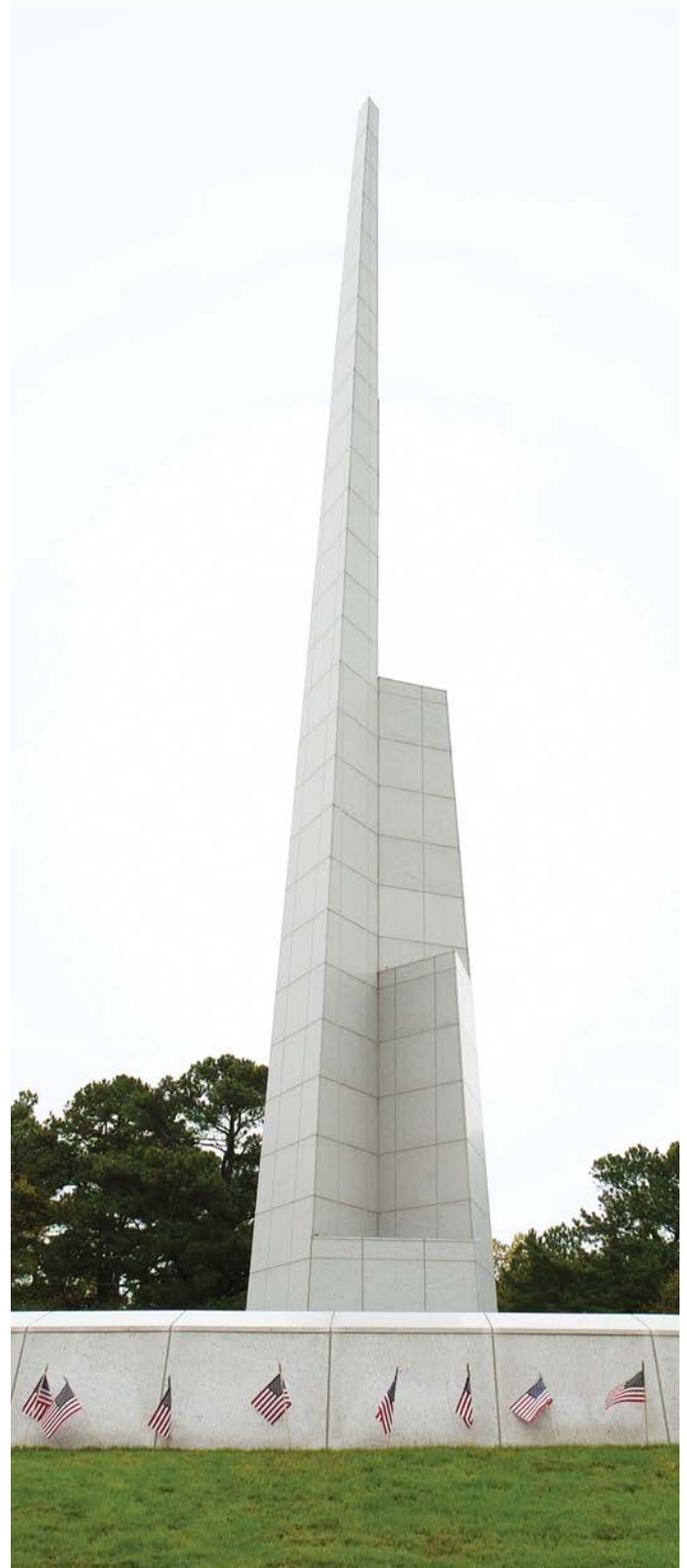
On October 15, the U.S. Census Bureau completed data collection, and Cary citizens, staff, and Council members all contributed to Cary reaching an 80% self-response rate. The next step is for the bureau to deliver an accurate state population count. Typically, this is completed by December 31; however, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the process. Data delivery is anticipated in early spring of 2021.

The bureau has released population estimates for July 1, 2020, which use the 2010 Census as a starting point. According to these estimates, in North Carolina:

- 10,600,823 people lived in N.C. on July 1, 2020. This is about 3.2% of U.S. population.
- If these estimates were assumed to be a correct reflection of the population, then there would have been about 10,576,000 people living in N.C. on April 1, 2020, or Census Day.
- The state population grew by 0.9% since 2019. This is the slowest year to year change since 2013-2014.
- 99,439 people were added to the state. This is the smallest increase since 2013-2014.
- N.C. added 1,065,061 since 2010.
- Fourth largest numeric increase following Texas, Florida, and California.
- The state population increased by an estimated 11.2% since 2010.

CHATHAM WALK COMPLETE

At the end of December 2020, Chatham Walk, a 33-unit condominium project wrapped up construction and began welcoming new residents to downtown. Thirty-one of the thirty-three units have been sold, and this is the first residential project of its kind to be completed in downtown Cary.





SINGLE-FAMILY PERMITS

New single-family permits issued during Q2 totaled 241. Overall, permits for new single-family homes increased 65% in comparison to Q2 of FY 2020. The top three subdivisions permitted were Savaan (112), Brickyard (102), and Channing Park (93).

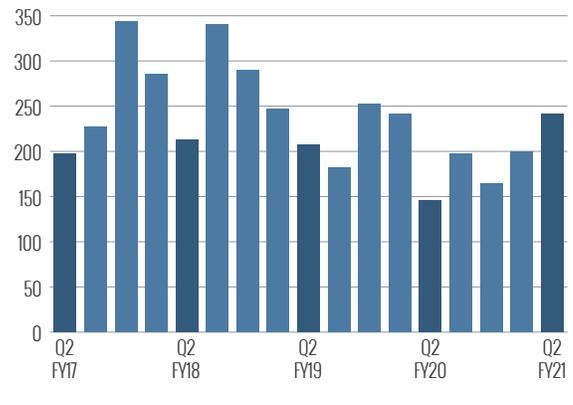
There were 157 single-family certificates of occupancy issued in Q2, an average of 2.6 certificates per workday. This is a 33% decrease in comparison to the COs issued in Q2 of FY 2020 and a 29% decrease in comparison to the average for COs issued in FY 2020. The subdivisions that received the most COs were Brickyard (23), Channing Park (12), Savaan (11), and Yates Pond (11). Considering that the number of permits issued for single-family homes increased the past three quarters, Cary anticipates an increase in the number of COs issued by the end of this calendar year.

RESIDENTIAL ALTERATION AND ADDITION PERMITS

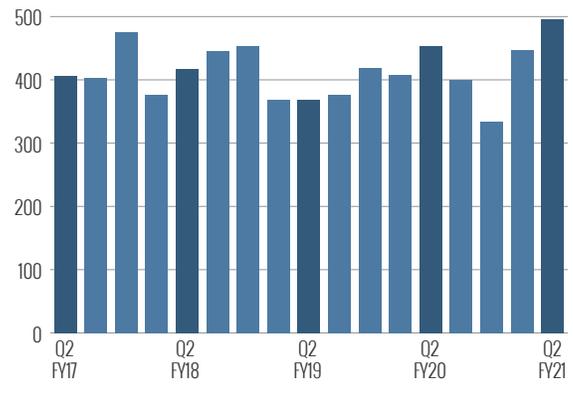
Residential alteration and addition permits for Q2 totaled 495. This is a 9% increase from Q2 of FY 2020 and an 11% increase from last quarter. This trend is consistent with the theme of reinvestment in existing properties contained in the Imagine Cary Community Plan.



NEW SINGLE-FAMILY PERMITS ISSUED
5-YEAR COMPARISON



RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
5-YEAR COMPARISON







ASSURING CONTINUED PROSPERITY





CELEBRATING THE BEST 2020 STYLE

Recognizing employees in safe, virtual ways beyond the traditional gatherings of years past required tenacity and imagination. Throughout December, Employee Recognition Days featured a series of slideshows posted on Cary's employee intranet and projected outdoors at the Herb Young Community Center. More than 180 employees representing over 2,523 years of service were highlighted for their 5- to 30-year service milestones. An online whiteboard provided colleagues an opportunity to connect with and recognize each other by posting kudos in a virtual space.

FLU SHOTS



This year, more than ever, reducing the spread of the flu was paramount in Cary's efforts to ensure the health and well-being of its employees. Cary partnered with WakeMed to offer safe, socially distanced flu shot clinics for employees working in the field. More than 250 employees participated while many others took advantage of free flu shots offered through Cary's health plan and at local pharmacies.

TAKING CARE OF EMPLOYEES

Promoting physical and financial health while supporting mental and emotional well-being is fundamental to taking care of employees, and Human Resources provided several offerings in these areas throughout the fall. About 300 employees took advantage of these offerings, including virtual pre-retirement and financial, as well as mental and emotional well-being custom programs.

SAS CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATES 20TH YEAR



The SAS Championship was able to adapt its format and initiate numerous safety measures to host the 20th year of this PGA Tour Champions golf tournament at Prestonwood Country Club. This year, the SAS Championship surpassed \$5 million in charitable giving over the life of the tournament to support area youth educational initiatives. In a year when most events were canceled, the SAS Championship was one professional sporting event able to continue with limited attendees and an abundance of safety protocols.



EXPERIENCING THE CARY COMMUNITY





SHAPING CARY'S TOMORROW BOND PROJECTS

This section offers Cary citizens an update on the projects funded by the Shaping Cary's Tomorrow Parks and Transportation Bonds overwhelmingly approved in a 2019 referendum.



DOWNTOWN PARK CONSTRUCTION AND OFFICE SPACE

The Cary Downtown Park hit a major milestone in December when it finalized construction plans. Construction of the seven-acre park in downtown is expected to begin in January. In the meantime, construction began on the Downtown Park office space located in the lower level of the Cary Regional Library. The 2,200-square-foot renovated space will include open and private offices, conference and break rooms, and other supporting space. Phase 1 of the renovation is expected to be complete by March in time for another general contractor to temporarily move in to manage construction of the Downtown Park. Once the Downtown Park is complete, Phase 2 renovations will begin to complete the remaining interior finishes and furniture installations so Cary staff can permanently move in to manage the park.

PENNY ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK RENOVATION



In December, Cary completed the first stage of park renovations at Penny Road Elementary School Park. The first stage included re-mulching playgrounds, pond maintenance, fence replacement and installation, field lighting maintenance, and complete renovations of the softball and multipurpose fields. The next phase

of renovations will include bathroom, picnic shelter, and deck renovations. Playgrounds are open now, and fields will be open in early spring. Park renovations are projected to be complete this summer.

BARNABAS JONES FARMSTEAD, C.F. FERRELL STORE AND WAREHOUSES, AND GOOD HOPE FARM

Construction work commenced at Barnabas Jones Farmstead, C.F. Ferrell Store and Warehouses, and Good Hope Farm. Emphasis this quarter has been on site work, foundations, footings, and addressing other structural repairs and reinforcements identified in previous engineering assessments. This stabilization work on the historic buildings is being conducted with particular care as some structures date back to the 1840s. Completion is anticipated this year.

NANCY JONES HOUSE



Cary reached several key milestones this quarter in the important work to preserve its oldest residential structure, the Nancy Jones House. After submitting a relocation report to the State Historic Preservation Office in an effort to keep the Nancy Jones House listed in the National Register of Historic Places during its move, the report has since been unanimously approved by the National Register Advisory Committee and the National Parks Service. This approval allows the Nancy Jones House to remain listed in the National Register during its move. Additionally, at the end of the year, the 1.17-acre lot that had been proposed as the relocation site for the house was conveyed to the Town of Cary. This allows for the relocation process to move forward, including finalizing contracts, site preparation, and scheduling the date of the house move, which is anticipated to occur in the spring.

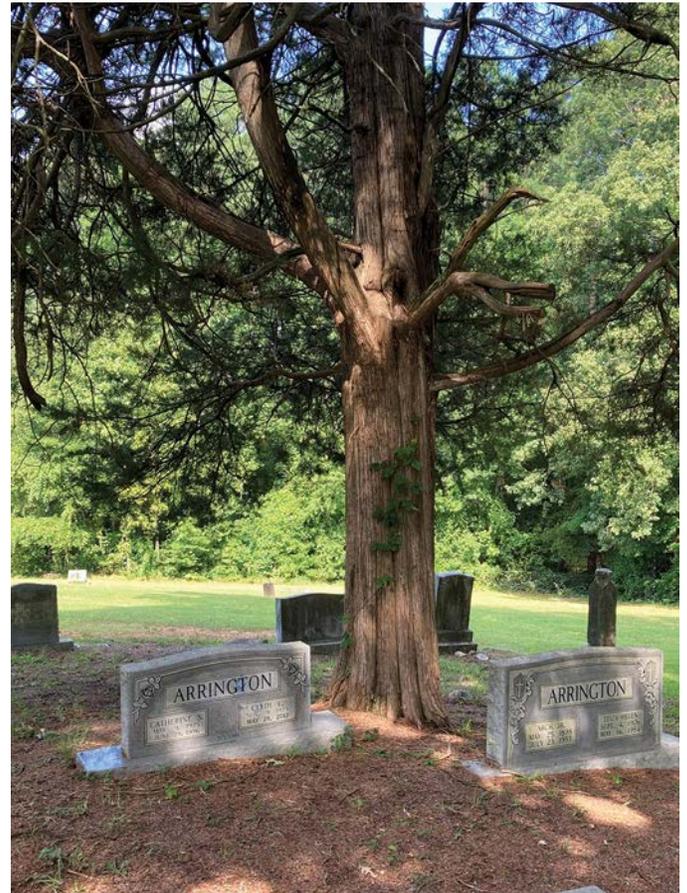


EARNEST JONES ROAD PROPERTY

Since the acquisition of this 219-acre property in Chatham County in August 2019, staff has been actively managing the property, including a portion of the site with existing structures. Capital Area Preservation conducted a historic assessment of the buildings present on the property. Their findings identified one building on the property with historical significance: the Markham-Ferrell Farmhouse, which was determined to be more than 200 years old. Plans to stabilize and preserve the house are underway.



CARY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CEMETERY RESTORATION



The Town of Cary is working with the Cary First Christian Church to restore headstones and improve landscaping in the Cary First Christian Church Cemetery. The cemetery is a local historic landmark that dates to the 1800s and is historically significant because of its association with Cary's first African American religious congregation. This restoration project will be another step forward in efforts to use preservation of significant historical resources for the advancement of social equity and inclusivity in Cary.



POP-UP ART LIGHTS UP DOWNTOWN



Downtown Cary shined extra bright this season. For several weeks in November, citizens walked among and marveled at a series of towering, colorfully lit structures resembling flowers not of this world. The “Botanical Lights” exhibit was created by artists Julia Gartrell and Astrobotanicals and presented as part of Academy Street Artwork Projects, co-sponsored by the Town of Cary and Cary Visual Arts. Soon after “Botanical Lights” disappeared, a series of Chinese Lanterns appeared in locations throughout downtown for the month of December. The lanterns, featuring larger than life eagles, elephants, tigers, red pandas, snakes, a bear, a panther, and a rhino, were but a few examples of the types of artwork normally displayed at the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival held at Koka Booth Amphitheatre. Although the festival was canceled this year, the lanterns on display served as powerful reminders of the popular attraction. These unexpected pop-up art installations served to surprise, delight, and spark joy in the public entering into the winter months.

CARY’S NEWEST PARK OPENS | NEW HOPE DISC GOLF



On October 22, New Hope Disc Golf opened to the public, providing another safe option for individuals to get out in nature and stay active. The new course is receiving rave reviews from the disc golf community, which has rated it one of the top courses in the state, according to Udisc.com. New Hope Disc Golf saw 5,795 rounds played in the month of November, more than 33% of all the rounds played last year at Middle Creek Disc Golf. The course, located at 2584 New Hope Church Road, features 22 holes with 58 tees, multiple layout options, and three practice baskets.





CARY HERITAGE MUSEUM



Point Concept Designs installed new timeline panels in the Cary Heritage Museum at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center in December. The panels replaced those installed at the opening of the museum in 2000. In addition to expanding the narrative through Cary's sesquicentennial in 2021, new entries share a more diversified history by adding more about women and people of color in Cary's past. This project was supported with funding from the Friends of the Page-Walker. More updates are planned to continue to refresh the museum in 2021.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Engagement with the senior population continued to be a priority for Cary. From September to December 2020, more than 600 seniors participated in 35 different virtual senior programs. Programs originated from instructors' homes and from the new "virtual studio" at the Cary Senior Center. Cary offered senior programs centered on education, fitness, and computer learning and also partnered with Resources for Seniors, a local nonprofit, to offer virtual programs and appointments concerning Medicare enrollment, mental health, caregiver support, and financial advice. Additionally, Cary coordinated with Cary Senior TechEd to advise seniors on how to use their home technology to access the new world of virtual programming.

LUNCH FOR THE BRAVE



On November 10, Cary hosted its first drive-thru Lunch for the Brave: Honoring and Serving Veterans. While the format of the luncheon looked different this year due to the pandemic, Cary still made it a priority to celebrate and honor veterans with a catered lunch. By partnering with Backyard Bistro, Cary served free hot meals to more than 170 Cary veterans. Council members Jack Smith and Jennifer Robinson greeted and thanked the veterans as they picked up their lunches from Herb Young Community Center.

A TIME OF GIVING & SERVICE

Each November and February, Specialized Recreation families participate in a program called "A Night of Giving & Service." In the spirit of giving and love, they pay it forward and support various organizations that are doing great work in the Cary community. This year, Cary offered "A Time of Giving & Service" three times via virtual sessions. Twenty participants made cards for doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers, police officers, fire fighters, sanitation workers, and other essential workers. Some participants enjoyed the service project so much that they made additional cards after the program to send to Mayor Weinbrecht, Cary police officers, and Cary firefighters.



CARY TEEN COUNCIL GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND

This quarter, the Cary Teen Council, whose primary purpose is to serve through volunteerism, took on two major projects. First, the group partnered with WakeMed Cary Hospital on a card giving campaign for health care workers, sharing thanks for the workers' continued efforts to provide critical care to patients. They also partnered with Carolina Exteriors to implement a contactless delivery location for the Toys for Tots toy drive; more than 100 members gathered boxes of donated toys to provide families with gifts for children up to age 16.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING RAMPS UP

Virtual programming picked up speed this quarter as more than 1,100 people participated in more than 70 programs. Cary transitioned several traditional holiday activities online, including a virtual Christmas Tree Lighting, Hanukkah Menorah Lighting, and Kwanzaa Celebration. The Cary community continues to value the virtual programs as program offerings become more varied and participation numbers increase. Participants comment that they are excited to be connected with people again, happy to be active in a safe environment, learning more than they expected, and having fun.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



Cary's annual Gifting Tree Project sold out again this year. Local families, schools, and organizations decorated a record 70 trees displayed along South Academy Street throughout the month of December. Participants competed to win a donation, provided by The Mayton Inn, to the nonprofit of their choice. This year's winner, receiving more than 6,400 votes, was Gigi's Playhouse: Down Syndrome Achievement Centers. Down the street, Santa received a record 1,100 letters in his box at the Downtown Park, eclipsing last year's total of 750. Letters came from seven states and 36 municipalities.



ONLINE ESPORTS



Building on the success of the Triangle Esports Championships held at the Herb Young Community Center in February 2020, Cary hosted its first online Esports event on October 31. Six teams, with 18 participants ages 13 to 40, competed in Rocket League, best described as “soccer but with rocket-powered cars.”

ACC CROSS COUNTRY AND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS



On October 30, WakeMed Soccer Park hosted the 2020 Atlantic Coast Conference Cross Country Championships. Fifteen men’s and women’s cross-country teams from the ACC came to Cary to decide the 2020 championships, won by the Notre Dame men’s and N.C. State University women’s teams. In women’s soccer, the ACC quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship matches were all held at Sahlen’s Stadium at WakeMed Soccer Park from Nov. 9-15. Florida State University captured its seventh ACC championship in a thrilling 2-1 defeat of UNC. In men’s soccer, the ACC championship match on November 22 featured the top two teams in the country. Clemson upset Pittsburgh 2-1 to claim its fourth ACC title.

ATLANTIC TIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS



From Nov. 9–15, the Cary Tennis Park hosted the Atlantic Tire Championships for the sixth year. The men’s professional tennis tournament is an ATP Challenger level event that features the world’s rising tennis stars, many of whom play in the U.S. Open. This year’s tournament featured 53 competitors from 20 different countries, but unlike in past years, the tournament was closed to the general public due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MYCARY UPDATES

Now a year old, myCary has received more than 300 enhancements. The flexibility of the platform has enabled Cary to quickly adjust to meet new business process needs during the pandemic. New updates include adding fields for virtual program offerings, adjusting the process to expedite refunds, and launching a streamlined account management page. Planning for the next phase of development is underway, which will provide a platform for ticketed events, league management, Cary Teen Council, volunteer management, and donation management.





GUIDING COMMUNITY GROWTH





FENTON PREPARES FOR VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION



After closing on the development’s \$200 million construction loan in September, Fenton spent the fall obtaining architectural approval and building permits for several of the large mixed-use buildings and four of the small, single-tenant retail “Jewel Box” buildings along Fenton Main Street. Fenton also received approval of development plans for sanitary sewer, public street lighting, Cary Towne Boulevard street improvements, and traffic signals for Trinity Road. As 2020 concluded, Fenton reached a peak of 18 development plans and 53 different building permits associated with the project.

In terms of site activity, in October, the developer selected D.H. Griffin to construct and install the public streets and utilities. D.H. Griffin joins Hoar Construction, which is constructing the retail/office portion of the development, and Samet Construction, which is constructing the multi-family portion. By December, Fenton was actively working on foundations for several of the large buildings along Fenton Main Street and two parking decks. Cranes are anticipated in early 2021. The retail portion of the development is 70% leased, and the developer anticipates opening the first phase of the project in the spring of 2022.

DUKE HEALTH AT GREEN LEVEL DESTINATION CENTER



After beginning site work in August 2020 and relocating the historic Mills House to a temporary location on the property, Duke Health made significant progress this quarter related to constructing the site’s first medical office building on the north side of Green Level West Road, just west of N.C. 540. In October, Cary staff approved the first development plan and building permit for a four-story, 102,000-square-foot building. Duke Health held its first masked and socially distanced groundbreaking on November 18. Then, foundation work on the building and an adjacent 346-space parking deck began in November and December, respectively. To meet growing demand in Wake County, Duke Health Green Level’s first project is designed to provide primary care, urgent care, pediatrics, women’s health, and specialty care services. The facility is anticipated to open in February 2022.

CARY KUDOS

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

The League of American Bicyclists once again designated Cary a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community in December. The award recognizes Cary for its commitment to “creating transportation and recreational resources that benefit its residents of all ages and abilities while encouraging healthier and more sustainable transportation choices.”



NON-RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

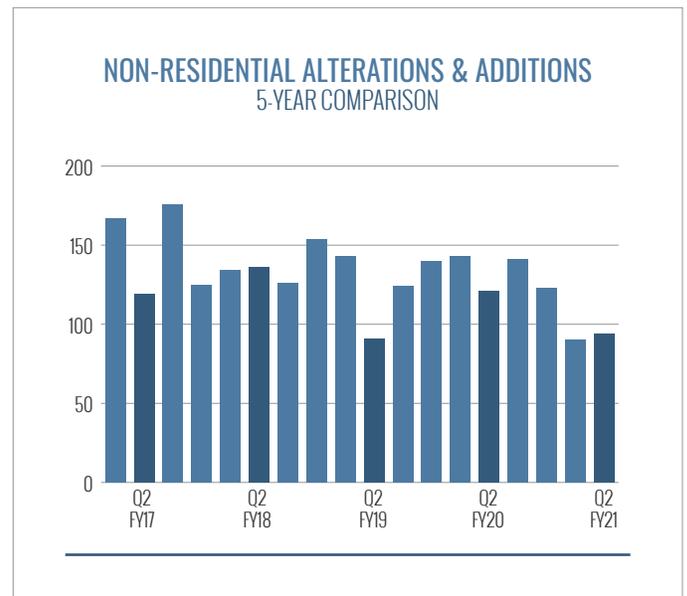
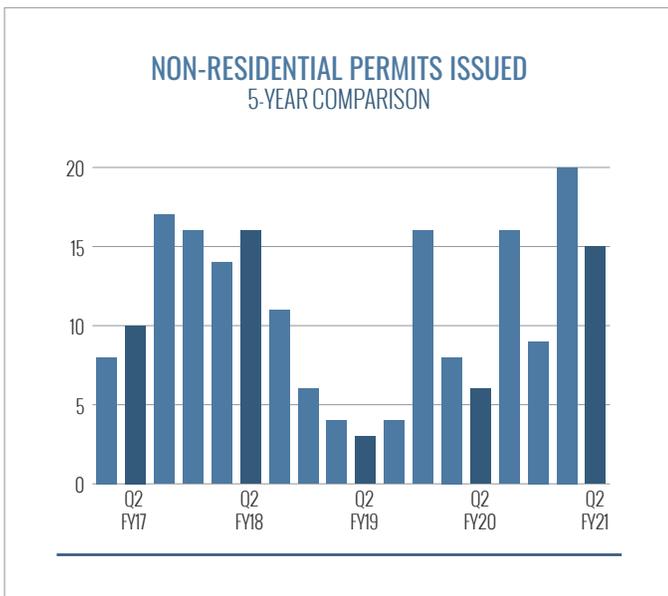
This quarter, Cary issued 15 non-residential permits for a total of 495,564 square feet of space, including offices, retail, and a fuel station. The most significant projects were:

- **Fenton, Cary Towne Boulevard and Trinity Road:** Fenton accounts for nine of the non-residential permits issued and about 55% of the total square footage this quarter.
- **Phase 1A of Duke Health, 3208 Green Level West Road:** The construction of a 102,000-square-foot medical office building and 356-space parking deck.
- **Glenaire Wellness, 8000 Glenview Garden Place:** The construction of a two-story, 25,468-square-foot wellness facility. This project is separate from the Glenaire expansion project; Cary also approved development plans for the Glenaire expansion this quarter.

NON-RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS

Cary issued 94 non-residential alteration and addition permits this quarter. These projects include reinvestment into existing commercial. The most significant projects were:

- **Siemens Medical Solutions, 209 Gregson Drive:** This 19,585 square-foot project includes training room alterations, the addition of two lecture rooms, the relocation of the second-floor break area to the third floor, and the renovation of non-core area of the entire fourth floor to accommodate new training rooms.
- **St Paul’s Episcopal Church, 221 Union St.:** A 1,745 square-foot addition, including a new entry foyer, restrooms, kitchen extension, and classroom extension. The project will also include the renovation of the existing education building.
- **Carolina Center for ABA & Autism, 111 Mackenan Drive:** Interior remodel of 11,568 square feet of space, including wall, flooring, and paint changes to allow for the more efficient use of the space and to provide an interior refresh.





REZONING

This quarter, there were 18 cases in the rezoning process; two cases were approved:

- Chandler Cove Rezoning, 4039 Brook Cross Drive: A request to rezone two parcels totaling 0.13 acres from Resource/Recreation (R/R) to Residential 12 (R-12).
- Cornerstone Mixed Use Plan Amendment Rezoning, 1744 High House Road: A request to rezone two acres from Residential 40 (R-40) to Mixed Use District (MXD) with a preliminary development plan. The rezoning also removed the property from the Cornerstone Mixed Use Sketch Plan to allow a bank with a drive-thru.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

This quarter, Cary approved 51 development plans, an increase from 49 development plans approved in Q1 of FY 2021. Several notable plans were approved this quarter, including:

- Glenaire Expansion, 906 Kildare Farm Road: Redevelopment of the former Kmart in Mayfair Shopping Center. The development will include 192 independent living units, 37 assisted living units, an adult daycare, and wellness center.
- The Center, 111 E. Chatham St.: Renovation of the existing shopping center and streetscape improvements along East Chatham Street to Walker Street in coordination with the new Rogers Building. Improvements will include widening of existing sidewalk plantings and increased public gathering space.
- Rogers Building, 149 E. Chatham St.: Redevelopment of the former Rogers Motel and auto service center. The project includes a three-story building with first-level mixed commercial, two levels office space above, and activation of Rogers Alley as a pedestrian corridor.

- Novel Cary, 1708 Petty Farm Road: Development of a new 307-unit multifamily, residential development within the Alston Activity Center.
- Alston Ridge Elementary School, 11555 Green Level Church Road, and Northwood Elementary School, 8850 Chapel Hill Road: Addition of modular classrooms and associated site improvements. These development plans were submitted prior to the pandemic.

DOWNTOWN CARY UPDATES



After a couple years of planning, fundraising, and construction upfit, Esteamed Coffee opened at 114 S. Academy St. Esteamed Coffee is a coffee shop with a unique mission in employing individuals with various disabilities, many of whom have never been given a meaningful employment opportunity. Down the street, the renovation of 315 N. Academy St. was finalized with the build out for the final two tenants, Mackenan Property Group and Stephenson Law. First Bank, also housed in this building on the first floor, opened over the summer.

POPULATION UPDATE

At the end of 2020, the estimated population for the Town of Cary is 172,221. During 2020, Cary's population grew by 3,343 citizens, or 2 percent. This estimate is based on the 2010 Census data.



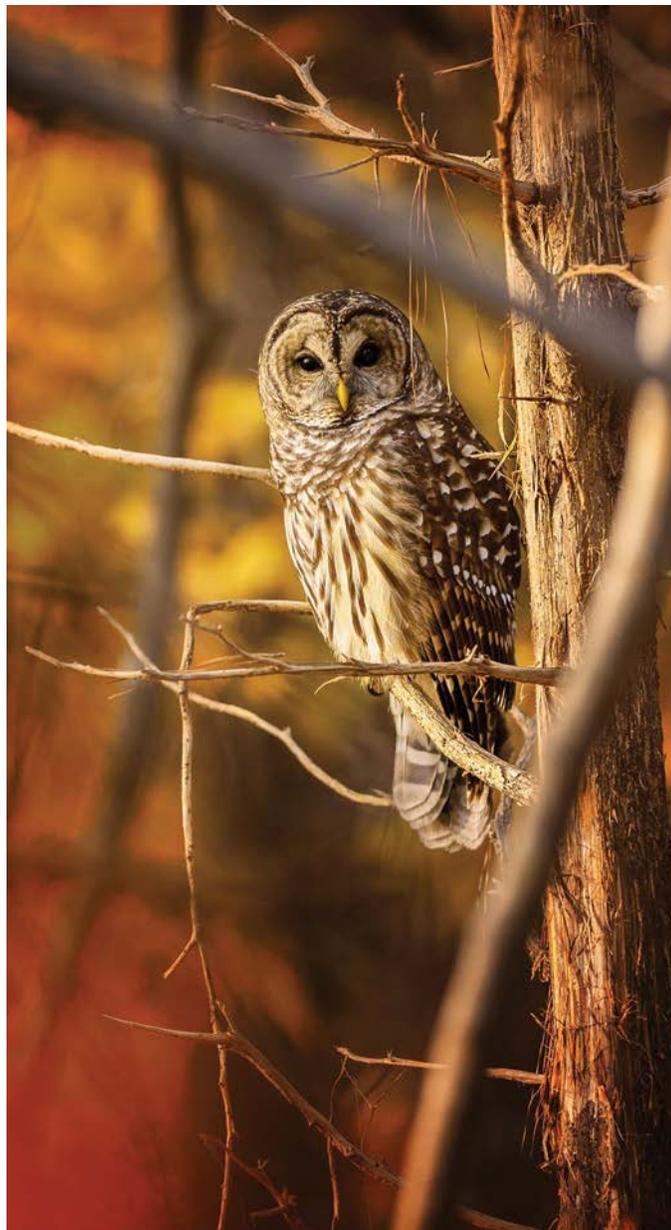
PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES





SHAPING CARY'S TOMORROW BOND PROJECTS

This section offers Cary citizens an update on the projects funded by the Shaping Cary's Tomorrow Parks and Transportation Bonds overwhelmingly approved in a 2019 referendum.



INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



Cary's Intersection Improvements Program provides increased mobility by improving street capacity, upgrading pedestrian and bicycle access, while also increasing safety for all road users. Improvements at two intersections, High House Road at Jenks Carpenter Road and Cary Parkway at Waldo Road Boulevard, kicked off last fall. Paving and concrete work are underway, and traffic signal equipment is scheduled for installation in early 2021. As improvements at these intersections near completion, improvements at two other intersections, Kildaire Farm Road at Advent Court and Waldo Road Boulevard at MacArthur Drive will begin. Construction at all intersections is expected to be complete later this year.

Several other intersections are being funded by the Shaping Cary's Tomorrow Bond. These intersections are under design and anticipated for intersection improvements in 2022, including:

- Walnut Street and South Walker Street
- Walnut Street and Kildaire Farm Road
- N.C. 55 and High House Road
- Tryon Road and Walnut Street
- Tryon Road and Kildaire Farm Road
- Weston Parkway and Evans Road



CHAPEL HILL ROAD MOBILITY STUDY

As Phase 1 of the Chapel Hill Road study comes to a close, highlights include a robust public involvement campaign along with data collection and analysis. Staff's next step will be to update Council on the preliminary recommendation and prepare for a virtual Design Workshop to be held spring 2021. Chapel Hill Road is a strong route contender for future Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, between downtown Cary and Research Triangle Park. BRT will be a key element in any future design, and staff will continue to coordinate with GoCary and GoTriangle to explore alternatives as the study progresses.

BIKE CARY UPDATE

Cary's commitment to building a connected bike network continues, and several long-term bike facilities are in the planning and development stage, including:

- Separated bike lanes at Trinity Road.
- A bike box at the intersection of Trinity Road and Cary Towne Boulevard.
- A buffered bike lane at Quinard Road.
- A street-side trail and wide outside lane at Carpenter Fire Station Road.
- A separated bike lane at Hortons Creek Road.
- A buffered bike lane at Louis Stephens Road.

Once installed, these facilities will enable the community to experience various facility types in differing contexts and land uses. Most importantly, they will provide real world data that will inform the future design and implementation of projects.

N.C. 540 EXTENSION



Clearing and grading for the N.C. 540 extension project began with completion dates to be determined by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This quarter, Cary relocated a portion of its 42-inch Camp Branch gravity sewer interceptor to allow for roadway grading to begin. In addition, Cary continues to work with the N.C. Turnpike Authority to ensure that greenway, sidewalk, and bicycle accommodations are included in the design and construction of N.C. 540 in southern Cary. Construction activities can be followed on NCDOT's website.



PRIVATE STREETS

Since the Cary Town Council adopted new requirements for public townhome streets in May 2020, staff's Streets Task Force shifted its focus to working with existing townhome neighborhoods that have private streets and are interested in converting them to Town-maintained public streets. Staff is working with interested communities to identify procedures and necessary steps for their private streets to be accepted into Cary's street maintenance system. Two such communities, Glenpark and The Renaissance at Regency Cottages, received approval from their property owners to dedicate necessary street rights-of-way, and Cary staff are now working with them on the next steps in the process. These steps include completing an evaluation of the streets and associated infrastructure and identifying any items that need to be addressed prior to Council consideration of accepting these streets for maintenance. The successful transition of these existing streets from private to public maintenance would remove this financial burden for these HOAs and citizens.

GOCARY UPDATES



Final preparations for GoCary's January service changes included the replacement of more than 200 bus stop signs and the addition of new wayfinding route maps and schedules. Phase 2 of the Bus Stop Improvement program expanded ADA accessibility with the redesign of nearly 60 bus stops. The first public participation opportunity for the Downtown Multi-Modal Center project went virtual with more than 1,300 views, and the Federal Transit Administration accepted the Wake BRT: Western corridor into the Small Starts project development program. This makes the BRT service from downtown Raleigh to downtown Cary eligible for future FTA grant funding.

CARY KUDOS

CELEBRATING CHRIS SIMPSON

After more than 20 years of service to Cary, including serving as town attorney for 15 years, Chris Simpson retired December 16. Chris leaves behind a remarkable legacy, having worked on all of the major projects of the last 20 years that made Cary Cary. In addition to serving Cary, she served the legal profession in many ways and was recognized for that in 2019 when she received the Grainger Barrett award for excellence, which honors outstanding government and public sector attorneys. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht summed it up best when he said, "While we will certainly miss her in a legal capacity, we will miss her more as a friend. There isn't a kinder and gentler person than Chris Simpson."





NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN WESTERN CARY



Cary installed traffic signals at two of the most requested intersections this quarter. These signals are located at the intersections of Green Hope School Road at Green Level Church Road and McCrimmon Parkway at Highcroft Drive. Although within North Carolina Department of Transportation jurisdiction, Cary staff constructed much of the project to expedite the installation, resulting in the activation of both intersections in less than two months.

CARY'S CONNECTED VEHICLE PROJECT

Imagine driving around Cary and getting an alert to your phone when the traffic signal ahead is about to change or when railroad gates are about to be activated or if you're traveling too fast in a school zone. Imagine if your car could notify you that a fire truck or ambulance is not only nearby but is coming up from behind you. Cary's connected vehicle project will soon make this happen. This quarter, the project received three bids, and Cary anticipates the entire system will be operational by the spring of 2022, meaning Cary will be operating one of the most comprehensive and forward thinking connected vehicles systems in the nation. The project will be 80% funded by a Federal Highway Administration matching grant.

HIGGINS GREENWAY PHASE III



Easement acquisition continued this quarter in an effort to extend Higgins Greenway from Union Street to Kildaire Farm Road. Cary remains on target to bid this project in late 2021. One highlight is the public art planned at entry points to Higgins Greenway off Kildaire Farm Road and Harrison Avenue. Artist Lisa Elias was inspired by the boughs of native dogwood trees and their flowers. She designed graceful steel archways that inspire reflection on nature and on the local history that will be discovered when passing historic Hillcrest Cemetery where many of Cary's early mayors and founders are interred. Elias also designed custom benches with the same dogwood-inspired themes.





MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS





WATER AND SEWER

2020 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT



This quarter, the annual water main replacement project shifted to Washington Street. While staff worked, area residents identified stormwater issues along the low section of the street. Through teamwork and coordination, Cary incorporated some minor stormwater improvements in addition to completing the water line replacement.

SWIFT CREEK PUMP STATION

To allow for a smoother and more efficient pumping operation, Cary installed an additional pump and electrical controls at the Swift Creek Pump Station in October. The pump station, originally built in 1989, is located off Holly Springs Road and serves portions of downtown and southern Cary.

CARY KUDOS

PANTHER CREEK GREENWAY

The completed trail for Phase 1 of Panther Creek Greenway is extremely impressive, and I want to commend the Town of Cary for the great job completing this key component of the Lake Crabtree to American Tobacco Trail (ATT) corridor!

– From Mark Slater to Cary Staff

CARY RECOGNIZED AT THE N.C. AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

In November, the N.C. American Water Works Association recognized Cary as having top performing large wastewater collection and water distribution systems at its annual conference. This is the second year running that Cary has been named number one in the state for these awards. Staff continue to do amazing work in managing and maintaining Cary’s infrastructure and are proud to receive this recognition once again. Equally noteworthy, the association also awarded Peter Wetterling, a senior mechanic/operator at the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility, the Safe Water Maintenance Technologist of the Year Excellence Award, which recognizes the individual who contributed much to the successful operation and maintenance of wastewater facilities.

FIRE

FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED CLASS I ISO RATING

The Fire Department learned in October that Cary’s Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification will remain a Class I. In fact, the overall community score improved since 2015. By classifying their ability to suppress fires, ISO helps communities evaluate their public fire-protection services, and by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their public fire protection capabilities. Notable areas in which Cary earned higher scores are in the Emergency Communications Center due to enhancements in operational resilience and in the Fire Department for its collaborative deployment model with Apex and Morrisville fire departments and a more comprehensive training program.



FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS COVID-19 VACCINE



Fire Department employees began receiving their first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine December 30. Fire Chief Mike Cooper, Deputy Chief Michael Martin, and Assistant Chief Matt Jacoby joined A-Shift staff the first day. Wake County Human Services and Wake County Fire Services coordinated an extensive effort to provide vaccinations to all county fire and EMS staff due to occupational exposure risks and as part of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services vaccine deployment plan for high-risk healthcare workers and first responders. The Fire Department recognizes the tremendous importance of the vaccine to help ensure it remains resilient to respond to the needs of the community. The Fire Department also joined other county departments in producing a video encouraging the practice of the 3Ws: wear, wait, and wash.

FIRE STATION ENERGY SAVINGS



As part of the new Fire Station 9 project, staff participated in Duke Energy's Smart \$aver Incentives New Construction Energy Efficiency Design Assistance program. The program assists in evaluating potential energy conservation strategies for new building projects during the design and construction phases. By participating in this program, Fire Station 9 will save an estimated \$7,539 per year, or 31% energy consumption cost savings. Duke Energy also provided a one-time \$9,255 rebate for completing the program. In addition to the energy savings at Fire Station 9, Cary has further benefited from the program by applying the rebate to convert all exterior lighting at Fire Station 7 to LED. The LED conversion at Fire Station 7 reduces energy usage by 73% and will save an estimated \$3,104 per year.





POLICE

WORK CONTINUES ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S POLICE REFORM PLEDGE

The internal Initial Review Team continued meeting weekly to discuss current police department programs, services, policies, and policing standards. The 21st Century Policing document provided a framework for the group's assessment. After reviewing each of the eight pillars, the team tapped subject matter experts on recruitment, training, and records retention to answer questions around Cary's current practices. To align with the Mayor's Pledge initiative, members of this team have been representing Cary in a statewide cohort study that is analyzing calls for service data in Cary. The information gained from the analysis will help us better understand Cary's needs and identify possible alternative responses with available resources. This information will be helpful as the group moves into collaborative review and engagement sessions.

WINTER WONDERLAND MOBILE EDITION



Every year, the Cary Police Department's Project PHOENIX partners with several nonprofit and faith-based organizations, including Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Covenant Christian Church, U.S. Veterans Corps., and the Cary Citizens Assisting Police (CAP) team to provide Christmas for children throughout Cary. On December 12, PHOENIX officers delivered donated toys and gifts to families to help make their holiday special.

HOME SECURITY SEMINAR

On November 24, nearly two dozen citizens joined an online presentation on home security presented by Officer Patrick Fox. These quarterly seminars will replace the in-person, residential/commercial security assessments Cary previously conducted.

EARLY VOTING IN CARY

Early voting for the 2020 general election was held at two Cary locations, Herb Young Community Center and the Cary Senior Center, from October 15–31. During this period, 47,763 Wake County residents voted in Cary. More details surrounding daily turnout can be found on the Wake County Board of Elections website.

CARY COLLECTS HITS ONE-YEAR

Fall marks the one-year anniversary of the Cary Collects app. With additional outreach campaigns, 67% of households are now using the web tool or mobile app to access their solid waste collection schedule, an increase from 57% last quarter. Ongoing marketing efforts also boosted adoption, reaching 10,000 mobile app downloads in November.





MOVING FROM VISION TO REALITY





ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

On October 23, a group of 11 employees concluded a three-month-long Adaptive Leadership Seminar led by the Town Manager’s Office and Human Resources. Each meeting focused on a different chapter of “Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading,” and unlike previous Adaptive Leadership classes, individuals took turns facilitating weekly sessions. Facilitators shared relevant video clips and articles, led mindfulness exercises, and assigned prompts for self-reflection while participants interpreted concepts and discussed how the book’s ideas play out in Cary. The group agreed this exploration of the adaptive leadership model was helpful in understanding organizational culture and promoting greater self-awareness.

VIRTUAL ONECARY CLASSES

For Cary to keep evolving, its employees must continue learning, growing, and progressing. Every year, OneCary Academy provides an opportunity for all employees to learn about Cary’s history, government, decision-making, culture, and the people and services citizens use every day. While the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated remote and distanced learning, personal development and growth remained a priority for investing in Cary’s employees while improving the organization. Cary adjusted its OneCary Academy, which is typically offered in person, to accommodate virtual classes. More than 30 employees from nine departments participated in at least one of the virtual OneCary Classes offered this fall. The classes helped employees explore the OneCary culture, learn more about other areas in Cary, and connect them with their colleagues.

CARY KUDOS

RECOGNITION FOR STORMWATER SENSORS PROJECT

The Town Manager’s Office and Information Technology’s work with SAS, Greenstream Technologies, and Microsoft to assist in early detection and warning systems for stormwater and flooding has received four awards, including three this quarter. In addition to being an IDC 2020 Smart Cities North America Awards Finalist (Smart Water Category) in March 2020, this collaborative project has been recognized as the:

- 2020 Government Innovation Award Winner for leveraging transformative technology to support government functions;
- 2020 N.C. Technology Association’s Public Sector Project Award for innovative use of technology; and
- 2020 RTCC Cleantech Innovation Award for driving cleantech innovation and deployment in the region.

This string of impressive awards underscores the bold, innovative, and successful work being done by Cary staff under Council leadership and in partnership with external entities.

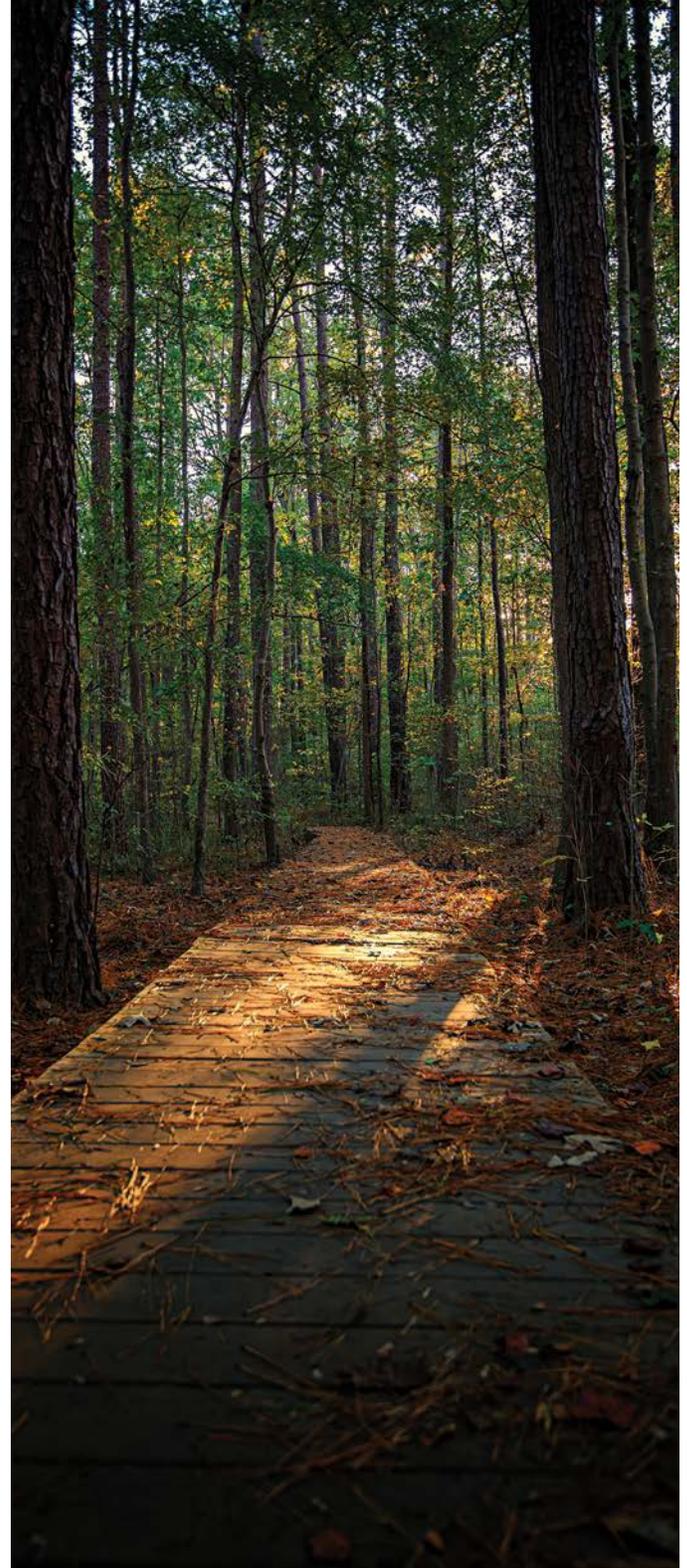




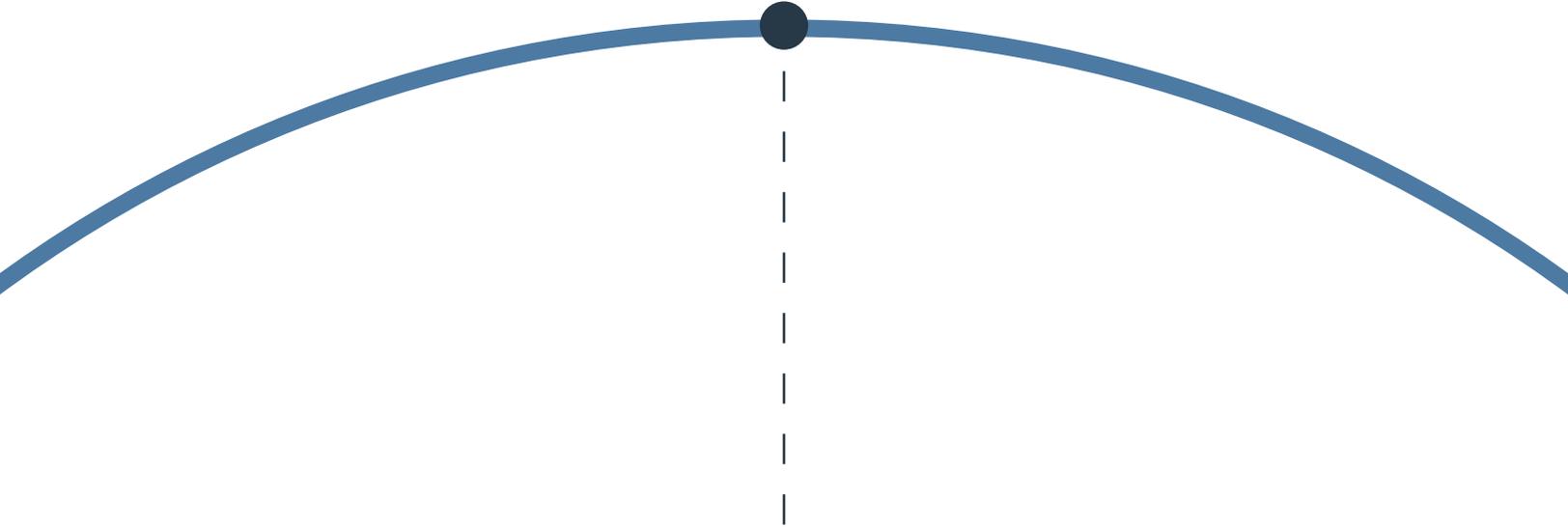
FLOODPLAIN AND OPEN SPACE RESTORATION



The acquisition, protection, and ecological restoration of flood-prone areas is an important component in implementing Council's vision to proactively manage Cary's natural resources and reduce flooding in the community. This quarter, Cary transitioned four previously acquired properties located on Jodhpur Lane, Madison Avenue, and Urban Drive to natural areas. All existing structures and impervious surfaces were removed from these lots to ensure environmental restoration of the areas. By removing development from these properties, Cary added functional corridors in flood-prone areas and created buffers that will provide water quality protection and flood mitigation. These sites will be used for tree planting workshops and will increase tree canopy in 2021.



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