



# TOWN of CARY

## TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT

TOWN OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2022 SECOND QUARTER

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# 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:

The NCAA held its Men's Soccer College Cup matches at WakeMed Soccer Park on Dec. 10 and 12.

The 2021 Championship marked the 15th time the facility hosted the College Cup, including the seventh Men's Championship.

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# IN MOVING CARY FORWARD

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, each quarter has posed a unique set of challenges. This included closing Town facilities, maintaining service levels while social distancing, and creating protocols to keep our employees and citizens safe as we reopened. With the majority of our organization and community vaccinated, the second quarter of FY 2022 was a balancing act — trying to find some semblance of normalcy without getting too comfortable in the face of another COVID-19 variant. Yet again, we've been faced with the unknown, and yet again, we've pivoted and learned.

This quarter marked the return of many of our annual holiday events, such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Veterans Day, and the Chinese Lantern Festival, which was on track for a record-breaking year. We received several accolades and employee awards, including once again being recognized for our top-tier water distribution and wastewater collection systems.

One of our biggest achievements this quarter was the Council adoption of the Cary Housing Plan, a comprehensive document that will guide us in meeting the diverse housing needs of residents over the next decade. In addition, following the launch of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office over the summer, we connected our Council, staff, and citizens via a DEI Mixer, which will be followed by the creation of a community-based Human Relations, Inclusion, and Diversity Task Force.

In its effort to maintain a cost-effective and sustainable fleet, the Cary Police Department added two all-electric Tesla Model Y long-range patrol vehicles. This will reduce Cary's fuel consumption and save the Town \$4,000 over the life of each vehicle. Finally, Cary's fire apparatus will now experience guaranteed green lights en route to emergency response locations thanks to our Connected Vehicles Project.

We look forward to providing an update on our branding effort, as well as other financial, capital project, development, and environmental updates at our next Quarterly Meeting on February 10 at the Courtyard Marriott in Parkside Town Commons.

**#BeSafe**

**#BeKind**

**#BeCary**

*Sean R. Stegall*

Sean R. Stegall  
Town Manager



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

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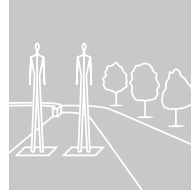
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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Financial results continue to trend in a positive direction despite impacts of the pandemic, inflation, and certain supply chain delays. Although it is still early to make projections on year-end results, Cary is on track to fall in line with budgeted expectations.

This quarter, Cary published its FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report on [townofcary.org](http://townofcary.org). The financial statements and supporting details demonstrate that Cary remains in good financial condition.

Cary has the capital resources, revenue capacity, and expenditure management culture to provide Council with choices on how best to fulfill the vision and highest priorities laid out in the Imagine Cary Community Plan.

Financial planning and budgeting for FY 2023 also commenced this quarter. Cary's leadership team continued to expand their understanding of Cary's holistic financial picture, which strengthens their ability to develop a recommended budget for Cary now and in the future.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

2022 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

GENERAL FUND

FY 2022 Q2 GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2022 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenues	\$ 228.2	\$ 126.6	55%	\$ 122.5	\$ 4.1	3%
Expenditures	228.2	101.7	45%	99.2	2.5	3%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 24.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 23.3</b>	<b>\$ 1.6</b>	<b>7%</b>

\* 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 increased 7%, or \$1.6 million, compared with the prior year’s second quarter.



FY 2022 Q2 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

	FY 2022 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Property Tax	\$ 116.2	\$ 95.4	82%	\$ 97.1	\$ (1.7)	-2%
Sales Tax	43.6	12.4	28%	10.2	2.2	22%
Other Taxes & Licenses	2.2	1.3	59%	0.8	0.5	63%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	10.4	2.8	27%	2.8	0.0	0%
Restricted Intergovernmental	0.3	0.3	100%	0.2	0.1	50%
Permits & Fees	5.3	2.8	53%	2.2	0.6	27%
PRCR Sales & Services	5.6	3.0	54%	0.9	2.1	233%
Solid Waste Sales & Services	12.9	6.4	50%	6.0	0.4	7%
Other Sales & Services	1.7	0.5	29%	0.7	(0.2)	-29%
Miscellaneous	2.0	0.6	30%	0.9	(0.3)	-33%
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>200.2</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3%</b>
Non-Operating	28.0	1.1	4%	0.7	0.4	57%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 228.2</b>	<b>\$ 126.6</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>\$ 122.5</b>	<b>\$ 4.1</b>	<b>3%</b>

Overall, FY 2022 General Fund revenues are up \$4.1 million, or 3%, compared with the same period in FY 2021. This is primarily due to the strength of the economy and reduced pandemic impacts as reflected in increased sales tax revenues and the return of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources sales and services revenue.

OPERATING REVENUES

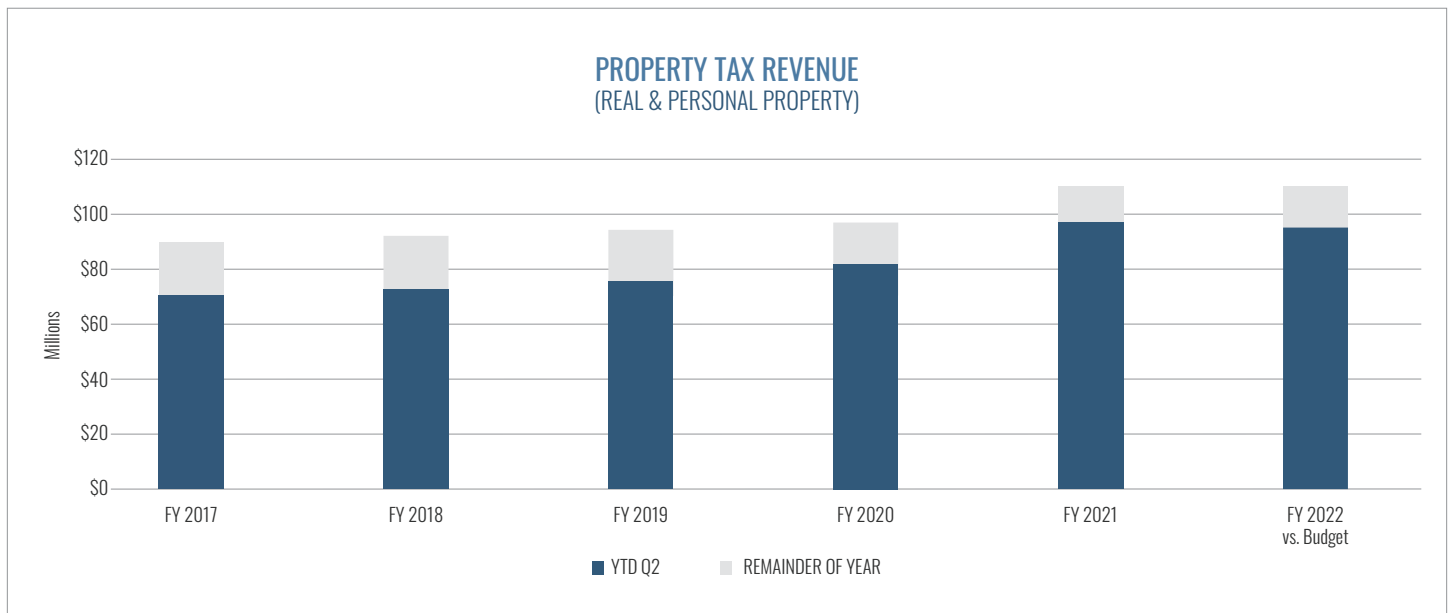
**Property Tax** revenue is 51% of total budgeted revenue and is the largest revenue source for the General Fund. Taxes are based on an ad valorem tax levy on real and personal property. Real property are items such as land and buildings, while personal property are items such as vehicles and commercial business equipment. Real property taxes were billed in July and due no later than January 5. 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 2022 budget for real property tax is \$109.5 million. Q2 ended less than a week before the property tax due date, and by the end of the second quarter, Cary had received \$92.3 million, or 84%, of the real property tax revenue budget.

The personal property tax budget for this fiscal year is \$6.7 million, and as of Q2, Cary had received \$3.1 million, or 46%. Based on historical trends and collections received so far, both real and personal property tax revenues are expected to meet budget.

**Sales Tax** revenue is 19% of budgeted General Fund revenue and is the second largest revenue source for the General Fund. Sales tax revenue through Q2 is \$2.2 million, or 22%, more than the same quarter of last fiscal year. This revenue stream is distributed to municipalities by the N.C. Department of Revenue about two and a half months after the month when taxable sales occurred. Through Q2, Cary received three distributions for July through September sales representing the largest sales tax distributions in Cary’s history. This growth in sales tax revenue is reflective of significant retail sales, the current strength of the economy, and rising prices in some sectors.





Collectively, **Permits and Fees** revenue increased 27% when compared with last year. Permits for all types of construction increased 7% compared with prior year totals.

However, the most notable increase in permits is from non-residential additions and alterations, which increased 29% from the prior year. More information on the specific projects driving this increase can be found in the SHAPE section.

**Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources sales and services** increased well over 100% compared with Q2 of FY 2022. During most of FY 2021, PRCR facilities were non-operational in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, toward the end of FY 2021, PRCR safely reopened facilities and began offering virtual camps and classes, which has led to the significant increase in revenues.

**Non-operating** revenues through Q2 increased 57% compared with the same period in FY 2021. This increase is due to bond premiums received from the Q1 bond sale to cover the bond issuance costs.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

FY 2022 Q2 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2022 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
General Government	\$ 46.3	\$ 17.8	38%	\$ 14.8	\$ 3.0	20%
Public Safety	59.7	25.9	43%	24.2	1.7	7%
Operations (PW & PRCR)	56.3	22.5	40%	19.3	3.2	17%
Development & Infrastructure	18.5	6.9	37%	6.4	0.5	8%
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>180.8</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>13%</b>
Non-Operating	47.4	28.6	60%	34.5	(5.9)	-17%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 228.2</b>	<b>\$ 101.7</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>\$ 99.2</b>	<b>\$ 2.5</b>	<b>3%</b>

Overall, General Fund expenditures increased by 3% compared with last year's Q2 results. Operating expenditures were up 13%, while non-operating expenditures were down 17%. Operating expenditure increases are based on a return to more typical PRCR programming and facility operations as well as pandemic-related expenses, which continue to impact General Government service areas, like Human Resources. Non-operating expenditures decreased 17% as a result of smaller budgeted General Fund transfers for operating and capital needs.

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 nearly \$103 million of budgeted funds available for the remainder of the fiscal year.

GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS -  
FY 2022 REMAINING ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)

General Government	\$ 7,055,116
Public Safety	2,865,849
Operations (PW & PRCR)	9,837,338
Development & Infrastructure	743,767
Debt Service	92,926
Contingencies & Reserves	3,243,507
<b>TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES</b>	<b>\$ 23,838,503</b>

UTILITY FUND

FY 2022 Q2 UTILITY FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2022 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenues	\$ 99.2	\$ 39.5	40%	\$ 37.4	\$ 2.1	6%
Expenditures	99.2	48.5	49%	49.5	(1.0)	-2%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (9.0)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ (12.1)</b>	<b>\$ 3.1</b>	<b>26%</b>

\* The above table is 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.

Utility Fund net results through Q2 of FY 2022 improved by 26% compared with FY 2021 due to an increase in operating revenues. Non-operating expenditures declined by 2%, which also contributed to improved net results for Q2.

FY 2022 Q2 UTILITY FUND REVENUES

	FY 2022 ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Water Service	\$ 32.5	\$ 15.6	48%	\$ 14.3	\$ 1.3	9%
Sewer Service	49.1	22.4	46%	21.5	0.9	4%
Permits & Fees	1.4	1.0	71%	0.9	0.1	11%
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>6%</b>
Non-Operating	16.2	0.5	3%	0.7	(0.2)	-29%
<b>TOTAL UTILITY FUND REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 99.2</b>	<b>\$ 39.5</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>\$ 37.4</b>	<b>\$ 2.1</b>	<b>6%</b>

Utility Fund revenues increased \$2.1 million, or 6%, through Q2 of FY 2022 compared with the same period in FY 2021. The increase in revenue is due in part to the small rate increases adopted in the FY 2022 budget in addition to a 4% increase in utility consumption. Consumption changes are directly linked to the weather and the increase in the number of meter installations resulting from new development.

FY 2022 Q2 UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2022 ADJ BUDGET	FY 2022 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2021 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2021 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Administration	\$ 9.5	\$ 4.1	43%	\$ 4.4	\$ (0.3)	-7%
Field Operations	19.0	8.1	43%	7.6	0.5	7%
Wastewater (net of Apex)	11.7	4.8	41%	4.7	0.1	2%
Water Treatment Facility (net of Apex)	9.4	4.5	48%	4.2	0.3	7%
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>3%</b>
Non-Operating	49.6	27.0	54%	28.6	(1.6)	-6%
<b>TOTAL UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 99.2</b>	<b>\$ 48.5</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>\$ 49.5</b>	<b>\$ (1.0)</b>	<b>-2%</b>

Overall, Utility Fund expenditures decreased by 2% when compared with the same period last year. Operating expenditures were up 3%, while non-operating expenditures were down 6%. Increases in inflation-driven chemical and supply costs account for the bulk of the operating spending variance. The 6% non-operating expenditure decrease results from reduced commitments for future retiree health obligations compared with the prior year.

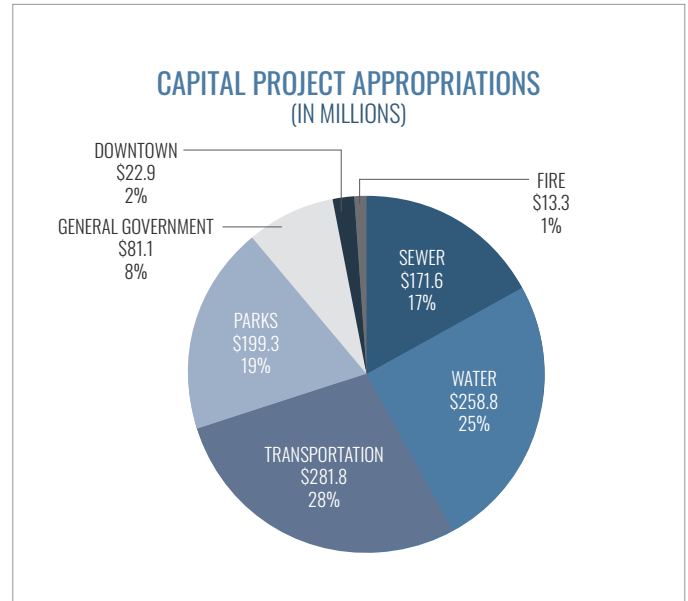
The following table shows total outstanding encumbrances for the Utility Fund at the end of Q2. When including these encumbrance amounts with year-to-date spending, the Utility Fund has roughly \$43 million remaining in the budget for the remainder of the year.

UTILITY FUND OPERATIONS -  
FY 2022 REMAINING ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)

Administration	\$ 1,005,463
Field Operations	1,012,377
Wastewater (net of Apex)	2,071,791
Water Treatment Plant (net of Apex)	1,758,877
Debt Service	17,475
Contingencies & Reserves	1,558,640
<b>TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES</b>	<b>\$ 7,424,623</b>

**CAPITAL PROGRAM**

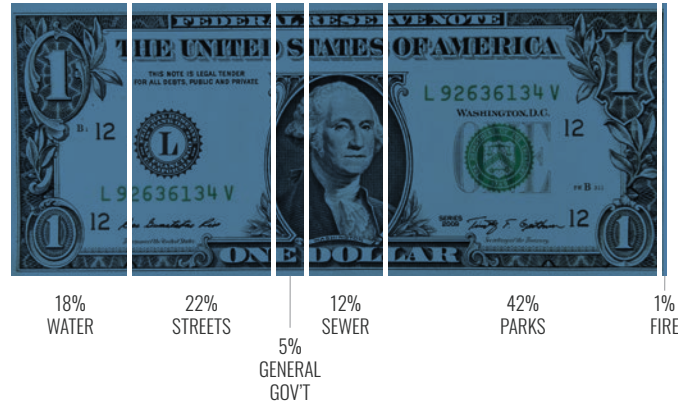
Cary has 511 active capital projects. General capital projects, with a total of budget of \$598.4 million, constitute 58% of the capital budget authorization. Utility capital projects total \$430.4 million, or 42%, of the total \$1 billion capital budget authorization.



**CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING THROUGH Q2 (IN MILLIONS)**

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Downtown	\$ 0.1	\$ 7.1	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.8	\$ -
Fire	1.0	2.9	4.1	0.5	0.2
General Government	1.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	1.8
Parks	3.9	2.7	8.0	18.3	15.4
Streets	14.3	8.0	12.0	9.4	8.5
Sewer	2.6	3.0	5.1	11.3	4.6
Water	5.0	12.2	6.7	6.5	6.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 28.4</b>	<b>\$ 39.1</b>	<b>\$ 39.5</b>	<b>\$ 49.7</b>	<b>\$ 37.0</b>

Capital project spending totaled \$37 million through Q2. The fluctuation in capital spending is due to the timing in which projects become active or are near completion. The three largest investments in capital for the community in Q2 were \$8.8 million for the Downtown Cary Park, \$5.2 million for construction for street improvement projects, and \$1.7 million for the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Plant Ozone Generator Replacement. Because the mix of capital projects changes over time, there are no discernible patterns in capital spending.



**BUDGET**

MID-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2022 operating budget includes \$1 million to support emerging or unforeseen program needs during the fiscal year. There have been no appropriations through Q2 from these funds, leaving the full appropriation available. The following table 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 2022.

**GOVERNMENTAL GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND**

FUNDING SOURCE		FUNDING USE		AMOUNT
General Capital Reserve Fund Unrestricted Fund Balance	Q2	Cary Tennis Park Facility Improvements	\$	775,000
911 Special Revenue Fund Fund Balance	Q2	Purchase of Emergency Communications Center Equipment		414,647
General Fund Fund Balance	Q2	USA Baseball National Training Complex Improvements		4,500,000
General Capital Reserve Fund Unrestricted Fund Balance	Q2	Weston Parkway Area Bicycle/Pedestrian/ Greenway Connectivity Study		150,000
<b>TOTAL MID-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>5,839,647</b>

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 five budget public input comments received in Q2.

CATEGORY	COMMENTS RECEIVED	PLATFORM RECEIVED	TYPE OF COMMENT
Property Value and Taxes	1	Website	Concerned about property values and tax rates as these can have substantial financial impact on the elderly.
Recycling	1	Email	Requests additional recycling (shredding) days, perhaps near April 15.
Speeding and Noisy Vehicles	1	Email	Requests increased police presence to deter speeding and would like Cary to address the noise issue associated with modified exhaust systems.
Streetlights and Sidewalks	1	Email	Streetlights are often located near trees and trees block out the light along sidewalks along Cary Parkway, Waldo Road Boulevard, MacArthur Drive, Davis Drive, and neighboring streets. Requests shrubbery along sidewalks in these areas trimmed back.
Transit	1	Email	Requests additional bus route expansions and creation of additional bus stops to serve the whole community.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>		



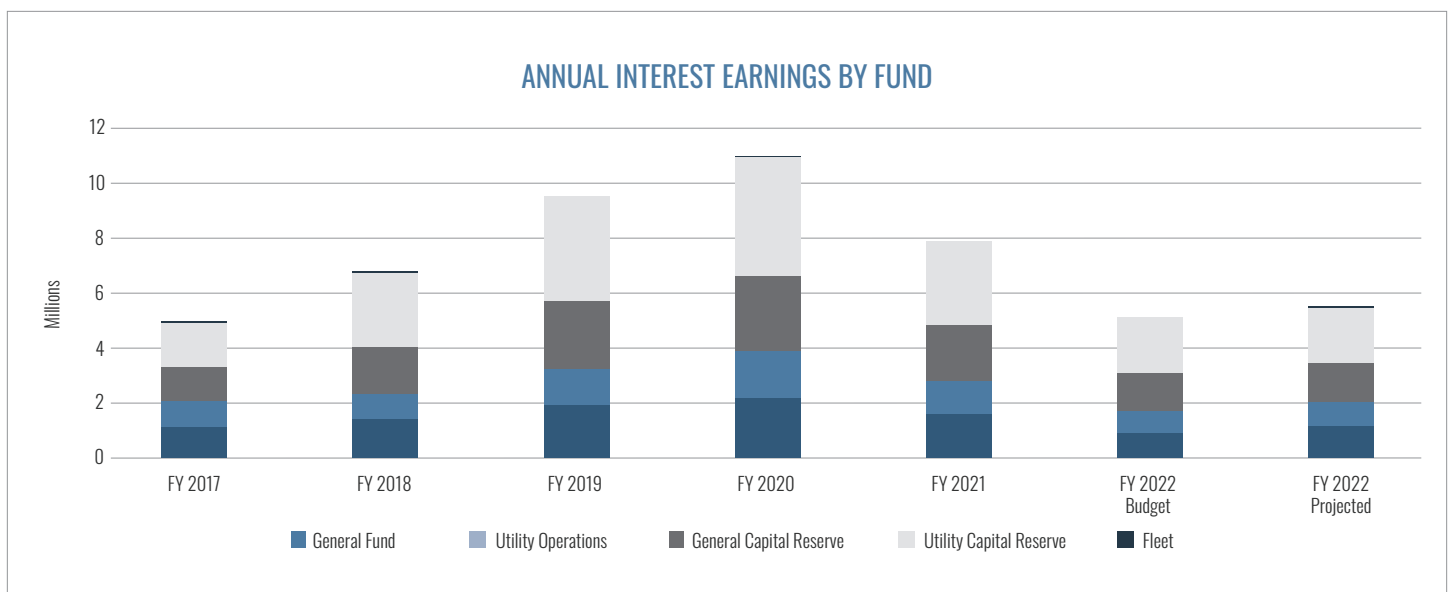
## CASH AND INVESTMENTS

At the end of Q2, Cary's cash and investments totaled \$568 million. Cash balances increased in Q2 and will peak in the early part of Q3 due to the influx of property tax receipts.

In Q2 of FY 2022, Cary invested more than \$67 million at an average rate of 0.95%. In comparison, Cary invested more than \$75 million at 0.33% in Q2 of FY 2021. Due to the historic low rates at the time of budget development for FY 2022, an interest rate of 0.15% was used to estimate earnings on all new investments. Interest rates have increased over the last quarter, indicating that interest earnings could come in about \$1 million above budget.

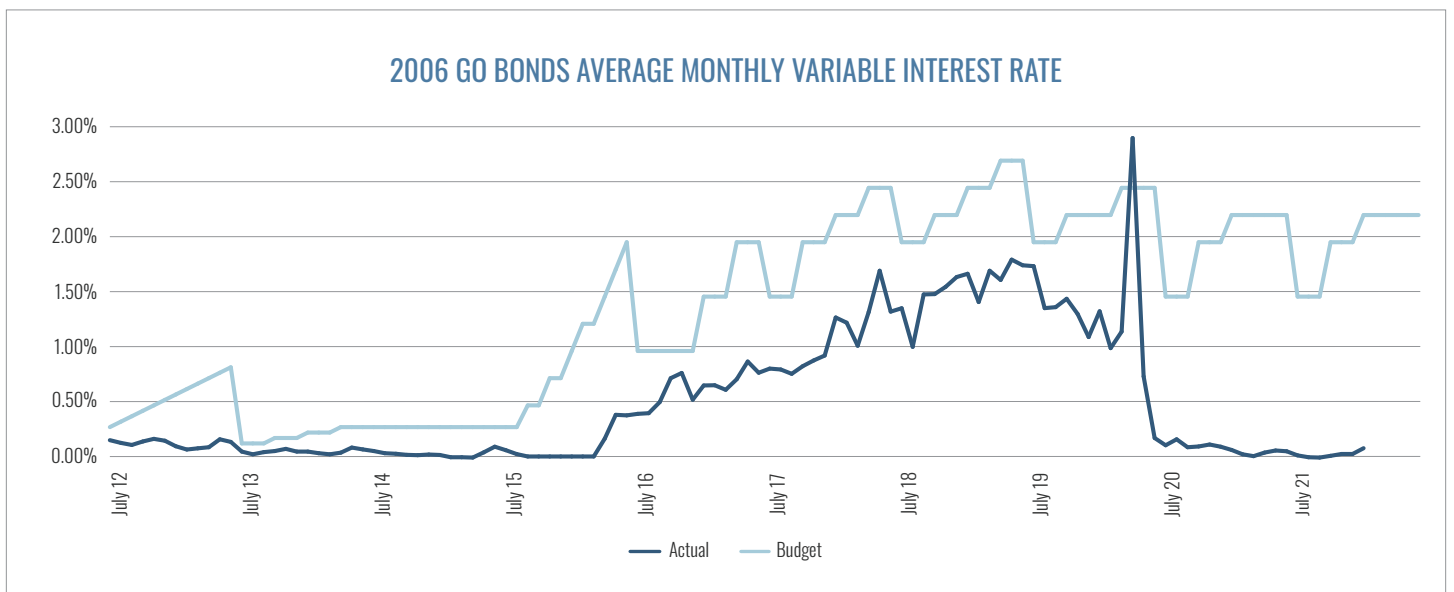


Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



## DEBT

Cary has about \$24 million of variable-rate, tax-supported bond 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 2022 is currently 0.04% versus the average budgeted rate of 2%. As a result, year-to-date variable rate debt service is \$300,000 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





## CARY HOUSING PLAN



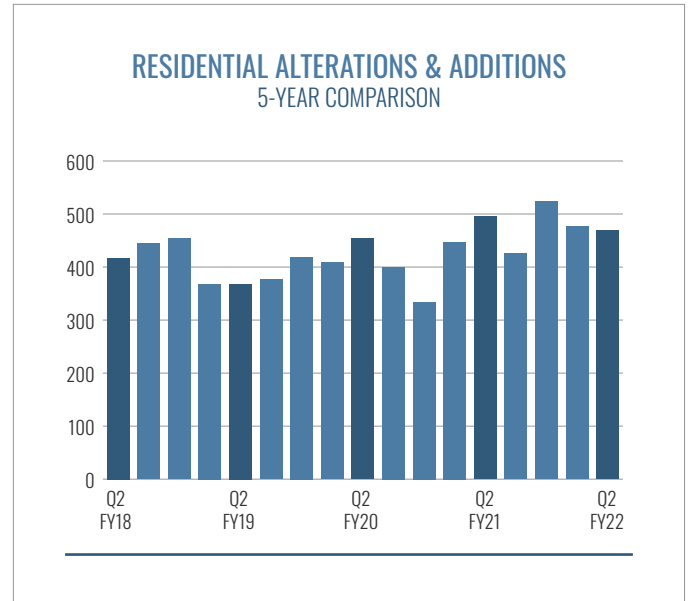
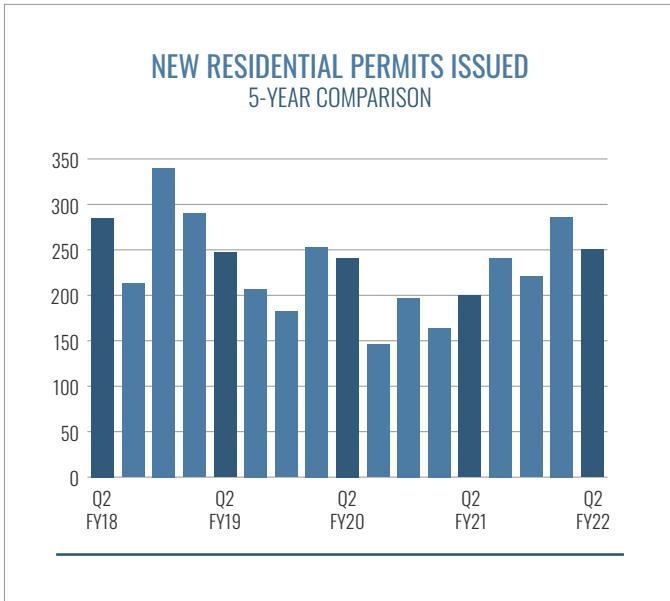
This quarter, Cary reached a significant milestone with the adoption of the Cary Housing Plan. This comprehensive document provides the actions needed to implement the policies outlined in the LIVE chapter of the Imagine Cary Community Plan to meet the diverse housing needs of residents over the next decade.

The Cary Housing Plan highlights three overarching housing goals: first, continue to be a community of choice by ensuring high-quality and diverse new housing development; second, ensure all residents can enjoy the full benefit of Cary's high quality of life; and third, pursue regional and nonprofit partnerships to meet Cary's housing needs.

## ELECTED OFFICIAL BUILD DAY



Cary welcomed state and federal elected officials for a housing build day. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, Hannah Place will include seven single-family homes on Trimble Avenue, funded in part by Cary and its Community Development Block Grant Program. Council member Lori Bush, the event keynote speaker, highlighted the importance of high-quality housing for all Cary residents. The homes were also featured in the 2021 Triangle Parade of Homes event.



## NEW RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

During the second quarter, Cary issued 207 new single-family permits. The top three subdivisions permitted were Channing Park (36), James Grove (26), and Brickyard (26). Overall, permits for new single-family homes decreased 14% in comparison with Q2 of FY 2021. Cary issued 205 single-family certificates of occupancy (COs) this quarter for an average of three certificates per workday. This is a 31% increase in comparison with the COs issued in Q2 of FY 2021. The subdivisions that received the most COs were Brickyard (34), Savaan (31), and Woodhall (19). Cary also issued building permits for 377 units in two multi-family projects.

## RESIDENTIAL ALTERATION AND ADDITION PERMITS

This quarter, Cary issued 469 residential alteration and addition permits. This is a 5% decrease from the same period last year and a 2% decrease from last quarter. In addition, Cary issued 14 permits for multi-family alterations and additions.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



# ASSURING CONTINUED PROSPERITY





## LEE & ASSOCIATES HQ



Lee & Associates, a commercial real estate company, started construction on its new headquarters in downtown Cary at 413 Kildaire Farm Road, which is on the corner of Kildaire Farm Road and Walnut Street. The three-story, mixed-use building will include the new home of Lee & Associates as well as ground-floor retail. In conjunction, Cary staff is coordinating an intersection project to create a turn lane on Kildaire Farm Road to help the intersection better align and add new sidewalks to improve the pedestrian experience. The development is anticipated to be complete in winter 2022.

## GARMIN INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION



One of the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it is unclear when or if some companies will return to the office. With that challenge in mind, it is especially good news that Garmin International will be doubling its office footprint in Cary. The wearable technology and GPS company will occupy about 63,000 square feet at the Regency Creek office building.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography





## PROTOLABS EXPANSION



Protolabs, a digital printing and e-commerce company, announced an expansion of its 3D printing operations in Cary to a new 120,000-square-foot building across the street from its current location on Pleasant Grove Church Road. Capital Associates is developing the new building with the assistance of Cary and the Cary Chamber of Commerce.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION MIXER



On Dec. 9, Cary held its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mixer at The Mayton. The event was an opportunity for Council, staff, and the community to engage with one another around the shared interest of DEI. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Chief Human Resources Officer Renee Poole, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager Rashonda Harris welcomed the crowd and emphasized Cary's commitment to cultivating diversity and inclusion throughout the community. Information was also shared about a community-based Human Relations, Inclusion, and Diversity Task Force for which recruitment began early January.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



## COVID-19 AND FLU VACCINE CLINICS

Cary continues to prioritize employee health and well-being by providing opportunities to proactively prevent the spread of viruses. In partnership with WakeMed, Cary offered two additional on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics and two COVID-19 booster clinics where nearly 225 employees received a vaccine. Additionally, WakeMed held two on-site flu clinics and visited fire stations and utility plants, providing nearly 250 flu vaccines.

## CELEBRATE THE BEST

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Cary once again adapted its annual employee recognition events to ensure the safety of all employees. Slideshows on the staff intranet as well as outdoors in the evenings at Herb Young Community Center showcased 224 employees representing more than 4,035 years of service along with 52 retirees in 2021. An online whiteboard provided colleagues an opportunity to connect with and recognize each other by posting kudos in a virtual space.





# 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 CARY PARK UPDATE



Nine months into construction of the Downtown Cary Park, structures are going vertical. The Bark Bar concrete pour and the Academy Plaza building basement is complete. Steel for the Pavilion is being installed, and framing for The Nest restroom has begun. Construction remains

on schedule leading into the winter season. In December, Sarah Preston was selected as assistant general manager for the park. Sarah began her career with Cary in 2005 and brings a wealth of experience and creativity to her work. In her new role, Sarah will focus on operations, including patron experience, process management, and staff management. She will work closely with General Manager Joy Ennis to implement the vision and daily operations of the park.

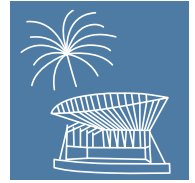
### CARY KUDOS

#### EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 2021 NCRPA ARTS & HUMANITIES AWARD

Operations and Program Supervisor Mike Sink and Public Art Program and Exhibition Supervisor Denise Dickens received the 2021 N.C. Recreation and Park Association Arts & Humanities Award for collaboration between arts and sports by bringing new artwork to Diavolo at New Hope Disc Golf Course. This award recognizes innovative and effective arts and humanities programs of parks, recreation, and leisure service agency members of the NCRPA.

Artist John Merigian created the two sculptures, "Calvin" and "Rejoice," which Cary installed at Diavolo at New Hope in June of 2021. The sculptures are made of weathering steel, and their patina will change over time to a rusty red like their companion sculptures across the street at New Hope Trailhead Park, adjacent to the American Tobacco Trail. The sculptures help tell the story of the history of the American Tobacco Trail, as they are reminiscent of the train rails that once lay beside the park.





## PROGRAMMING CONTINUES TO GROW



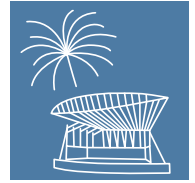
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources program offerings and participation continued to reach new heights, increasing 10–12% per quarter since facilities began to reopen in June of 2021. Virtual program options also remain available to citizens who prefer an online format.

Total program revenue for FY 2022 hit \$1 million in the second quarter. Cary residents made up 86% of program participants, and participants made 75% of registrations online, an increase over the pre-pandemic rate of 60%. Program participation for the quarter was highest in the categories of tennis lessons and programs, sports leagues, Cary Senior Center programs, visual arts, and fitness and wellness. In particular, Cary more than doubled its registrants for senior-focused programs to more than 1,800 people since June by offering both in-person and virtual formats.

## DIWALI



Leading up to the 21st annual Cary Diwali celebration, Hum Sub, Inc. and the Town of Cary faced the COVID-19 pandemic and heavy rains. Yet, just as the gates opened at Koka Booth Amphitheatre on Oct. 9, the rain subsided. This year's event was aptly themed "Vihaan," which is Sanskrit for "dawn" and symbolizes new beginnings. Diwali programs focused on the victory of light over darkness and the community's emergence after the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 5,000 people attended the event, which featured its usual dynamic mix of live performances, ceremonies, cuisine, apparel, handicrafts, and more. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and Council members Ed Yerha and Ya Liu attended the event along with other public figures. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, concluded with a 15-minute fireworks display overlooking Symphony Lake.



## SAS CHAMPIONSHIP



Cary once again played host to the 21st annual PGA Tour Champions SAS Championship. Held Oct. 15–17 at Prestonwood Country Club, the tournament showcased the world’s top golfers over the age of 50, who competed for a purse of \$2.1 million. The SAS Championship contributed more than \$5 million in donations to area youth educational initiatives, most notably YMCA of the Triangle’s Y Learning Program. In addition to the three days of tournament play, the SAS Championship hosted multiple events designed to bring the community together, including Food Truck Friday, Championship 5K, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Executive Women’s Day.

## RIBBON CUTTING AT CARY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CEMETERY

On Oct. 30, Mayor Weinbrecht joined members of Town Council, Cary First Christian Church, and Friends of the Page-Walker at Cary First Christian Cemetery for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the work that has been done to restore the cemetery, including headstone restoration, tree pruning, and planting of new trees and shrubs that complement the historical context. Staff continues to work with the church to ensure the continued preservation of the cemetery.

## N.C. CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL ATTRACTS RECORD CROWDS

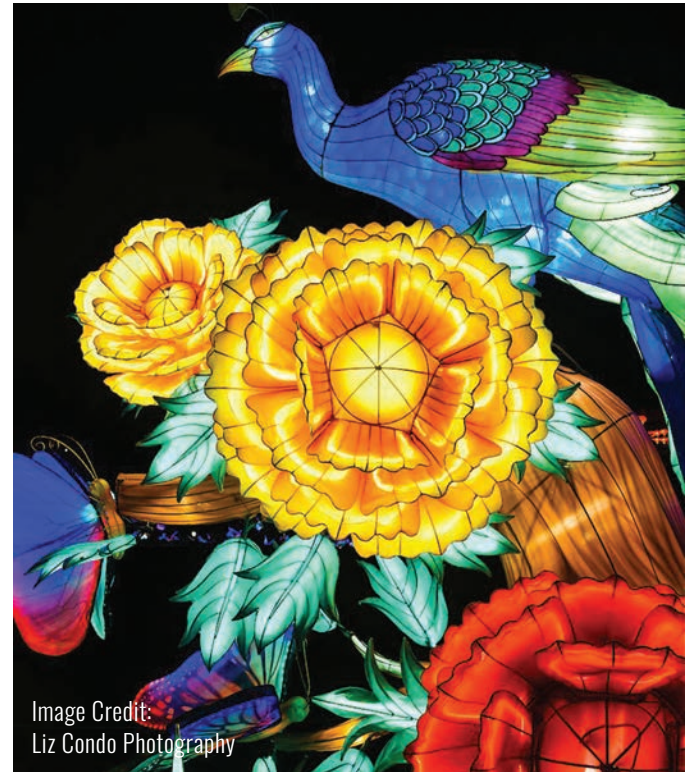


Image Credit:  
Liz Condo Photography

Cary’s annual N.C. Chinese Lantern Festival welcomed record crowds in 2021. With nine event days remaining, festival attendance reached more than 150,000 people, surpassing 2019’s 125,000 attendance total. Dec. 4 set a single-day record of 8,321 guests. Visitors enjoyed the expanded festival footprint and additional displays, as well as new programming options with Twilight Tours and VIP tours. All tours sold out in advance. Due to increased demand, Cary created and implemented capacity restrictions and “stand by” options to manage crowds and ensure all patrons had a pleasant and safe experience.



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

### HALLOWEEN RECAP

In October, Cary celebrated the return of the Halloween season. Fun events, such as the Mummy and Son Ball, the Pumpkin Flotilla at Bond Park, the Great Pumpkin Carve downtown, Zombiepaloosa, spooky stories at Page-Walker Arts and History Center, and Herbert's Haunted House, each brought thrills throughout the month. With fun costumes, lots of pumpkins, spooky fan-made movies, and scares aplenty, Cary truly became the "Town of sCary."

### VETERANS DAY



On Nov. 11, Council members Jack Smith and Ya Liu, along with other elected officials, honored veterans at the Veterans Freedom Park. The event included representation from all service branches and music from the Old North State Brass Band. Mayor Weinbrecht read a proclamation, and guest speakers Master Chief Curtis Leary from the American Legion and Gunnery Sgt. Jeff Sherman from the VFW provided remarks. Boy Scout Troop 200 organized the Field of Flags at the park. Each flag on display represented a tribute of honor, celebration, and pride in the members of the armed forces.

### HEART OF THE HOLIDAYS



Heart of the Holidays returned with numerous in-person activities. This year's Gifting Tree Project featured 80 trees supporting local charities. More than 1,000 kids wrote letters to Santa and received handwritten responses. The gingerbread house competition featured 23 beautifully designed houses hosted at 13 different downtown businesses and voted on by hundreds of citizens.

The Christmas Tree Lighting returned to an in-person ceremony at Town Hall. A record crowd of about 1,800 people enjoyed performances by eight different acts before Hometown Spirit Award Winner Sarah Martin ceremoniously flipped the switch. Martin was joined on stage by Mayor Harold Weinbrecht; Mayor Pro Tem Don Frantz; Council members Lori Bush, Ya Liu, Jack Smith, and Ed Yerha; and other public figures. Nearby, the Page-Walker Arts & History Center offered old-fashioned Christmas fun with a holiday open house featuring Victorian carolers, Father Christmas, and more.



### HANUKKAH MENORAH LIGHTING

On Nov. 30, Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Mayor Pro Tem Don Frantz, and Council members Ya Liu, Jack Smith, and Lori Bush attended Cary's Hanukkah Menorah Lighting. Bush spoke to a more than 200-person crowd outside the Cary Arts Center on the third night of Hanukkah. The crowd enjoyed chocolates, dreidels, donuts, crafts, and a sing-along. Cary partners with Beth Shalom, Chabad of Cary, and the Jewish Federation of Raleigh-Cary for this annual event.

### KWANZAA CELEBRATION

On Dec. 30, Cary hosted its 27th annual Kwanzaa celebration at the Cary Arts Center. Cary Kwanzaa is a communal cultural celebration that honors African-American people and their heritage. This year's event featured the United Strings of Color, a black youth string quartet, performing the Yoruba tale of "Ijapa and Mr. Igbin." Then the Harambee Collective from Durham entertained with African dance and drums. Cary Kwanzaa was produced in partnership with Ujima Group, a local nonprofit.

### MEN'S COLLEGE CUP



The NCAA held its Men's Soccer College Cup matches at WakeMed Soccer Park on Dec. 10 and 12. The 2021 Championship marked the 15th time the facility hosted the College Cup, including the seventh Men's Championship. A crowd of more than 10,000 spectators filled Sahlen's Stadium on Friday to witness semifinal action between Notre Dame, Clemson, Georgetown, and Washington. On Sunday, more than 7,000 fans returned to watch Clemson win their third national championship. All three matches were broadcast live on ESPNU.







## BOND PARK CHALLENGE COURSE



Bond Park Challenge Course has been redesigned to offer more adventures for patrons of varying ages and abilities. Bonsai Designs removed the 1992 tree course, which was outdated and limited the number of users. The bottom tier of the new two-tier course is a great beginner experience with a magic carpet ride, spider web, barrel crawl, and a short zip line to finish. The top tier offers more challenging elements, such as a Tarzan swing, multi-vine crossing, and a more than 300-foot zip line. Cary will offer camps, team building, corporate leadership development, and family adventures in the newly designed space. Landscaping and finishing touches are expected to be complete in early 2022.



## ANOTHER 20 YEARS OF USA BASEBALL

On Dec. 16, Town Council unanimously approved the new Town and USA Baseball financial agreement that will keep USA Baseball in Cary for 20 more years. USA Baseball will use fields at the National Training Complex, Thomas Brooks Park, and the new covered training space for annual programming. In addition, USA Baseball will pay annual rent for current retail space and new office and warehouse space. Council approved the bid award to build this new space, which is expected to break ground in February. It will consist of 10,000 square feet of USA Baseball offices, 3,500 square feet of USA Baseball warehouse, two new Town offices, and a multipurpose classroom.

## 10TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN URBAN OPEN

On Nov. 27 and 28, Cary hosted the Downtown Urban Open, where disc golfers from across the state could participate in three events: open play, doubles, and a two-round Professional Disc Golf Association-sanctioned tournament. From its first year, the Downtown Urban Open has been a charity event that benefits Cary's Play it Forward Scholarship Fund. This year, the tournament and partner Capital Area Disc League will donate \$4,242 to the fund. This will be added to \$3,130 in donations from Cary's Disc Golf Festival, bringing total donations for this year to \$7,372 and total donations since the Downtown Urban Open started to \$22,344.

### CARY KUDOS

#### 2021 SPECIAL TENNIS EVENT OF THE YEAR

U.S. Tennis Association Southern and U.S. Tennis Association North Carolina honored Cary with the 2021 Special Tennis Event of the Year award for the Atlantic Tire Championships. The award honors exemplary promotion and support of tennis.



## CARY ACTION SPORTS



In December, Town Council approved a name change for Sk8 Cary. Though a unique name, it was focused on skateboarding and was specific to the skate park at Godbold Park. The facility and the program area have outgrown that name, and Cary Action Sports better represents all things “action.” The facility caters to skateboards, BMX bikes, in-line skates, scooters, remote-controlled cars, parkour, and other disciplines. The facility has also hosted national and international events over the past few years. Future plans for the facility include the installation of a roof over the ramps to allow year-round use.



## GOOD HOPE FARM EVENTS



Hundreds of community members visited Good Hope Farm this fall to celebrate Cary’s agricultural roots and to learn firsthand how a healthy environment supports a strong local food system. New in 2021, Cary expanded Good Hope Farm educational programming to include a monthly fall Harvest Fest event series from September to November. These free family-friendly celebrations included farm tours, children’s activities, and the opportunity to purchase produce, farm-to-fork prepared foods, local honey, culinary mushrooms, and other environmentally conscious products from local artisans and small businesses. Cary also partnered with environmental nonprofits and community groups to have educational booths for guests to engage with local experts on subjects related to renewable energy, composting, native plants, and zero waste initiatives.

In addition, the annual Farm to Fork Celebration attracted dozens of guests to the farm on Oct. 2 for an evening of fine dining and dancing under the stars. Good Hope Farm celebrated its fifth anniversary with live music, farm tours, and a delicious gourmet farm-to-fork meal. These memorable and unique agritourism events connected guests to Cary’s heritage while also inviting the community to co-create an innovative and sustainable future through food security and environmental stewardship.



# GUIDING COMMUNITY GROWTH



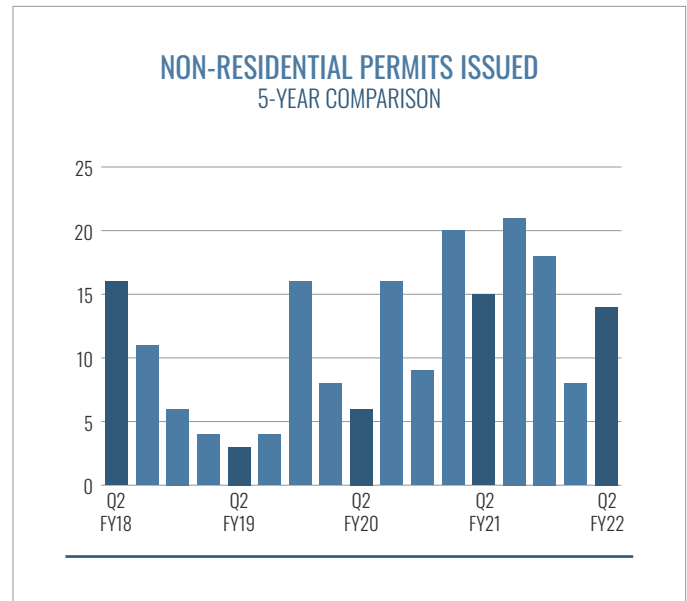
Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



## NON-RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

In Q2, Cary issued 14 non-residential permits for a total of 169,436 square feet. Projects of note are:

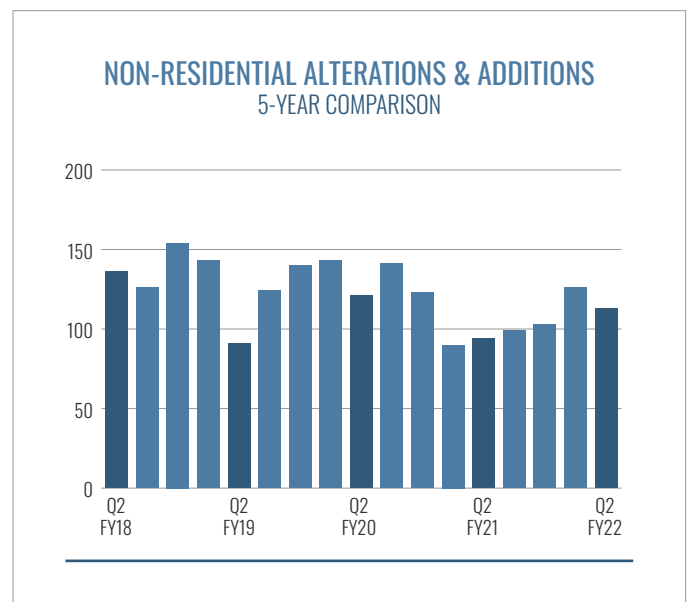
- Capital Associates Property, 4111 Page Road: Permit issued for a 120,000-square-foot industrial/laboratory building
- Ivybrook Academy, 8715 Holly Springs Road: Permit issued for a 6,429-square-foot daycare center on an existing .75-acre outparcel in Fairview Village shopping center
- Fenton, 550 Upper Plaza Lane: Permit issued for a 2,950-square-foot restaurant



## NON-RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Cary issued 113 non-residential alteration and addition permits in Q2. Projects of note are:

- Bull City Ciderworks, 210 E. Chatham St.: Interior renovation for Bull City Ciderworks
- Bond Brothers, 602 E. Chatham St.: New pergola and ADA-compliant restrooms to accommodate an increase in outdoor occupants
- Fenton: Building permits approved for new tenants Athleta, Altar'd State Arula, Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Dram & Draught, LunchboxWax, M Sushi, Nike Live, Pottery Barn, Southern Tide, and four future tenant spaces





## REZONING

During Q2, 21 cases were in the rezoning process with five cases approved.

- 6705 Lewey Drive: Rezoning from Residential 40 to Transitional Residential Conditional Use to allow a maximum of 32 dwelling units and limiting uses to detached dwellings, townhouses, and neighborhood recreation
- 3012 Holly Springs Road: Rezoning from Wake County Residential 80 Watershed to Resource Recreation
- McCrimmon Parkway and Louis Stephens Drive Rezoning, 5025 Louis Stephens Drive: Rezoning from Residential 40 to Transitional Residential Conditional Use to allow 160 townhomes with a maximum of 15 single-family residential homes
- 3890 N.C. 55: Rezoning from Office and Research and Development Conditional Use to General Commercial Conditional Use to allow for a grocery store with a maximum of 10,000 square feet
- Mills Residential Rezoning, 7921 Mills Road: Rezoning 32.92 acres east of Flat Branch from Residential 40 to Residential 12 Conditional Use while maintaining the Jordan Lake Watershed Protection Overlay. This property falls within the Green Level Special Planning Area, and the proposed use is limited to 55 single-family homes, neighborhood recreation, and associated accessory use.

## DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In Q2, Cary approved 47 development plans. The notable plans approved this quarter were:

- Lee & Associates HQ, 413 Kildaire Farm Road: Development of 19,700-square-foot office and retail building in downtown Cary
- Searstone Medical Office Building, 3020, 3050, and 3070 Winston Hill Drive: Reapproval of an expired plan for the development of a 50,000-square-foot office building in the Searstone development
- Capital Associates Property, 4111 Page Road: Construction of a 120,000-square-foot industrial/laboratory building

## POPULATION

At the end of 2021, the estimated population for the Town of Cary is 179,864. During 2021, Cary's population grew by 7,643 citizens, or 4%. This estimate is based on the Census 2020 data.

## SOUTH HILLS MALL SOLD

Cary's oldest mall, South Hills Mall, sold to the development team of Chicago-based Northpond Partners and Raleigh-based Loden Properties for \$38.4 million in November. The prior owners, the Martin Family, held the property for decades and put it up for sale in June, with the goal of a close before the end of the year. The South Hills Mall property consists of about 50 acres on both sides of Buck Jones Road and some property on the Crossroads shopping center side of U.S. 1. The new owners have been working with Cary staff to explore redevelopment opportunities.





# 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.



### NW CARY PARKWAY SIDEWALK AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



On Nov. 4, Cary held a virtual public meeting with more than 50 participants to discuss the future Northwest Cary Parkway Sidewalk and Pedestrian Bridge at Black Creek Greenway. Design concepts were well received, and comments mainly focused on pedestrian connectivity outside the project limits. Cary is currently working on a separate project, including signal and sidewalk installation, at the intersection of Norwell Boulevard and Northwest Cary Parkway that will address most of the pedestrian connectivity comments. Preliminary construction plans have been submitted to N.C. Department of Transportation for review, environmental permitting efforts are ongoing, and right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in early 2022.

### STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



The 2021 Street Improvements Project, which includes maintenance of about 26 miles of streets and a stormwater improvement in the Meadowmont neighborhood, reached substantial completion this quarter. Design of the 2022 project is ongoing, and construction is expected to begin this spring. Staff is also working on using technology to better share pavement condition data.

### CONNECTED VEHICLES PROJECT

Cary's fire apparatus will now experience guaranteed green lights en route to emergency response locations. This is made possible by devices installed in the trucks that communicate with those installed at every traffic signal in Cary's network. Cary activated the new emergency vehicle preemption system in December, and it will be monitored by Traffic Engineering and Fire Department personnel over the coming months. The communication devices installed at Cary's traffic signals will also allow information, such as red light warnings and pedestrian notifications, to be shared with Cary drivers.





## 20 YEARS OF GOCARY



GoCary reached an important milestone this fall, celebrating two decades of service. A favorite among passengers, bus driver Annette Whitley was also recognized for 20 years behind the wheel.

Regional service continued to expand with the launch of the Morrisville Smart Shuttle in October. Operated by GoCary, this free shuttle provides on-demand transit service to 15 locations throughout the Town of Morrisville, with additional connections to GoTriangle and Research Triangle Park. Riders use a mobile app, similar to Uber or Lyft, to request trips and track vehicles when waiting for a pickup. In addition, the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail study led by GoTriangle is wrapping up, with a final report and service recommendations expected in late spring.

## REEDY CREEK ROAD WIDENING

Work on phases 1 and 2 of the Reedy Creek Road Widening Project, including installation of sidewalks along both sides of the street from Harrison Avenue to Maynard Road, is now complete. As part of phase three, the traffic pattern shifted to the outside lanes to allow the contractor to work in the center of the street to complete the roundabouts and median islands. The overall project is scheduled to be complete this summer.

## MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS



Safety concerns for pedestrians and motorists prompted small but meaningful changes around Cary this quarter.

- Addition of pavement markings and signage, as well as vegetation changes on West Lake Road near West Lake Middle School to improve sight distance
- Removal of shrubs and tree limbs at the intersection of Walnut Street and Ryan Road to open up sight lines following several crashes and congestion
- Addition of a pedestrian crosswalk, warning signs, centerline striping, and new stop bars at Chadmore Drive and Wayfield Lane in the Windermere neighborhood in response to cut-through traffic



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



# MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS





## NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK

On Oct. 23, in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Cary Police Department took part in a National Prescription Drug Take Back event. This year, Cary collected more than 400 pounds of unused prescription drugs. Such events help curb the misuse of prescriptions to prevent drug addiction and overdoses.

## CARY IN FLIGHT

Cary continues to establish itself as a key area resource when it comes to utilizing drones in municipal operations. This quarter, with permission of homeowners, Cary used drones to capture the extensive amount of solar installation that is occurring, particularly in western Cary. The technology allowed staff to get bird's-eye views to see the different orientations of homes with solar. Staff also utilized drone imagery as part of the state's required environmental permitting process for the Citizen's Convenience Center. On the public safety side, Police used the technology to identify safety concerns in advance of the Cary Christmas Parade, and Fire assisted agencies, including Morrisville, with calls such as a search and rescue. Outside of these uses, Cary utilizes drones for crash reconstruction, surveying, signal improvement projects, and capturing photo and video of Town projects, facilities, and events, while continuing to look for new ways to use the technology to create new efficiencies.



## POLICE CADETS GRADUATE FROM POLICE ACADEMY



In December, Alfredo Del Valle, Victoria Rossway, Chase Elliott, and Milton Baker completed Wake Technical Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy. The cadets successfully completed 768 hours of intensive law enforcement training, including topics and instructional methods required by the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Areas of focus include constitutional law, ethics, elements of criminal law, mental illness and people with disabilities, patrol duties, investigations, communications, hazardous materials, and physical fitness.



## WINTER WONDERLAND



Each year, Project PHOENIX partners with nonprofit and faith-based organizations Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, Covenant Life Church, Covenant Christian Church, the U.S. Veterans Corps, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and the Cary Citizens Assisting Police team to provide gifts for deserving children. On Dec. 11, Cary police officers provided 21 children toys, hats, gloves, shoes, coats, a new bike, and a gift card.

## TESLA MODEL Y PATROL VEHICLES



This quarter, the Cary Police Department added two all-electric Tesla Model Y long-range patrol vehicles to its fleet. When it comes to its fleet, Cary actively seeks to reduce fuel consumption, save money, improve efficiency, and reduce emissions. The Tesla Model Y patrol vehicles have a 5-star safety rating from the national Highways Traffic Safety Administration in all categories and an estimated range of 324 miles on a full charge. Both vehicles will include the same safety features and utilities as the other police vehicles currently in service. While upfront costs are about \$8,000 more, the reduced operation and maintenance costs are anticipated to lower the cost of ownership by \$4,000 over the life of the vehicle when compared with the current police fleet. The Tesla Model Y patrol vehicles will be assigned to the department's Traffic Safety Team.

## FIRE PROVIDES NEIGHBORLY HELPING HAND

During heavy rains in October, Fire responded not only in town to impacts of flash flooding, including a tree down on an apartment building, but also to a request for help from Raleigh Fire to assist with rescues and evacuations of flooding victims. Fire also answered the call in December to assist Rocky Mount Fire Department in extinguishing a fire at a large QVC warehouse. Fire values opportunities to hone collaborative skills by working alongside other departments.



## CRABTREE CREEK SEWER REHAB



Work began in November to rehabilitate a 1.3-mile stretch of 48-inch sewer pipeline along the south shore of Lake Crabtree. This is the first phase of a \$12 million sewer rehabilitation project along the Crabtree Creek and Black Creek greenways. Over the last few months, contractors prepared the site, including assembling temporary piping to allow wastewater to continue to flow during the work.

In order to facilitate a safe work environment for the public and contractors, the Crabtree Creek Greenway will be closed until spring. Greenway traffic will be rerouted according to posted detour maps and signs. Upon completion of the first phase of the project in the spring, the Crabtree Creek Greenway will reopen and work will begin on the Black Creek Greenway. More information about the project and the detour route can be found at [carygreenwaydetour.com](http://carygreenwaydetour.com).

## NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED UTILITIES

In October, Water Environment Federation recognized Cary as a “Water Resources Utility of the Future” in the category of water reuse. The Utility of the Future Today Recognition Program celebrates the progress and performance of exceptional utilities for innovative and forward-thinking practices that provide sustainable, efficient, and value-added services to their community. Cary’s recognition focused on exceptional performance with water reuse during its 20 years with a reclaimed water system program.

In November, the N.C. American Water Works Association recognized Cary with Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection System of the Year awards. These annual awards go to the water distribution and wastewater collection systems that protect the public health through proactive practices of management, operations, and maintenance.

## NEW JORDAN LAKE VISION PLAN

In October, staff attended the Jordan Lake One Water Association meeting, which culminated in the finalization of the One Water Vision for Jordan Lake. This document will guide collaborative efforts with the state as it reevaluates the Jordan Rules regulations. Cary’s active involvement in the association’s initiatives aligns with its watershed protection funding effort. This ongoing investment to voluntarily protect and conserve undeveloped land in the water supply watershed is just another example of Cary’s regional leadership in environmental stewardship, a core value of the Imagine Cary SERVE chapter. The new vision plan is available at [bit.ly/JLOWvision](http://bit.ly/JLOWvision).



## WATERSHED MILESTONE REACHED

This quarter marks a watershed date for a special collection of green stormwater infrastructure programs and projects within the Walnut Creek Watershed. Funded through the \$300,000 Southeast Sustainable Communities Fund Grant that Council accepted in 2018, five programs addressed stormwater flooding and drainage, citizen education and outreach, and environmental equity. In December 2021, the grant concluded; meaningful impacts from the grant projects are described below. With the completion of these projects, Cary continues its leadership in innovative stormwater management.

- Dunham Park renovation created an opportunity to build a green infrastructure basin that helps store and treat water runoff during large storm events. The feature will reduce water runoff fourfold, addressing existing downstream flooding concerns from the adjacent neighborhood and providing water quality benefits in the upper reaches of the Walnut Creek basin.
- Five Cary residents received a financial incentive to install green stormwater measures on their property. These riparian buffer restorations, rain gardens, and rainwater harvesting system projects help manage drainage issues on the residential sites and mitigate the impact of stormwater runoff onto neighboring properties.
- With an eye on equity, Cary partnered with Step-Up Ministry to provide employment training in green infrastructure skills for Cary residents. This partnership resulted in two participants accepting full-time jobs with a local green infrastructure firm, expanding Cary’s green stormwater industry employment and capacity.

### CARY KUDOS

#### OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM WEST POINT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

On Nov. 16, Sgt. Travis Gresham and Cpl. Ken Hutchison graduated as part of the 32nd cohort of the West Point Leadership Program offered by Methodist University. This challenging 16-week leadership course is adapted from a course at West Point and is designed to inspire leaders to develop an informed, systematic, and dynamic approach to leading in police organizations.



- Additionally, Cary partnered with Partners for Environmental Justice to develop and deliver educational and outreach programs for low-income communities and communities of color. The program included door-to-door outreach to Spanish-speaking communities in Cary and Raleigh, community litter patrols, and formal classes on watershed care.
- Cary partnered with N.C. State Cooperative Extension Service and local experts to develop “Rain It In,” a series of green stormwater infrastructure videos. These 10 videos provide bite-size amounts of information and actions to help “slow rainwater down, spread it out, and soak it in.” The series will be launched to the public in April in time for Earth Day.



## HILLCREST CEMETERY CLEANUP DAY



On Oct. 2, citizens and staff volunteered to help clean up Hillcrest Cemetery. Following a demonstration of proper cleaning techniques, volunteers cleaned an entire section of the cemetery. Cleanup days are planned to occur biannually, and information on future cleanup days will be posted at [townofcary.org/hillcrest](https://townofcary.org/hillcrest).

## HOMETOWN HEROES

At its Dec.16 meeting, Council recognized the work of Cary's 14 Cary 150/Cary Magazine Hometown Heroes. During Council member Ed Yerha's History Moment, he acknowledged how each honoree went above and beyond to help others in the community during the pandemic. To read about each Hometown Hero in Cary Magazine's October issue, visit [carymagazine.com](https://carymagazine.com).

## HOMETOWN SPIRIT AWARD WINNER



Cary selected Sarah Martin as the 2021 Hometown Spirit Award recipient at the Nov. 9 Council meeting. Prior to the announcement, a reception was held at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, where Mayor Harold Weinbrecht honored each of the three finalists: Sarah Martin, Carla Michaels, and Barry Mitsch. The Hometown Spirit Award is bestowed annually on a Cary citizen who enhances the quality of life in Cary by preserving, promoting, and carrying out positive and quantifiable small-town community values and traits.





# MOVING FROM VISION TO REALITY



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



## CARY 101 GRADUATION

On Nov. 3, 17 citizens graduated from the 10-week citizens college known as Cary 101. To accommodate different comfort levels and mitigate the risks of COVID-19, participants had the option of joining each of this year's sessions virtually or in person. After covering local government basics in the Civics 101 session, the remaining content focused on Cary's operations, projects, programs, and services. Before graduating, students heard from Council regarding additional opportunities to volunteer in the community. Participants appreciated this opportunity to meet staff, check out different facilities, and learn more about their local government.

## REP. ROSS VISITS CARY

Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Council member Lori Bush, and staff hosted Rep. Deborah Ross on Nov. 12 at the Cary Arts Center. Ross received presentations regarding downtown initiatives and took a tour of the Downtown Cary Park. In honor of Cary's 150th anniversary, she presented the Town with a U.S. flag that had flown over the Capitol.

## ADVISORY BOARD ORIENTATION

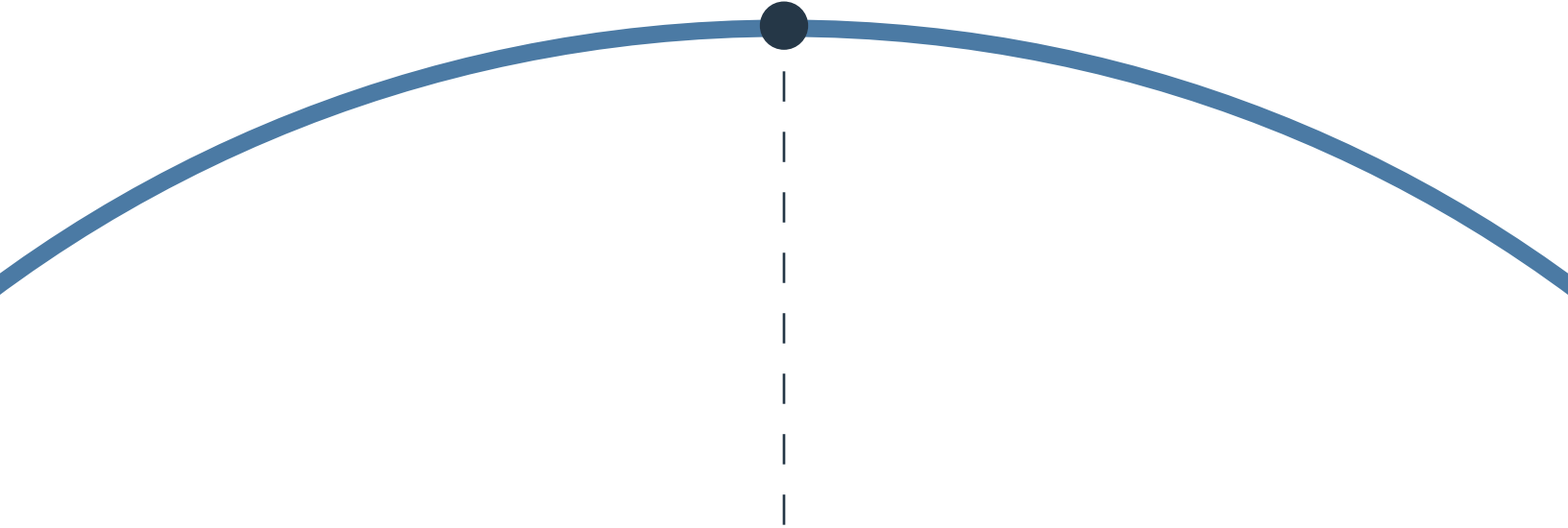
On Oct. 11, Cary hosted a new-member orientation as part of the onboarding process for the 17 new members of Council-appointed advisory boards. New members heard from staff on a variety of topics, including the OneCary culture, "Leadership on the Line," the Imagine Cary Community Plan, policies relating to board member work, public records, meeting information, and more.





Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

KEEPING CARY CARY



**TOWN of CARY**

[WWW.TOWNOFCARY.ORG/QUARTERLY](http://WWW.TOWNOFCARY.ORG/QUARTERLY)