

## Cary's "Gifting Tree Project" Terms

Cary takes great pride in enhancing the holiday season by providing undecorated trees in public spaces in Downtown Cary for our community members to adorn as part of our annual Gifting Tree Project & Heart of the Holidays Celebration. We believe in the power of this festive tradition to bring our community together, add a touch of beauty to our streets, and foster a sense of togetherness during the holidays by:

- **Community Building:** Cary's "Gifting Tree Project" serves as a wonderful opportunity for our diverse community to come together and celebrate the holiday spirit collectively. It's a chance for neighbors, friends, families, and groups to connect and share in the joy of decorating.
- **Promoting Civic Pride:** Decorating these trees not only makes our town look enchanting but also instills a sense of pride in our community. It reflects the collective creativity and spirit that defines Cary.
- **Holiday Ambiance:** The decorated trees add a touch of magic and warmth to downtown Cary, creating a festive atmosphere that draws people together during the holiday season.

Display of decorated trees expresses Cary's official sentiments supporting community building, civic pride, and a festive ambiance during the winter holiday season. To that end, display of decorated trees constitutes government speech. The areas in which Cary permits display of decorated trees are a nonpublic forum reserved for its government speech and are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the entity, individual, or the public. Cary may refuse to permit the display of any decorated tree and may remove a decorated tree or decorations at any time in its discretion.

Cary is not responsible for any damage to, or items stolen from decorated trees.

### Rules

At the time of application, participants must provide their decorating theme and a description of the ornaments ("Plan") they will use to decorate the tree for Cary's review and approval. The proposed Plan should demonstrate how the decorated tree supports Cary's goals of community building, civic pride, and holiday ambiance. If your Plan is approved, you must provide all decorations for your tree consistent with the Plan.

The following items are not allowed in tree decorating:

- Edible pieces such as berries, popcorn, dried fruit, milkbones, etc.;
- Candles, aerosol snow, or other flammable items;
- Flocking or tinsel;
- Paper, cardboard, or any other material that may be damaged due to weather conditions (unless laminated to withstand possible weather conditions); or
- Any decorations that contain, depict, or promote profanity, obscenity, violence, discrimination against a protected class as defined by Wake County Code of Ordinances § 34.01, or denigration of the law, a political party, a religion or other belief system, or a government.

The following rules apply to decorations:

- Any lights on the decorated tree must be solar lights or battery lights; electricity is not provided.
- Decorations must be attached to the provided tree or freestanding. Staking into the ground is prohibited. Attaching decorations to existing structures or landscaping is prohibited.
- Freestanding decorations must be weighed down to withstand winds.
- Decorations must not impede the walkway and must be within 3 feet of the tree. Decorations may be moved or removed at Cary's discretion.

### **Decorating Procedures**

Tree decorating will take place from Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 12 p.m. – Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10 a.m. All participants **MUST** decorate their tree within the given time frame. Trees that are undecorated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2024 may be forfeited and reallocated.

Decorated trees will remain on display through Thursday, January 2, 2025. Plan to remove the decorations from your tree between Friday, December 27, 2024 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

All trees and any remaining ornaments will be disposed of on January 2nd.

### **Judging**

The public is invited to cast their vote for People's Choice from Saturday, December 7, 2024 – Sunday, December 22, 2024, via the voting form at [www.carync.gov/joy](http://www.carync.gov/joy). The People's Choice winner will have a generous \$500 donation made in their name to a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of their choice. In addition to first place, we will also have a \$250 donation for second place, and a \$100 donation for third place. People may vote only once for their favorite tree. Winners will be announced via email and @caryncgov on Facebook by January 3, 2025.