



**COUNCIL
QUARTERLY
REPORT**

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2024 FIRST QUARTER

CARY MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBERS

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



Councilmember
Lori Bush



Councilmember
Ryan Eades



Councilmember
Jennifer Bryson Robinson



Councilmember
Jack Smith



Councilmember
Carissa Kohn-Johnson

On the cover: Neither the record heat nor the forecast rain — which luckily stayed away — deterred Lazy Daze attendees and organizers. With a massive turnout of over 40,000 people, the energy was electric from start to finish.

CHANGE CAN BE CHALLENGING, SOMETIMES UNEXPECTED, AND EVEN UNWELCOME.

It often requires us to face feelings of loss. But change can also make way for new opportunities and different experiences and provide us the space for introspection, reflection, and growth.

Change has been on my mind this quarter as we continue to experience and adapt to it as an organization and a community. We're seeing the change from summer to fall as we close out annual summer camps and host events like Lazy Daze and Asia Fest. We're anticipating the upcoming shift on the Council to come following the recent election. And we're preparing for the transition from having a downtown before the Downtown Cary Park to one that has been transformed.

In the midst of all the changes we face every day, Cary continues to remain a great place to live, work, and play — the kind that attracts teams like Chelsea and Wrexham football clubs to play on our turf. The kind that always strives to do and inspire more. As I've said before, this is because of our people — our elected public servants and our staff — and the drive to serve that we share.

As we celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Facility, it reminds me that Cary would not be what it is today if not for the foresight of those who served before us. I hope that 30 years from now we've built the same foundation and created the same legacy for those who follow.

We've had a very busy start to FY 2024, and we look forward to sharing further updates with you at our Quarterly Meeting on Nov. 9.

Live Inspired,

Sean R. Stegall

Sean R. Stegall
Town Manager



IN MOVING CARY FORWARD

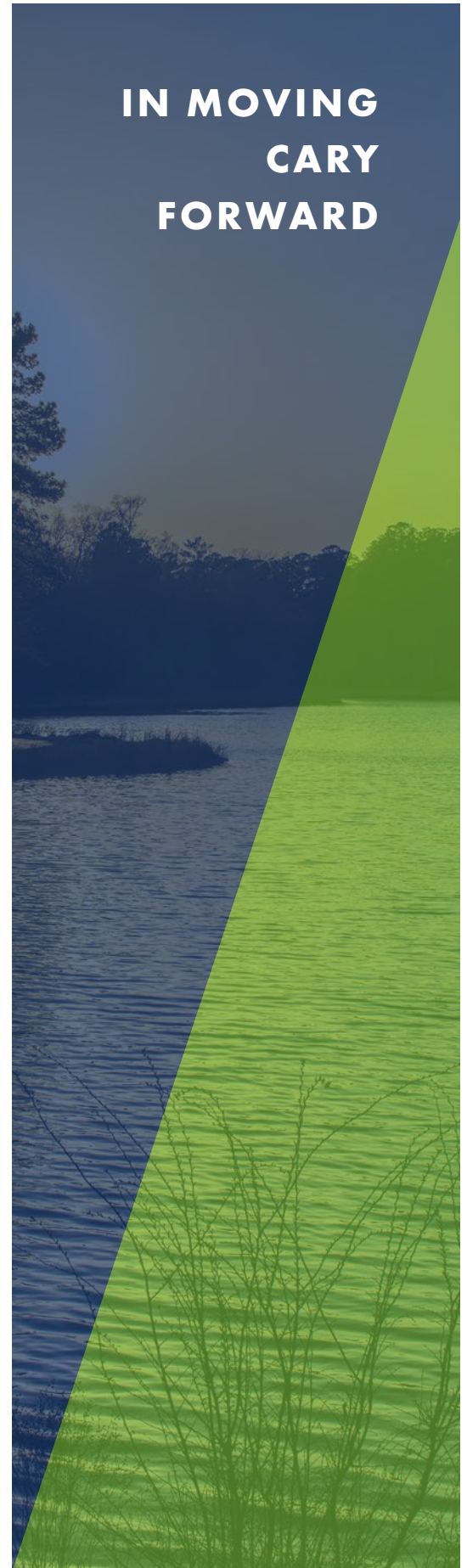


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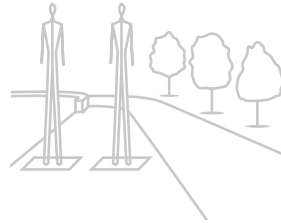
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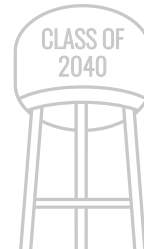
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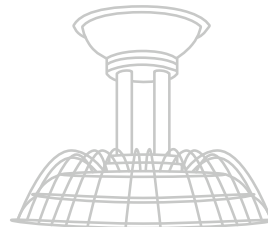
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2024

Q1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This financial snapshot presents a general overview of the financial operations for Q1 ending Sept. 30, 2023, which is 25% of FY 2024. The financial summaries provide comparative data for revenues and expenditures for the General and Utility Funds. The data shows year-to-date information as compared with the same period in the prior year.

The fiscal year began July 1 with an approved \$524 million budget supporting both operating and capital spending. Cary maintained the property tax rate of \$0.345 per \$100 of assessed value. The FY 2024 budget focuses on maintaining services, housing, public safety, parks, and the environment.

The utility base and volumetric rates for water, sewer, and irrigation increased by 3% for a typical ratepayer this fiscal year. Cary is committed to providing the highest-quality, safest drinking water and utility services while keeping the financial impacts to consumers in mind. This commitment is evident in Cary’s strategy for eliminating large utility rate spikes by implementing smaller, more frequent rate adjustments in accordance with Cary’s 10-year financial forecasting model. The decision to slightly increase utility rates is in line with this forecasting model, and the model allows staff to forecast both current operational needs as well as future infrastructure needs. More information can be found in the operating and capital budget at carync.gov.

Although it is too early to provide year-end projections, we will continue to monitor patterns quarterly to ensure results are in line with budget and policy guidelines.



FY 2024 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

GENERAL FUND

FY 2024 Q1 GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
REVENUES	\$ 270.1	\$ 26.6	10%	\$ 25.2	\$ 1.4	6%
EXPENDITURES	270.1	71.0	26%	79.6	(8.6)	-11%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (44.4)	-	\$ (54.4)	\$ 10.0	-18%

* 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, expenditures surpassed revenues this quarter. This is expected and consistent with prior years as revenues are not received evenly over the year. Expenditures decreased overall by 11% primarily due to decreases in transfers to capital project funds and the timing of debt service payments. More details about these decreases can be found in the General Fund Expenditures section.



FY 2024 Q1 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
PROPERTY TAX	\$ 122.2	\$ 18.6	15%	\$ 17.7	\$ 0.9	5%
OTHER TAXES & LICENSES	66.0	0.3	0%	0.2	0.1	50%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	12.0	0.4	3%	0.3	0.1	33%
PERMITS & FEES	5.7	0.9	16%	1.1	(0.2)	-18%
SALES & SERVICES	26.2	5.9	23%	5.6	0.3	5%
MISCELLANEOUS	2.3	0.2	9%	0.1	0.1	100%
OPERATING REVENUES	234.4	26.3	11%	25.0	1.3	5%
NONOPERATING	35.7	0.3	1%	0.2	0.1	50%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 270.1	\$ 26.6	10%	\$ 25.2	\$ 1.4	6%

Overall, FY 2024 General Fund revenues increased 6% compared with the same period in FY 2023. While most of Cary’s revenues remained fairly consistent when compared with last year, revenues can fluctuate year to year due to the timing of allocations from state and federal sources.



Image Credit: Alyson Boyer Rode

OPERATING REVENUES

Property Tax revenue is 45% 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 2023 and are due no later than Jan. 5, 2024. Therefore, most real property tax revenue will be received during Q2. Conversely, personal property tax revenue 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 property tax rate remained unchanged at \$0.345 for FY 2024, and Q1 revenues totaled \$18.6 million, which is almost \$1 million more than the tax revenue received in FY 2023. It’s too early in the fiscal year to make projections on property tax. This revenue will continue to be evaluated, and significant variances will be reported in future quarters.

Permits and Fees revenue saw a decrease of 18% compared with the prior year mainly due to a decline in building permits issued. Nonresidential permits decreased by 23% and residential permits decreased nominally by 1% compared with FY 2023. This revenue source is highly dependent on development within Cary. The timing of development fluctuates, and the associated permits and fees revenue will be in line with those fluctuations.

Sales and Services revenue increased 5%, primarily due to a \$200,000 increase in sponsorship revenue at the Cary Tennis Park resulting from the two Atlantic Tire Championships held in Q1.



FY 2024 Q1 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 67.3	\$ 18.7	28%	\$ 13.2	\$ 5.5	42%
PUBLIC SAFETY	71.1	19.5	27%	14.8	4.7	32%
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)	64.3	15.0	23%	11.6	3.4	29%
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE	21.9	4.5	21%	3.8	0.7	18%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	225.2	57.7	26%	43.4	14.3	33%
NONOPERATING	44.9	13.3	30%	36.2	(22.9)	-63%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 270.1	\$ 71.0	26%	\$ 79.6	\$ (8.6)	-11%

General Fund operating expenditures increased by 33% compared with FY 2023. A \$4.7 million increase in Public Safety and a \$3.4 million increase in Operations were primarily due to vehicle purchases in the police and public works departments, respectively. In the police department, Cary is focused on creating a single assigned vehicle fleet program to serve as a positive recruitment tool and a force multiplier during critical situations. Vehicle purchases townwide were delayed in FY 2023 due to supply chain shortages, and Cary was able to make those purchases this quarter.

A \$5.5 million increase in General Government is mainly driven by IT software renewal, software maintenance, and contracted services costs, as well as by townwide initiatives led by the town manager’s office. The increases in IT and the town manager’s office allow Cary to continue focusing on creating a connected workforce and community. The initiatives include management and rollout of the new Downtown Cary Park and evaluation of current and future townwide information systems.

Nonoperating expenditures decreased because of lower transfers for capital needs and also due to the timing of reported debt service payments. The timing difference with the debt service payments will be eliminated in Q2 of FY 2024.

Encumbrances represent funds that have been reserved in Cary’s financial reporting system to satisfy a commitment to make a purchase. The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances in the financial system that are remaining at the end of Q1. After accounting for year-to-date spending and the encumbrances listed below, the General Fund has about \$171.1 million of budgeted funds available for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS —
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q1)**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$	9,019,788
PUBLIC SAFETY		4,843,353
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)		12,316,856
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE		1,186,372
NONOPERATING		600,195
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$	27,966,564



UTILITY FUND

FY 2024 Q1 UTILITY FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
REVENUES	\$ 105.3	\$ 19.5	19%	\$ 18.5	\$ 1.0	5%
EXPENDITURES	105.3	27.9	26%	27.2	0.7	3%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (8.4)	-	\$ (8.7)	\$ 0.3	3%

* 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 in FY 2024 remained stable compared with FY 2023. Both revenues and expenditures had minor increases.



FY 2024 Q1 UTILITY FUND REVENUES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
WATER SERVICE	\$ 34.8	\$ 7.8	22%	\$ 7.4	\$ 0.4	5%
SEWER SERVICE	53.6	10.7	20%	10.3	0.4	4%
PERMITS & FEES	2.0	0.7	35%	0.7	0.0	0%
OPERATING REVENUES	90.4	19.2	21%	18.4	0.8	4%
NONOPERATING	14.9	0.3	2%	0.1	0.2	200%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND REVENUES	\$ 105.3	\$ 19.5	19%	\$ 18.5	\$ 1.0	5%

Utility revenues in FY 2024 have risen slightly compared with FY 2023 levels. The marginal increases in water and sewer revenue align with the 3% hike in water and sewer rates in the FY 2024 budget. Also contributing to this increase is growth in Cary’s population over the past year. The implications of this on a family of four is an additional \$2.57 per month in their total utility bill.

Nonoperating revenues in FY 2024 were greater than FY 2023 due to an increase in investment earnings. Investment earnings are allocated based off each fund’s cash balance as a percentage of total cash. Interest rates have increased steadily since Q1 of last fiscal year. More information on investment earnings can be found in the Cash and Investment section of this report.



Image Credit: Alyson Boyer Rode

FY 2024 Q1 UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	FY 2023 VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 14.7	\$ 2.7	18%	\$ 2.4	\$ 0.3	13%
FIELD OPERATIONS	21.9	4.7	21%	4.0	0.7	18%
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	17.8	2.8	16%	2.9	(0.1)	-3%
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (NET OF APEX)	13.5	2.7	20%	3.0	(0.3)	-10%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	67.9	12.9	19%	12.3	0.6	5%
NONOPERATING	37.4	15.0	40%	14.9	0.1	1%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 105.3	\$ 27.9	26%	\$ 27.2	\$ 0.7	3%

Utility operating spending remained fairly consistent with only a 5% increase compared with FY 2023. The increase is due not to one or two large items but rather to marginal increases across multiple departments.

The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances for the Utility Fund remaining at the end of Q1. After accounting for year-to-date spending and the encumbrances, the Utility Fund has approximately \$69.1 million in the budget for use for the remainder of the year.

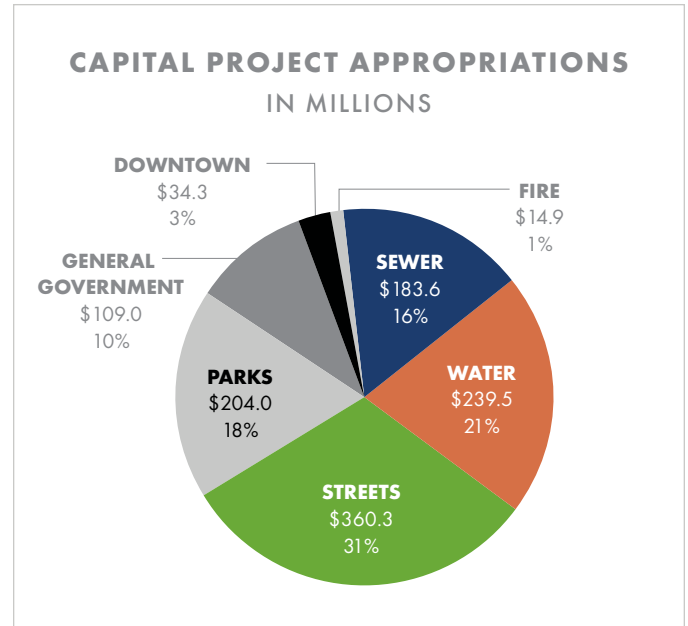
UTILITY FUND OPERATIONS —
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q1)

ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,099,005
FIELD OPERATIONS	899,526
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	3,225,989
WATER TREATMENT PLANT (NET OF APEX)	3,092,080
NONOPERATING	13,375
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 8,329,975

CAPITAL PROJECTS

As of Q1, Cary has 500 active capital projects. Utility capital projects, with a total budget of \$423.1 million, constitute 37% of the capital budget authorization. General capital projects total \$722.5 million, or 63%, of the total \$1.1 billion capital budget authorization.

Capital project spending totaled \$15.2 million in Q1 of FY 2024. The fluctuation in capital spending is due to the timing in which projects become active or near completion. The three largest investments in capital for the community in Q1 were \$1.4 million for street improvements, \$900,000 for the widening of Carpenter Fire Station Road, and \$800,000 for the construction of the Winding Pine Regional Pump Station. Because the mix of capital projects changes over time, there are no discernible patterns in capital spending.



CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING THROUGH Q1 (IN MILLIONS)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
DOWNTOWN	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.7	\$ -	\$ 0.7	\$ 1.3
FIRE	1.6	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	2.9
PARKS	2.3	15.4	4.2	9.6	2.2
STREETS	1.4	5.1	2.1	6.1	4.6
SEWER	3.8	4.3	1.6	4.7	2.3
WATER	2.1	2.6	2.8	0.7	1.8
TOTAL	\$ 12.9	\$ 29.4	\$ 12.0	\$ 23.1	\$ 15.2

BUDGET

MIDYEAR APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2024 operating budget includes \$1 million to support emerging or unforeseen needs that arise during the fiscal year. There were no Q1 midyear appropriations by Council, leaving the full \$1 million available for use during the remainder of the fiscal year. Additionally, Q1 saw no appropriations of General or Utility Capital Reserve fund balance for capital needs.

Q1 DELEGATED BUDGET AUTHORITY ACTION

Throughout the fiscal year, challenges and opportunities develop that warrant financial resources not included in the original budget. Staff can often redirect existing resources to address the highest-priority 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 Q1 of FY 2024.

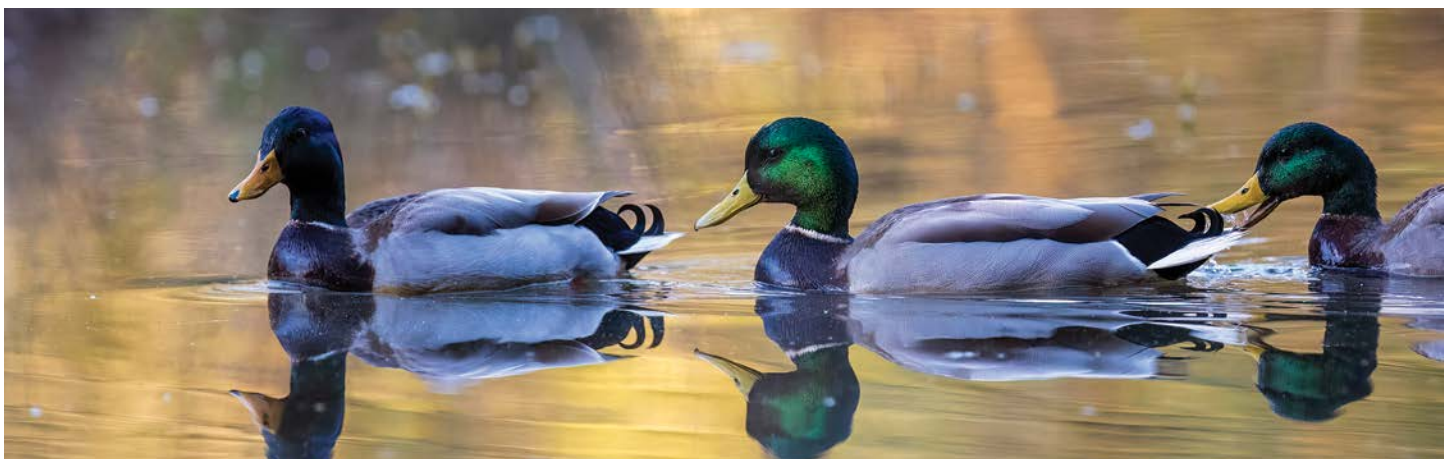
BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Citizens are invited to share their budget priorities throughout the year specifically via social media, voicemail, and email. There were no budget public input comments received via these channels in Q1.

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cary's cash and investments totaled about \$498 million for Q1. In addition, Cary has about \$39 million in unspent bond proceeds. Cary maintains over \$50 million in daily liquidity accounts to ensure it has immediate access to funds. The bond proceeds are also maintained in daily liquidity accounts to support large bond-funded capital expenditures. The balance of Cary's investments are in fixed income securities that first, ensure the safety of the principal; second, provide quick access to additional funds for any unforeseen needs (liquidity); and finally, earn the maximum interest income. These securities are scheduled to mature in regular increments over the next three to four years to match projected disbursements for payroll and expenditures.

Since March 2022, the federal funds rate has risen by more than 5 percentage points, which has resulted in higher available interest rates. Cary's cash balances are expected to increase in Q2 and will peak in the early part of Q3 due to the influx of property tax receipts.



LIVE

FOSTERING STRONG
NEIGHBORHOODS





ONE OF CARY'S OLDEST HOTELS TO BE REPLACED

Cary's first chain hotel, the Best Western on Walnut Street, is set to be replaced by a seven-story Residence Inn by Marriott. The plan is for the building, which was built in 1984 and is now owned by Cary's CMC Hotels, to have 124 rooms.

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Cary issued 91 permits for new detached residential and townhouses in Q1. The top subdivisions permitted were Courtyards at West Cary (38), Abberly Alston (11), Estates at Weddington (6), and Young Farm (6). Overall, permits for new detached residential and townhouses decreased by 39 permits in comparison with Q1 of FY 2023.

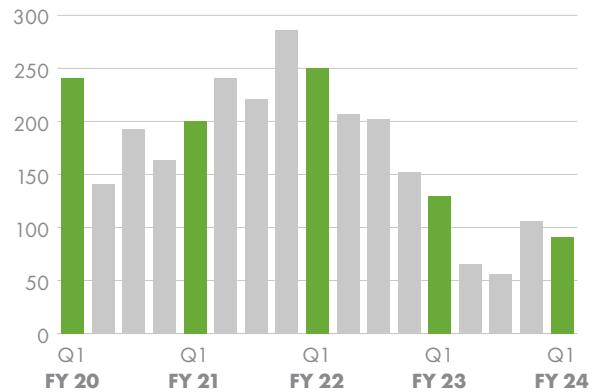
Cary issued 104 detached residential and townhouse certificates of occupancy in Q1, an average of 1.6 certificates per workday. This is fewer in comparison with the COs issued in Q1 of FY 2023, which was 198. The subdivisions receiving the most COs were Carpenters Pointe Townhomes (24), Courtyards at West Cary (13), Carpenter (9), and Pipers Grove (9).

Cary did not issue any building permits for new multifamily units in Q1.

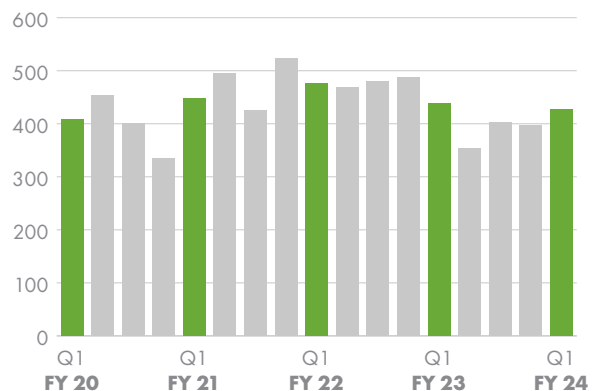
RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

In Q1, Cary issued 428 permits for residential alterations and additions. This is a decrease of 11 permits from the same period last year and an increase of 32 permits from last quarter.

DETACHED RESIDENTIAL & TOWNHOUSE PERMITS ISSUED
5-YEAR COMPARISON



RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
5-YEAR COMPARISON





WORK

ASSURING
CONTINUED
PROSPERITY





MAKING AN INCLUSION IMPACT



The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Total Employee Health team celebrated National Inclusion Week from Sept. 25–29 to raise awareness, share best practices, and build community around the topic of inclusion. Aligning with this year’s national theme — Take Action and Make Impact! — the weeklong slate of activities empowered employees with quick and easy-to-implement resources through targeted activities to help foster inclusion within the organization and throughout the community.

CARY CARBON CAPTURE COMPANY RAISES FUNDS

Sustaera, a Cary-based carbon capture technology company, has raised \$750,000 toward its desired \$1.25 million in equity in its latest round of financing. This follows its receipt of a \$1 million grant in 2022 and nearly \$5 million raised in equity in December 2021. According to the company, Sustaera’s Direct Air Capture Technology uses “renewable energy that will allow us to remove, replace, and reuse carbon at a massive scale to enable a cleaner future.”





ENGAGE

**EXPERIENCING THE
CARY COMMUNITY**





CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SPECIALIZED RECREATION

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Specialized Recreation and Inclusion staff, families, and friends gathered in September at the Bond Park boathouse and lakefront to celebrate 10 years of programming and services. Bond Park is where Cary held the first “meet and greet” in fall 2013 when Specialized Recreation and Inclusion Services began. Since then, people of all ages with disabilities have benefited from a variety of specialized recreation program offerings in art, dance, performing arts, culinary, fitness, nature education, outdoor recreation, sports, social gatherings, parent workshops, and special events.

In addition to Specialized Recreation programming, Inclusion services have provided ongoing support to hundreds of individuals, giving them the opportunity to participate in any Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources program or event alongside individuals without disabilities. More than 60 people attended this festive celebration for an evening of socializing, participating in a scavenger hunt, boating, listening to favorite tunes, eating delicious food, and drinking signature mocktails named creatively by staff.





PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Cary is about halfway through its planning process to update its Parks and Open Space Plan in the Imagine Cary Community Plan. To date, staff has reviewed background information, held stakeholder meetings, and conducted public outreach. Next, some of Cary’s boards will hear presentations and be asked for feedback before recommendations are finalized. As part of this quarter’s outreach, Cary held several public meetings and had a booth at Lazy Daze to solicit feedback. A collage activity gathered input on what citizens desire. In addition, residents were asked to share ideas and shape the future of Cary’s parks and open spaces via an online feedback form.

LAZY DAZE ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

PHOTOGRAPHED RIGHT

Neither the record heat nor the forecast rain — which luckily stayed away — deterred Lazy Daze attendees and organizers. With a massive turnout of over 40,000 people, the energy was electric from start to finish. The music was on point, the art was inspiring, and the sense of community was heartwarming. From the new Pixel Wall to Paint by Number, the food trucks to the cultural celebrations, not to mention the hundreds of artists showcasing their work, Lazy Daze was a great success. Visitor and vendor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with more than 85% of Happy or Not survey takers pressing the green happy buttons during the festival.



Image Credit: Alyson Boyer Rode



CARY HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL ASIA FEST

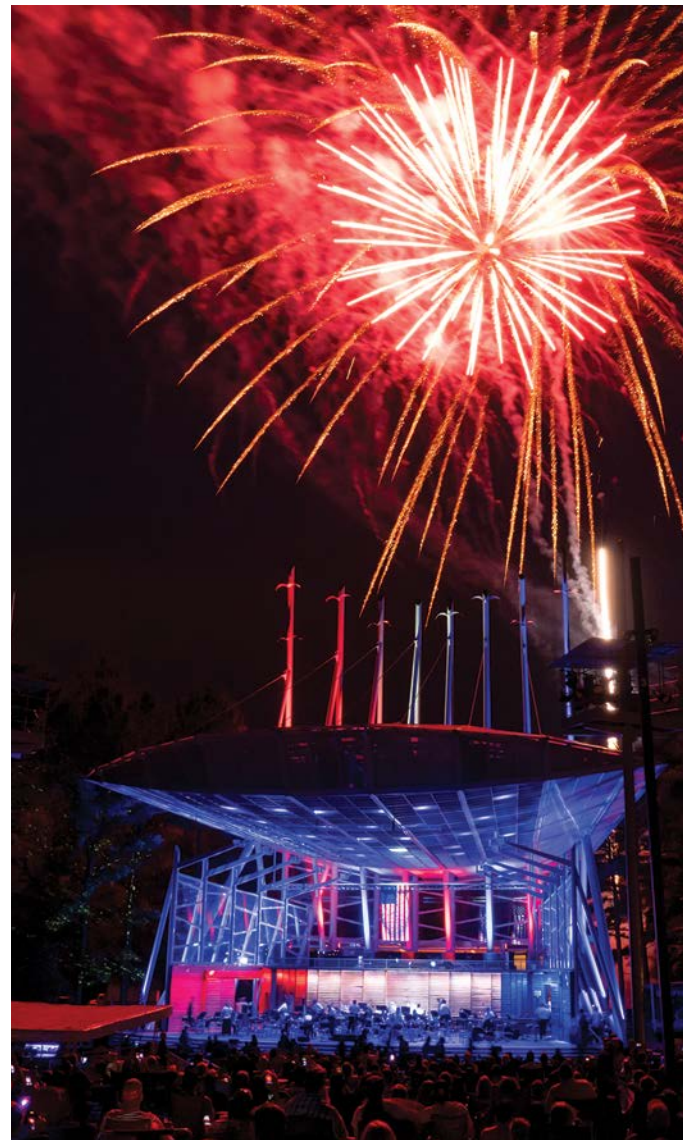


In September, Cary-based nonprofit, Asia Focus Inc., produced its 8th annual Asia Fest at Koka Booth Amphitheatre. Organizers estimated about 10,000 attended the festival, which featured a variety of pan-Asian foods, arts and crafts, cultural performances, and a health fair. The main events were the Dragon Boat Races on Symphony Lake. Members of Cary's fire and police departments fielded a race team this year with Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and Morrisville's Mayor TJ Cawley.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Cary welcomed more than 15,000 people to its Independence Day Celebration at Koka Booth Amphitheatre, which included performances by the Cary Town Band and the North Carolina Symphony. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, joined by U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross, provided a warm welcome from the stage. Councilmembers Jennifer Robinson, Jack Smith, Carissa Kohn-Johnson, and Ryan Eades also attended with family and friends.





ATLANTIC TIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cary hosted the second Atlantic Tire Championship of the year in September as well as an additional pro tennis tournament in August. The August event, a Men's Professional Challenger 75 tournament offering \$80,000 in prize money, saw more than 3,000 in attendance. In singles, Adam Walton of Australia defeated Nicolas Moreno De Alboran of the United States. In doubles, U.S. players Evan King and Reese Stalder defeated Latvia's Mikelis Libietis and Australia's Adam Walton. During the September tournament, American Zachary Svajda defeated Australian Rinky Hijikata. The Men's Challenger 75 brought in big crowds with players ranked in the top 200 in the world.

CHALLENGE CUP

In September, Cary and the NC Courage hosted the UKG NWSL Challenge Cup final at WakeMed Soccer Park. With only two days notice, Cary staff worked diligently to set up and ensure the event ran smoothly. Just three hours before kickoff, the stadium field at WakeMed Soccer Park sat under two inches of water because of a quick-moving storm. Due to the field quality, resources, and countless hours the Public Works staff dedicates to maintaining the field, the match started without delay. Aired in front of a national TV audience, the NC Courage won the Challenge Cup for the second year in a row and will share the largest prize pool to date of \$1.1 million.





WAKEMED SOCCER PARK HOSTS AMERICAN FOOTBALL GAMES

In August, Cary hosted American football for the first time ever at WakeMed Soccer Park. Cary, Wake County Public School System Athletics, and the U.S. Army came together to create the first annual “Be All You Can Be Clash,” which served as the kickoff event for high school football in Wake County. Millbrook opened the night with a 28-point victory over Apex Friendship. Middle Creek then defeated Fuquay-Varina by a nail-biting score of 17–14. This event, along with The Soccer Tournament and NCAA lacrosse, are showcasing Cary’s sports venues as versatile and nimble as staff continue to expand to other creative uses.



PREMIER SOCCER TEAMS TRAIN AT WAKEMED SOCCER PARK



In July, WakeMed Soccer Park hosted Chelsea Football Club and Wrexham Associated Football Club for an open training, giving 4,000 fans a chance to get an up-close look at how they prepare for a match. Attendees had the unique opportunity to get pictures and autographs and to share stories with some of the world’s best soccer players. Cary worked closely with the North Carolina Football Club to create a first-class experience for these world-renowned clubs. At a debrief with Cary staff at the end of the night, Chelsea mentioned that they might make WakeMed Soccer Park their home base for their U.S. tour in the future. Chelsea staff were amazed that the field quality at WakeMed Soccer Park was equal to their own training fields in England.



BILLY STRINGS CONCERTS SELL OUT

Fan favorite Billy Strings returned to Cary’s Koka Booth Amphitheatre for three consecutive sold-out performances in July. Over 20,000 fans enjoyed three completely different shows from the Grammy Award-winning artist, who has built his reputation on delivering high-energy, dynamic live performances. For the second year in a row, Billy Strings has broken attendance records at Koka Booth Amphitheatre.



SUMMER CAMPS



The summer of 2023 saw a fun-filled season of opportunities for youth in the Cary community. Over 440 half-day and full-day camp options at 15 different facility locations across Cary kept youth busy all summer. Camp programming included specialty offerings like arts, drama, ceramics, outdoor recreation, action sports, traditional sports, and weekly field trips. Camps had over 7,000 registrations and served 2,685 unique camp participants, representing a 53% participation increase over 2022. Thanks goes out to all Cary’s sensational 100-plus seasonal staff and interns who make summer camps a success each year.



APPLAUSE! CARY YOUTH THEATRE

In July, Applause! Cary Youth Theatre presented “James and the Giant Peach,” the company’s first summer intensive program. Over the course of five weeks, a group of 19 teenagers worked onstage and behind the scenes to develop the show through rehearsals, prop/set/costume creation, and acting workshops with a variety of theater professionals. Over 600 audience members enjoyed the Roald Dahl classic tale, including 120 Bond Park summer campers, who attended the final dress rehearsal. Applause! Cary Youth Theatre looks forward to establishing the tradition of annual summer intensive productions every summer.

BEYOND: THE CARY FILM FESTIVAL

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

BEYOND: The Cary Film Festival returned in September for its sixth year of celebrating short films by independent filmmakers from around the world. This year, Cary was excited to welcome over 1,200 attendees to The Cary Theater and nearly 150 film and screenplay submissions from independent filmmakers whose works competed for more than \$6,000 in cash and prizes. The competition lineup featured 22 short films from the United States, France, and Israel and a live table reading of the Grand Jury winner for best screenplay, “Infinity Care,” a personal, heartfelt story that paid tribute to the screenwriter’s late daughter. The opening night film, “In the Bubble with Jaime,” directed by filmmaker Emily Harrold, was presented in partnership with the Southern Documentary Fund.





ONE DAY WONDER



In honor of Constitution Week, 200 people came to the One Day Wonder display at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center on Sept. 22. Sponsored by the Samuel Johnston and Asbury Station chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the display featured a section of the original 1766 North Carolina State Constitution and Declaration of Rights, North Carolina's copy of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, the 1868 State Constitution, and other supporting documents. Members of the DAR and Sons of the American Revolution dressed in period costumes to serve as guides.

POPSICLES, PLAYTIME, AND PUPS

On Aug. 13, friends and neighbors gathered at Jack Smith Park for Popsicles, Playtime, and Pups, an end-of-summer event filled with games, crafts, bubbles, dog fun, and a doggie kissing booth. It was a hot day with temperatures in the 90s, but that didn't stop close to 250 humans and 60-plus canines from having fun in the sun. The Pup Parade started off the event, which honored the NC Year of the Trail. Pups sporting costumes paraded around the sprayground sidewalk. Then kids and adults enjoyed the activities and cooled off in the sprayground and with popsicles.

CROC WALK

Over 250 people donned their Crocs for the Where Community Grows Croc Walk on the Swift Creek Greenway in July. After the walk, participants enjoyed the music of My Cousin Skinny as well as Kona Ice and other food trucks. Kids and parents alike played yard games and joined others in their community in a friendly game of 9 square.



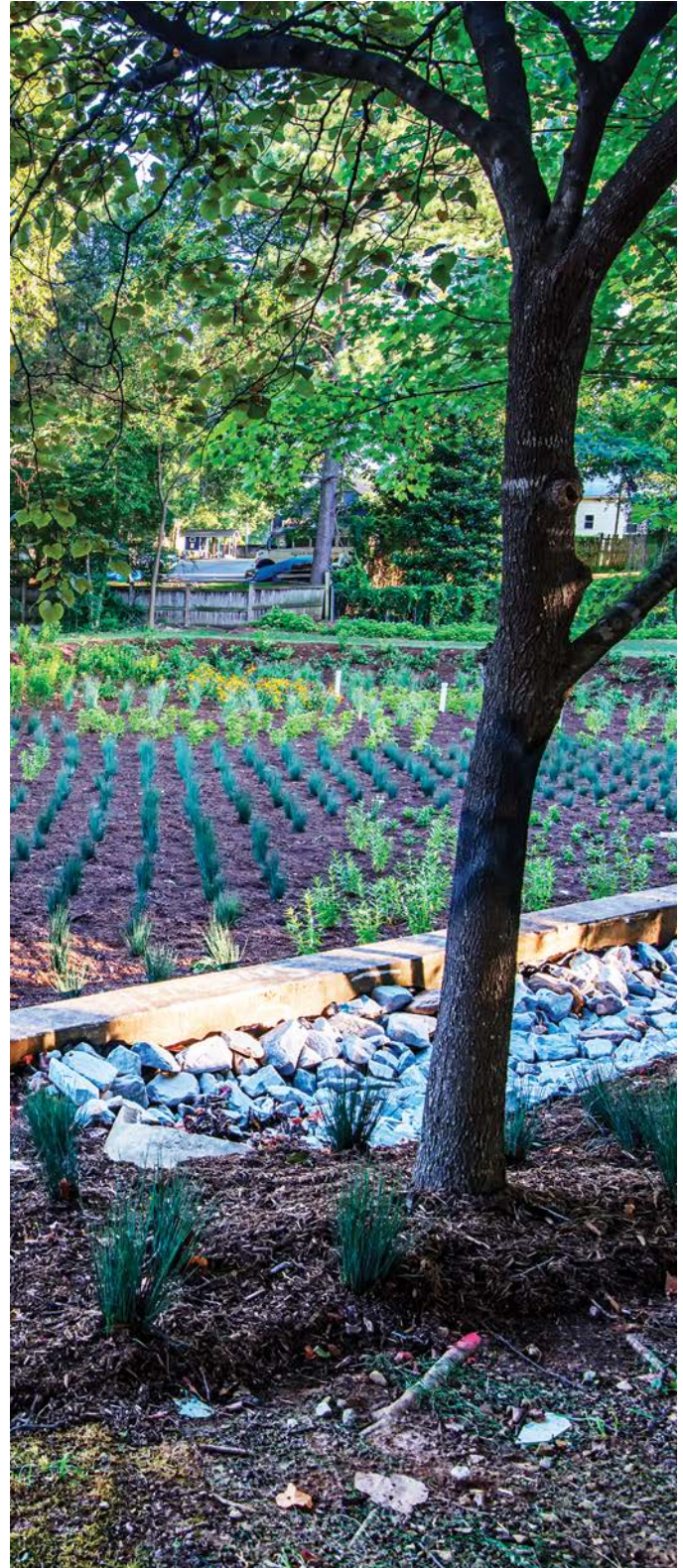


SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Cary's Sustainability and Climate Action Strategy has reached the final phase of development. Sept. 1 marked the culmination of the community survey period for the associated outreach and education campaign, Count me in, Cary! — Stewardship Strategies for a Sustainable Future. This phase transitioned from goal setting to the creation of a comprehensive strategy, guided by invaluable input from the community. During this time, Cary's dedicated team, including staff, climate ambassadors, and equity partners, connected with more than 110,000 people from a diverse representation of Cary's population via 25 community events, two focus group meetings, two workshops, 15 presentations, about 3,000 in-person interactions, and dozens of online points of engagement. The campaign resulted in an impressive 3,786 responses across the six focus area surveys.

Preliminary results demonstrate citizens' desire to protect natural resources, reduce waste, and champion renewable energy initiatives. As Cary crafts blueprints for actionable goals and a metrics dashboard, it is already making significant headway in these areas.





NATURAL RESOURCES

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

This quarter, Cary has been nurturing nature through numerous native planting programs, urban forestry, and pollinator support. At the end of summer, three new native-plant gardens emerged at Carpenter Park and Fire Stations 1 and 5 that are designed to restore ecosystems, replenish groundwater, and provide essential habitats. These areas are unique due to their ever-changing aesthetic, mirroring the seasons and creating a contrast with their surroundings. Additionally, signage was installed at these sites and about 20 other locations to promote awareness that Cary is protecting and integrating healthy ecosystems into the landscape across town.

In September, Cary played a leading role in hosting The Great NC Tree Conference 2023 in partnership with the North Carolina Urban Forest Council. The event supported the professional development of 185 urban forestry experts and included site tours around town highlighting streetscapes, the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility, and Hemlock Bluffs as excellent examples of municipal urban forestry management. Cary's dedication to its urban forest is further exemplified by the addition of Leslie Moorman, Cary's new urban forester.

Cary's commitment to natural resources extends to the world of pollinators with honeybees as a familiar mascot to educate staff and residents. Successful beekeeping at the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility in 2022 led to a nine-month trial period beginning in March to augment efforts and identify opportunities. As part of this pilot program, community volunteers and staff across departments embarked on a journey of learning about beekeeping and pollinator protection, including the unanticipated experience of a small honey harvest at the end of July. The success midway through the pilot exceeded expectations, and staff are moving toward long-term sustainable approaches, evaluating existing and developing new policy and procedures associated with pollinator ecosystems, bees, and honey. In late September, about 30 staff signed up for the online beginner Beekeepers and Engagement Education System course with North Carolina State University to expand their knowledge and help inform the next phases of this trial.





GOOD HOPE FARM EXEMPLIFIES CLIMATE ACTION



Environmental engagement events connected more than 1,000 Cary citizens to education and outreach opportunities this quarter. Compost workshops, native plant classes, and Good Hope Farm volunteer workdays highlighted Cary's commitment to climate action values while providing hands-on instruction. Also, September marked the arrival of the third annual Harvest Fest event series. This celebration of community and sustainability attracted hundreds of participants for an afternoon of agritourism, history, and environmental education. The event brought together 12 farmers, nine nonprofits, six sustainable businesses, and four of Cary's environmental initiative areas, resulting in an afternoon of family-friendly fun at Good Hope Farm. Guests had the opportunity to purchase fresh produce and green-themed crafts while engaging in conversations with experts. Collaborating with community partners brought together industry experts from a wide range of environmental fields, including solar, ecology, wildlife, waste, and water quality. Harvest Fests will continue throughout the fall.





ENERGY

Building on the success of the 2022 campaign, Cary’s participation in the Solarize the Triangle 2023 initiative continues to illuminate the path toward clean energy. Leveraging bulk purchasing, this campaign reduces the cost of solar-energy and battery-storage installations, making clean energy more accessible to residential and commercial residents. This affordability is further augmented by federal tax credits, thoroughly explained in a no-strings-attached evaluation that provides comprehensive information on solar system performance details, warranties, and cost recovery timelines. The campaign enrollment period wrapped up this quarter with 40 new property owners expressing interest in converting to solar energy. The addition of Sara Caliendo as Cary’s new energy manager and the ongoing development of the Sustainability and Climate Action Strategy demonstrate Cary’s unwavering commitment to renewable energy projects.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Cary hosted two more Repair Café events and a sewing machine maintenance workshop in July and September. In total, these events welcomed more than 120 citizens bringing items to repair and keep out of the landfill. Local “fix-it coaches” volunteered their time and skills to service chairs, turntables, toys, electric scooters, and more. These free events bring the community together to share and teach repair skills, encourage appreciation and value of materials, and support waste-reduction efforts.





Image Credit: Alyson Boyer Rode

SHAPE

GUIDING
COMMUNITY
GROWTH





FENTON COMPLETES MAIN STREET CONSTRUCTION

In August 2023, the final phase of the last building on Fenton Main Street was completed. The Allison at Fenton, which staged its opening over six phases between January and August, is now occupying all of its common areas, recreational spaces, and the 357 apartments in the six-story building. As of September 2023, just over half of The Allison’s units were under lease, with 46% of the units occupied.

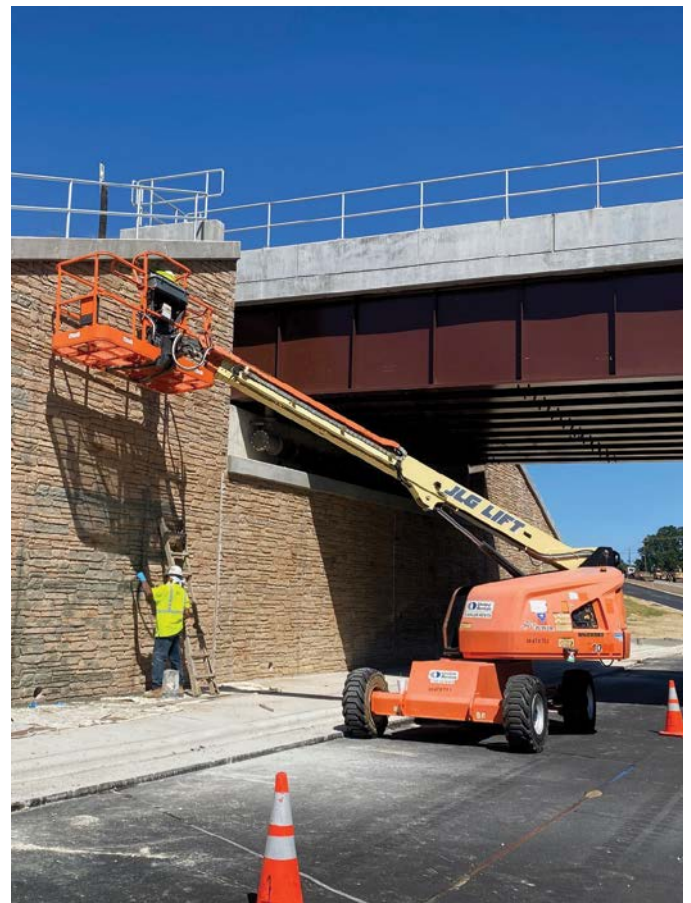
Fenton’s office space is two-thirds leased, with nine tenants. Discussions are underway with several additional tenants, and the developer anticipates fully leasing all of the remaining office space by early 2024. As of September 2023, CAMPO, IPS, and HHHunt have opened at One Fenton Main Street, and American Tower and Cushman & Wakefield are busy upfitting their spaces to open later this year.

During 2023, several new retailers opened at Fenton, including Blue Mercury, Faherty, Warby Parker, Von Kekel Salon, Boardroom Salon, and Face Foundrie. A new restaurant and bar, Sports & Social, also opened in the spring of 2023. As of September, Fenton’s retail spaces on Main Street are 95% leased. The development now includes a total of 30 retail tenants, nine restaurants and bars, five office tenants, and the movie theater.

In September, the developer met with Cary to share plans to build a new parking deck that would be located on the site of the temporary parking lot on the western side of the development (south of the theater along Ridgeview Walk Drive). The deck is envisioned to be constructed on an expedited schedule in 2024, between end-of-the-year holiday seasons.

DEVELOPERS VIE TO REIMAGINE DOWNTOWN

In response to Cary’s call for proposals to redevelop 28 acres of Town-owned land encompassing the Town Hall campus, 18 developers submitted applications. The purpose of this request for qualifications is to identify a developer with the interest, capacity, and skills to design, plan, finance, construct, own, and operate a desirable mixed-use development project on one or more sites that will include office space, housing, retail, transit, and possibly entertainment. Cary is interested in attracting private-sector investments to its downtown to create redevelopment options to address gaps in the downtown retail, office, and housing offerings, as well as enhance its economic base. No timeline is specified for development, and more information is available at carync.gov/RFQdowntown.





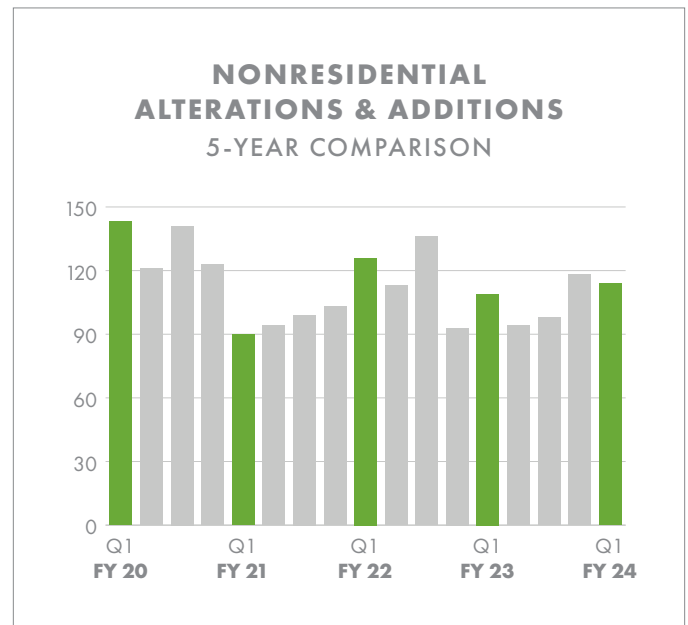
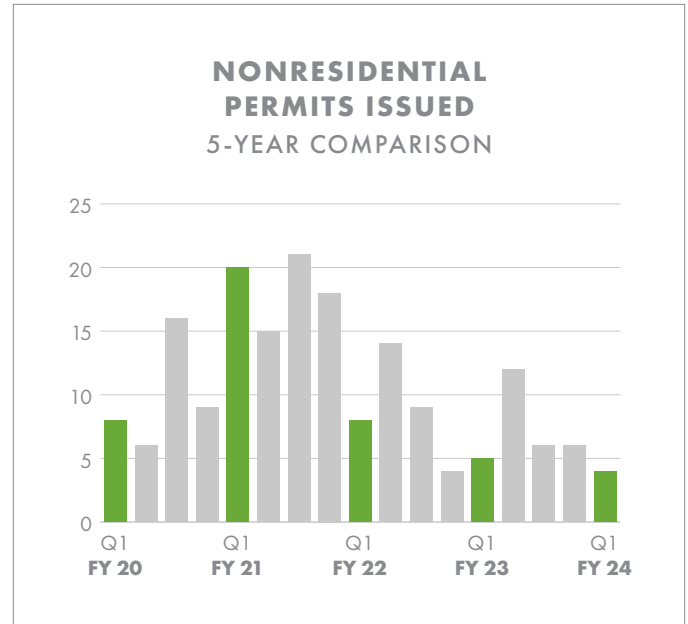
NONRESIDENTIAL PERMITS

In Q1, Cary issued permits for four new nonresidential projects, for a total of 5,714 square feet. The projects included the shell building for a future Starbucks at Preston Walk and a temporary apparatus bay for Cary Fire Station 4.

NONRESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

Cary issued 114 nonresidential alterations and additions permits in Q1. The highlighted projects were:

- Cushman & Wakefield, 1 Fenton Main St.: Permit issued for upfit of 11,000 square feet of office space at Fenton.
- Withers & Ravenel, 214 E. Chatham St.: Permits issued for upfit of 16,000 square feet of new office space on two floors in the Rogers Building.
- Leith Jeep Autopark, 400 Autopark Blvd.: Permit issued for a 5,500-square-foot showroom and sales office expansion.
- Northwest Cary YMCA, 6903 Carpenter Fire Station Road: Permit issued for an 11,000-square-foot rooftop solar panel array.





REZONING

During Q1, 32 cases were in the rezoning process; one case was approved.

- 22-REZ-08, Aerial Center Spectrum, 2000, 2501, 2701, 3000, 4000, 8001, and 9001 Aerial Center Parkway; 5001 and 6001 Hospitality Court; and unaddressed parcels on Airport Boulevard and Aerial Center Parkway: Rezones 74.46 acres from General Commercial, General Commercial Conditional Use, and Office and Institutional to Office/ Research and Development Conditional Use with zoning conditions that include limiting development of the site to a maximum of 708,000 heated square feet. The Airport Overlay District will remain.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In Q1, Cary approved 43 development plans. The notable plans approved this quarter include three new residential projects in downtown Cary:

- Townes at Chatham Walk Condos, 110 Urban Drive: Condominium development with five new multifamily dwelling units as an extension of the Chatham Walk development project.
- Walkers Row Multifamily, 211 Byrum St.: New 44-unit multifamily development at the northeast corner of Byrum Street and Walker Street.
- Massey Condominiums, 202 Byrum St.: New 17-unit multifamily development at the southeast corner of Byrum Street and Walker Street.

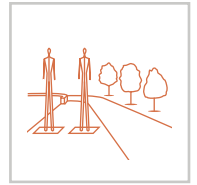




MOVE

**PROVIDING
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES**





DOWNTOWN WALKABILITY ENHANCED

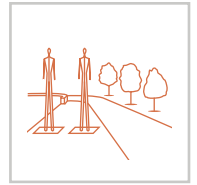


The installation of new brick sidewalk and landscaping has been completed along South Walker Street near East Park Street. These 200 feet of sidewalk complete the last remaining sidewalk gap on South Walker Street, increasing walkability downtown and providing ADA-compliant access for the new Downtown Cary Park.

REOPENING SOUTH HARRISON



Following a three-month closure, South Harrison Avenue reopened to traffic between Chatham Street and Faculty Drive in August after successful completion of infrastructure investment along the corridor, including water, sewer, stormwater, curb and gutter, sidewalk replacements, street reconstruction, and paving. This area was initially targeted for water main replacement to improve fire protection and reduce service interruptions. The new water mains have an estimated service life of 100 years. Cary's infrastructure investment project continues on South Harrison Avenue from Faculty Drive to Heater Street and along Page Street. This section is expected to reopen to traffic in December.



KILDAIRE FARM ROAD



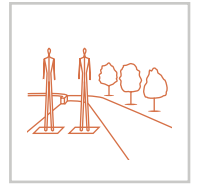
This quarter, Cary put the finishing touches on the Kildaire Farm Road Improvements Project, including landscaping the newly installed median between Byrum Street and Walnut Street. This project improved intersection safety at Walnut Street, enhanced corridor aesthetics with buried utilities and decorative streetlights, and installed new water lines to support redevelopment and ensure reliability. The design and construction were completed in coordination with other downtown developments. Together these projects create a better experience for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists, including increasing mobility in the growing downtown area.

LAKE PINE DRIVE

Final pavement markings were added to the newly constructed street improvements along Lake Pine Drive on the border of Cary and Apex in August. Apex and Cary have been working collaboratively through a Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Locally Administered Project Program grant to improve Lake Pine Drive from east of Pine Plaza Drive and MacGregor Plaza Drive to the Apex/Cary town limits, northeast of Versailles Drive. This jointly funded project added turn lanes, bike lanes, sidewalk, street-side trails, and a pedestrian refuge island to increase safety and mobility in this corridor.

GOCARY

This quarter, GoCary ridership continued to grow. July and August saw 1,202 average daily boardings, compared with 827 from the same period last year. As demand for transit increases, GoCary continues to look for flexible options to serve Cary. Microtransit can fill in service gaps and connect people to the larger fixed route network. To that end, Cary released a Request for Qualifications for a microtransit study in September, with work expected to begin this fall. This study will identify locations that may support connection nodes as Cary's fixed route system evolves. Design continued for 48 new bus stops needed for two new fixed routes planned to begin in FY 2025, expanding regional connections to Raleigh and Apex. A Transit Oriented Development Study of station areas along the western Bus Rapid Transit corridor also kicked off this quarter. Staff will analyze land use and urban design policies needed to encourage transit-supportive development along the corridor connecting downtown Cary with downtown Raleigh.



CARY SECURES STREET-AID FUNDING

Cary completed another successful Powell Bill Program submission. As an annual state fiscal aid source, the Powell Bill Program funds local municipalities that submit funding requests based on population and maintained street mileage. The state funds primarily support the repair, maintenance, and construction of municipal streets that are not part of the state’s highway system. Staff efforts produced a certified statement and certified GIS map attesting to 514 miles of streets within corporate limits, resulting in \$4.5 million to support maintained streets.



STREET IMPROVEMENTS



This quarter, Cary completed street improvements in the Reserve, Wellsley, Highcroft, Landsdowne, Saratoga Park, Charleston Woods, and Bond Pointe communities as part of its annual street improvements project. Facts about this period:

- More than 20,000 tons, or 1,000 truckloads, of asphalt were placed.
- Nearly 200 curb ramps were upgraded and 500 feet of sidewalk were repaired to bring them to current ADA standards. The street improvements program is one of the main ways Cary keeps sidewalk facilities accessible to all users.
- About 2,000 feet of curb and gutter were removed and replaced, addressing stormwater issues and keeping roads in good condition.



SERVE

**MEETING
COMMUNITY
NEEDS**

CLASS OF
2040





ADCOCK VISITS POLICE

Police welcomed Sen. Gale Adcock and Assistant Town Manager Shelley Curran in September to experience a day in the life of a Cary police officer. During their visit, Adcock and Curran engaged with Police’s Training Unit, where they learned about critical equipment, including handcuffs and the police officer’s duty weapon, using training simulations. They took part in a tour of the Downtown Cary Park and Academy Street corridor with the Downtown Unit on the department’s Can-Am side-by-side. They learned about police canine operations from Sgt. Seth Everett and K9 Officer Logan before rounding out the day by taking part in a ride-along with the Traffic Safety Team during focused traffic enforcement operations.

GIGI’S PLAYHOUSE WALK WITH A COP

Members of Police’s Community Engagement Unit, Downtown Unit and School Resource Team hosted a “Walk with a Cop” event in July in partnership at the new GiGi’s Playhouse achievement center in the heart of Cary. GiGi’s achievement center provides programs and support for people with Down syndrome and their families. After taking part in a stroll through Cary’s vibrant downtown, the group shared fellowship over arts and crafts activities.

POLICE ATTEND SUMMER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In July, a delegation from Cary Police, including Capt. Katherine Christian, Capt. Robert Carey, and Sgt. Travis Gresham, traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend the 47th annual conference of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. NOBLE is a membership association composed primarily of black law enforcement chief executive officers and command-level officials whose mission is to ensure equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. Cary’s delegation enjoyed hearing from speakers from across the globe on evolving issues facing the criminal justice system as well as connecting with other law enforcement executives at networking socials.

Also in July, Police Lieutenants Chris Redig and Sheri Abraham graduated from the 88th session of the Senior Management Institute for Police through Boston University’s School of Law. SMIP is a demanding three-week program offered through the Police Executive Research Forum that provides senior police executives with intensive training in the latest management concepts and practices used in business and government through discussions of the most challenging issues facing law enforcement executives today.





SIX FIREFIGHTERS COMPLETE “HYBRID” ACADEMY

For the second year in a row, Fire is conducting a “hybrid” recruit academy. Excellent candidates are hired without certification requirements, and if enough have their needed fire, EMT, and rescue certifications, they undergo an accelerated orientation and training process while the rest go through the full academy. This method takes a lot of coordination, but it helps to satisfy immediate staffing needs while ensuring a diverse and well-trained future workforce. Academy 27, which began in May, held a celebratory lunch in August for the six certified firefighters, who received their shift assignments. A graduation ceremony for the whole recruit class is planned for December.

FIREFIGHTERS INSPIRE

This summer saw Fire personnel reaching out to Spanish-speaking citizens with important safety messages and to girls to introduce them to firefighting. Fire was invited to partner with Spanish-language TV network Univision in producing a grilling safety video that targets a Spanish-speaking audience. Four firefighters who are fluent in Spanish participated in the July event at Fire Station 9, which Univision broadcast on Facebook Live. In addition, eight female firefighters volunteered to teach at state Camp Ignite programs. These free weeklong summer camps are immersive firefighting experiences for girls that build confidence, character, and leadership skills while also exposing them to the fire service. Female fire personnel assisted at camps in Chapel Hill, Charlotte, and Greensboro and plan to introduce a similar program in Cary next summer.





WATER TREATMENT FACILITY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

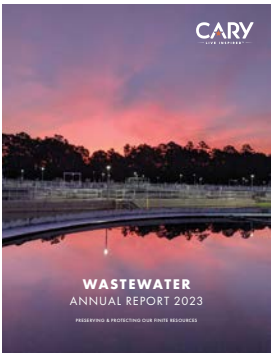
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This summer, Cary marked a historic milestone with the 30th anniversary of the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Facility. The facility opened in August 1993, providing 12 million gallons of water a day to Cary's service area. Since that time, the facility has seen multiple expansions to accommodate the intense growth in the area, with the most recent bringing the capacity up to 56 million gallons a day. Over the years, facility staff have strived to optimize and improve the treatment processes in order to exceed regulatory requirements and provide high-quality drinking water to citizens. These efforts have been recognized with multiple state and national awards. Plant staff held a celebration in September in honor of this special anniversary.





ANNUAL WASTEWATER PERFORMANCE REPORT



Cary's 2023 annual wastewater report, which provides an overview of Cary's wastewater treatment facilities and sewer system, is now available at carync.gov/wastewaterreport. The report provides quick facts about the utility, descriptions of treatment facilities, system metrics, and tips to keep the system working smoothly

and the environment free from sewer spills. New to the report this year is a graphic about how Cary inspects and manages its more than 1,000 miles of sewer pipelines.

BLACK CREEK GREENWAY REHAB PROJECT COMPLETE



After two years of trucks and equipment, temporary above-ground piping, special construction matting, construction crews, and greenway detours, the sewer rehabilitation project along the Crabtree Creek and Black Creek greenways is complete. Over 3.5 miles of 24-inch to 54-inch sewers have been renewed and will continue to receive flow from North Cary, Morrisville, and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport for decades to come. The sewer rehabilitation project represents the first phase of improvements along the Black Creek corridor. It will be followed by reconstruction of the Black Creek Greenway between Dynasty Drive and the Old Reedy Creek Trailhead, scheduled to begin in 2024.



Image Credit: Alyson Boyer Rode



CAWTF MAINTENANCE FACILITY WITH SOLAR ROOFTOP



In support of Cary's ongoing commitment to reducing carbon emissions and fostering alternative energy opportunities, construction was completed this quarter on the new Maintenance Facility at the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Facility. The new facility incorporates a rooftop solar array of 87 panels capable of producing about 57,000 kWh annually. This production is equivalent to about four to seven homes and is expected to meet the electricity demand for the maintenance facility. Although it is a much smaller-scale array than the 1.8 MW facility at the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility, it represents Cary's efforts to promote energy-reduction components into both new and existing public infrastructure.

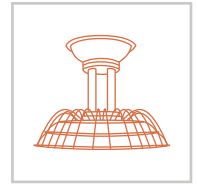




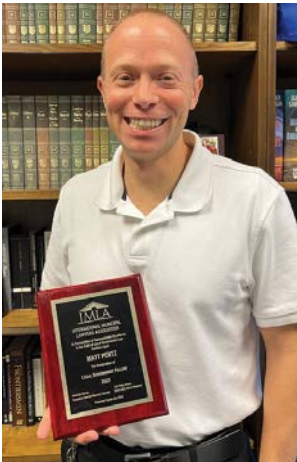
ACT

MOVING
FROM VISION
TO REALITY





MATT PENTZ RECOGNIZED AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FELLOW



At its annual conference in September, the International Municipal Lawyers Association recognized Senior Assistant Town Attorney Matt Pentz as a Local Government Fellow. The association established the Fellows program in 1999 to recognize attorneys as legal specialists in the field of local government law and to encourage attorney proficiency and competency in the field.

Applicants for this recognition must have at least five years of experience in local government law, submit letters of recommendation, and pass a two-part written exam. Pentz and Town Attorney Lisa Glover are two of only seven attorneys in the state who have attained this designation.

FORMER CARY ATTORNEY RECEIVES HONOR



Chris Simpson, who retired as Cary’s town attorney in December 2020, received the Ball-Bluestein Award for Excellence in Municipal Law in August. This award, presented by the North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys, is named in honor of Ernie Ball, former Cary town attorney and general counsel of the N.C. League of Municipalities, and Frayda Bluestein, a beloved professor at the UNC School of Government. The award recognizes those who have made valuable contributions to the field of municipal law. Current Town Attorney Lisa Glover was honored to both nominate Simpson for this award and present it to her at the ceremony, where Simpson was lauded for her intellect, professionalism, mentorship of attorneys across the state, and dedication to family.



CARY JOINS THREADS

Cary joined Threads, a social media channel described by media outlets as “Meta’s answers to Twitter,” in July. Threads will be another tool in Cary’s communications toolbox, allowing staff to engage in accessible and timely communications in ways that are convenient to Cary citizens, businesses, and visitors. Many other local governments, including Wake County, Raleigh, and Wilmington, have joined as well. Follow the account at [@caryncgov](https://www.instagram.com/caryncgov).



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