Stay Calm, Be Prepared when calling 911

Statistics show that on average, everyone in America will call 911 at least twice in a lifetime. So, it’s more a matter of if, not when, you will. When calling our Emergency Communications Center (ECC), we want it to go as smoothly as possible. You’ll be talking to a trained Emergency Communications Officer (ECO), who will ask you questions that are geared toward making sure you get the best, fastest, and most appropriate aid.

Calls to 911 should only be reserved for emergencies that are an imminent threat to life or property. Times when you need the police but it is not an emergency should be directed to our Police Department’s non-emergency line at (919) 469-4012.

When you call 911, stay as calm as possible. A hysterical or frantic call will make it more difficult for your ECO to understand the situation and be able to help. Also, try to know your exact location, or be as specific as possible. Our Enhanced 911 (E-911) provides immediate address information on a call from a landline or Voice over IP phone, but does not for cell phones or Text-to-911. Using Text-to-911 allows you to send a text to the 911 Center. Text messages must not have images or video, and should be sent only when you are unable to make a voice call due to medical emergency, out of an abundance of safety, or if you are hearing impaired.

Once on the line with an ECO, you should be ready to answer a series of questions, including:

- Is anyone injured?
- When did the incident occur?
- Are there weapons involved, and if so, what type?
- Are you with or a part of the emergency?
- Is a mode of transportation involved?
- If a vehicle is involved, what is the description and what was the direction of travel?
- If a crime occurred, can you describe the suspect?
- What was the clothing description?
- All of these questions are very important to emergency personnel trying to help you. Please don’t hang up until told to do so by the communicator; unless a threat to your safety requires you to leave. A common misconception is that ECOs wait until the call is finished before sending help. Police officers, firefighters or other emergency personnel are dispatched as soon as possible.

“911 Communications” at www.townofcary.org

Be Smart When Fertilizing

Smart fertilizing helps keep our lawns lush and our streams healthy. By following manufacturer guidelines and sweeping excess fertilizer off hard surfaces and back on to lawns, we keep additional nutrients out of our streams and creeks.

“Stormwater” at www.townofcary.org

Senior Strength and Balance

We want to help you maintain and increase your strength and balance so you may live well in your home for as long as possible. To that end, we are bringing together a selected panel of experts on September 29 at the Cary Senior Center from 2-4 p.m. A healthy dessert will be shared, and our fitness instructors will teach simple strengthening exercises.

“Senior Center” at www.townofcary.org or (919) 469-4081

History Harvest

Discover how to find your family roots and share some local history at our first African-American History Harvest on September 24 from 2-5 p.m. at Cary First Christian Church on Evans Road in Cary. Trained staff and volunteers will record your stories and scan family photos, and there will be resources on how to care for and protect your family treasures. Presented with the Friends of Page-Walker and the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center.

“History Harvest” at www.townofcary.org

BUD Bits

Nominations for Cary’s Hometown Spirit Award continues through September 22. “Hometown Spirit Award” at www.townofcary.org

The Cary Tennis Center hosts the Cary Tennis Park Classic NC L2/Southern L3 tourney on September 30-October 1; the Tennis on Campus event October 13-15; and the USTA/ITA Regionals from October 20-23. “Cary Tennis Park” at www.townofcary.org

Seeds in need of more water than Mother Nature is providing? Apply for a watering exemption permit. “Alternate Day Watering” at www.townofcary.org

Enjoy short, informal presentations and engaging discussions with theatre professionals at Theatre Café on October 3 at 7 p.m. Best suited for adults/teens. www.thecarytheater.com

Celebrate Oktoberfest at Booth Amphitheatre on October 6 from 6-11 p.m. and October 7 from 1-11 p.m. There will be music by Peak City Sound and The Polka Brothers. Plus, a kids zone, traditional Bavarian food, contests and of course, authentic German beer! www.boothamphitheatre.com

Our Playtime in the Park series for kids of all ages continues in the Downtown Park on October 12 at 10 a.m. “Playtime in the Park” at www.townofcary.org

Do you have unused prescriptions laying around? Our Police Department is holding its annual pill takeback on October 28. “Pill Takeback” at www.townofcary.org

Save the Date! Cary’s annual Howlin’ Good Halloween is October 26-31. We’ll have the Reel-y Scary Films, Zombiecopaloza, Pumpkin Flotilla, Herbert’s Haunted House, costume dance party, Great Pumpkin Carve, Ghost Walk, Halloween Mall Crawl and Witches Tea. “Halloween” at www.townofcary.org
Tour de Cove Highlights Bike Safety Awareness

Come out for Tour de Cove on October 7 at Inside Out Sports, 2002 Grisdale Lane. Co-sponsored by the Town of Cary, the all-day event (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) highlights bike safety awareness in the community, kicking off with a charity bike/run for former Transportation & Facilities Director Laura “Lori” Cove, who remains in recovery following a traumatic bicyc...