**Holiday Fun at Town Hall**

Our Heart of the Holidays Celebration returns December 7, and we have holiday cheer planned from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. We’ve made special arrangements with Santa Claus for the Town Hall to be a drop off site for letters to Santa Claus! Santa will also be at the Herb Young Community Center for the Cary Teen Council’s annual Santa’s Workshop. Page-Walker Arts & History Center will host an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas complete with carolers and carriage rides. You can also find that perfect, handcrafted gift for your friend or loved one, finish up your Christmas shopping, and support local artists with Downtown Cary’s Holly Daze Shoppe! The Ole Time Winter Festival hits the streets of downtown Cary, where, in addition to food and entertainment, you can vote on your favorite Gingerbread House.

The popular Cary Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the unveiling of Cary’s indoor Community Christmas Tree at Town Hall will be at 6 p.m.

“Heart of the Holidays” at www.townofcary.org | (919) 469-4061

**Celebration of Our Heritages**

On December 6, the Herb Young Community Center lights up with the Arbolito de la Esperanza. All are welcome to join this Tree of Hope lighting, which represents rays of hope for Latino children, as well as a pot-luck dinner with traditional Latino foods. Finally, join us at the Cary Arts Center on December 30 for the 19th Annual Cary Kwanzaa Celebration that honors African-American people and their heritage.

“Holiday Events” at www.townofcary.org | (919) 460-4961

**Cary Gifts to Consider**

Turn to Town Hall for a special someone on your holiday shopping list. For the environmentalist, consider purchasing a rain barrel, available at any Cary community center. Collecting rain to water landscapes increases the amount of treated water that is available for drinking, cooking and bathing. Water harvested via rain barrels is not subject to Cary’s year-round outdoor watering restrictions.

For the animal lover, purchase an annual membership or day pass to Cary’s Dog Park, available at any Cary community center.

In lieu of a present, make a donation to Cary’s Oasis or Relief for Recreation programs. Oasis helps utility customers going through financial hardship with one-time assistance to pay their Cary utility bill. Relief for Recreation offers scholarships for Cary citizens to subsidize or entirely pay for fees associated with a parks, recreation or cultural resources’ program. Donating is easy, and contributions are tax-deductible.

And for the one who has it all, purchase a gift card at Town Hall; gift cards are redeemable toward any parks, recreation and cultural resources class, camp, membership or lesson.

“Oasis” or “Relief for Recreation” at www.townofcary.org

**Holiday Collections Schedule**

Town offices will close Dec. 24-26. All garbage, yard waste, and Yellow week recycling for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday customers will be collected one day later. Tuesday’s collection will remain unchanged, Dec. 24; Wednesday’s collection will be Dec. 26; Thursday’s collection will be Dec. 27; Friday’s collection will be Dec. 28.

Town offices will close Jan. 1. All garbage, yard waste, and Blue week recycling for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday customers will be collected one day later. Tuesday’s collection will remain unchanged, Dec. 31; Wednesday’s collection will be Jan. 2; Thursday’s collection will be Jan. 3; Friday’s collection will be Jan. 4.

“Citizen’s Convenience Center” or “Holiday Collection Schedule” at www.townofcary.org | (919) 469-4090

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**BUD Bits**

Your toilet is not a trash can. Keep trash out of the sewer system and help prevent costly sewer blockages and environmentally damaging overflows. Call (919) 469-4090 with questions.

We’re collecting loose leaves from November through January according to our map and schedule. “Leaf Collection” at www.townofcary.org

We may need to access your water meter to handle a water emergency. Please periodically trim trees, bushes, plants, grass and remove obstructions like mulch that may be covering your water meter.
Social Search Tool Launched

We've launched a new tool to enable citizens to easily access public records generated on the Town's 12 social media sites. The archive is the first public municipal archive for social media posts in the state.

Users looking for a particular record may choose “Quick Search,” which allows a search by keywords or an Advanced Search option, which allows records to be narrowed by date, site and search terms. We chose to offer a public-facing archive as an added level of service for you to make it easier to access these records.

cary.gov/archivesocial.com

Families Score Some Sporting Fun

This month, families can enjoy two of our most popular sports in very unique ways.

The Town of Cary, Campbell University, CASL, and the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance are teaming up to host the 2013 Women's College Cup December 6 & 8 at WakeMed Soccer Park. Advance tickets are now on sale for $32, which includes entry into all three matches. Visit www.ncaa.com for more, including purchasing tickets.

Kids ages 8-13 are invited to participate in our annual Elks Hoop Shoot, a free-throw contest where winners qualify for subsequent competitions leading to a national championship contest.

The event is December 12 and all participants must pre-register.

“Elks Hoop Shoot” at www.townofcary.org / (919) 469-4061

Stop Sewer Leaks Before They Start

Did you know there are over 800 miles of sewer pipes in Cary? Most property owners are not aware that sewer leaks and blockages can cost thousands of dollars to repair and that they are responsible for the water lines running through their property.

Indications of a stoppage include fixtures that don't drain, sewage backing up into tubs or toilets or sewage seeping from the sewer clean out pipe at the edge of the property.

When a stoppage occurs, contact the Public Works & Utilities Department, and we'll assess the stoppage to determine if the blockage is on the Town's or homeowner's side of the sewer line.

“Sewer Stoppages” at www.townofcary.org / (919) 469-4090

Cultural Connection

Art Exhibit Opening: Mark Nystrom; Coded Responses Dec. 7, 3-5 p.m., Cary Arts Center. (919) 469-4061.

Art Exhibit Opening: Town of Cary Employees: The Artists Within Dec. 7, 2-4 p.m., Town Hall. (919) 469-4061.

Art Exhibit Opening: Beverly Ford; Nature, Naturally Dec. 7, 2-4 p.m., Herb Young Community Center. (919) 469-4061.


Cary Town Band presents Winter’s Eve Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Cary Senior Center. Free. (919) 847-8806.

Triangle Brass Band Concert Dec. 15, 3 p.m., Cary Arts Center. (919) 462-2055.

Marvelous Music Family Series: Cary Ballet’s A Mini Very Cary Christmas Dec. 21, 10 a.m., Cary Arts Center. (919) 462-2055.

See a complete list at www.townofcary.org

HOT TIPS:

Happy, Fire-free Holidays

The holidays bring family and friends together to celebrate the season. When hosting, provide guests with large ashtrays, and empty them when the ashes are cool. Remind overnight guests that smoking when drowsy or in bed is dangerous. Remember to put candles in candlesticks before you light them, never put lit candles near flammable decorations and curtains, and never leave candles unattended or within the reach of young children or pets. Fresh trees are an important decoration for many holiday celebrations; however, a dry tree poses perhaps the greatest fire risk of the holiday season. After your family’s celebrations, remove the tree and dispose of it properly.

“Fire Safety” at www.townofcary.org / (919) 460-4958

Protect Your Pipes

Turn off all outdoor faucets and remove attached hoses to help prevent water from freezing and bursting a pipe. Should a pipe burst, turn the water off using your master water shut off valve, typically located near the water heater, or call to have your meter turned off at the street.

(919) 469-4090

316 N. Academy St. • (919) 469-4007 • www.townofcary.org