Holiday Cheer Comes to Cary

Catch the holiday spirit at a variety of events in Cary on December 3.
Go sledding in real snow at the winter wonderland at Bond Park (registration required), or visit Santa’s Workshop for crafts and live entertainment at Herb Young Community Center.

Later in the day, we’ll host the Heart of Cary Association’s Ole Time Winter Festival in the streets of Cary Downtown: view gingerbread houses on display as part of the first-ever Gingerbread House Competition; visit the Cary Employees’ art exhibit at Town Hall; or head to Page-Walker Arts & History Center for festive carriage rides, traditional caroling, live music and children’s activities.

Don’t miss the official Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and talent show at dusk, and then cap your evening with a performance of “It’s a Wonderful Life,” by the Cary Players.

In addition to events on December 3, children may mail letters to Santa November 28-December 13 at Town Hall and await a response from the Jolly guy.

For complete details, search “Heart of the Holidays” at www.townofcary.org.

Holiday Trash Schedule Reminder

Remember Town offices will close Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving; we’ll operate under a different pick-up schedule that week. Search “Holiday Collection” at www.townofcary.org for details.

Town offices will close for Christmas Dec. 26-27 and the Citizens Convenience Center will close Dec. 25.

While garbage and recycling collection remains unchanged, no yard waste will be collected; instead, we’ll accept excess garbage. Please properly bag and place by your cart.

For customers who follow a yellow week recycling calendar, we’ll also collect excess recycling on their regular collection day. Place extra recyclables in a labeled and open container next to your recycle cart.

If you follow our blue week recycling calendar, we’ll collect your excess recycling on your regular collection day during the week of January 2.
Questions? Call 469-4090.

Welcome Our Elected Officials


Each member is elected to a four-year term. To read about each or to contact them, search “Cary Town Council” at www.townofcary.org.

Forbes Magazine has named Cary one of of the Top 25 Suburbs for Retirement based on how many opportunities there are for citizens to stay active. Join a class, attend a concert or see an art exhibit; search “program brochure” at www.townofcary.org.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has designated Cary as a Walk Friendly Community; only 10 locations were selected nationwide. Pick up a Hike & Bike Map at Cary Town Hall or online to enjoy our miles of greenways, trails and bike lanes.

Check out GoLive, the region’s first multi-vendor transit technology accessible through www.gotriangle.org. The program gives riders real-time arrival estimations for transit services as part of the GoTriangle transit family.

Volunteer opportunities are available for the 2012 Olympic Table Tennis Trials this February and April at Bond Park Community Center. Get complete details at www.Cary2012.com.

Cary Debuts Hanukkah Fête

Join us December 20 at 3 p.m. to celebrate Jewish culture. Enjoy traditional Jewish foods, crafts/activities for children and entertainment. At 6:45 p.m., we’ll light a nine-foot menorah in front of the Cary Arts Center; stay for a by a concert by national entertainer Dan Nichols.

We’ll be collecting canned goods at the Cary Arts Center from Dec. 5-16 to be a part of a Jewish art installation and then donated to the Inner Faith Food Shuttle. For more, search “Holiday Events” on our website or call 469-4061.

Party Planning? Venues Available!

Have you started to plan a wedding, rehearsal, birthday or reunion for next year? Or maybe you have a last-minute holiday gathering to organize? Secure a spot at one of our venues. We have indoor and outdoor spaces in our parks and cultural arts facilities to accommodate intimate gatherings of up to 250 people.

Check available facility rentals at “EZ-REG web” at classweb.townofcary.org.

Remember Your Manners

This season, we’re asking citizens to show a little holiday spirit by displaying more consideration for your neighbors.

One of the most common complaints we hear involves motorists parking in spots reserved for drivers with disabilities.

As you do your holiday shopping, be sure to leave designated spaces for those patrons for whom they were intended. Don’t park in these spots because the lot is crowded, you only plan to be a minute, or you have a relative’s placard in the car.

Remember: parking in these spaces is illegal if you are not disabled. You may face a $250 fine if you are caught.
BOOK A HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Interested in protecting your home without relying solely on alarm systems? Our Crime Prevention Team is available to conduct complementary residential assessments at your home or business.

Once scheduled, a police officer will go on location to identify physical weaknesses in and around your home or business and offer low-cost suggestions to improve safety and security. These surveys are best conducted during the daylight hours and last about an hour.

Schedule your home safety evaluation by calling 469-4324.

Gift Giving Solutions at Town Hall

CHARITIES TO CONSIDER

Give the gift of support by donating to Oasis or Relief for Recreation. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Oasis is a program to help those in financial hardship with their Cary utility bill. To donate, call 469-4050 or mail your donation to Finance Department, PO Box 8049, Cary, NC, 27512.

Relief for Recreation offers scholarships to Cary citizens to subsidize fees associated with a Town cultural or recreational program. Donating is quick and easy at “Relief for Recreation” at www.townofcary.org.

GREEN GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING

Go green with your gifts and consider purchasing a rain barrel, available at any community center. Collecting rain to water landscapes and gardens increase the amount of treated water that is available for drinking, cooking and bathing. Rainwater harvesting can also reduce utility bills and is not subject to Cary’s year-round outdoor watering restrictions.

Buy the pieces you need to build your own rain barrel for about $30, or purchase a ready-made barrel for $87. Call 469-4090 with questions.

Don’t be Left in the Dark

Use extra caution during dawn and dusk when sharing the road as a bicyclist, pedestrian or driver.

When cycling, always ride on the street with the flow of traffic, obeying traffic signals/signs as if driving a car. Pedestrians should use sidewalks when available or walk on the shoulder of the road facing traffic. Wear reflective clothing and consider carrying a flashlight.

Drivers should use extra caution on two-lane roads and drive with their headlights on. Report unsafe driving in non-emergency conditions to our Road Watch Hotline at 319-4521.

A New Place for Information

Public hearings, meetings and notices are posted in the Classified Section of The Cary News. You can view these same public hearings, meetings and notices 24/7 on our website under “This Week.”

Keeping the Hemlock Bluffs Fire Safe

Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve is a state treasure, and we are bringing the necessary resources and experts to implement a prescribed fire management plan that will focus on fuel reduction and wildfire prevention.

Wildfires are a common threat to structures in many areas of North Carolina, especially during drought and times of high winds, and prescribed burns are a proven and safe way to reduce fuel loads in forests and other areas. Prescribed burns at Hemlock Bluffs will only be supervised and implemented by trained individuals with the NC Forest Service, with logistical support from Town staff.

Weather permitting, a small prescribed burn less than the size of two football fields will be conducted this winter. Safety is our top priority, so select trails may close briefly on the burn day but the nature preserve will remain open.

An open-house style public meeting will be held in early December at the Nature Preserve to allow citizens a chance to ask questions and learn more about the benefits of a prescribed burn. Get meeting dates, times and more information at “Nature Preserve” at www.townofcary.org.

Dirt on Downtown

You’re invited to a public meeting focused on our downtown improvement projects. From 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 29 at the Cary Arts Center, we’ll present updated plans in the downtown area.

For more, search “Downtown Development” at www.townofcary.org.

Stormwater Tip

Yards are wetter during the winter. This is a good time to ensure you have positive drainage from your home to keep water out of your crawl space. For more, contact Stormwater Services at 469-4038.

ACE GOLF CART ETIQUETTE

Recently, we’ve seen an increase in the illegal use of golf carts. These violations pose a significant safety risk to both the driver and passengers.

Remember you must be at least 16 years old and a licensed driver to operate a golf cart. Golf carts cannot go faster than 20 mph and may only be operated on approved streets. Passengers should never ride in areas made to carry golf clubs. Make sure your cart’s VIN number is posted, and as always, never operate a golf cart while impaired or intoxicated.

Questions? Call 469-4016.

Fire Prevention: HAPPY FIRE FREE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season often brings family and friends together in celebration. Candles add to the festive atmosphere; always put them in candlesticks before you light them. Don’t use lit candles near flammable decorations or curtains and never leave them unattended or within reach of children. Remember to be cautious with your fresh tree, too.

After celebrations, remove the tree and dispose of it properly. Contact 469-4090 and learn about the Town’s holiday tree removal program.

Cultural Connection

Cary Town Band presents Winter Music (Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Cary Senior Center). Free. 847-8806.

Applause! Cary Youth Theatre presents Reader’s Theatre (Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Cary Arts Center). Free. 465-4792.

Concert Singers of Cary presents Heart of Cary Holidays (Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Cary Arts Center). 678-1009.

Triangle Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert (Dec. 11, 3 p.m., Cary Arts Center). 469-4069.

Page-Walker Winter Concert Series: King’s Tavern Madrigal (Dec. 18, 4 p.m., Page-Walker Arts & History Center). 460-4963.

See more at www.townofcary.org.