

# The Cary News

## - WEATHER -----



**CURRENT:** 28 °F  
Sunny

**TODAY:** High 50°F; Low 24°F. Sunny, but chilly.

**TOMORROW:** High 54°F; Low 30°F. Plenty of sunshine.

## - NEWS -----

Residents give Cary officials earful on annexation

16-year-old charged in shooting outside Cary apartment

One man killed, another injured when truck wrecks

Unflagging support

Site picked for new regional library in Cary

Glen Lang says so long

Britt asks for another attorney

## - OBITUARIES -----

Death Notices Dec. 4, 2003

Death Notices Nov. 27, 2003

Dr. Luther M. Talbert, 76, infertility pioneer

Death Notices Nov. 20, 2003

Death Notices Nov. 13, 2003

## - EDUCATION -----

Books bring parents, students together

Celebrities give storytime boost

Principals leaving to open new schools

Despite more meetings, parents still feel frustrated about reassignment process

Civics comes to life

## - ENTERPRISE -----

'It's an adventure!': Holiday shopping season in full swing

Friends get their wings, freedom

Published: Tuesday, November 25, 2003

## Cary to annex near Holly Springs Resolution latest move in effort to control planning

By ADAM ARNOLD, STAFF WRITER

Cary may settle its boundary dispute with Holly Springs the hard way — by involuntarily annexing more than 4,700 people in two areas south of the town.

Cary's Town Council has approved a resolution of intent to annex two areas south of the town comprising 2,400 acres to create a permanent boundary with Holly Springs. The action came at a 25-minute special meeting Monday afternoon.

The move comes after a proposed utility boundary agreement between the two towns went bad over the course of the last several weeks.

Cary Town Manager Bill Coleman urged the council to proceed, saying town staff had learned Holly Springs was courting property owners already in Cary's urban services area to petition for voluntary annexation into the other town.

"Our hand has been forced on this," said council member Marla Dorrel. "We need to look out for the best interests of Cary."

Coleman said the action was necessary to protect Cary's \$64 million infrastructure investment in the area.

Cary and Holly Springs had been working for two years on a utility service boundary agreement. The towns had been set to approve it before it unraveled.

Little discussion, beyond the staff's presentation, preceded the council's 5-1 vote. Council member Nels Roseland was out of town.

Outgoing at-large Town Council member Harold Weinbrecht voted against.

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advertisement

WakeMed shifts administrators

Carpenter Village gets first store

#### - CARY LIFE -----

Letter perfect: Come sit for a spell, say the wordsmiths who gather weekly to play serious Scrabble

Good wood: Minister turns love of carving into sideline that inspires faith

Art enhances public spaces: Tour highlights Cary's growing visual collection

Amphitheatre at Regency Park gets national buzz

Shrine Circus clowns cherish the hobby that spreads smiles

Music scores

It's a 'Jungle' out there

A shot at health

#### - SPORTS -----

Preps football coverage

Dillard Middle answers challenge: Dragons bump up, still go undefeated in football

Wrestling Round 1: Cary vs. Riverside

Athens Drive wins state soccer title

Athens Drive headed to state soccer title match

Tigers end Falcons' run

Falcons reach into bag of tricks

#### - COMMUNITY -----

The Home Front

All Things Holiday

Sweet

Kildaire cows a rare breed

#### - OPINION -----

Local Voices: Diverse neighbors enrich all our lives

In Our Opinion: A special thanks

In Our Opinion: A populist quiz

#### - SEARCH -----

The two areas essentially consist of the Dutchman Downs subdivision in unincorporated Wake County and developed properties to the south encircling large farm parcels owned by the Pierce and Olive families.

Susan Moran, Cary's public information officer, said two small parcels owned by the Olives are included in the plan.

Also included in the southern area were parcels in the Middle Creek area, toward which Cary has been expanding for some time.

Not included in the resolution are any of the environmentally critical areas included in the Swift Creek land management plan.

Weinbrecht said after the meeting he thought bringing in Dutchman Downs was unnecessary. The goal for him was to bring in the parcels farther south.

"I wanted to vote for what was required to accomplish what we needed to accomplish," Weinbrecht said.

Coleman said after the meeting the recommendation for the action came from him.

"My recommendation to the council was that they go ahead and take action to ensure our ability to include the area in the limits of Cary that we've already made investments in infrastructure to serve," Coleman said.

Coleman said he had learned about Holly Springs' advances toward property owners in Cary's utility services area since the Cary council's meeting Nov. 13.

"When it became apparent to us that Holly Springs didn't have any plans to adopt a boundary agreement, I had the staff draw up alternative plans of action and let the council know that's what we were doing," Coleman said.

## 'A very bad neighbor'

Ron Thoreson, a member of the Dutchman Downs homeowners association board of directors, coordinated gathering more than 300 signatures from neighborhood property owners protesting even being included in Cary's extraterritorial jurisdiction, the area outside the town limits over which the town has zoning power.




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The land had been included in a request the town had filed with Wake County to extend its extraterritorial jurisdiction to the south and east. The matter had been on the county board of commissioners' agenda last week but was pulled.

"I'm stunned — there's no other way to describe it," Thoreson said of Cary's intent to annex Dutchman Downs.

"Quite honestly their action is being a very bad neighbor." Thoreson called being caught in the middle of the Cary-Holly Springs tussle "a complete injustice" to his subdivision on the part of both towns.

He also questioned the town's process. The town issued public notice of the meeting to the media Saturday afternoon, just in time to meet the 48-hour requirement for public meetings.

Monday's special meeting was the first called in nearly two years and only the seventh since 1997.

"The question that comes to mind is why couldn't this wait until a regular council meeting?" Thoreson asked.

**'Simply trying to react' Holly Springs Mayor Dick Sears said his town has no development interest "at this time" in either the Pierce property or the Olive property and no interest in moving toward the Middle Creek or Swift Creek areas.**

**"If you boil it all down, you're talking about two properties," Sears said.**

**"Our board is simply trying to react to the will of the those two families."**

**By choosing not to approve the utility-service boundary with Cary, Holly Springs was "standing by its guns" to give the property owners a choice, Sears said.**



**Sears said the Olive family told him they would prefer to be on the Holly Springs side of the boundary.**

**"I would disagree that's saying we want to annex," Sears said.**

**"History will bear me out that the Town of Holly Springs is not an aggressive land grabber."**

**Betsy Olive, who has spoken for her family at public meetings regarding municipal jurisdiction over its land, could not be reached for comment on the matter Monday night.**

#### **Meetings set**

**Cary's staff has already scheduled several meetings on the proposal. The council held an "inquiry meeting" Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Town Council chambers, 316 N. Academy St. An identical session has also been set for the same time and place on Dec. 2.**

**Notice will go out to property owners during the week of Dec. 8 of the town's intent to annex.**

**At the council meeting Dec. 11, the council is expected to approve the annexation report and plan of services.**

**Public information meetings are set for Jan. 14 and 15 at the Middle Creek and Herb Young community centers, respectively.**

**A pair of public hearings during council meetings are scheduled for Feb. 12 and 26.**

**The calendar calls for the council  
to adopt the annexation ordinances  
March 11.**

**If the process proceeds as planned,  
the areas will become part of the  
town March 31, 2005.**

**Contact Adam Arnold at 460-2609  
or [aarnold@nando.com](mailto:aarnold@nando.com)**

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