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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAGISTRATES' COURT NOW ON THURSDAYS IN WAKE FOREST

WAKE FOREST, NC – February 19, 2009 – Wake County is now offering Magistrates' Court in Wake Forest on Thursday mornings from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. The move allows a number of judicial proceedings to be performed at the Wake Forest Police Department that before could only take place at the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh.

Police officials say the Magistrates' Court will offer more convenience for both police officers and citizens and help reduce the number of cases heard in Raleigh.

Magistrates are appointed for two-year terms by the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge. As officers of the district court, they are subject to the supervision of the Chief District Court Judge in judicial matters.

In criminal matters, magistrates issue arrest and search warrants and set bail. They also have authority to:

- accept guilty pleas to minor misdemeanors and pleas of responsibility to infractions;
- accept waivers of trial and guilty pleas to certain traffic littering, wildlife, boating, marine fisheries, state park recreation and alcoholic beverage violations; and
- accept waivers of trial and guilty pleas in worthless check cases in which the check is for \$2000 or less.

In civil matters, the magistrates may be assigned by the Chief District Court Judge to hear small claims cases, including summary ejection (landlord's action to evict a tenant) cases. The magistrate is also authorized to perform marriage ceremonies, assign a year's allowance to a surviving spouse, administer oaths, verify pleadings and take acknowledgments (notarization) of instruments.

For more information about Magistrates' Court proceedings in Wake Forest, contact the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.