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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STREET TREE MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY IN HERITAGE

WAKE FOREST, NC – November 14, 2011 – The Town of Wake Forest is conducting street tree maintenance throughout the Heritage subdivision involving municipal street trees within the Wake Forest town limits. Bartlett Tree Care crews are performing routine pruning to improve the trees' overall health, longevity, and aesthetics.

Municipal street trees are trees planted and/or maintained by the Town, within the right-of-way or within a street tree easement. A street right-of-way is a strip of land dedicated for public streets, sidewalks, utilities, and other public improvements. The street tree easement refers to a five to eight-foot zone behind the sidewalk or, if no sidewalk exists, behind the street curb, gutter, edge of street or property line within which a street tree may exist or be planted.

Routine pruning involves the removal of dead, dying, diseased, interfering, objectionable, and weak branches on the main tree trunks, as well as those within the tree's canopy. Close, visual inspections are also conducted to help identify and avoid potential problems in the future.

Only trees planted within the right-of-way and properties having street tree easements will be maintained. Property records available on the Wake County Register of Deeds website, located at <http://web.co.wake.nc.us/rdeeds/>, indicate Wake Forest properties containing a street tree easement.

The Town of Wake Forest has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for 32 consecutive years. The Town's comprehensive tree maintenance program emphasizes structural pruning to improve the long-term strength, health, and beauty of Town trees.

Residents are responsible for tree maintenance on their own property, including keeping tree branches away from the wires that connect their homes and businesses to the main utility wires on the street. The Town of Wake Forest strongly recommends contacting a professional tree service to perform this work.

Wake Forest's street tree maintenance schedule is tentative and subject to change due to weather conditions, equipment malfunctions, and other unforeseen circumstances. For more information about the Town of Wake Forest's street tree maintenance program, contact Urban Forester Evan Keto at (919) 435-9565 or eketo@wakeforestnc.gov.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.