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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **OPERATION MEDICINE DROP A SUCCESS IN WAKE FOREST**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – March 29, 2011** – Dozens of area residents showed up at Town Hall over the weekend to safely dispose of their unused or old prescription and over-the-counter medications.

On Saturday, March 26, the Wake Forest Police Department teamed up with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, and Safe Kids North Carolina to sponsor the first-ever Operation Medicine Drop in Wake Forest.

The disposal event resulted in over 41,560 total dosage units of medication being collected, including 3,697 controlled substances, 17,240 prescription medications, 316 veterinary medications, and 12,801 over-the-counter medications. A dosage unit is defined as one pill, one suppository, or one ounce of ointment or cream.

Operation Medicine Drop is an effort coordinated by North Carolina Department of Insurance, Safe Kids North Carolina, the State Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Drug Enforcement agency and local groups to prevent accidental poisonings and substance abuse and protect our waters.

“Every time we collect and destroy a dosage of excess medication, it’s a success. We’re keeping these drugs out of the wrong hands and out of our waterways,” said Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. “I commend the Wake Forest Police Department for actively engaging their community in this very important initiative, and I thank the public for taking responsibility to dispose of medications in a safe, secure way.”

Operation Medicine Drop coincides with Poison Prevention Week in North Carolina. With unintentional poisoning deaths on the rise in the state, Operation Medicine Drop reminds parents and caregivers to:

- Keep medicines locked up and out of reach of children.
- Always read labels, follow directions and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages. Only use the dispensers packaged with children’s medications.
- Avoid taking medicine or vitamins in front of kids, and don’t call them candy.

- If you suspect poisoning and a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe or is having a seizure, call 911. Otherwise, take the product to the phone and call the national Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

For more information about Operation Medicine Drop, visit [www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org).

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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](mailto:bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov).