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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REPORT LITTERBUGS AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

WAKE FOREST, NC – July 19, 2011 – The Town of Wake Forest is urging area residents to help eliminate unsightly littering and illegal dumping along our streets and other public rights-of-way, as well as on private and commercial properties, by reporting such incidents and utilizing proper methods of waste disposal.

Residents who observe a person littering should report the license plate number of the offending vehicle to the NCDOT's Office of Beautification Programs at 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968). Upon receipt of the litterbug information, the NCDOT will notify the vehicle owner of the littering offense; inform the vehicle owner of the penalties for littering; and urge the litterbug to stop littering.

Illegal dumping is the dumping of any waste, such as construction and demolition debris, furniture, appliances, trash, litter, or landscaping cuttings, upon any public right-of-way, Town property or private property, without the consent of the owner.

Community assistance is essential to catching and deterring illegal dumps. Anyone who observes a person illegally dumping should report it immediately by calling the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150. With adequate information from an eyewitness, the Town can and will pursue prosecution.

Residents who witness illegal dumping should note the date, time, location and type of material being dumped; the vehicle's license plate number, color, make, and model; the gender, age, hair color, and clothing of the person doing the dumping; and any other identifying or incriminating evidence. Your name and phone number are optional.

Most illegal dumping is done to avoid paying disposal fees at landfills or failure to take the time and effort to dispose of items properly. Common areas for dumping include vacant properties, alleyways, commercial dumpsters, and along the roadside. Dumping causes devaluation of property, health hazards and stormwater pollution. Items dumped can wash debris and pollutants into the storm drain system, causing flooding, clogged drains and damage to fish, wildlife, and plants downstream.

Many disposal options are available to area residents, making illegal dumping unnecessary. The Town of Wake Forest provides free collection of bulk items to residents and businesses who receive curbside garbage and recycling from the Town. Bulk waste is defined as “refuse including appliances, furniture and other large items weighing in excess of 75 pounds each.” Such items include furniture, lawn mowers, swings, book shelves, and bicycles.

Wake Forest provides bulk collections every Tuesday for residents who have scheduled a pickup. Pickups may be scheduled by calling (919) 435-9570 or e-mailing bpearce@wakeforestnc.gov by 2 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Tuesday pickup.

For more information about Wake Forest’s bulk waste program, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/publicworks_bulkpickup.aspx or call (919) 435-9570.

For a complete listing of Wake County waste collection and drop-off facilities, visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/residents/conveniencecenters.htm.

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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.