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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UDO INFORMATION MEETINGS SET FOR MARCH 1

WAKE FOREST, NC – February 20, 2012 - The Wake Forest Planning Department is inviting interested citizens to attend one of three informational meetings on Thursday, March 1, concerning the status of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the ground floor meeting room of Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks St. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to use the facility's rear entrance along Taylor Street.

Consultant Craig Lewis and the Town's planning staff will provide an overview of the UDO process and answer questions. Area developers, contractors, builders, tenants, homeowners, and other interested citizens are encouraged to attend one of the sessions and offer their input.

The UDO represents one of the key implementing strategies towards fulfilling the vision of the 2010 Community Plan. Once adopted, it will replace Wake Forest's current assortment of development ordinances and combine into a single document the Town's existing zoning, subdivision, land use, grading, storm water management, and historic preservation regulations.

Wake Forest has hired the Lawrence Group, a nationally-recognized and award-winning town planning and design firm, to help guide the effort. The initiative is expected to result in higher quality development throughout the community and a more predictable development process for citizens, neighborhoods, elected and appointed officials, and developers.

The UDO is being tailored as a user-friendly document to include graphics, tables, and images that will help clarify Town rules and expectations. The UDO will also introduce a simplified use table; new standards for architectural design; enhanced requirements for the dedication of public open space; and clear supplemental use requirements that will reduce the reliance on unpredictable Special Use Permits and laborious permit processes that have caused frustration among developers and neighbors.

The following chapters of the UDO have been drafted and will be discussed during the March 1 workshops:

- Zoning District Provisions & New Zoning Map
- Land Use Standards
- Development Provisions
- Building Design Standards
- Recreation & Open Space
- Parking & Loading
- Nonconformities
- Administration
- Violations & Penalties

Future chapters are being developed and will be presented at a later date.

The UDO Advisory Committee is guiding the preparation of the UDO. Comprised of 11 interested citizens, the committee receives technical support from Town staff, working in coordination with consultant, Craig Lewis.

The Town has launched a weblog or “blog,” to keep area residents updated about the progress of the UDO. Located at www.wakeforestnc.gov/udo_blog.aspx, the blog contain stories and updates about the UDO’s development, as well as important announcements, photographs and notes from community meetings. The site is designed to encourage citizens to offer their ideas and opinions concerning the UDO by providing links to an online comment form at the end of each entry.

For more information, contact Assistant Planning Director Chad Sary at (919) 435-9514 or csary@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.