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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION MARCH 15**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – March 6, 2012** – The Town of Wake Forest will host its annual Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, March 15, beginning at 10 a.m. The event will be held at the Wake Forest Community House, 133 W. Owen Ave.

Wake Forest's Arbor Day observance will include a musical performance by Wake Forest Elementary School first graders and a presentation by students of Wakefield High School agriculture and horticulture teacher Jodi Riedel, the 2009 NC Environmental Educator of the Year.

The program will also include several award presentations by the Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board. The board will recognize this year's Arbor Day Poster Contest winners and present Green Medal Awards to individuals, civic clubs, and businesses who worked during the past year to promote the town's urban forest.

Arbor Day is part of an annual nationwide campaign to promote the planting of trees. The event began in Nebraska in 1872 when newspaper journalist J. Sterling Morton proposed a tree-planting holiday to the State Board of Agriculture.

Although National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, individual state commemorations are scheduled on dates better suited to their own tree-planting seasons. North Carolina officially celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday following March 15.

The Urban Forestry Board, formerly known as the Tree Board, was established in 1978 as an advisory committee to the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners. The nine-member committee oversees all planting in rights-of-way and on public property.

For more information about this year's Arbor Day festivities, contact Urban Forester Evan Keto at (919) 435-9565 or [eketo@wakeforestnc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov).