



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAKE FOREST TO INCREASE WATER & SEWER RATES

WAKE FOREST, NC – May 22, 2012 – The Wake Forest Board of Commissioners voted during its regular May 15 meeting to raise water and sewer rates by 15% beginning July 1. The rate increase is a necessary step towards paying off the remaining utility merger cost between the Town and the City of Raleigh. A more modest rate increase is expected next year.

The average Wake Forest homeowner uses 6,300 gallons of water each month at a cost of \$68.26. The 15% rate hike is expected to raise the average customer's monthly bill to \$78.44.

The Town of Wake Forest and the City of Raleigh merged their water and sewer systems in July 2005. In accordance with the regional utility plan, the City of Raleigh assumed sole responsibility for operating, maintaining, improving and expanding the water and wastewater collection system that serves the Town of Wake Forest. Since then, the two municipalities have worked together to refine and complete a schedule of upgrades and improvements to Wake Forest's water and sewer system.

The City of Raleigh owns and operates the water and wastewater system that provides service to residents within the urban service area designated for the Town of Wake Forest. The Town retained authority concerning when and where new water and sewer services can be extended to support growth and development within its planning and zoning jurisdiction, subject to conditions in the inter-local agreement.

Wake Forest planned to pay off the merger debt this year. Higher operating costs, slower population growth, and decreased water consumption delayed the pay off schedule which is now expected to occur in 2014.

For more information, contact Deputy Town Manager Roe O'Donnell at (919) 435-9412 or Finance Director Aileen Staples at (919) 435-9461 or astaples@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.