



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake, Garner Leaders Encourage Landlords, Community to Assist Forest Hills Residents

Officials from Wake County and the Town of Garner today encouraged landlords and community organizations to assist residents of an apartment complex in Garner who are in search of affordable housing after receiving notices that they may face eviction.

The owner of Forest Hills Apartments plans to renovate the property and will not accept any form of housing assistance payments when it reopens. Individuals and families in all 136 apartments must move out by June 15.

“There is a shortage of affordable housing in Wake County,” said Sig Hutchinson, Wake County’s board chairman. “We need more landlords to step up and accept tenants with rental assistance vouchers so that these families can be sure to have a roof over their heads on June 16.”

Most of the affected Forest Hills residents receive Department of Housing and Urban Development rental assistance, which is administered by local housing authorities. In this situation, Wake County is serving as the convener, bringing together the appropriate

government agencies, housing authorities and community partners to coordinate relocation assistance for Forest Hills residents.

Wake County and its community partners have worked with 110 Forest Hills residents to provide relocation services, emergency financial information and referrals to other services. Approximately 70 residents have secured new housing.

“Garner has a strong sense of community,” said Ronnie Williams, mayor of the Town of Garner. “Forest Hills residents also need help locating packing materials, packing their belongings and securing moving trucks. I encourage our residents and community organizations to step forward and offer assistance where they can.”

Landlords interested in accepting tenants with rental assistance vouchers and residents who want to help can contact the Wake County Housing Division at 919-856-5689.

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