Utility Bill Payment Drive-up Did you know there is a drive-up window to pay your City of Georgetown utility bill? The next time you pay your bill at the Georgetown Municipal Complex at 300-1 Industrial Avenue, give it a try. Drive-up hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Trash Collection Rules Modified

An ordinance update on solid waste and composting was approved by the city council and went into effect in September. Trash collection carts and recycling bins can be placed on the curb no earlier than 5 p.m. on the day before collection day and should be put away by 7 a.m. on the day following collection day.

Bulky waste should be placed on the curb no more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled appointment. This includes appliances, furniture, tree limbs, and other large items that do not fit in the cart. Residents may request one free bulky waste pickup each calendar quarter by calling Texas Disposal Systems at (512) 930-1715.

Composting should be done at the rear of a property in a contained area or bin no larger than three cubic yards in size. To discourage odors or wild animals, compost piles should not include meat, bones, grease, dairy products, or pet waste.

Violations can result in a warning on first offense, then up to $500 per day or up to $2,000 per day for serious health or safety violations.

Wildfire Evacuations Does 9-1-1 Have Your Number?

September wildfires burned through neighborhoods across Central Texas, leaving thousands of people without a home. Many more were evacuated by public safety personnel to avoid the quickly-spreading wildfires.

They can draw a circle on an online map, and then automatically send a phone message to thousands of homes in that area in a matter of minutes. The system is the quickest way to notify a neighborhood in the event of an emergency like a threatening wildfire, hazardous chemical spill, or flood. Messages are distributed to people via phone and email.

ENS can only be used to notify you if your number is in the 9-1-1 database.

If you have a landline phone, you are likely in the database. However, if you don’t have a landline phone in your home, but only have a mobile number, then 9-1-1 may have no way to reach you.

To give the 9-1-1 emergency communications center the ability to call you on a mobile number, you can register that number by going to http://wireless.capcog.org. Only authorized public safety personnel can use the system to send an emergency notification message. Residents are called only when property or human life is in jeopardy. No phone numbers are provided to the public.

This service and the 9-1-1 emergency communications database are provided by the Capital Area Council of Governments or CAPCOG, a government agency serving the 10-county region that includes Williamson County. Nearly 4,000 people in the CAPCOG region have registered mobile phones. You have the option to register multiple phone numbers to the same location, or register one mobile number to multiple addresses such as home or work.

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6

Time to change your smoke alarm batteries!
A message from the Georgetown Fire Department

Thanksgiving holiday

City offices closed
Nov. 24-25
No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 24. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slides to Saturday.
November Events

Farmers Markets
Sun City Market, Tuesdays
9 a.m. to Noon,
2 Texas Drive at Social Center
Georgetown Market, Thursdays
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.,
E. Morrow Street
Details at www.gfmtma.com
Markets held through Nov. 22.

The Palace Theater
A Christmas Carol, The Musical
2011, Nov. 18 - Dec. 30
Details at GeorgetownPalace.com, or call (512) 869-7469.

First Friday, Nov. 4
Downtown live music, shops and restaurants are open late. See the Downtown Georgetown Association website at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

Animal Shelter
Open House, Nov. 5
Visit our cats and dogs and meet shelter staff, 1 to 3 p.m.,
Georgetown Animal Shelter,
110 WL Walden Drive.

Market Days, Nov. 12
Handmade arts and crafts, food, and more on the Square from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to a chili cook-off at noon that will raise funds for the Christmas Stroll.
Details at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

Lighting of the Square, Nov. 25
Carolers, cookies, and hot chocolate as Georgetown lights the historic Courthouse Square for the holiday season at 5:30 p.m.

Aging Initiative Senior Survey
A survey of seniors age 60 or over by the Georgetown Aging Initiative is expected to be available online in November. The survey will collect information on health and social services, transportation, and civic engagement for senior adults. A paper version of the survey is available now. Go to www.AgingInGtown.com for paper survey locations or call Vickie Orcutt with Family Eldercare at (512) 628-1685.

Edible Construction Extravaganza
Announcing the Georgetown Public Library’s tenth annual Edible Construction Extravaganza! Gingerbread houses are fine, but feel free to get more creative. The only restrictions are that all building materials must be edible and entries should not exceed 18 inches deep by 18 inches wide. Transport and display will be much more successful if your entry is on a firm base.

The Edible Construction Extravaganza includes four categories for original designs made by one person:
age 8 and younger,
age 9-12, age 13-17, and age 18 and older.

There is also a category for original designs made by two or more persons and a category for entries made from kits, including kits that have been enhanced.

Entries will be accepted December 2, 3, 4, and 5 from 9 a.m. (noon on Sunday) until one-half hour before closing (4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday). The winners, selected by public voting, will be announced on December 16. Prizes will be a $25 gift card for each category.

WOW Bookmobile Nears Campaign Goal
In July the City Council approved the purchase of a bookmobile for the Georgetown Public Library, which will be paid for by the Friends of the Georgetown Library. It has been ordered and delivery is expected in December. The Friends have raised more than $100,000, but still need approximately $50,000 to meet their fund-raising goal. Donations may be made by credit card at wowbookmobile.org or by check at the Georgetown Public Library.

The Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau calls on Georgetown residents to help make the town red with poppies in April. The goal of the seed planting is to encourage a plentiful springtime crop of Georgetown’s signature flowers to welcome visitors to the Red Poppy Capital of Texas.

Georgetown’s red poppy tradition began when World War I veteran, Henry Purl “Okra” Compton, sent a packet of Flanders Field red poppy seeds to his mother Maggie who lived in Georgetown. She planted the first seeds in the yard of her home on E. Seventh Street and over time, the poppies spread across Old Town.

Throughout October and November, poppy seeds will be available for free at the Visitor Information Center, located at 101 W. Seventh Street. Instructions are on the seed packets.