

GEORGETOWN CITY Reporter



VOL. 12 • No. 1

A Publication of the City of Georgetown

January 2015

Georgetown Animal Shelter Meets No-Kill Goal



Animal Services employees Jackie Carey and Shawn Gunnin help to take care of cats like Mouse at the shelter.

For the second time in four years, the Georgetown Animal Shelter marked an important milestone for the animals in their care.

The City shelter achieved a live outcome rate of 90 percent for the 2014 fiscal year, which spanned October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. This means that the shelter met the common standard for no-kill status, which is a euthanasia rate under 10 percent. Animals are euthanized at the shelter only when they are severely sick or injured, or exhibit behavior unsafe to other animals or people.

This is the second time for the shelter to meet the annual no-kill standard. The shelter had a 90 percent live outcome rate in the 2011 calendar year. In the 2013 fiscal year, the

There were other notable milestones from the 2014 fiscal year compared with prior fiscal years:

A record number of adoptions, with 904 in 2014, 871 in 2013, and 822 in 2012.

A noticeable spike in cat adoptions, with 500 adopted in 2014, 371 in 2013, and 412 in 2012.

The highest number of impounded animals ever with 1,863 impounded in 2014—a 12 percent increase. The number impounded in 2013 was 1,664 and in 2012 was 1,671. A near-record number of animals returned to their owners with 426 returned in 2014, 438 in 2013 and 318 in 2012. That is a 34 percent increase from two years ago.

According to Carey, the dramatic increase in animals being returned to their owners is probably a result of increased efforts to track down and work with owners on reclaiming their animals, as well as more animals being microchipped. In summary, the shelter took in 12 percent more animals than in the previous year, yet both the number of adoptions and the number returned to owners increased, resulting in fewer animals being euthanized.

“This is a huge accomplishment for an open intake municipal shelter,” said Carey. “We are required by law to take in every animal surrendered or picked up at-large within our jurisdiction, even aggressive or sick animals. To accomplish no-kill under those requirements is nothing short of amazing.”



Best of Georgetown, Texas Winners

The votes are in! Below are some of the gold (first-place) winners in the 2014 Best of Georgetown, Texas contest:

- Best Overall Restaurant:** Dos Salsas
 - Best Hamburger:** Burger University
 - Best Barbeque:** The Pit Barbeque
 - Best Pizza:** 600 Degrees Pizzeria and Drafthouse
 - Best Wine:** Georgetown Winery
 - Best Women's Haircut:** Razmataz Salon
 - Best Wedding Venue:** Gabriel Springs
- For a complete list of the gold, silver, and bronze winners, go to Bestof.Georgetown.org.



Abby, an energetic Australian Cattle Dog, shows some love to Animal Services employees John Torrez and Jessica Pierce in the dog recreation area at the shelter.

The Georgetown Animal Shelter is located at 110 W.L. Walden Street next to the McMaster Athletic Complex. The shelter website is pets.georgetown.org. Contact the Georgetown Animal Shelter by phone at (512) 930-3592 or by email at animalsvc@georgetown.org.

live outcome rate was 81 percent, and in fiscal year 2012 it was 85 percent.

“I’m so proud of our staff and volunteers who work so hard to find good, appropriate homes for our dogs and cats. And we are all grateful to the public for adopting,” said Jackie Carey, animal services manager.

Holiday Closings

City offices closed
Jan. 1: New Year's Day
Jan. 19: MLK Day

No solid waste or recycling pickup on Jan. 1.

For New Year's week:
Thursday slides to Friday
Friday slides to Saturday

Regular solid waste and recycling collection on MLK Day.



The new trail section includes an overlook near the University Avenue Bridge over the San Gabriel River.

Park improvements Trail Section Dedicated

A new section of the San Gabriel River Trail was dedicated by the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department in October. The new mile-long trail section extends from University Avenue north to Blue Hole Park. The eight-foot-wide concrete trail parallels Scenic Drive and goes through Chautauqua Park.

Renovations to San Jose Park at 1707 San Jose and Chautauqua Park at 602 Rucker Street also were completed in October. Work included new parking areas, restrooms, and accessible walkways at each park, as well as new playground equipment at San Jose Park.



The new playground at San Jose Park includes swings and a playscape.

Aqua Alert Works

Georgetown customer John Copelan was away on a beautiful Alaskan vacation when he received an email from the Aqua Alert Messenger. Much to his surprise, the alert let him know that his water usage had exceeded his selected threshold. Copelan contacted the Georgetown Customer Care department about the unexpected water use number. In looking at daily water use read-

ings for the house, the Customer Care representative identified a likely irrigation leak. After further investigation at Copelan's home, an irrigation pipe was found to be separated at a joint, causing the loss of water.

Thanks to Aqua Messenger, Copelan was notified immediately that his water consumption had peaked over his designated level, thus resulting in the discovery of a damaged pipe and no more water lost. Copelan hopes his story will help others be aware that Aqua Messenger really does work.

"Good thing we had Aqua Alert!" says Copelan.

To sign up for Aqua Alerts, go to water.georgetown.org.

City Boards and Commissions

The City of Georgetown is accepting applications to fill vacant or expiring terms on the City's boards or commissions. The deadline to apply for one of these volunteer positions is January 9. Terms begin in March. Information and applications are available at www.georgetown.org.

Street Maintenance Sales Tax Reauthorized

Georgetown voters approved Proposition 1 for the street maintenance sales tax with 83 percent support for the measure in the November election. Prop 1 is for the reauthorization of a dedicated 0.25 percent sales tax for street maintenance in the City of Georgetown.

Georgetown voters initially approved the sales tax for street maintenance in 2002 by 57 percent of the vote. The sales tax was reauthorized in 2006 by 72 percent of the vote and in 2010 by 80 percent approval. The sales tax must be reauthorized every four years according to state law.

January 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., Church of Christ,
1525 W. University Ave.
Details at www.gtffma.org
Wolf Ranch Farmers Market,
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Wolf Ranch Town Center,
1015 W. University Avenue,
WolfRanchFarmersMarket.com.

The Palace Theater

Jesus Christ Superstar,
Jan. 16 - Feb. 15
Details at GeorgetownPalace.com,
or call (512) 869-7469.

The *Georgetown City Reporter* is a publication of the City of Georgetown Public Communications Department, P.O. Box 409, Georgetown, Texas, 78627. For questions or comments, contact Keith Hutchinson, public communications manager, at (512) 930-3690 or by email at keith.hutchinson@georgetown.org.

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