Burglaries from Vehicles

The Georgetown Police Department has some surprising data on where burglaries from vehicles are occurring and why. Most incidents are not happening at shopping malls and at businesses in Georgetown.

In the first nine months of 2015, two thirds of the burglaries from vehicles in Georgetown happened when the vehicle was parked at a house or apartment. Only 24 percent of the incidents happened at a mall or other commercial location. For the 92 residential burglaries of vehicles that happened in January through October of this year, 74 percent were from an unlocked vehicle. Overall, 68 percent of the burglaries from vehicles in 2015 were from unlocked vehicles.

The surprising fact that emerges is that many people don’t lock their vehicles while at home. However, this is where thieves are most likely to steal items from cars.

“We’ve reached out to businesses in Georgetown to make them aware of the issue,” says Lt. Jim Seals. “Hotels, restaurants, and apartment complexes close to I-35 seem to be a target for thieves since there is an easy escape route. Now we need to get the word to residents.”

The simple habit of locking your car door, no matter where you are, can greatly reduce the chances that you’ll be the next victim.

Animal Shelter Sets Record for Live Outcomes

The Georgetown Animal Shelter has reached a major milestone by attaining a 96 percent live outcome rate—the highest ever achieved by the shelter—in the most recent fiscal year. From October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, the shelter achieved no-kill status in every month with an overall 4 percent. A rate of 10 percent or lower is considered no-kill among animal shelters.

Jackie Carey, animal services manager, says that dogs and cats are euthanized only when they are not adoptable due to serious health problems or behavioral issues that could pose a safety risk. “We don’t euthanize to make an empty cage,” says Carey. The euthanasia rate is down 58 percent this year compared to last year.

Reasons for the higher live outcome rate include enhanced sanitation and disease control measures, a new adoption room for cats, and a higher number of cat adoptions through placements at the PetSmart in Georgetown.

Another factor is a connection with Austin Pets Alive to place feral cats into adoption as barn cats. In addition, a training program for dogs called Dogs Playing for Life helps to socialize aggressive dogs so they can become adoptable.

The Georgetown Animal Shelter is located at 110 W.L. Walden Drive. Contact the shelter at (512) 930-3592 or online at pets.georgetown.org.

Holiday Closings

Jan. 1: New Year’s Day
Jan. 18: MLK Day

No solid waste or recycling pickup on Jan. 1.

For New Year’s Week:
Thursday pickup slides to Friday
Friday slides to Saturday

Regular solid waste and recycling collection on MLK Day.
City Offices Move

The Planning Department, Economic Development Department, and a few small City departments are moving to the historic Light and Water Works building at the corner of Eighth and MLK Jr. streets. The red brick building with the smoke stack was home to the police department for 30 years.

The Planning Department entrance is on the east side of the building addressed as 406 W. Eighth Street. The Planning Department will be closed December 30 – 31 and will open in the new location on January 4. The Permitting and Inspections Department is not moving, but will remain at 300-1 Industrial Avenue at the Georgetown Municipal Complex.

The Economic Development Department moved to the Light and Water Works building in November. The department uses the west entrance to the building addressed as 809 MLK, Jr. Street. The Main Street Program, Housing Department, and Public Communications Department also moved to the new building in November.

Best of Georgetown, Texas Winners

The votes are in! Below are some of the gold (first-place) winners in the 2015 Best of Georgetown, Texas contest:

**Best Overall Restaurant**: Dos Salsas
**Best Date Spot**: El Monumento
**Best Comfort Food**: Monument Cafe
**Best Kid Friendly Restaurant**: Hat Creek Burger Co.
**Best Men’s Haircut**: Sport Clips
**Best Computer Repair**: Click Computers
**Best Place to Take Kids**: San Gabriel Park

For a complete list of the gold, silver, and bronze winners, go to BestofGeorgetown.org.