

G'town requires fire alarms for all kennels

Horse, livestock facilities exempted

By CHRISTOPHER DE LOS SANTOS

All pet-care facilities in business in Georgetown will have 18 months to install fire alarms after the city council adopted updates to the city fire code on February 22.

"If a business is pet care, the product is the care of pets," Douglas Sterns, of Georgetown, told the council on February 22. "I'm not asking to enforce retrofitting; I'm demanding that you require that businesses actually deliver the service they're selling."

Future businesses that

care for companion animals will have stricter fire code regulations than the alarm requirement, according to the fire code updates the council adopted.

Equestrian facilities and horse barns, along with livestock on farms and ranches, will be exempted from the fire code regulations under the updated fire code.

The newly adopted regulations will go into effect 10 days after adoption, applying to future kennels from March 9 onward, according to a city statement.

"The code amendments

the council approved this week [will] make Georgetown one of the safest places to board your pet in the entire country," Mayor Josh Schroeder said. "These amendments represent a long overdue change in how the fire code protects these important members of our families."

The fire safety features animal-care facilities are now required to install will help prevent tragedies, like the September fire that killed 75 dogs, the mayor said.

He also said that city staff would be available to work with anyone who wants to bring this model to other

towns and cities.

Twenty-three animal-care facilities operate in the Georgetown Fire Department service area, according to the statement. Of these, 17 will have to install fire alarms, while six already have them.

Requirements

All animal-care facilities to be built in Georgetown after March 9 will have advanced fire protection features that include a sprinkler system, the new code requires.

Unless sprinklers are otherwise required by the City's Building or Fire codes, these alternatives to

a sprinkler system will be acceptable for such facilities.

- With capacity for 50 or fewer animals, a supervised fire alarm system and walls built to the same standard as the garages in most homes will be accepted in lieu of a sprinkler system.

- Those with the capacity for 51 to 100 animals that meet the requirements for 50 animals or fewer, and have walls surrounding the kennel area made from fire resistant materials will not be required to install a sprinkler system.

- A facility with the capacity for 101 or more animals on-site will be required to

provide all animals immediate, unobstructed access to the outdoors, to have a supervised fire alarm system and to provide constant supervision in lieu of installing a sprinkler system.

Providing 24-hour on-site supervision and installing an approved fire alarm system would also be acceptable in lieu of a sprinkler system.

Electronically supervised carbon-monoxide detection systems also are required in all, newly constructed animal-care facilities.

The fire department will also add animal housing or care facilities to its annual, priority inspections list.

Resources, both online and offline

Where are your car repair manuals located? This is a common question received by the reference desk at the Georgetown Public Library. As a tactile person, I personally love my Haynes repair manual. However, some things are not feasible to keep in the library in physical format, either due to space constraints or because the nature of the information is that it needs frequent updating. Cue the databases.

These online resources provide searchable collections of information on a variety of topics. The beauty of databases is that they do not take up shelf space and they provide up to date information without waiting for the latest edition of a print book. A database, such as Chilton Auto Repair, can compile repair manuals for thousands of automobiles ranging from 1901 to 2022.

The library receives several of our databases through TexShare. Administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, TexShare is a consortium of Texas libraries that shares print and electronic materials and more. Through the TexShare program the library has access to Chilton Auto Repair and many more resources.

Problems with a lawn mower, generator, motorcycle or boat? The Small Engine Repair Reference Center offers manuals for a variety of makes and models. The Home Improvement Reference Center provides how-to guides for everything from plumbing to interior decorating. My personal favorite tool is their "Conversion Chart" which includes how to convert a variety of measurements but also comparison charts on saw blades, drill bits and adhesives. For those wanting to learn a new craft, there is the Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center, which is also a great source of new knitting patterns. Turning your hobby into a business? Check out the Small Business Reference Center which hosts NOLO Do It Yourself Guides and small business planning tools.

Learning Express Centers contain study guides, flashcards and practice tests for everything from AP exams, the SATs, and the GED to cosmetology and air traffic control exams. TexShare also has several databases that feature articles, peer-reviewed texts and more on research topics ranging from health and wellness to literature.

The library also subscribes to databases sepa-

BIBLIOFILES

Ann Evans

What's going on in the library?

- March 1-May 15: Open call for 2023 art exhibit proposals (see library.georgetown.org/art)
- March 2-26: Sun City Clay and China Club: Ageless Pottery and Ceramics
- March 3, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: Fiber and Friends
- March 4, 4-6 p.m.: Reception for Sun City Clay and China Club
- March 4, 7-9 p.m.: Adultish: March is for Mushrooms (registration required)
- March 6, 2-4 p.m.: Reception for Artists of Central Texas (first floor Café Gallery)
- March 9, 6:30 p.m.: GPL World Cinema: Respect (registration required)
- March 20, 2-3:30 p.m.: Live Music at the Library: The Here and Now (registration required)

For more information about these and other library events, visit library.georgetown.org/events-calendar or call 512-930-3551.

rately from TexShare. Value Line provides investment and stock information. Mango features interactive learning tools for over 70 languages available either on a computer or via their app. Newspaper Archives may interest local genealogists with their historical selection of small-town Texas papers.

Almost all the library databases are available to resident and non-resident cardholders from the comfort of their own home by logging into their account. All databases are available for use in-house at the library, just ask at the reference desk and we will be able to assist you in accessing them. Explore the library's database offerings at library.georgetown.org/research.

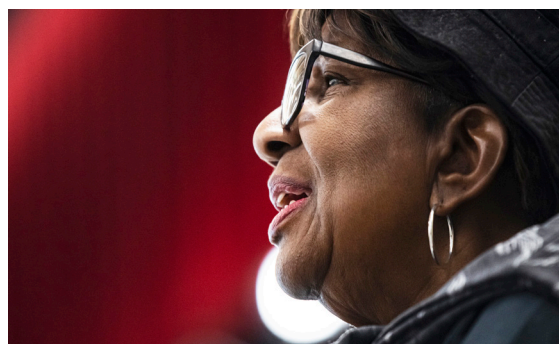
See you soon at the library!

Ann Evans is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library

Estate Sale
March 3rd, 4th & 5th
9am-4pm
 241 Landons Way,
 Georgetown, TX 78633



Carson Durden takes part in a workout during a Black History Month Health and Wellness event held at Tippet Middle School on Saturday.



Above, Paulette Taylor, president of the Georgetown Cultural Citizen Memorial Association, joins others in the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black National Anthem. The two-hour health event was sponsored by the Georgetown Cultural Citizen Memorial Association.

Left, Rylie Thomas, 7, leaps high as she takes part in an exercise routine.

PETS OF THE WEEK



POY



ABU



WILLIE NELSON



PALOMA

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Williamson County Animal Shelter

Poy, 5, is an adorable little guy with a big-sized personality. A volunteer had this to say about him: a lot of fun in a compact, easy to manage size. And you can't beat that gray blue coloring. We agree. Poy is a smart guy. He knows "sit down," "stay there," "lay down," "gimme hugs," "besitos" and "go to your room," where he will go put himself in his crate and wait for you to close it. If you don't, he will get right back out as soon as he sees you're not watching him. He's house- and crate-trained. Poy loves apples and supervising shower time, and he thinks he's a lap dog. What's not to love about this adorable guy?

Abu, 5, was a scared kitty who came from a home with 44 other cats in it. He's learned he's safe now, and he'd love a new family to give him lots of attention. A generous donor has made him a part of our Adoption Angel program, so his adoption fee has already been paid. If you want to give Abu a space to relax, enjoy the comforts of a loving home, dine on yummy meals, and just be a cool cat.

Email adoption@wilco.org to schedule a priority-service appointment today.

Georgetown Animal Shelter

Willie Nelson, 10, has lived through some country music woes. He lost his home when his owner lost hers. Now he is counting on a good-hearted person to give him a good home and family life again. Willie is a friendly and polite senior dog who enjoys affection and short walks. He gets along with other dogs and older children. Come meet this boy, and see if you don't want to whisk him home. Blue skies for Willie are just a phone call away.

Paloma, 2, is that rare sort of pooch who is so thoughtful that she could easily become one of the most important people in your life. She'll look in your eyes like she knows exactly what kind of day you've had. This tomboy loves to chase and box with the other shelter dogs. Paloma loves kids too, and once she adopts you, she will become the missing puzzle piece in your family.

Call the Georgetown Animal Shelter at 512-930-3592 to ask about Willie or Paloma. Visit pets.georgetown.org to see all available pets and how to make an appointment to meet them.