

Motor Vehicle Theft Increases at Georgia College

By: Meredith Lawrence

Twelve motor vehicle thefts have been reported at GC, but the majority of these vehicles are golf carts, Don Challis said, GC chief of police and director of public safety.

“When a golf cart is taken, we have to count it as a motor vehicle theft,” Challis said. “We have very few actual thefts of vehicles and no carjackings.”

Ten motor vehicle thefts were reported on campus, and two were reported on public property in 2016. This number has increased from seven reported thefts in 2015.

On Aug. 20, a vehicle was stolen from the 100 block of West Thomas Street, located across from a GC commuter lot. The keys were left inside the unlocked vehicle, and GC Public Safety notified the students at the school via email when the incident occurred.

“As far as working for the college goes, that’s the kind of motor vehicle theft we see the most,” GC Public Safety Officer Samantha Davis said. “It’s actually the utility golf carts that people use when they’re working around the dorms.”

Challis said the golf carts are typically taken for joyriding without any intent to steal. They are easy to start and are typically found in bushes. Once found, the cart is returned to the department.

Andrew Brown’s truck was stolen in February 2017 from Station on Macintosh. The car was found the next morning, vandalized.

“Whoever stole it had messed up the transmission pretty bad and gone through everything in my car,” Brown said. “It was an old truck that could pretty much start with anyone’s keys.”

SNAP is a free service for students that escorts students on golf carts to various locations around campus.

“SNAP carts are always either in a gated motor pool or under a SNAP officer, and I encourage my SNAP officers to never leave keys in the carts,” SNAP supervisor Connor Kilch said. “I don’t know of any instances where SNAP carts have been taken.”

GC Public Safety recommends locking your vehicles and keeping valuables out of sight.