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Self-storage options

**A tale of two storages: Benefits of Greensboro storage facilities**

GREENSBORO, NC—With the holiday season and winter break coming up, college students may be looking for an inexpensive, secure and clean place to store their belongings. Staff members at two self-storage companies in Greensboro said that students could discover great storage deals, and a variety of options, for the upcoming break.

Bee Safe Storage and Wine Cellar, managed by CubeSmart, is the newest facility in Greensboro. Built in 2013, it is a state-of-the-art operation. Employee Bill Sullivan, who has worked at this location since it opened, explained why the upscale storage units are a “bang for your buck deal.” He described the numerous features the company offers, including: 550 units to choose from, in a wide variety of sizes, 24-hour recorded-video surveillance, free moving services, climate control and a wine storage facility. As Sullivan concluded, “what else can you ask for?”

Bee Safe also offers storage for vehicles and boats in their secure outdoor lots. “We’ve gotten several calls from local college students asking if we can store their cars over short periods of time, such as during Thanksgiving break. If they need a secure place to leave their cars, we can offer that.”

The three-story building is made of brick and stone to fit into the upscale neighborhood, which is a few blocks west of downtown Greensboro. According to an article from May 2013 in the Triad Business Journal by Catherine Carlock, Roy Carroll, the developer, did not want the building to look like “a bunch of multicolored garages” stacked together.

The high-quality facility has surprisingly moderate prices, and offers discounts. Sullivan recommended the 5 x 10 storage unit for college students, which is currently $68.85 per month, including a 15% discount off the usual price. The first month is free for new members. According to Sullivan, that unit type is the most popular among students because it’s the perfect size to fit a desk, lamp, chest of drawers, mini-fridge and other typical dorm room furniture.

Bee Safe Storage also offers moving and packing supplies, which are popular among college students, according to Sullivan. “Nowadays, these kids just have so much stuff, they don’t know where to put all of it,” he said. “I’ve seen people just throw everything into trash bags and dump it in the unit. They always seem relieved when we offer packing supplies. That seems to be the missing step for a lot of them.”

About 10 minutes down the road, SecurCare, at 3730 West Wendover Avenue in Greensboro, also has much to offer. During a phone interview, manager Krista Caviness explained the advantages of the company over its competitors in the area. SecurCare has over 120 facilities in nine states, and offers month-to-month leases and tenant insurance. The fenced West Wendover facility provides drive-up storage units and vehicle parking. The 5x10 units are only $40 a month, with the first month free for new members.

The SecurCare facility seems to have a college-friendly environment with a unique touch. For more than ten years, the company has attracted the local music community, earning the nickname “Bandland.” The 10x20 and 10x25 storage units have internal power cords, climate controls and surveillance security that create desirable rehearsal and practice sites for local bands and musicians. Members receive 24 hour gated access, thermostats that can be adjusted for the needs of instruments, and of course, a place to keep their equipment safe.

Caviness believes that SecureCare’s services create a unique and welcoming environment. “We have gotten fantastic reviews in the past. I wouldn’t mind stopping by and listening in on a practice one day. A student band from UNC Greensboro practiced here three times last week.”

Caviness said that SecureCare’s units are also popular among local college students. “We definitely get a fair share of college students around here. We’re located pretty close to UNC Greensboro, Bennett College, Guilford College and Greensboro College. I’d say we get the most business from college students overall.”

When asked what size storage unit she recommends for college students, Caviness provided a different answer from Sullivan. “I would definitely recommend a 10x10 storage unit. These units can hold the contents of one or two bedrooms. From what I’ve experienced, roommates tend to store their things together, and then split the cost of the unit. This also makes it cheaper. A 10x10 unit is only $55 a month.”

According to the manager, the bulk of business occurs during the summer. “Right now is not a particularly busy time for us. Holiday break is not that long, and students tend to keep their belongings at school. We get most of our calls at the end of April and beginning of May, when people are packing their things up for the summer.”

College students in the area should keep both storage companies in mind for their future needs. Whether they wish to store their cars over the holidays, keep their prized furniture safe over the summer, or rehearse music at odd hours, there is a business to meet their needs.

At the end of his interview, Bee Safe employee Sullivan expressed his fondness for his job. “What makes this job satisfying is knowing that there is a part of someone behind every locked door that I will probably never see. Could be some dusty books, could be a diamond necklace. But whatever it is, they trust us to keep it safe. That is a great responsibility.”