

Holiday Precautions

Mail Box Thefts

As we head into the holiday season, more and more mailboxes are being raided by people hoping to find cash and other valuable information. With increased visitors in our neighborhoods and people checking out bulk trash for recyclable items, you may want to consider making an excursion to the post office to mail anything that might contain cash or other key information. When you raise the red “flag” on your mail box, you are advertising you have something outgoing. Maybe it is a gratuity for the mail man, or a cash gift intended for a loved one. Please play it safe and avoid being a victim.

Porch Pirates

‘Tis the season. Yes, porch pirates are having a field day given the increase in online shopping and deliveries. Here are a few guidelines if you do shop online:

- Sign up to track your packages.
 - Some vendors no longer ring doorbells when they deliver packages; so, set an alert to go to your cell phone or email.
 - Tracking packages helps you know when a package leaves a fulfillment warehouse and usually gives you a target window when that package should arrive.
- If you know you will not be home when a delivery occurs:
 - Send the package to an authorized vendor holding point for pickup where you can personally retrieve your package.
 - See if a neighbor will be home and have your package re-directed to that neighbor’s address.
 - Reroute the package to your office or location where you can receive the package.
- If you notice a suspicious vehicle following a delivery van, notify police and provide the vehicle make, model, color, and, if possible, a license number. Since this is not a violent crime (priority one), the detail you provide allows dispatch and the officers information they can pursue when not handling more critical issues.

Please do not let a porch pirate ruin your holiday season.

Guarding Against Thieves in General

- Keep doors and windows locked for houses as well as vehicles. If you have an alarm, use it. If not, consider getting one as they are very affordable these days.
- If out shopping, please remember to lock, take and hide. Store valuables in the trunk if you are unable to take them home. Keep your head on a swivel and constantly be aware of your surroundings.