

MAILBOX THEFTS HAVE CONTINUED TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE GREENHAVEN AND POCKET AREAS. HERE ARE ADDITIONAL TIPS TO STAY INFORMED ON *WHAT* TO EXPECT IN YOUR MAILBOX AND *WHEN* TO EXPECT IT.

- Have you heard of the FREE service offered by USPS called *Informed Delivery*? After you sign up you receive an early email every morning containing black and white images of any letter-sized mail that you will receive that day. The images are produced via a scanner that the postal service used long before mail thefts became so common. This service allows you to know what mail to anticipate that day, and, per our mail carrier, it is 99% accurate. Should you *not* receive an indicated item, it usually arrives the next day. This service is also convenient if you are expecting a check or other important mail.
It is a great service but will only include letter sized pieces of mail and packages. Go to InformedDelivery.USPS.com – again FREE.
- *RING* now offers a small inexpensive mailbox sensor. It alerts you anytime your box is opened. This is not only handy in detecting possible theft, but you will know immediately when mail is delivered. You do not need an entire *RING* system and the device is available on *Amazon* for \$49. It is very easy to install.
- Do not place your stamped outgoing mail in your mailbox for your mailperson to pick up (red flag way.) Either give it to your mailperson directly or mail it at the many available mailboxes or post office. For new neighbors, our closest post office is located at 5930 South Land Park Dr. Many of our nearby grocers also have USPS mail capacities.
- If you routinely receive checks (pension, SS, tax refund, payment for rents or online sales, etc.) set up a bank direct deposit or even *PayPal*, *Venmo*, etc. This is faster, more efficient and your bank can alert you when the monies have been posted to your account much sooner.
- Don't allow mail to accumulate in your box. Always minimize the time your mail is left unattended. Arrange for a neighbor to gather it if you are leaving town or place a 'hold delivery' with the post office.
- Become familiar with the usual drop off time by your mail carrier.
- If you have outdoor surveillance cameras, aim one at your box.
- If your mailbox is lockable, lock it.
- Talk to your mail carrier to keep apprised as to the occurrence or frequency of thefts that he/she is aware of.