

## HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR MAIL BEING STOLEN? MAILBOX BEING SMASHED BEYOND RECOGNITION?

HERE ARE SOME TIPS/ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER, BEFORE YOU BUY THAT NEXT MAILBOX!!

1. *Talk to you neighbors about getting "grouped" mailboxes. A company that sells the locked, grouped boxes is Building Specialties NW in Woodinville (425-486-3693). They will send a flyer on the boxes available. Individual steel locking boxes are also sold through this company. They will also install the boxes (for a fee). Check with neighbors that have the boxes, to see who they used. There are a couple of these on Marine View Drive, and seem to help in decreasing theft and vandalism.*
2. *Locking Mailboxes- with the increase in mail theft and identity fraud, a locking mailbox is a great idea. Although it can be broken into, a thief is more likely to go to an unlocked box than a locked one. The mailbox groupings are locked. Here are some other ideas:*
  - *inexpensive locking mailboxes can be purchased at Lowes and Home Depot, for under \$20.00*
  - *Locking and vandal-proof boxes are available through many catalogs, such as Plow and Hearth and Improvements. Costs vary, generally \$80-\$150.*
3. *Vandal proof mailboxes are available, made of steel. These are found in many home improvement catalogs.*
4. *Make your mail box a sturdy one. Use a steel post, or thick wood post, anchored in concrete.*
  - *Check with the Perrinville Post Office to determine how far back from the road your box can be. In general, the mailman needs to be able to reach the opening of the box from the truck; but the box does not have to be right at the edge of the road. If you have a flat spot where the truck can drive without getting mired in the mud, set the box back from the road.*
  - *The bottom of the box needs to be 42"-48" from the ground.*
  - *Check with the mailman or Post Office for specifications*
  - *Use solid wood or steel posts to surround your box, to prevent bashing from both sides. If you see a neighbors box that is in an attractive, yet sturdy surround, ask your neighbor for ideas!*
  - *Talk to you neighbors about constructing a sturdy stand, grouping 2-6 boxes with consecutive addresses. A grouping of boxes is less likely to be vandalized by bashing, and helps the mailman make fewer stops!*
5. *Post Office boxes are available at the Mukilteo Post Office, starting at \$32/6 months. Information is available at the Post Office, and mail from Perrinville can be forwarded to Mukilteo (if that is a more convenient Post Office. Contact the Perrinville office for information on their boxes. They have a limited number of boxes in their lobby. If you do get a PO Box, and no longer use your street-side box, please consider taking it down. This will cut down on the number of "targets"!*

*If we all work together to make the boxes as sturdy and theft-proof as possible, our community will remain an attractive one, and we can all enjoy the peace and beauty of WindandTide that we all desire!!*