

Mail Theft (continued from page 1)

A number of neighbors have had their mail stolen several times, some of them have locking mailboxes. During the discussion we heard reports of visual observations that make it apparent that there is more than one perpetrator. We even have one industrious neighbor who installed a motion activated infrared camera and obtained pictures of a person on a bicycle at 1:30 am getting into mailboxes.

At the meeting it became apparent that many association members want to take action by installing a more secure mail receptacle situation. There was even a comment that at one time the post office subsidized certain mailbox systems. One suggestion was to install banks of "cluster boxes" similar to what you see outside apartment buildings. There is one installed on the Issaquah/Hobart road at the base of the road that goes up to Fraternity Snoqualmie if you want to see an example. The board took an action item to investigate our options to address this situation.

A team of Terry Deschenes, Brian Thompson, and Rod Case agreed to take the ball on this action item. First of all we talked to an official of the Issaquah Post Office about the installation of cluster boxes. Sadly the post office no longer has the funds to assist in any mailbox installations. They do encourage groups of neighbors to install some form of locking mailbox mechanism. They even provided us with several recommended vendors and configurations. However there are also regulations that must be followed and several of those may not fit well with our community situation.

We also did a visual survey of the existing mailbox installations. It ranges from a single boxes outside a home to some very nice structures holding multiple boxes. Some people have installed a locking box while others still have the standard open door box. We have found that of the various locking boxes available, construction is very critical when it comes to security. There are at least 3 major factors that contribute to the actual security of the box. First of all is the locking door. Many of the boxes have a flat face with the door forming an open seam with the solid structure. Others have a "ledge" that protrudes out over the door opening thus making it very difficult to insert a prying tool into the seam. The second factor is the configuration of the seam where the locking door meets the solid structure. On some boxes the door simply abuts the structure thereby leaving a small slit seam. Others provide a solid overlapping flange behind the door opening which makes it difficult to insert a tool between the door and structure. The third factor is construction material. Some boxes are made of aluminum while others are made of steel.

In our discussions one theft occurrence is most striking. It involved the three boxes located at the intersection of 164th and 239th. There are three boxes there, all locking. They belong to the Bray, Prochazka and Sommercorn families. One day Dave Prochazka discovered that his box had been broken into. It seemed apparent that someone had simply inserted a tool between the door and structure and popped it open. While Dave was working on his box Kevin Bray came by. After Dave told Kevin what had happened they looked closely at Kevin's box. His had not been opened although there was clear evidence of an attempt (scratch marks). Kevin's box (the light colored one on the left) has all the security features described above.

At this time our team has reached a preliminary recommendation. First of all due to post office regulations and the fact that not everyone in the community would be willing to replace their box we do not recommend the cluster configuration. We do believe that as a community we can make our mailbox situation much more secure by the installation of steel mailboxes with the ledge overhang configuration similar to Kevin Bray's box. A specifications sheet is attached. In fact Kevin has volunteered to facilitate a bulk buy of this type of box from a vendor that Kevin's company does business with. He will be able to give us a "neighbors" discount! It is estimated that if we had at least 30 property owners participate we could acquire the boxes at a cost of approximately \$150 each. This would be a voluntary program. We know that some will not want to participate and the board has no stomach for trying to legislate such an action on everyone. Your mailbox is just that – YOURS. You buy it and install it. The board has agreed however to subsidize installation of a common configuration of grouped individual mailboxes similar to what you see at the top of the hill at the intersection of 239th and 167th or at the north end of our community at the intersection of 160th and 239th. The association will pay for all materials necessary to build this type of structure wherever a group of property owners wish to do so. Acquisition and installation mailboxes will be the responsibility of property owners.

Now we need some feedback. Please provide your thoughts on what we have found so far, any suggestions you have, and most importantly are you interested in participating in this program? If the majority of feedback indicates that you agree with our conclusions and would want to obtain a locking mailbox as described we will proceed with the effort. Please send your comments to any of our e-mail boxes or call one of us if you wish. We'll be happy to discuss this further.

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Four Lakes News

June 2014

'Printing all the new we suspect might be true'



By Nina Hufford / Entertainment Chair

Are you ready to dejunk? Join your neighbors for a community garage sale Saturday, June 28th from 9-6. Registration \$5. Do you only have a few items or want to offer up some handmades, homemades or garden-growns? Join us at the community gazebo for a Four Lakes Summer Market. Please provide your own table (30x72 or smaller) as surfaces will be limited. Set-up in the gravel parking lot at 8:30am.

To register, please send the following information to: nimidesigns@comcast.net by June 20th or contact Nina Hufford at 206 229-4100: Name, Address, Contact PH#, Email & Types of items available



Facebook Comes To Four Lakes

The Four Lakes Community now has a Facebook Group for all residents! Join the group to communicate with your neighbors and learn about what's going on in the community. To join the private group, please send your email address to laciemarie6@gmail.com.

Shall we Name our Lakes?

By Bob Liebling /Lakes Committee Chair & Beaver Fighter

Yes, we live in the 4-Lakes Community, (actually there are 6 lakes today, but originally only 4) and each lake has been numbered, but most people don't know or can't remember the number designation.

So, it was suggested to me that naming the lakes might be an easier way to remember them, and help people orient themselves about the neighborhood better. I'm writing this article to see if the Community has a preference for this idea or shall we let the lakes lie as they are, nameless and not in our consciousness. (Continued page 2)

MAIL THEFT

By Rod Case / Treasurer

At the annual meeting in March a topic of much discussion was the rash of mail thefts experienced by many in the neighborhood. Although this type of activity has happened sporadically over the years nothing of the scale that has occurred from the fall of 2013 into 2014. (Continued on page 4)