**Scofield Farms Residential Owners Association**

Mailbox Theft and Vandalism Prevention meeting

February 28, 2017, 7 PM at Original Pancake House

Guests: Officer Adam Soliz

 Officer Cassandra De La Rue

 Michael Sullivan, USPS Postal Inspector

 Michael Gaudini, Policy Advisor to District 7 Councilmember Leslie Pool

Meeting coordinator: Everett McKinley

Board: Diane Harvey Anderson, President

 Dan Frasier, Treasurer and Webmaster

 Pete Patterson, Secretary

 Jodi Cadle, Member-at-large

Neighborhood Watch: Mehul Patel

Neighbors

Officer Adam Soliz and Cassandra De La Rue shared information on burglary prevention and reporting tips. To paraphrase Officer Soliz, **the more active the neighborhood, the better**. He is our Edwards Sector APD representative, and Officer De La Rue is his backup. On the Withers Way section, our APD representative is from the Adams Sector, Officer Hank Moreno.

Michael Sullivan shared that USPS is focused on:

* Prevention (e.g. lighting, cameras, gates, visibility, higher foot/vehicle traffic, pick up mail/packages daily, do not leave packages unattended)
* Protection (e.g. hold mail when on vacation or inform neighbors, report suspicious activity always, report personal financial loss)
* Enforcement (e.g. arrests are made, investigations are done)

He shares that they want to help us harden the boxes but that they can’t replace all of them at this point.

Ideas already shared on social media and in the meeting are as follows with comments:

* Cameras – we have cameras at the pool. Maria Shelby, Pool Committee Chair, was able to view the latest theft and send to police. Dan F has just replaced a couple with higher quality and updated the software used to record.
* Enclosure/fence
	+ Michael Sullivan stated that this is an option as long as the Postal Deliverers have access to the back of the mailbox panels.
* New boxes – our boxes are outdated and certainly need replacing. USPS is unable to replace all of them, as they have a waiting list. The cost is high but the board is investigating. In September 2015, Dan researched and found the price to be approximately $1200 per 16-box unit. There are 17 units at the pool, and 11 double parcel boxes.
	+ Michael Sullivan stated that if neighborhood buys the boxes that the USPS will install them (for free).
* Security service
* Report all break-ins – Important that everyone do this whenever it happens. Instructions have been placed at all of the mailboxes by CMA.
* Lights and cameras that are not solar – Everett M shared that running electric to each of the clusters could run from $2000-$4000 a site.
	+ per a commercial electrician, “a good rule of thumb is $15 to $20 per linear foot from an electrical source (light pole, etc.).” This assumes that appropriate permits, etc., have been obtained from the city.
* Alarm sensors on individual boxes
* Moving all mail to a centralized area (i.e. pool)and perhaps enclosing the unified location.
* Decentralizing mail
	+ Michael Sullivan stated that from the USPS’s point of view that this is not being considered (for cost-savings and efficiency reasons).
* **Signs at mail box clusters that say…**
	+ 24 hour active video recording
	+ 24 hour neighborhood watch patrols

Michael Gaudini from Leslie Pool’s office had connected us with another neighborhood as they tackled similar issues and have not had incidents for over a year. Ideas from them, Westview Canyon, follow:

* Task team for neighbor awareness – fliers sent out spring and before holiday season
* Neighborhood watch signs
* Replaced boxes (USPS replaced one set, neighborhood replaced other)
* Cameras at clusters
* Posted 24-hour video signs at clusters
* Hot spot times communicated to increase awareness
* Encourage neighbors to walk past mailboxes during strolls through the neighborhood

Questions: Is USPS responsible for the safety of our mail and paying for the boxes?

If the ROA pays for boxes, USPS has offered to install them. If they are broken, is USPS responsible for fixing? Answer: Yes, the post office will maintain all mailboxes.

Can we see the statistics of when break-ins occur?