

From: John.Baker@sybase.com [mailto:John.Baker@sybase.com]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 1:39 PM
Cc: FredAmes56@aol.com
Subject: Important Information Regarding Mail Theft in Windy Hills Subdivision, Parker, CO

Dear Windy Hills Neighbors,

Many of you may or may not know me, my name is John Baker and my wife Maggie & I have lived in Windy Hills for 10 years. I want to make everyone aware of an incident I was only recently made aware of that happened back in December 2009. Maggie & I were contacted last week by the City of Thornton Police department regarding an arrest they made on a young woman in December 2009. I was not informed why she was arrested, however I was informed she had a bunch of what looked to be stolen mail in her automobile. After some research the City of Thornton Police department found that in the stolen mail there were some convenience checks from my credit card company. There was a second piece of mail with convenience checks from Maggie's credit card. According to what the detective told me, having 2 pieces of documentation like this constitutes a Class 5 Felony charge. The DA in Thornton is now pressing charges against this woman.

The reason I'm notifying all of you is that the woman had a bunch of stolen mail, none of which was determined by the police to be anything more than "valueless pieces of paper", meaning they could not prosecute the woman for having them in her possession. The officer did inform me he not only had mail from my address, but for addresses on Silo & Pioneer Roads as well. Obviously this person did come into our neighborhood and took mail out of our unsecured mail boxes. After talking with the officer more, we are pretty confident the lady did not use any of our checks, and that was further proven by the fact that no erroneous charges ever posted to our credit card accounts. This is not to say nobody in our neighborhood was affected. Someone might have been a victim and didn't realize it was due to this mail theft. I know back in December I was missing a bill I was expecting from a merchant. Since I did not pay the bill I was assessed a late fee. I called the merchant and let them know I never received the invoice, and the fee was removed. I fully expect this missing invoice was probably stolen as well, thus causing the problem I had.

I also talked to my next door neighbor about this mail theft incident. He said he was out of town in December, and when he returned home he went to pick up his mail in his mail box. He was expecting to see a full box with Christmas cards etc. Needless to say the box was completely empty! This neighbor had been using the e-470 toll road quite a bit and expected to see the bill come in the mail, however it never arrived. He was made aware of the missing bill when he received 28 citations in the mail, one citation for each toll he didn't pay. He was able to call the e-470 folks and clear it up, however he fully expects the invoice from e-470 was stolen, along with many missing Christmas Cards etc! This neighbor had even contacted the post office at the time, they did nothing.

If you think you may have been a victim of mail theft you should contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Department. The City of Thornton police cannot help us in this matter as the crime took place in Douglas County. The City of Thornton Police have reviewed all the mail and determined them all to be valueless pieces of paper. Keep in mind though, if you were a victim of mail theft or identity theft, it could very well be related to the suspect arrested in Thornton in December.

I'm forwarding 2 clips from email exchanges I had with the detective in Thornton. They talk about steps everyone should take to protect themselves, and a link to the Federal Trade Commission website.

As residents of Windy Hills we all like to think we live in this wonderful little perfect neighborhood out in the middle of nowhere, and that we do! We may need to change our thinking and realize we aren't as safe as we once thought were. This is something that should probably be addressed at the next homeowners meeting. I think the first thing to look at are the clusters of mail boxes. The mailbox clusters at Horseshoe & Saguaro, Pioneer & Chinook, and the one on Silo & the Smith private drive, were

definitely hit in this case. Having mail box clusters creates a means from someone to casually drive up and take mail without be noticed. Do we need our mail boxes moved, do we need locking boxes....we have lots to consider....

On a side note, I asked the detective how the heck someone from Thornton ever found their way out to Windy Hills to rob mailboxes? He said she gave a home address in Bennett. To me that seemed a little closer to our neighborhood, but I still didn't buy it. The detective had to ask me if I knew this person just in case she was house-sitting for us, or if there was any reason she would be authorized to pick up our mail. Of course I didn't recognize the name, however my little brain did tell me to write down the name!

Now the story gets interesting.....I googled her name and found out she was the passenger in a fatal car accident back in Feb 2009, she was in the car that apparently caused the accident. Two people from the other car were killed in the accident, this person and her driver survived. The person driving the car that our little mail theft person was riding with, just happens to live in Parker Colorado! In another related article on the web, I found out this driver is out on bail for charges pertaining to the fatal car accident, and was arrested in Feb 2010 for Burglary in Aurora! This whole thing is starting to smell like three-day-old-fish, and I'm beginning to see the connection to our neighborhood. The last name of the driver is very unusual, and when searched it on Dex.com, persons with the same very unusual last name just happen to live out on county road 13 in Elizabeth, not too far from us. This is all info I found myself, it has nothing to do with information obtained from the City of Thornton detective. It's all very interesting, and I just wanted to share all the information I had.

For now Maggie & I make sure we pick up our mail every night, we never let mail sit overnight like we have in the past. It's too bad the world is coming to this, you just cannot trust anyone these days.

Regards,
John & Maggie Baker
Horseshoe Circle

FYI - I'm emailing this to all the email addresses listed in the last Windy Hills directory I have. I've also cc: our Windy Hills President Fred Ames.

I do not maintain this mailbox over the weekends.

----- Forwarded by John Baker/SYBASE on 06/04/2010 11:44 AM -----

John,

I have no problem whatsoever with you sharing this information, sharing the Federal Trade Commission stuff with them, and recommending that each order their credit reports / scrutinize their existing accounts to ensure there are no compromises.

Should any of them find information indicating that they are, in fact, victims of identity theft, they will then need to contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to file a report.

It's not that their mail was "unimportant", it is just that what we recovered does not add anything solid to the existing criminal case here in Thornton... what they are victims of in Thornton is essentially a theft of a valueless piece of paper, as the statements we recovered did not include or consist of a "financial device" as yours and Margaret's statements did. More may have been stolen from them, but not that we recovered or could be associated with our arrestee.

John,

Thanks for the quick phone call back. Below is a link to the Federal Trade Commission's web article on Identity Theft. It's probably one of the more organized and concise publications I have seen. As mentioned in our phone call, we don't know what else may have been in the stolen from your mail, so we don't know what else of your and Margaret's information may be out there.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idt04.shtm>