

WHOS BEEN
IN YOUR
MAILBOX?



Tips for Avoiding Mailbox Theft

Arizona has experienced an increase in theft of mail from collection boxes, apartment mailboxes, co-op mailing racks and neighborhood delivery and collection box units. The thefts involve checks, credit card applications, bank account statements, and other personal and financial information.

Reports of identity theft have been increasing throughout the country. Stories air nightly on television news programs detailing how a victim's life has been destroyed due to identity theft. To avoid becoming a victim, we recommend you follow these crime prevention techniques when using home mailboxes.

- ▼ Use the letter slots at the post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier
- ▼ Pick up mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave mail in the mailbox overnight
- ▼ Sign up for Direct Deposit, eStatements and Online Bill Pay at vwestcu.org
- ▼ Ask your financial institution for "secure" checks
- ▼ Tell your post office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return or have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your mail
- ▼ When a check or other valuable mail doesn't arrive when expected, immediately contact the issuing agency
- ▼ When there is a change of address, immediately notify the post office and businesses that are used via the mail
- ▼ Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. Exchange work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors to help watch each other's mailboxes and homes
- ▼ Report all suspicious activity to your local police department immediately