

NEWS RELEASE



GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Garden City Police Department Warns Residents About Ongoing Mail Theft

The Garden City Police Department is alerting residents to the ongoing trend of mail thefts throughout the Village and Nassau County. These incidents, occurring at various times throughout the day and night, target residential USPS mailboxes, leaving many residents vulnerable to identity theft and financial loss.

Commissioner Jackson reports that thieves are employing a method involving an improvised tool covered in a sticky substance that is able to extract mail from mailboxes. This technique allows them to retrieve envelopes and packages. In numerous cases, the stolen mail contains checks which the thieves wash out to substitute new amounts and recipient names before cashing them. In some instances, stolen postal keys have also been employed to unlock mailboxes. Commissioner Jackson urges residents to remain vigilant, stating, "If you observe anyone who is not a postal worker removing mail from a mailbox, please notify the Department immediately."

To protect themselves and their personal information, the Garden City Police Department recommends the following precautions:

- **Use Secure Mail Options:** Place outgoing mail in receptacles inside the Post Office or hand it directly to your mail carrier. Residents are advised to avoid using the mailbox at the 6th Street Garden City Post Office, or any other mailbox located outside a County Post Office, as these have been targeted by thieves on multiple occasions.
- **Avoid Sending Cash:** Never send cash through the mail, as it poses a significant risk of theft.
- **Opt for Secure Checks:** Utilize checks that are difficult to alter.
- **Use Black Gel Pens:** When writing checks, use black gel pens, as the gel ink bonds better with the fibers of paper checks, making it more difficult to wash off or alter.
- **Timing Matters:** Place your mail in a mailbox as close to the collection time as possible to minimize the risk of theft.
- **Inspect Mailboxes:** If you notice any sticky substances on a mailbox, do not drop your mail in it.
- **Retrieve Mail Promptly:** Make it a priority to collect your delivered mail from your mailbox as soon as possible to reduce the opportunity for theft.

The Garden City Police Department is working with the U.S. Postal Service on measures that may be taken to reduce mail theft.

The Garden City Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our residents. By taking these proactive measures, we can work together to prevent mail theft and protect personal information.

For more information or to report suspicious activity, please contact the Garden City Police Department at (516) 465-4100.