

Mailboxes

Neighbors,

Some of us have been talking about replacing the mailbox stand. Right now it needs to be reroofed and repainted. In addition some of us would like to have locking mailboxes. None of the locking mailboxes on the market are narrow enough to fit 6 on the current stand. Finally, even the individual locking mailboxes have no way to provide security for outgoing mail.

In addition, the US Post Office is removing some of the big blue mailboxes that many of us take our outgoing mail to and is also threatening to close smaller post offices.

I have checked into the large metal stands that are often seen in newer housing developments and apartments. The smallest of these stands has space for 8 residences. The current price is about \$1075 plus tax and about \$200-300 for installation. The installation is done on a concrete pad with the mailbox bolted to the pad. There is really only one large manufacturer who makes most of these boxes.

The benefit of these mailboxes is that both the outgoing mail and incoming mail and parcels are secure. There is an outgoing slot which all of the neighbors share. Each household has an incoming slot. There are also 2 parcel lockers. When you have a package too large to fit into your mail slot the mailman puts the parcel in one of the large areas and locks it in there. The key is placed in your mail slot. You retrieve your package and leave the key in the lock.

While this solution is expensive $-\$1400-1500/6 = \$233-250$ a household, it is a small price to pay for having your mail secure. We have had several mail thefts in Uplake, although none on our street. If we had locking mailboxes, residents could feel safe leaving their mail in the mailbox for even a day or two and not worry about having other neighbors pick it up for them. When we did the current mailboxes about 20 years ago, it cost each household on our street about \$125.

I have had a concern about what we would do for newspapers that now are placed underneath the mailboxes. Other neighbors say currently the Times delivery person tosses the paper onto their driveway if they don't have a newspaper tube.

Go to this site to view the mailbox http://www.mailboxworks.com/AF_CBU8.html
Actually I have spoken to a local firm who carries this brand.

Some neighbors are in support of this proposal and are interested in what the rest of the street thinks about this. Please let me know your ideas and any suggestions you have.