

Three More Thefts Reported from Mid-January at Darien Post Office Deposit Box

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Police have received three more reports of checks altered after they were stolen in mid-January from the outdoor deposit mailboxes outside Darien Post Office. More than \$4,300 was stolen in these latest incidents.

Police have received several other reports of checks being stolen after they were mailed from the same location.

As they have in New York City, mailboxes have been replaced with a new type that is supposed to make it harder for thieves to "fish" from using strings and glue. Similar incidents have happened in other towns in the area and in the New York City metropolitan region.

Darien police have arrested a number of men and teenage boys from New York City, Yonkers, New Jersey and even Pennsylvania who are accused of stealing or trying to steal from the boxes.

Here's how police described the latest thefts (some of which involved multiple checks), with the dates that victims said they used the outdoor mailboxes:

Friday, Jan 11 — Police Didn't Say How Much

On Feb. 6, the victim was told by the intended recipient that the check hadn't been received. The victim found out that the check had been cashed in the same amount he had written out, but the check was altered to state a payee that the victim didn't know. The victim's bank was unable to determine where the check had

been deposited.

Police were notified on Feb. 8.

Sunday, Jan 13 — \$1,342.53 Stolen

The victim was notified on Feb. 6 that someone had tried to cash one of the checks, but the transaction had been refused.

A second check, however, for \$950, had been altered to state a payee the victim didn't know and cashed.

Another fraudulent charge, for \$442.53, was made to the victim's bank account to pay an Optimum cable bill. Police believe this charge was made using the routing numbers from the victim's bank account.

Police were notified on Feb. 6.

Monday, Jan 14 — \$3,000 Stolen

The victim, looking over her bank statement, saw that two checks were cashed on Feb. 1 to a person she didn't know. The check numbers weren't consistent with the checks she had mailed, leading her to believe her account number and routing information had been used to make forged checks.

The victim's name, appearing as the account holder on the check, had been replaced by another name. The checks were cashed for for \$2,100 and \$1,900, resulting in a total theft of \$3,000.

Police were notified Feb. 6.

See also these reports of mid-January thefts from the Post Office mailboxes:

- [New Deposit Mailboxes Outside Darien Post Office, Two More Previous Thefts Reported](#) (Feb. 7)
- [More Reports of Mail Stolen After Being Dropped Off Outdoors at Post Office](#) (Jan. 28)

Other coverage of thefts from mailboxes:

- [Darien Police Issue Statement on Recent Post Office Mail Box Thefts](#) (Jan 24)
- [Check Mailing Roulette: Two More Reports of Checks Stolen from Outdoor Post Office Mailbox](#) (Jan. 21)
- [Thieves Go Once More Into the Darien Post Office Drop-Off Boxes](#) (Dec. 27)
- [Another Case of Mail Theft from Late October / Early November Reported to Police](#) (Dec. 22)
- [Police: Thousands of Dollars Stolen from Checks in a Mailbox — on a Shoestring Budget](#) (Oct. 30)