MEDIA RELEASE

Bethany Community Hit by Rash of Thefts from Community Mailboxes October 26, 2018

Between October 21 and October 25, 2018, Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies have responded to at least ten different incidents in which mailboxes were tampered with or broken into and mail was stolen from inside. The majority of the incidents have involved community mailboxes and occurred in the Bethany community. At least one additional incident has been reported in the Aloha community.

Deputies have obtained residential <u>security video</u> from one of the incidents. The video shows a suspect vehicle, likely a dark-colored Ford Edge, with a heavyset female adult driver and an unknown passenger.

Deputies have obtained video from a second location that captures what appears to be the same suspect vehicle at a different community mailbox.

The public is asked to report any suspicious behavior by calling nonemergency dispatch at (503) 629-0111, or 9-1-1 for crimes in progress. Community members are also encouraged to monitor their credit reports for possible fraudulent activity.



With elections underway, any community member who believes their mail-in ballot has been stolen is asked to contact the <u>Washington County Elections Division</u> at (503) 846-5800 for a replacement. The public can visit the <u>Oregon Secretary of State's website</u> to check the status of a ballot. Similarly, property tax payers with questions about the status of their property tax statements should contact the <u>Washington County Department of Assessment and Taxation</u> at (503) 846-8801.

The United States Postal Inspection Service has been notified of the incidents.

