

16 January 2022

Hello neighbors

Apologies for sending another newsletter just a week after the last one, but we wanted everyone to be aware of a “financial” concern: there has now been a second resident here in Seminary Ridge whose check was “washed” – written out to someone else and the amount of the check changed. In both cases, the amounts have been thousands of dollars.

Here is what we reported in last week’s SRCA newsletter:

* Finally, a cautionary tale to be shared, based on one household’s recent experience: in November, a personal check, mailed at the Seminary Road mailbox, was not delivered to the company to which the payment was being sent. Rather, the check was washed and written out for a different amount to an individual, and was cashed using a mobile app. This incident has been reported to the police, who said there have been issues with the mailboxes at this location (as well as other mailboxes). Two suggestions to the community: first, when paying a bill by check, consider not using any envelope provided by the company, as this can be an easy way for someone to know that a check is enclosed. Second, when putting something in the mail, ensure it goes all the way into the mailbox, not getting stuck in the chute. Banks have confirmed that **check washing incidents have been increasing**.

In the second case, it is not certain that the check was mailed from the Seminary Road mailboxes, but to be on the safe side, we would encourage you not to mail anything of value from there. Fortunately, in the second case, the bank suspected forgery and did not process the check. So, the cases are not exactly similar, but the check washing certainly is.

We will be asking our Police Liaison officer if ACPD has any additional information to share at the 3 February SRCA meeting. If so, we will relay whatever inputs we receive.

And, for anyone paying their annual dues to SRCA, it might be safest to drop the check off to our Treasurer, Maria Browne (3954 Fort Worth Avenue) rather than mail it(!)