



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Date:** January 21, 2015

### Mail Thief Arrested

During the morning of January 20, 2015, the Pleasanton Police Department investigated several thefts of mail from the Pleasanton Meadows neighborhood. During one of the investigations, an alert neighbor saw a subject rummaging through a neighbor's mailbox and immediately called the police. A short time later another alert citizen in the Lucky Store parking lot on the west side of the city saw a suspicious subject holding a screwdriver and milling around a vehicle. The witness immediately called the police and provided a detailed description of the suspect. Within a few minutes officers arrived and detained Santa Clara and Modesto resident Joseph Abeyta (46 years old). They immediately recognized that he matched the description from the earlier theft and two witnesses identified him as the suspect.

Officers searched Abeyta's vehicle and discovered stolen property that included mail and other items that had been left on porches earlier in the day. Over a dozen victims have been identified, many of whom are Pleasanton residents, and the remaining victims are from the greater Bay Area region.

Abeyta was arrested and booked at Santa Rita Jail for theft, possession of stolen property and possession of counterfeit currency.

The arrest of this suspect was due in large part to two alert citizens and their immediate notification of the police. Community members are reminded to take steps to prevent mail theft including depositing outgoing mail at Post Office locations, particularly mail that includes identifying information or financial documents.

Anyone with information about this event, or who live in the area of this crime and might be missing mail, is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

