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Northville Township police program to help protect holiday packages from theft



Marina Johnson

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The Grinch won't be able to steal the holiday spirit this season in Northville Township with the introduction of a new safety program designed to keep packages safe.

According to a news release from the Northville Township Police Department, city residents can ship their online packages to the police department, and the buyer can pick them up within five days of their arrival.

The program, Operation Max's Vault, stores the packages in a secure area and is intended to limit the opportunity for theft. The program, named after the department's support dog, is free to residents of Northville Township.

Scott Hilden, police chief, said the program shows the department's dedication to the public.

"This unique crime prevention program is an example of how the Northville Township Police Department continues to innovate in order to provide exceptional service in a professional, creative, responsible manner," he said. "It will reduce the opportunity for porch pirates to steal packages after they are delivered to a dwelling and left unattended."

In November and December 2022, 83 incidents of package theft were reported to law enforcement in Oakland, Washtenaw and Western Wayne counties, according to the release.

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Packages applicable for the program must weigh below 50 pounds and cannot contain hazardous materials, flammable liquids, illegal contraband, live animals, weapons or ammunition. The services are available until Jan. 1.

The buyer whose name is on the delivery must provide a government-issued ID matching the shipment name and also show an order confirmation or receipt. They will also be asked to

sign a release form. Family members and friends of the buyer can't come to the person's place.

Unclaimed packages after Jan. 1 will be held for a week before being returned to the sender.

To ship a package, use the following addressee format:

[Recipient Name]

c/o Max's Vault

41600 Six Mile Road

Northville, MI 48168