

Postal Regulatory Commission

Submitted 3/9/2010 10:48:56 AM

Filing ID: 67119

Accepted 3/9/2010  
ATTACHMENT PART A

**Motion of the Public Representative  
to Include Public Comments in Docket  
(March 9, 2010)  
Docket No. PI2010-1**

CHILDWOLD  
NY 12922

P12010-1  
Received

JAN 19 2010

Office of PAGR

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

January 11, 2010

As customers of the Childwold Post Office, we are concerned about any change in the present status of our post office. It is our desire to retain our post office at it's present status- a United States post office operated by a postmaster in Childwold.

Our mail delivery at the Childwold post office has been on temporary suspension since May 26, 2009. The current location for our mail service is in Piercefield, a round trip of 15 miles. This distance is an inconvenience and with the price of gas it is an economic hardship on all of us especially our elderly residents. This post office has been an integral part of Childwold since 1884. It is the center of our community, not just an office to serve our postal needs.

We have many concerns, among them the inconvenience of our current situation in recieving and sending mail, particurarly accountable mail. We are especially concerned over what will happen regarding our servces in Childwold. We realize that the location of our post office in Childwold must move due to a non-caring, non-compliant and non-local landlord, and it will be a challenge to find a new location for the post office. But there are options available. We also understand the financial problems the post office is dealing with.

We are a small community but we are proud of where we live and do not want to loose our Childwold zip code or to undertake the burden of changing our address for all our personal and business mail. Of upmost concern to us is the possibility of loosing our identity as a town if our post office is closed permanently. If all options fail, we request that we be allowed to continue to recieve our mail at the Piercefield post office and to retain our current address and zip code even though this is not our first choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Diane Cote*  


000001

Office of Public Affairs  
and Government Relations

December 11, 2009



Dear Ms. Cote:

You signed a petition sent to the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) in March, 2008 regarding the emergency suspension of the Childwold post office in New York. This is to inform you that the Commission has opened a case to investigate emergency suspensions of post offices, and that comments on your experience would be welcome in this proceeding. In addition, a public representative, who represents the interests of the public before the Commission, has been assigned to this docket and may contact you about this matter.

During recent Commission consideration of a post office closure appeal for Hacker Valley, West Virginia in Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1, to look into this matter. Interested persons are invited to provide relevant information and share their views. Written comments may be submitted by January 15, 2010.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov). Informal written responses will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission. For your information, the record developed in Docket No. PI2010-1 may be viewed on our web site listed towards the bottom of our homepage.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leona Anasiewicz".

Leona Anasiewicz  
Records Specialist

000002

MARK AND (703) (1111)



Received

PI 2010-1

DEC 28 2009

CHILDWOOD

Office of PAGR

NY 12922

DEC 18, 2009

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

IN REGARD TO THE CLOSING OF  
THE CHILDWOOD POST OFFICE WE WOULD  
LIKE TO GIVE OUR REASONS WHY WE  
THINK THIS IS UNFAIR TO THE PEOPLE  
OF CHILDWOOD.

THIS CAME ABOUT BECAUSE THE  
PERSON WHO RENTED THIS BUILDING  
DIDN'T MAINTAIN IT TO AN OPERATING  
CONDITION FOR THE POST OFFICE.

ALL THE PEOPLE OF CHILDWOOD WANT  
THE POST OFFICE OPEN BUT MIGHT  
LOSE IT BECAUSE OF ONE PERSON  
WHO DOESN'T EVEN LIVE HERE.

THIS POST OFFICE HAS RUN FOR  
DECADES WITH NO PROBLEMS BECAUSE  
IT WAS OPERATED BY CHILDWOOD  
RESIDENTS, BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.

IT IS A HARDSHIP TO DRIVE TO  
PIERCEFIELD ALMOST DAILY TO PICK  
UP MAIL.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE I AM DISABLED  
WITH COPD. AND CANNOT MAINTAIN  
A ROADSIDE MAIL BOX.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE GETTING OUR  
POST OFFICE REOPENED

Mary Smith

000003

THANK YOU,  
Mary & Smith

January 8 2010  
Received

JAN 19 2010

My, I'm 83 yrs old Office of PAGR

lined across the road  
from the Childwold Post office  
I live on a fixed income

My bills are all up to date.  
I have a hard time driving  
to Purcefield to pick up all  
my JUNK MAIL !!

I do not want a Purcefield  
or Tupper Lake address

All my legal papers + bills  
have a Childwold address  
where I LIVE.

All because a fuckass who  
doesn't pay his bills - he  
inconvenient a lot of people  
in Childwold

I do not want a mail box  
by my driveway

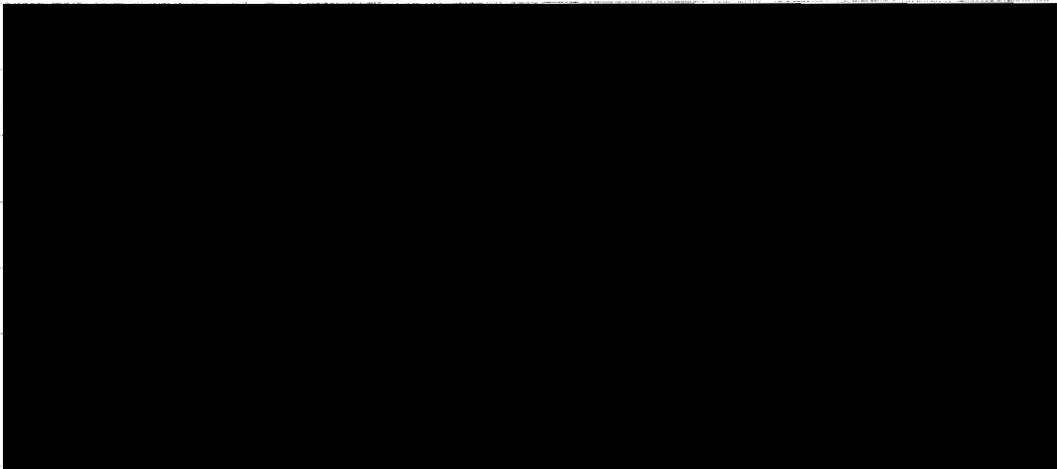
When the State P low comes  
around the bend into Childwold  
they put their foot down on the  
gas and they can shoot that  
crap 20 feet UP MY DRIVEWAY.

Please 11  
00

Please 11  
00

Bring the Childwold Pastoffice  
Back

Thank you  
in advance



000005

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2010 9:06 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

"{12010-1:Crescent Lake Oregon Post Office We would like to see a post office back at Crescent Lake Junction.

It was very hand to have there and we want it back.

Sender Name: Wilma Albright  
Sender Email: [REDACTED]n  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000006

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 12:06 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

Regarding PI2010-1: Crescent Lake, OR Post Office. Ever since the Postal Service has discontinued our post office services in Crescent Lake (97425) there has been mass confusion, not only for residents & businesses, but for real estate as well. Bare land still maintains a 97425 zip code, but once a building permit is issued by Klamath County the parcel receives & address & the zip code then becomes 97733. Now if someone is going to search for real estate in Crescent Lake and they input 97425 they will only get information on bare land - not businesses or residences. Not only this but having UPS or FedEx deliver to our area is a headache, because when you put your physical address and the zip code given 97733 - they say it is an invalid address because there is no street address in Crescent, and if you try to put 97425 - they don't recognize this. We need our post office back. Why are there 2 post offices within 1 mile apart in Gilchrist & Crescent? We are 18 miles & we need one!

Sender Name: Kathy Altman

Sender Email: [REDACTED]

Daytime [REDACTED]

Sender [REDACTED]

000007

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2010 8:13 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

P12010-1 Crescent Lake Or Post Office

I think that it is totally ridculse that you can not give us a post office here there is one in Crescent and 1 in Gilchrest less than 1 mile apart. Do you relize what a hard ship it would be for us to have to go to Crescent to get our mail or ship package just give us our post office back and quit screwing with us Jean Blough-Winner and please give us our own zip code back do you know how many times we get mail that is supose to go to crescent and comes to Crescent Lake and vise versa. It is ridicules Thank You for taking the time to listen to me

Sender Name: Jean Blough-Winner

Sender Email: [REDACTED]

Daytime phone:

Sender Address:

000008

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 8:17 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PI2010-1 : crescent lake , or postoffice Dear Sir,Mam Crescent lake Oregon has always been it's own inetity now we are hooked to crescent Oregon we have lost or independence. we need to have our own idenity! for many reasons, fire safety, ems services, shipping orders to our location, we are a resort area when people try to look us up on the net they get crescent Oregon 18 miles away.

Sender Name:Mark Bolton

Sender Email:[REDACTED]

Daytime phone [REDACTED]

Sender [REDACTED]

000009

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** TAYLOR, JOYCE A on behalf of PRC-DOCKETS  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** KENNEDY, ANNIE L  
**Subject:** FW: Docket No. PI2010-1

Hi Annie,

I think this my be for you.

Thanks  
Joyce

---

**From:** Cindy Bolton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** PRC-DOCKETS  
**Subject:** Docket No. PI2010-1

We are responding to a letter with regard to post office suspension. We have a vested interest in the Midland Post Office, formally located in Midland, OH a rural community and moved to Martinsville, OH. We were the Lesser for the previous post office in Midland.

We tried everything to accommodate the postal service before they decided to shut down that post office. There is another building in Midland that would have been larger and a better building for the post office. It could have a wall put in to make it a 24 hour post office. Many of the people in Midland were very sorry to see the post office go, as it is inconvenient to travel to Martinsville if they get their mail via a post office box.

The lease at the former building was up in June 2009, and instead of the postal commission asking for bids for another location in Midland it was decided to just move the post office. We offered to extend the lease until arrangements could be made in Midland (bids), but we were told a decision was made to suspend  
The post office.

We really do not know the reason for the suspension in Midland, it was never fully explained to us, or to anyone.

Thank you for your time and we hope this information helps in your review of the suspension of the Midland post office.

**Robert Cantrell, Sr.**  
**President**

000010

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P72010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:31 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Postal Regulatory Commission - Comment

I am addressing the issue of the closure of the Crescent Lake Post Office in Oregon. We have been in limbo for about 5 years. We have been repeatedly told we have a full service post office. It is true we have been saddled with Crescent's zip code---a failing community some 17mi. away. Less than a mile from them is the failing town of Gilcrest with yet another post office!!

We have a place to mail our letters and pick up our letters! There is no scale, there are no stamps. Less than a week ago, I tried to mail a package and waited for the attendant to arrive. I was told no, he could not take my package because it needed to be weighed.

Perhaps some of the "stimulus" money could come our way with a full service post office with or without an attendant.

Sender Name:sally carlson

Sender Email:[REDACTED]

Sender [REDACTED]

000011

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97425

PI2010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2010 9:59 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Postal Regulatory Commission - Question

I am requesting information regarding the Post Office at Crescent Lake, Oregon (97425). Service was discontinued after a fire in the structure which housed the PO. Temporary box service was established until the building was rebuilt. At this time the PO box service is functional in the rebuilt building, but the fate of the Post Office is unknown. The zip code has been changed without input from residents. We have had the 97425 zip code for many years and it represents some community identity. The new zip is for a community that is approximately 15 miles away. Even if the service is only open several days per week, or limited hours per day it would reduce the travel distance for our community. This is especially important in winter months when freezing temperatures and snow conditions create severe hazards for all drivers.

Sender Name: Tim Cramblit

Sender Email: [REDACTED]

Daytime [REDACTED]

Sender Address:

000012

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2010 1:40 AM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Postal Regulatory Commission - Comment

Docket PI2010-1 Crescent Lake is on Hwy 58, 18 mi. from Crescent. We use ZIP for Crescent. Deliveries to home have problems, as by ZIP. With phone/on-line order I'm asked only ZIP. Crescent PO is 1.1 mi. from Gilchrist PO. Both on Hwy 97. Crescent Lake residents drive 18 mi. in snow to reach Crescent PO. Do Gilchrist & Crescent wish to keep ZIPs for individuality? Much more at stake; Public safety! In a past incident emergency responders went to Crescent & not to Crescent Lake & during the '08 Royce Butte fire federal resources & personnel went to wrong place. Is decision to close Crescent Lake PO financial? Reasoning probably was--Crescent Lake lost its PO due to fire--therefore, cheaper to not reopen it--just combine with next nearest PO--even though this (Crescent) is too close to its next nearest PO (Gilchrist). Makes no sense. Crescent Lake is growing. More are full time residents. Ski area, Hoodoo, recently bought a number of businesses in Crescent Lake.

Sender Name: Mary Doane  
Sender Email: [REDACTED]  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000013

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** TAYLOR, JOYCE A on behalf of PRC-DOCKETS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:08 AM  
**To:** KENNEDY, ANNIE L  
**Subject:** FW: Crescent Lake Post Office

Hi Annie,

I think this is for you.

Tanks  
Joyce

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7:19 PM  
**To:** PRC-DOCKETS  
**Subject:** Fwd: Crescent Lake Post Office

Re: Crescent Lake, Oregon Post Office closure Docket No. PI2010-1

Please read the attached letter. Our frustration is growing!

Kerry Ellington, Broker  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kerry Ellington [REDACTED]  
**To:** terry.k.anderson@usps.gov  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, Feb 17, 2010 1:39 pm  
**Subject:** Crescent Lake Post Office

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Having just read the correspondence between you and our fire chief, Tim Cramblitt, left me angry and frustrated. Having been involved with this post office issue from the beginning, I found your responses to be at the very least inaccurate if not intentionally misleading. The USPS has "trotted" out numerous postal officials in an attempt to make us "shut up and sit down." From the beginning we have felt that the USPS was not listening or intentionally not hearing our concerns. Your reiteration of an "offer for curbside delivery" just confirms our beliefs.

Curbside delivery was a ridiculous offer based on numerous issues. Where would the boxes be placed? Who would plow the feet of snow in the winter to keep them clear? How could anyone safely pull over along Highway 58 to get to the boxes? How would the safety and security of the mail be guaranteed? and on and on... The postmaster from Bend, Bob Zlytek, agreed it was a ridiculous "offer". I believe it was not an offer at all but a way to say "well we offered curbside and they turned it down". You did not offer curbside. You offered NBU units on the side of a major Highway.

We did not ask for curbside, we asked for our post office and zip code to be given back. Your suggestion that we currently have services at the box area is another misstatement. We have never even seen this person. There is no "window" to ask for such services. My residence and business are along the route they pass to get to the Odell Sportsman, yet I must go to Crescent to mail packages, pick up boxes that do not fit in the post office boxes, sign for certified/registered mail, and to discuss postal issues. Was your statement just an excuse for higher ups to use in defense of your actions? If you do not know the "real" history of this issue please do not make such patently false statements. Have you ever actually been to Crescent Lake? Many of your "officials" responding to this issue got lost on their way to our town hall meeting. Just ask Marcia Teeters.

The USPS had re-negotiated their contract for the post office at the Odell Sportsman just prior to the fire. This pretty much negates any reason you would have to shut us down. We were told that the Eugene processing center was growing and needed the additional zip code so they were taking ours. We were also told that our community did not generate enough revenue. I find that hard to believe and we were given no documentation to back that up. Letters to Dallas Keck, Mr. Black, Ms. Teeters and even the Postmaster General were responded to with boiler plate condescending statements.

Can't you just tell the truth? We have never been given a reasonable explanation for your decision. We were forced to sign change of address cards or were threatened with all of our mail being returned to sender. Your version of events is quite different. The USPS has caused financial, emotional and physical hardship to this community. The community believes that one of our elderly neighbors died in a tragic car accident on snowy, icy roads trying to get to Crescent to collect his mail.

Personally, I have had to battle with the DMV, Social Security, Veterans Administration, online suppliers for our businesses, and banks because our "new" address is not valid or our "old" address is not valid. God forbid should someone use our old P. O. Box with our new zip code or visa versa. Our mail has been returned to sender as "address not found". As a real estate broker, I have had clients very distressed because other agents cannot locate their properties. You see, the MLS does not recognize Crescent Lake with the 97733 zip code, however, map quest says the 97425 zip code does not exist. Which is it?

You created this mess. Your continued determination to "shut us down" has made us more determined than ever to regain our identity, sanity and respect. Our requests are simple. There is a beautiful space where our P. O. Boxes currently reside. Open at least a part-time post office. Return our zip code since it is still active for Crescent Lake. I would ask for an apology for this nightmare you created but that may be asking too much. Your reputation as a whole leaves much to be desired. You might want to visit your competitors to learn about customer service and why they are growing and you are not!

Kerry Ellington, Broker  
Cascade Realty at Crescent Lake

[REDACTED]

000015

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:24 AM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

P12010-1 Crescent Lake, Oregon post office Taking our post office and zip code has caused extreme financial, physical and emotional hardship for our businesses, residents and community. We have tried jumping through every hoop and have been completely ignored and treated with disrespect. Had our post office not burned down, it would not have been "closed". The USPS had just re-negotiated a contract with Odell Sportsman. We are a growing, vital resort community and need our identity and services! Please help us. We have tried everything we can to be heard. It has affected by businesses and my personal life. I just received a Christmas card that was mailed in November. What other mail have we not received. How can we know? There is no logical excuse for the continued denial of services. Many of us have switched to other carriers, your competition to get basic services. How is this a good thing for your reputation. Please return our post office as quickly as possible.

Sender Name: Kerry Ellington  
Sender Email: [REDACTED]  
Daytime: [REDACTED]  
Sender Address: Which one? I will probably never get your letter anyway!

000016

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2010 9:58 AM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

P12010-1: Crescent Lake OR Post office

When this Post Office manuver began with the Former District Manager Bill Jackson, I contacted him and he sent me aleeter saying they were not closing the office...But His representative the PM from Albany came for a meeting and said that the Office didnt make money and had to be closed, evidently she was unaware of the regs in the Postal manual that says income will not be considered,, All we ant is our ID back, The USPS can assign us a zip code 977AA(?) and still send to crescnt 97733. Our delivery now is by HCR and that would not change the Bend SCF would just have to give us a bin in there automation system

Sender Name:LLoyd E Goff

Sender Email [REDACTED]

Daytime phone [REDACTED]

Sender Address: [REDACTED]

000017

@CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

PI2010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 7:12 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PI2010-1: Crescent Lake, Oregon Post office

As a firefighter in the Crescent Lake area I want to add my concern that not having a unique ZIP code has caused life-threatening problems for our community. Prior to the loss of our Post Office we had taken steps to correct the confusion caused by having a town only 20 miles away with a name similar to our own. That town, Cresent, Oregon (named for a nearby landmark Crescent Butte) often had it's fire department confused with our fire department. So we changed the name of our department to Central Cascades Fire & EMS. The loss of the ZIP code for our community has destroyed all that we hoped to accomplish with our FD name change.

Sender Name: Nick Goeveling

Sender [REDACTED]

Daytime phone [REDACTED]

Sender Address: [REDACTED]

000018

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733 P12010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 11:09 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

"PI2010-1: Crescent Lake Oregon Post Office." I am a local Contractor. I live and am trying to do business in Crescent Lake. It makes no sense to have TWO post offices within 1 mile or less. one in Crescent and one in Gilchrist. Please look at a map!! When a post office and a local zip code is needed in Crescent Lake, a community that caters to a much different cliental. I am part of a much larger community that needs your assistance.

thanks, Paul Hackett

Sender Name: Paul Hackett

Sender Email: [REDACTED]

Daytime phone: [REDACTED]

Sender Address: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

000019

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:28 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PL2010-1 Crescent Lake Oregon Post Office

I strongly support the efforts of the Crescent Lake residents to have their post office returned to them. I currently hesitate to mail anything to them as I'm not certain if it will be received in a timely manner if at all.

Sender Name: Sherrie Hurst  
Sender Email:  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000020

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

PI2010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 4:11 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PI2010-1 Crescent Lake, OR Post Office

PLEASE give us our Crescent Lake, OR 97425 full service post office back. The residents of Crescent Lake have been subjected to much frustration, confusion and hardship over the last 4+ years because of the current postal situation in Crescent Lake. On-Line Shopping, getting connected to the DISH network, getting new drivers licenses with the DMV, and using Debit Cards at self-serve gas stations in other states, are just a few of the problems we have faced because of the Zip Code problem. The facility is at the Odell Sportsman. PLEASE give us a full time postmaster again, so the above problems can be solved, as well as our not having to drive many miles, sometimes not in good weather conditions, to mail packages, etc. Thank you for your consideration.

Sender Name: James and Kathleen Mullen  
Sender Email: [REDACTED]  
Daytime phone: [REDACTED]  
Sender: [REDACTED]

000021

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2010 12:12 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Mail Delivery/Postal Services - Comment

I live in Crescent, OR 97733 (Box 207) and less than a mile to the north is another USPO in Gilchrist, OR 97737. 18 miles west is a small community, "Crescent Lake", OR with the 97733 zip. What gives with this? I continually receive "mis-routed" mail; much of which should have been sent onto the community 18 miles west.

[REDACTED] appears that it would be best [REDACTED] offices into one building with ample parking (which is in short supply in Crescent during the "mail-call hour"), using the 97733 zip and opening a "Crescent Lake" PO using the 97737 zip. On a separate note: I for one am unhappy about having to "subsidize other's RFD" while I have to rent a POB @ \$100 a year, and drive to the post office to pick up my mail. My postal bill annually runs \$400-500. These fees should be "buying" consumers more than we are getting>

Sender Name: Gary Neville

Sender Email [REDACTED]

Sender Address [REDACTED]

000022

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P120104

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** unknown@sender.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010 1:11 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Mail Delivery/Postal Services - Comment

In regard to the post office/service in Crescent Lake Oregon, I hope you will reconsider pulling the service from that area. In the winter time, it is a long drive to Gilchrist/Crescent Oregon. There are many residents in Crescent LAKE Oregon all year 'round. It has facilities for long haul trucks, hay trucks, not to mention other traffic. I vote to put mail service into Crescent Lake Oregon.

Sender Name:  
Sender Email:  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000023

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

P12010-

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** unknown@sender.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 5:49 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PI2010-1: Crescent Lake Oregon Post Office

Regarding the February 16, 2010 issue of the Bend Bulletin:

Give Crescent Lake, OR their own zip code and postal service. These customers deserve to be served, not abused.

Sender Name:  
Sender Email:  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000024

CRESSENT LAKE  
OR 97733

PI2010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** unknown@sender.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7:03 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

PI2010-1

We support getting our local postoffice returned to us with a designation as Cresent Lake Postoffice.  
Larry & Bonnie Weaver

Sender Name:  
Sender Email:  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000025

CRESCENT LAKE  
OR 97733

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 12:56 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

In Reference to Docket: PI2010-1. We are part-year residents of Crescent Lake, OR. We need our Post Office and our own unique Zip-Code back! The confusion created between our township's name and the nearby town of Crescent has created numerous issues in receiving mail in our community. If there needs to be a consolidation of Post Offices to save money, why are you not considering combining the Crescent and Gilchrist offices? They are a mile apart! To have to go to Crescent to mail a package or buy a stamp or do other P.O. business it is 14 miles from our place in Crescent Lake. The road is treacherous in the winter. After our office was closed, a gentleman who lived in Crescent Lake was killed on this road during the winter while returning from retrieving his mail in Crescent! If you can't bring back the full post office to Crescent Lake, you should at least have an APC there and give us back our own unique Zip-Code. Thank you!

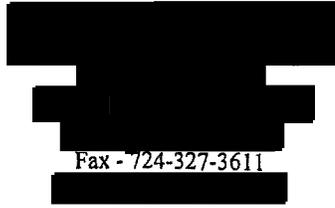
Sender Name: Misha & Greg Williams

Sender Email: [REDACTED]

Daytime phone:

Sender Address:

000026



Fax - 724-327-3611

Robert Campagna; Mayor  
Borough Council:  
Barry Delissio; President  
David Pascuzzi, Vice Pres.  
Melanie Litz  
John J. Nagoda  
Stanley A. Mahinske  
Donna Thatcher  
George J. Wood, Jr.  
Wesley Long; Solicitor  
Marlene Mahinske; Secretary  
Mike Stack, UCC Official

December 31, 2009

The Honorable Ruth Goldway, Second Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Export Borough Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Goldway:

I am writing to you today to ask for your help in the 18 month long suspension of our post office here in Export. Our post office was suspended in June, 2008 due to a dispute with the landlord of the building. After a 40 year lease was up, negotiations continued as the post office operated on a month-month lease for over a year. During this time, alternate locations were investigated, but not secured (not by the fault of the property owners, the USPS dropped the matter).

In many people's opinion, postal officials did not handle the negotiations of the lease in a professional manner. It is my understanding that this was left up to a relatively inexperienced, young, and quite frankly, rude employee of the USPS. The landlord, not wanting to "put up" with this sort of treatment, terminated the month-month lease and gave them a 30 day notice to vacate.

At this time, all postal services in Export were moved to neighboring Murrysville, Pa. Export was a level 18 post office at the time of suspension. About a month after the suspension, a real estate rep from North Carolina came to a very well attended town meeting here in Export, telling the crowd that "this was the first step in re-opening a post office in Export". He explained that he had been authorized to find 1000 square feet within the Borough for a retail or finance station. Three properties were submitted and postal officials inspected each. Negotiations fell off in October of 2008. In January, 2009, Export officials were informed of the nationwide "freeze" on capital investments.

We have continued our fight with the Postal Service over all these months, in an attempt to hold them to their word at the town meeting: "re-opening a post office in Export". I understand that the capital freeze does not include personnel. We have offered to find them space at little to no cost.

000027

There is a new Magistrate's Office being built here in the borough in 2010. We would love to make room on the property for a new post office. All we need is the commitment from the USPS. There are also other properties that were looked upon favorably by the real estate division.

Export is a small, "main street" community located in one of the fastest growing residential areas in Western Pennsylvania. The closing of the post office had nothing to do with financials. People from surrounding communities used Export's post office for it's friendly counter personnel and small town feel. Also, the Murrysville Post Office is located along a major (Rt. 22) highway, with only access from the west. It is inconvenient in too many ways to list here. I can't tell you how many people have complained to me about the Murrysville Post Office.

I have taken this fight to my legislators, the District Manager in Pittsburgh, the Consumer Affairs personnel, the Retired Postmasters and my community as a whole, which supports these efforts overwhelmingly. I will be filing a docket with the PRC with regards to the case, as I am aware the opportunity exists. I just wanted to take the time to write you personally about the issue. I was recently given a copy of an interview you did with the Postmaster's Gazette, and thought, what the heck - she sounds like she is very concerned about the affect that these suspensions/closures are having on the citizens. So that's why I am writing to you today. To ask your help on behalf of the citizens of Export and surrounding communities.

I wish you a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Melanie Litz  
Council Person, Export Borough  
Chair, Post Office Committee

000028

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 6:57 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Postal Regulatory Commission - Comment

Regarding Suspended Postal Offices:

I was a Post Office Box customer of the Export, PA (15632) post office up until last year when it was suspended. At that time, my PO Box was transferred to the Murrysville, PA (15662) post office.

My experiences has been that my needs have not satisfactorily met in the move of my PO Box. The new location is inconvenient and the staff at the new post office is nasty and argumentative.

As a result, I have allowed my PO box subscription to lapse and am now pursuing alternatives via UPS stores and online options. I WILL NOT consider returning as a customer of the Murrysville Post Office. I would consider returning as a customer if the Export Post Office re-opened.

Sender Name: Daniel J. Wright  
Sender Email: [REDACTED]  
Daytime phone: [REDACTED]  
Sender Address:

000029

JAN 26 2010

Office of PAGR

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Re: Docket No. PI2010-1, Emergency Suspension of the Granite Canon, WY Post Office

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for reopening the Granite Canon, WY matter and allowing for comments.

We would like to express our strong recommendation that the Post Office be reopened as a service to the residents of the area. We have lived in zip code 82059 for over 9 years and have seen the size of the community grow each year and the level of postal service decline significantly.

While we are somewhat reluctant to even take the time to respond as in past years when we met with various postal service officials, at public meetings which they called, it seemed that all of our concerns, comments and suggestions fell on deaf ears. Even when they indicated they would make certain changes they never did follow through on their commitments. In every meeting it seemed the postal officials had their mind made up and "don't confuse us with the facts".

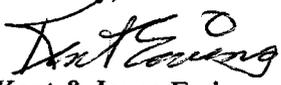
Let me express how disappointed we are that the cluster boxes have not been changed, as was one of the commitments. The boxes are located just over the crest of a hill which is dangerous even on a lightly traveled road. The boxes were faced the exact wrong way, so they get blown full of snow consequently we end up with soggy mail.

One suggestion that really fell on deaf ears was to have delivery to mail boxes on the main road closer to where we live. The cluster boxes are about 8 miles from our subdivision. People living about 100 yards south of us have delivery on the main road close to their homes. Although they live in Colorado, that should not command better service.

The community, through Fire District 10, has received a donation of land close to I-80 and is planning a fire station with a community room and have indicated (I believe to postal officials) their desire to add a proper space for the location of the Granite Canon Post Office.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Kent & Joyce Ewing

000030

GRANITE CANON  
WY 82059

PI2010-1



Office of Public Affairs  
and Government Relations

December 11, 2009

Received

DEC 28 2009

Office of PAGR



Dear Hubbards:

You signed a petition sent to the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) in March 2007 about your concerns regarding the emergency suspension of the Granite Canon post office in Wyoming. This is to inform you that the Commission has opened a case to investigate emergency suspensions of post offices, and that comments on your experience would be welcome in this proceeding. In addition, a public representative, who represents the interests of the public before the Commission, has been assigned to this docket and may contact you about this matter.

During recent Commission consideration of a post office closure appeal for Hacker Valley, West Virginia in Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1, to look into this matter. Interested persons are invited to provide relevant information and share their views. Written comments may be submitted by January 15, 2010.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov). Informal written responses will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission. For your information, the record developed in Docket No. PI2010-1 may be viewed on our web site listed towards the bottom of our homepage.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Leona Anasiewicz  
Records Specialist

*We should get mail delivery to our home like every other tax-paying citizen instead of having to travel 12 miles round trip to a PO Box at the top of the windiest hill in WY!*

000031

GRANITE CANYON  
WY 82059

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** unknown@sender.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2010 7:51 PM  
**To:** PRC-PAGR  
**Subject:** Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

Reference docket #P12010-1: Since BEFORE 1900, we had a manned post office that served as the center of communication for our community. Until a few years ago, we had an enclosed trailer with heat and lights and indoor postal boxes. After the postmaster retired in 2004, the postal service promised to fill the position. Then they said that they would replace the post office with a mobile unit and the community obtained the land to transfer it to. We have had dependable service for a long time and do not understand why you have not followed through on your promises to provide us with a new post office.

Sender Name: Karin Schubert  
Sender Email:  
Daytime phone:  
Sender Address:

000032

GRANITE Canon  
WY 82059

P12010-1

Received

January 13, 2010

JAN 15 2010

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION:  
Regarding Docket No. P12010-1

Office of PAGR

330000

The residents of the Granite Canon area welcome the investigation of the emergency suspension of the Granite Canon Post Office. We also hope that the manipulations and discarded agreements by the postal authorities in dealing with our community will come to light.

The action of closing our 125 year old post office on February 28, 2007, was taken without meeting the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, and over our protestations.

We, the customers of the Granite Canon Wyoming Post Office, vigorously protest this action in view of the provision in the Postal Reorganization Act that calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining; and in view of a verbal agreement made between the postal service and the customers of the Granite Canon Post Office in a public meeting on December 15, 2005, to continue mail delivery in the existing post office, without counter service, until Hurricane Katrina post offices were rebuilt and funds were available to build a new full service post office facility.

The Postal Service's decision to close our post office and provide rural delivery service to cluster box units raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risks involved in the handling of mail by non-career employees. We have the same concerns regarding the receipt of accountable mail, such as certified letters, registered letters and CODs. We have experienced inconveniences in purchasing money orders, sending accountable mail, and loss of or misdelivered personal mail.

We feel that, as citizens of the United States, we are entitled to due process of law and the same efficient postal service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. The Postal Reorganization Act is explicit in pointing this out. We, petition you as members of the Postal Regulatory Commission, to respectfully consider our protest and order the Postal Service to give additional considerations to our service needs. Please read the supporting documents attached.

Respectfully,  
Citizens of Granite Canon, WY, and former customers of the Granite Canon Post Office

#### TIMELINE OF GRANITE CANON POST OFFICE

The Granite Canon residents have been promised a new building for their post office for many years, even before our postmistress retired.

2004- Our postmistress had multiple sclerosis. She told us that the postal service was forcing her to retire at the end of April. Business at the post office was not good. Patrons were afraid their out-going mail could be lost because she piled them in a small box top on her cluttered desk. It could take fifteen minutes to mail a simple package or purchase stamps. Some patrons transferred their business to the Buford Post Office. (Later closed because the owner and postmaster was convicted of a felony.) No one wanted to cause her firing, so we waited for her to retire and a new post master to be appointed. But instead, a notice was posted that counter service would no longer be available. Mail was delivered by the contract carrier. The relief post master was very disappointed that she would not be hired as the replacement post master. To indicate the quality of the person, when informed that she would not be hired by the post office, she applied, completed flight attendant training, and flew for Northwest Airlines.

2005- A notice was mailed and posted at the post office that the post office was seeking suitable plots of land to construct a new facility.

April- A notice was mailed and posted that four locations had been offered (with two being out of the preferred area). A meeting was scheduled and the patrons were given the choice of constructing a post office on Remount Road at I-80 (one of the locations out of the preferred area) OR cluster boxes on Remount Road and two locations on Harriman Road. (Cost of the lease was given as the reason for choosing Remount Road, but when contacted, the owner of the land on Harriman closest to I-80 had offered to donate the land or allow the post office to set the price.) Neither of these choices was acceptable and another meeting was scheduled for December 15.

1. Arguments against the Remount location: The majority of the Granite Canon population lives on Harriman Road, the closest city is Cheyenne. Driving west to Remount would be an inconvenience and an added danger in winter months. Otto Road customers would drive even further.

2. Arguments against cluster boxes:

-No one wanted to lose the post office—it has served this area for approximately 125 years. Its services are important to the residents, many of them retired.

-Out door lock boxes are not the best answer for this climate of consistent winds.

-Mail delivery by a contract carrier had been unsatisfactory. Mail was misplaced in boxes and delayed by being remailed or left lying on the counter for its addressee to find.

-We were dissatisfied, already experiencing the inconvenience of a 50 to 70 mile round trip to mail a package or pick up secure mail.

000034

-When contacted, the county road and bridge department would not allow placing the boxes on the county road because of snow removal. The boxes could be knocked down or covered by snow during plowing.

(After note: 2007-Permission for the location of the boxes was obtained from the state, facing them west at the state snowplow turn-around which is at the crest of a hill, exposed to a prevailing north-west wind. This location is 1.5 miles south of I-80 on Harriman Road.)

December 15-At that meeting, approximately 70 postal patrons attended. They were frustrated and felt they were being manipulated when it was announced that cluster boxes would be built because the Remount location had been withdrawn. Recognizing the strong feelings about closing the post office; and having been contacted by Senator Craig Thomas, whose representative was present at the meeting along with TV-5, the postal representatives and the residents accepted a compromise agreement to maintain the present system in the unmanned post office until Hurricane Katrina depleted funds became available and a location could be selected to build a new post office. (Citizens were already working with Wyoming DOT to obtain an ideal location at I-80 and Harriman Road) (After note- The postal authorities have stated that the patrons were told the unmanned post office would be maintained for the period of one year. This is not true. The transcript says, "We are willing to extend the lease as long as necessary."

2007

Feb 13- A resident saw men constructing concrete forms on Harriman Road. They were constructing the base for postal cluster boxes.

A residents set a meeting to develop a plan of action for Tuesday, 7 P.M., Feb. 20, at Willadsen School. Notification of the meeting was mailed to the Cheyenne Post Master General, telephoned to Cathy Minter, Manager Post Office Operations, in Denver (720-261-017, faxed to Senator Craig Thomas's office and telephoned to KGWN Television 5. Feb. 17- Granite Canon postal patrons received an envelope in their post office boxes containing:

1. A notice dated January 29, 2006, that the post office would be permanently closed as of February 28, 2007.
2. A letter signed by Cathy Minter, Manager Post Office Operations, stating the "Postal Service is proposing to close the Granite Canon Post Office." because the lease was not renewed for the post office building. No one from the post office had contacted Lou McLoughlin, owner of the post office building about renewing the lease. She had tried to contact the postal authorities, but they did not return her calls. On February 21, she was notified that the lease would not be renewed. At that time she offered to lower the price.

(After note- I obtained the "Notice of Emergency Closing" that the postal authorities said they posted through the Freedom of Information Act. No one in the Granite Canon area ever saw it. It stated as the reason for not renewing the lease "the post office is housed in the residence of the former post master." The post office was never her residence.

000035

000036

3. Keys to new cluster box units and location of each box.
  4. Change of address form to change from post office box to street address. (NO CITY OR ZIP CODE)
  - Feb. 20- Three residents visited the offices of our two senators and representative to enlist their help in stopping the closing of the post office to allow input from the citizens. Each of them wrote letters to no avail.
  - Feb. 20- The meeting of the local residents affirmed that we expect the post office to live up to the agreement to build a new post office building. The prospects of obtaining the land at Harriman Road and I-80 were very good. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin's office was represented, along with KGWN, TV, but no one was there for the postal service.
  - Feb. 23- Gimma Walker contacted NAPUS, National Association of Postmasters of the United States for advice on stopping the closing.
  - Feb. 26- A meeting of local representatives and Cathy Minter was scheduled for March 1.
  - Feb. 28- CPU's were completed, mail placed in them, and the Granite Canon Post office was gutted of all postal equipment.
  - March 1- Four residents and Debbie McCann of Senator Enzi's office met at the Cheyenne Main Post Office with Cathy Minter, Manager Postal Operations, and David Spurgus, the OIC of the Cheyenne Post Office.
- Points of the meeting:
1. We would retain our "Granite Canon, WY 82059" address.
  2. Cathy Minter said it was her decision to close our post office, but she couldn't tell us if it was "Temporary" or "Official".
  3. The CPU on Harriman Road would be moved to the DOT property at I-80, (available to the post office by a simple written request to the Department of Transportation) and a 3-sided shelter would be built around it. (As of today's date, this has not been accomplished.) Ownership of this property was transferred through the County Commissioners to our local volunteer fire department, Laramie County Fire District 10, when the post office refused to take possession of the land.) A letter from the Board is included.
  4. We were told that we would not get a new post office building, despite promises made. When asked what would happen if the residents built the building, Cathy Minter stated that she would put a Post Master in it and pay the utilities.
- March 3- A protest from the citizens was written to Dean J. Granholm, Colorado/ Wyoming District Manager, Denver, CO. It was mailed on March 7<sup>th</sup> accompanied by a petition with 100 signatures of citizens protesting the closing of the post office.

March 13- Since the postal authorities would not tell us if the closing was "Official" or "Temporary," we had to assume it was Official. Although the postal authorities had ignored the time line dictated by statute, we knew we would not have that same luxury. An Appeal to the Postal Rate Commission must be filed within 30 days of an official closing. Our appeal was mailed on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Priority Mail, in order to be received by the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The Appeal was returned to us with a notice that it was premature because the Granite Canon Post Office had not been officially closed. January, 2010-We just learned of the latest postal development- Our zip code Granite Canon, WY 82059, covers three main roads: Otto Road, Harriman Road, and Remount Road. The post office informed the residents on Otto Road that the "county" had changed their zip code to 82001 (Cheyenne). They were told they could continue to use Granite Canon WY, but their zip code would be 82001.

In conclusion:

Nothing that we have done has given our citizens any satisfaction. Nothing that we have been promised has come about. Our mail is still delivered to CPU's on a windy, exposed hill. There is no shelter for them, and none can be built because they faced them into the prevailing wind.

A group of our citizens worked with the Department of Transportation over a long period of time to obtain the land at I-80 and Harriman Road for the post office. It is the perfect location....the only post office on a fifty mile stretch of I-80 between Laramie and Cheyenne, and the only post office visible from I-80 for hundreds of miles. When the postal authorities refused to follow through, even though they had agreed to move the CPU's to that location and build a 3-sided shelter, the local Fire District stepped in and took ownership. They plan to build a multi-purpose building on the site. A post office could be part of that plan.

As mentioned before, at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Cathy Winter, Manager, Postal Operations, Longmont, CO, did not hesitate when we asked what would happen if our local community provided the post office building. "I would put a post master in it." was her reply. Debbie McCann, the representative from Senator Enzi's office, questioned her and she repeated the statement.

We hope that this investigation will result in the re-establishment of some ethical requirements for the postal system. We are confident that our 125 year-old post office should be and will be reopened.

John Walker, Spokesperson  
Granite Canon Postal Community

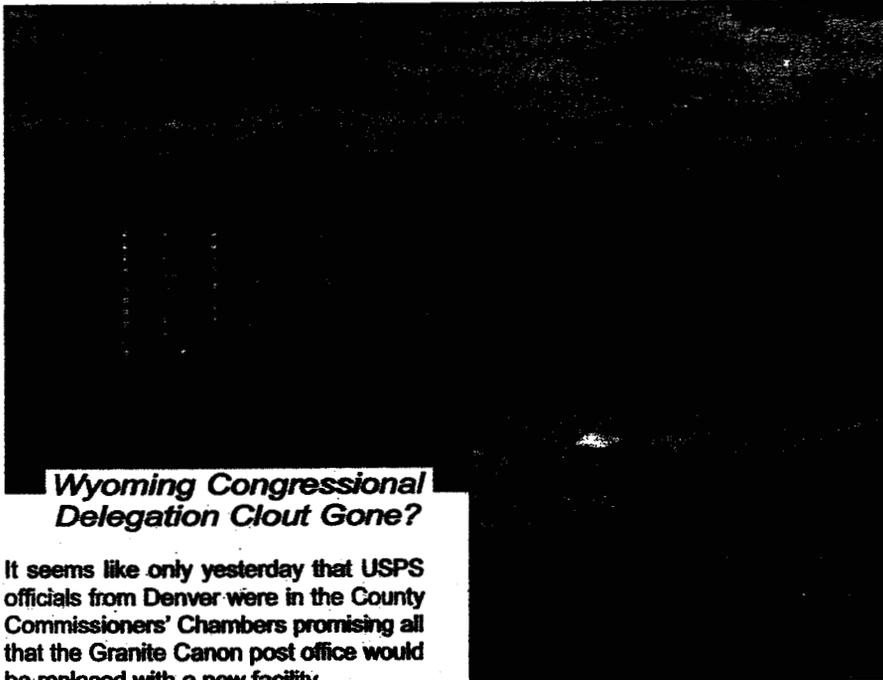
000037

Cheyenne Herald

March 12, 2007



## The new Granite Canon, Wyoming Post Office - Zip 82059



### Wyoming Congressional Delegation Clout Gone?

It seems like only yesterday that USPS officials from Denver were in the County Commissioners' Chambers promising all that the Granite Canon post office would be replaced with a new facility.

It also seems that they kept repeating that promise until recently - then installed "cluster boxes" instead. The seven NPUs with 16 letter/magazine/paper boxes on each unit and 20 parcel boxes were recently placed at the end of the state maintenance area of Harriman Road - about a mile and a half south of I-80 at Exit 342.

The NPUs face west and the day the pictures at the right were taken, the wind would pull change out of your pocket. The inset picture showing a speed limit sign of 55 mph at that location could refer to the wind. In Denver, they may be unaware this hilltop is among the windiest places

in Wyoming. Trains derail from the wind and their empty cars are picked up off the rails just southeast of the boxes.

For 125 years, Granite Canon has had a post office. Until recently, postal services were provided - stamps, money orders, mailing packages, redemption of mail that required signatures, etc. The USPS promised such service would continue. They promised in the presence of all three current county commissioners. Now they blame Hurricane Katrina for their broken promise. It used to be computers were the root of all problems. Not it's Katrina.

*More to come on the stories on this page.*

000038

December 10, 2009

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-

Laramie County Fire District 10 is the owner of a parcel of land located at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Harriman Road. It continues to be the ideal location for a postal service facility.

This parcel of land was held by the Wyoming Department of Transportation and, through the efforts of members of our fire department and community, was to be transferred to the USPS, at no cost, for the purpose of building a new postal facility for Granite Canon, Wyoming. This area has had a post office for over one hundred years.

The postmaster for Granite Canon retired in 2004 and was not replaced. In December, 2005, the patrons of the Granite Canon Post Office were given the choice of cluster box units, or a new post office at a location that would be inconvenient for the majority of patrons. The devastation of hurricane Katrina to the postal system in the Gulf States was given as a reason for not replacing the aging mobile post office building earlier. The patrons elected, and the postal authorities agreed, to maintain the unmanned post office with contract carrier service until a better location and funds were available to build the new facility. The DOT property was already a possibility and would be ideal for a centralized location.

In February, 2007, construction on a cluster box unit was started before the community was notified that the post office was being "permanently closed". With eleven days warning, the post office building was abandoned and mail placed in the CPU's.

Postal authority, Cathy Minter, agreed to contact the DOT about the property and to move the CPU to that location with a three-sided shelter around it, but never followed through. The CPU still stands at the crest of a wind swept hill facing west into the prevailing wind, and is a topic of conversation at most community gatherings.

To preserve the availability of the property, the Board of Directors for the Fire District requested that the property be transferred to the Fire District, and this was accomplished with the help of the Laramie County Commissioners.

A committee is now in the process of designing and obtaining a grant to build a multi-purpose building on this property. We believe that a postal service facility should be included in the plan.

We ask that the Postal Regulatory Commission recommend that a full service postal facility be restored to Granite Canon, Wyoming.

Respectfully,  
Board of Directors, Laramie County Fire District 10

  
Ginna Walker, Administrative Officer

000039

GRANTSBURG  
IN 47123

Dec. 3, 2009

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-001  
ATT: Richard Oliver-Docket #PI2010-1

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

Our Post Office at Grantsburg, In, was suspended August 1, 2008 because of security. Ms Kluemper, the landlady, had purchased the building and assumed the previous owner's lease. It was month to month. She tried to accommodate the USPS's requests. They said she had to paint it every two years. The amount of the rent was only \$160.00 a month, which included grass mowing and snow removal, and cleaning so she wasn't making any money on it but a service.

Attached is copy of her notification re the termination dated July 14, 2008, which upon receipt Ms.Kluemper called Louisville, Ky and then was told to contact an office in North Carolina, to a Real Estate Dept, leaving several messages and getting no return phone calls. Ms Kluemper was willing to make more adjustments as needed and actually had a nice masonry building which she would have also leased which was at 3202 S Old SR 37, Grantsburg, IN, approximately 50' from the other post office building, but no one was willing to negotiate or talk. Not much notice.

Their main excuse re the closing was security over money orders. The money orders were locked away each night in a large steel box about the size of a refrigerator. Evidently, the trigger was a report on money order securities that Postmasters were to send in. Alice Myers never received the form, which was like other forms sent through English Post Office to be sent out in mail bag. The form actually showed up in the mail the day after the Community meeting on July 16, 2008 along with paper subject INFORMATION, BUDGET, REVIEW OF EASTERN AREA TELECOM AND MPOO MEETING, with message Jerry Atkins, English Postmaster, added note at top telling Alice Myers, was her reason for closing! I have also enclosed. copy of this which as is noted was for financial reasons if you read what Mr Atkins went to so much trouble to highlight.

The USPS said that the trailer would not accommodate a 1400 to 3000 pound safe. One of the men was quick to point out with the 20+ persons at the meeting and we definitely had more than that much weight.

The community requested NDCBUs, and was told they would have to put up boxes on the route.

Some in community do not keep checking accounts or just prefer to use money order and appreciated service renders by helping anyone who needed it to help fill form out. Truly a

000040

-1-

service.

One gentleman has a wife, who is in a wheel chair, thus making shopping for clothing difficult. They order many things by mail, which also leads to having to return items and doing postal business in general. The Grantsburg post office was within view of his house and he could run over and take care of business and wasn't so long to leave his wife. Now is 6 mile drive one way to post office and must have someone to stay with her.

This prideful community considered the Post Office their "mall", stamps, mail, money orders, trade a recipe and look at latest family pictures.

We object to this temporary suspension because it is really a closing without giving us our rights according to Title 39. We should have had 60 days to object and 30 days to contact the PRC.

We also object for the following reasons:

1. Lack of notice re emergency suspension. Heard rumor end of June 2008 and no formal notice.
2. Community meeting with no written notice given to community, was only by word of mouth we was informed and still had over 20 persons at 7/16/2008 meeting. I don't think USPS wanted us to attend.
3. There was another building available approximately 50' from other post office building or landlord was trying to comply with requested changes.

As of this date, we have not received any further notices from District Manager since the call at the end of June 2008, with rumor of "emergency suspension" until decisions could be made. No letters was sent to notify the people, rather felt like a slap in the face as to how important we are to the USPS.

I am enclosing newspaper article, which was pretty good summation of July 16 meeting.

Thank you very much for any assistance you can render our small community and most especially for at least listening to our concerns.

Very truly,

Linda K Painter



000041

*Alice this came this A.M.  
Here is your reason for closing!*

**Atkins, Jerry L - English, IN**

**From:**

**Sent:**

Wednesday, July 16, 2008 3:42 PM

**To:**

[Redacted recipient list]

**Subject:** FW: Information, Budget, Review of Eastern Area telecom and MPOO meeting

**Attachments:** SDO Overtime-Wk43.xls

Team:

Please read the below message that Tony has put together for MPOO 8 area. The message is from our Friday meeting with the Area on Kentuckiana's performance.

Those offices that have City Carriers or Clerks, if you will need SDO next week, use the above temp plate and respond as soon as possible with your requests. Remember, before asking for City Carrier SDO, you must still have vacant routes to pivot. Also see Tony's paragraph changing the time to request SDO for the next week below.

Continue to reduce!! Reduce workhours and reduce costs. Only order essential items that can not be put off until the new fiscal year on October 1st.

This is his message:

First, let me congratulate the following new postmasters:

- LaGrange- Lisa Newton (PM) comes from Lexington/Richmond area
- New Albany- Kathy Barton (PM) comes from Versailles
- Bowling Green- Mike Keen (PM) comes from Campbellsville
- Bagdad- Annette Baltazar (PM) comes from Finchville

Now Folks, on with what we've been tasked to do:

Let me tell you that the hard times are here. Here are three (3) solid facts... our District is now \$ 11,000,000.00 OVER Budget YTD, we are losing thousands of hours in City Street performance and in Rural—we have paid out 79,000 hours OVER Standard hours YTD. In Total Work hours used, we are currently 78<sup>th</sup> out of all the Districts in the Country.

Everything is being looked at for cost savings.....even how many times you have your grass cut a month (not to be cut more than every 2 weeks now).

In the Business meeting with the Eastern area, we discussed F1 (Mail Processing), F2 a & b (Rural & City Delivery) and F4 (Clerk). We looked at our overruns, what we're doing well and what we need to do differently to turn our Budget around. These same items were discussed in our MPOO meeting later in the day (Friday).

- 3 -

7/17/2008

000042



# Landlord's Notice of Termination

CERTIFIED MAIL # 70070710000130711298  
Return Receipt Requested

Date 07/14/2008

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Notice of Termination  
Facility Name/Location: GRANTSBURG - MAIN OFFICE (173366-001)

[REDACTED]

Dear GINA P KLUEMPER

In accordance with the terms of the Lease under which the Postal Service leases from you the above postal quarters, please be advised:

that the Postal Service hereby terminates the Lease, effective 08/15/2008, which is in accordance with the 30 days notice required, per paragraph six of the Lease.

The Postmaster will arrange to have the meters read and the utilities disconnected. All postal equipment will be removed by the above date, and the keys will be mailed or delivered to you. If you prefer to make specific arrangements for the keys, please contact the Postmaster.

The Postal Service wishes to express its appreciation for your cooperation in providing the leased premises for its use. If you have any questions concerning this termination notice, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Legrand  
Contracting Officer  
Eastern FSO

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Postmaster  
Nearest Inspection Service office (if applicable—keys, Streich observation units, etc.)  
Fed Ex Coord.  
RES

# G'burg rallies in effort to save post office

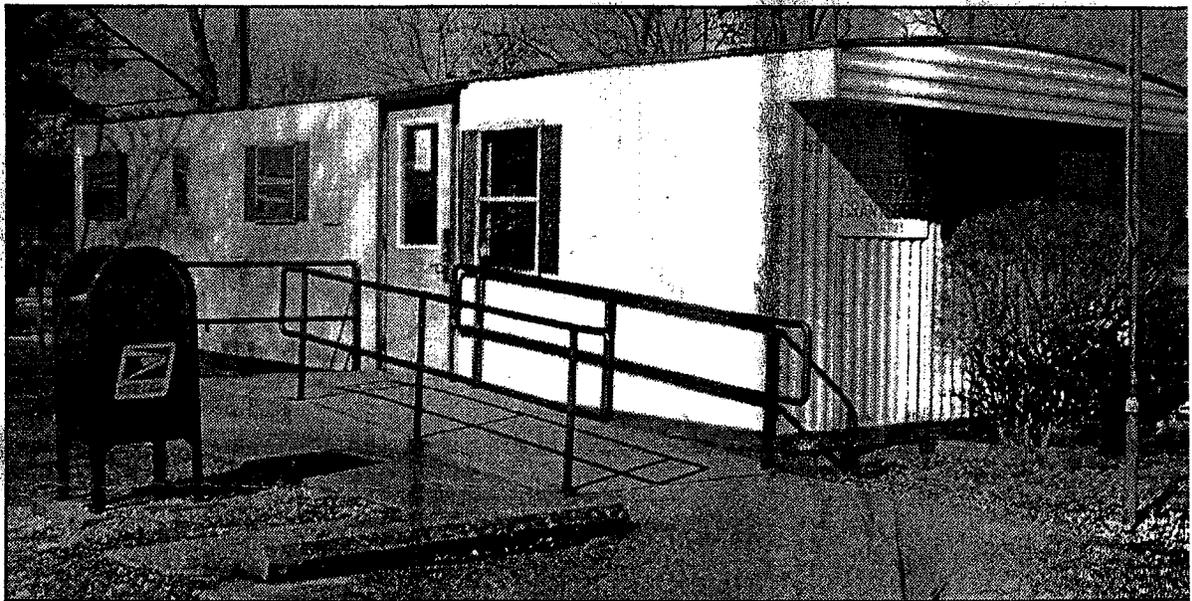
## Post office to close Aug. 1

By LEE CABLE  
Staff Writer

The people of Grantsburg have seen it happen before. Other small towns in the area have lost their post offices, and before long, the towns are in to wither away. Now, it's Grantsburg's turn, and the residents are not ready to give up the anchor of their community.

On Wednesday, Tim Reynolds, an agent from the U.S. Postal Service, came to Grantsburg to meet with residents about closing the only business town, the little post office that has become so important in the day-to-day lives of the people there. It's not the place where nine people get their mail and buy stamps, it's the place where they see their neighbors, catch up on what's happening, and gather to share news of funerals, weddings, and the graduations of grandchildren. The officials of the U.S. Postal Service may not see the value in it, but people who live in rural communities certainly do.

"This little post office is the identity of our community," said Tilden S. Tilden, who lives across the street and is the minister of Bethany Union



File Ph

Despite the pleas of residents, the Grantsburg Post Office is scheduled to close Aug. 1.

Church. "A lot of people buy their stamps here and mail packages. It means a lot to the people of the town to keep it open."

But postal officials have determined that the facility needs to go. Reynolds told the standing-room only crowd that the building wasn't secure enough — that there were no bars on

the windows to help prevent a break-in and that the floor of the structure, a converted mobile home, could not hold the weight of a 3,000-pound safe.

"Well, there's probably over 3,000 pounds of us here now and the floor seems to be doing fine," said Ted Painter, a local resident.

"If someone broke in, they wouldn't get over \$20," added a lady in the audience. "I don't see that's there's a security issue here."

"Well, they could take more orders and the money order machine," Reynolds responded.

"There's already been \$4,000 (Please see G'BURG back page)

000044

- 5 -

# G'BURG

(Continued from front page)

\$5,000 spent on building the handicap ramp here," Painter said. "It doesn't make sense to close it — and we don't want it closed."

Postal officials considered closing the facility a few years ago, but during a similar public meeting at the post office, several older ladies from the community showed up.

"They came down on the postal service representatives like a bunch of sitting hens," Postmaster Alice Myers said. "The guys left rather quickly and haven't been back since."

But the town knew that it was just a matter of time until the postal service officials returned. There was little warning this time, and many of the older ladies have passed away or now live in nursing homes. For the last few years, Myers only opened the facility a couple of hours a day, but even that wasn't enough.

"All of a sudden, they want to close it," said Ellen Forbes, who runs an insurance company in English. "Now, we're losing a service to the community, and there's been no problems for years and years. My question is, why now?"

But Reynolds and English Postmaster Jerry Atkins assured the crowd that there would still be adequate service for postal customers.

"The rural carriers will carry stamps," Atkins said. "Only nine people will have to put up mailboxes. If you already have a mailbox, nothing will change."

"But we have a number of elderly and disabled who use this post office," someone in the audience noted.

"The rural carriers should be able to give them good service," Atkins said.

But the residents didn't like the answers they were hearing, and Reynolds indicated that everything was "pretty much a done deal."

"The Postal Service is a business, like any other business," Reynolds said. "We feel we can provide effective service through rural carriers. This is going to be the only public meeting on this. I'm sorry I can't give answers that please you. But we're doing what we have to do. Services here will be suspended on Aug. 1. That's the directions I've been given."

As the meeting came to an end, many of the residents remained, and talked about what had just happened, sadly noting that Grantsburg would never be the same. About 10 minutes later, a large postal service truck pulled in, and a worker came in with a tape measure. The post office boxes were measured and written down, the number on the door lock was recorded, and the postmaster's keys were checked and the numbers were noted.

As the truck pulled away, the residents did their best to assure each other that there was still hope for the little post office. Sallie Rentchler, a young Grantsburg resident, talked about how Reynolds was surprised that she, like other younger residents of the town, called the postmaster "Grandma." Some of the residents were angry, some were disappointed, and some were just sad.

"This little post office is all we have," Jones said.

But there's a little church right across the street. The boss of the postal service may shut the post office down, but there's a good chance that the boss of the church will never forsake the little town of Grantsburg.

cerning the bridge closing at Marengo near the Old Town Store has been updated. and more mandates

Crawford County Highway Superintendent Lee Holzbog said county workers were hoping to raise the bridge slightly, replace some steel beams, and reopen it in a couple of days. However, when the bridge was lifted, it was discovered that there was more deterioration and damage than could be determined during the original assessment.

"We were hoping to repair the existing bridge," Holzbog said, "but once we got going on it, we found that it was in pretty bad shape and decided to go ahead and replace it."

Material for a new bridge has been ordered and there will be permits to obtain, core drilling to do, and concrete piers to pour.

"We'll have to wait for the concrete to cure once the new piers are poured," Holzbog said. "Then, we'll set the new steel beams and pour the floor. The new bridge will be 30-feet wide and will have two lanes and a walkway for pedestrians."

The bridge will be closed for approximately two months. In the meantime, traffic will be detoured by way of Valdene Road, to Ross Road, to Haldensburg Road. Traffic can also use Bacon Hollow Road, but Holzbog said, this route is not recommended due to a bridge on that road that has a wooden floor and a four-ton limit.

"The people at Marengo Cave (were) kind enough to let us use their road for a while," Holzbog said, "but we couldn't get people to slow down through there and it created a dangerous situation for cave visitors. The people at the cave were just trying to help out, and we appreciate it."

On Monday, the county closed a bridge on Brownstown Road near Atkins Road for repairs. It will be closed for about two weeks. Traffic will be required to use Zoo Road or Belcher Road while repairs are being made.

A bridge, on Baylor Road, just off Hardinsburg Road, has also been closed and, according to officials, should reopen about Aug. 6.

Beginning on Thursday, highway department crews will be working on the Mulzer Road-Temple Road intersection. There will be a small detour there, but there will be signs marking the detour at the intersection.



**FUN**

(Continued from front page)

- animals and face painting
- Noon — Music by Otis Berry as Elvis
- 1 p.m. Six Guns Entertainment (re-enactment)
- 1 p.m. — Acoustic folk/rock by Joe & Dave
- 2:30 p.m. — C.A.R.E.S. Talent Contest by local grade school students
- 3 p.m. — Car show judging ends
- 3 p.m. — Six Guns Entertainment (re-enactment)
- 4 p.m. — Car show awards given
- 6 p.m. Jazz and blues by Blue Meridian
- 7 p.m. Country and Classic Rock by Linda Smith & The Tunes
- Fireworks by Cassabella's
- Fireworks at dark

000045

Wednesday, July 23, 2001

OR TRUSTED COMMUNITY NEWS, SPORTS AND FEATURES COVERAGE

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

HORSE BRANCH  
KY 42349

1-21-2010

Richard Oliver  
901 New York Avenue  
Washington DC, 20268

Dear Mr. Oliver,

How do you think you would feel if your rights were taken away? Well, I can tell you firsthand how I felt when it recently happened to me, or an entire community rather. I felt powerless and discriminated against. Our country prides itself with freedom and rights, but ironically, it was *The United States Postal System* (USPS) that took away those very rights.

Recently our community was surprised to be informed that our post office was at risk of closing! The reason stated was that the building that housed our post office had a rodent (and one snake) problem. In my opinion, the logical step to take would be to contact animal control to correct the problem, especially since the USPS has a lease for two more years in that building. But, unfortunately, logic has not been something that has been used during this entire process.

The timeline of how the suspension occurred is downright unjust. I received an announcement on September 25, 2009 that our post office would soon be suspended, and just eight days later (October 3, 2009), I received another notice that the office was definitely suspended! On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the USPS sent a notice of why this happened. How does that give the community members enough time to fight the unnecessary suspension? It doesn't. What it does do, however, is take away our rights. Finally, a community meeting was held on November 19, 2009. The sequence of these events is blatantly out of order!

000046

At the above mentioned meeting, Mr. Tim Reynolds (USPS Closing Coordinator) told all the present members of the Community Meeting that only 2% of all suspended post offices were ever reopened. This statement led me to believe that this was not a suspension of our post office, but more than likely a closing. This being the case, we once again have been denied of our rights (under Title 39).

I do not know you personally or what type of community in which you live. All I can tell you is what mine is like. This is lower income area with many seniors. These types of areas tend to have community members who do not have transportation or even bank accounts. Removing our post office would certainly cause a hardship on many. Money orders are necessary for many of the people in our community, mostly those who don't need any more inconveniences that already exist in their lives. How could closing a post office in our community be justified? The problem can easily be solved.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at home or via email.

Docket#PI2010-1

Sincerely,

Willard Brown



14403 US Hwy 62 East



000047

HORSE BRANCH  
KY 42329

Dec 3, 2009



Mr. Richard Oliver  
901 New York Ave. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

PRC Docket# P12010-1

Dear Sir:

We postal patrons in Horse Branch feel we have been deprived of our post office for no justifiable reasons.

We know the post master, Karen Turners, has never been happy here in Horse Branch. She never made a secret of her displeasure.

We object to having only six (6) days notice before they vacated the building. We know we had a right to more time in order to write and appeal. We did not even have a community meeting until fifty three (53) days later.

At the meeting, Mr. Antry asked Mr. Tim Reynolds, the USPS closing coordinator, what was the chance of Horse Branch reopening.

000048

He replied that of 100 offices suspended, only 2% were ever reopened. So in reality this is not a suspension, but a closing without giving us our rights under Title 39.

This community is at least 50% senior citizens and another 10 to 15% disabled. We feel sure this is a hardship on many of them.

We know of some households, within walking distance of the post office, that are on fixed incomes, have no automobile, and no bank accounts. There are several others who buy money orders who do not want to wait a day or two or three to receive service from the mail carriers.

As far as we know, the post master did not even call animal control concerning the rodents/snakes.

(3)

PRC Docket #PI 2010-1

If, as they claim, the post office  
was emergency suspended, why  
did it take more than a year  
for this to become a safety hazard?  
Thank you very much

Sincerely,

Glendon Geary/mjr

(PS) We are enclosing the petition  
with signatures we have secured  
to date. We are also enclosing  
a copy of the two (2) notices  
we received from USPS.

We the people of Horse Branch  
 Wish to protest the closing of  
 Horse Branch Post Office

PRC  
 Booklet #  
 PI 20104

NAME	Address	NAME	ADDRESS
me Gilstrap	[Redacted]	Robert Gilstrap	[Redacted]
Marcia <sup>Gilstrap</sup>	[Redacted]	Beatrice Gilstrap	[Redacted]
Christopher <sup>Gilstrap</sup>	[Redacted]	JCP	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Gerard Frames	[Redacted]
Emmett Gilstrap	[Redacted]	Sheena Aud	11916 Hwy 62E
James Gilstrap	[Redacted]	Stacey Beary	[Redacted]
Wendy Craig	[Redacted]	Manard Beary	[Redacted]
Andra [unclear]	[Redacted]	Glendon Beary	[Redacted]
Flores Wright	[Redacted]	Brenda Filback	[Redacted]
Karen Wright	[Redacted]	Donald Filback	[Redacted]
Batricia Orndorff	[Redacted]	Dakota Evans	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Joseph Fields	[Redacted]
Frank Peyton	[Redacted]	Kyle Fields	[Redacted]
Kenneth Orndorff	[Redacted]	Jacob Howard	[Redacted]
David Orndorff	[Redacted]	Byron Bates	[Redacted]
Eve Hayes	[Redacted]	Perry DeNardi	[Redacted]







We the people of Horse Branch  
 Wish to protest the closing of  
 Horse Branch Post Office

NAME	Address	NAME	ADDRESS
Dan Burrow		Rad Baker	
Carlene Swift		Bill Smith	
James Warden		James Knight	
Ashley Roper		MARK L. LIND	
Steve Riker		BILL MORRIS	
Natue Stewart		42349	
Chelsea Buddley		BILL HINGS	
Randy Frames		Kevin Ford	
Connie Frames		Brenda Ford	
Dylan Frames		Mike + Tracy Dye	
Katawna Raley		Chris Murphy	
Jade Johnson		P.O. Box 532	
Ann Procter		Clorae Branch Ky	
Ashley HATHIN		Shel Murphy	
Trenda HATHIN		20	
		Loni Morris	
		PO	
		Morgan Murphy	
		Gregory Murphy	
		Crystal Geary	
		Norman Geary	

000055



*1 Rc Locker # B 2009*

September 25, 2009

Dear Postal Customer:

The Horse Branch postmaster will be reassigned on October 3, 2009 to the Rosine Post Office. Due to safety hazards caused by snake and rodent infestation it will be necessary to suspend services at the Horse Branch Post Office at the close of business on October 2, 2009. This change is tentative and will not lead to a formal proposal unless we conclude that it will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services.

While the office is suspended, services will be consolidated with the Rosine Post Office, delivery and retail services will also be provided by a rural carrier to roadside mailboxes installed by customers effective October 3, 2009. Please contact the postmaster of the Horse Branch Post Office for advice regarding the placement of mailboxes. **Customers presently receiving rural delivery will not experience a change in service**, with the possible exceptions of picking up parcels and accountable mail at the Rosine Post Office that the carrier was unable to deliver. **Horse Branch Rural Route Customers will continue to use Horse Branch KY 42349 as their last line of delivery. Horse Branch PO Box Customers also will NOT experience a change in address. PO Box customers will continue to use their present address and last line address Horse Branch KY 42349. New keys will be issued to PO Box customers.**

Rural delivery is particularly beneficial to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and working people because no one has to pick up the mail from the post office. You will have 24-hour access to your mail. In addition, the rural carrier can provide all the retail services provided at the Horse Branch Post Office. Enclosed is information about some of the services available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting a carrier at the mailbox. *Stamps By Mail* order envelopes and *Money Order Application* forms are available for your convenience; or you may place a note in the mailbox, with payment, and the carrier will provide the requested services. When an accountable item requiring a signature, such as a certified letter, cannot be delivered on the first day, the carrier will return the item to the Rosine Post Office. You may pick up the article at the Rosine Post Office, request redelivery on another day convenient for you, or authorize the carrier to deliver the item to another person. If appropriate, Post Office box refunds will be provided by the Rosine or Horse Branch postmaster.

Customers who wish to continue their post office box service may do so at the Rosine Post Office, located 4.5 miles away. The Rosine Post Office has 24-hour lobby access for customer convenience. Window service hours at Rosine are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Post Office boxes are available at this location at the same fees.

If you have any questions concerning the placement of rural mailboxes or the services available to you through the rural carrier, please contact the Horse Branch postmaster at (270) 274-3931, after October 2 at (270) 274-9375.

I realize with change there is always concern. No final decision to permanently discontinue the post office has been made. In the event that the office is officially closed the post office will become the **Rosine \Horse Branch Post Office**. A community meeting will be held in the near future to explain our plans and solicit your comments concerning possible alternate means of providing postal and other services. In the interim, we are confident that carrier delivery and PO Box service at the Rosine Post Office will continue to provide Horse Branch customers with effective and regular postal services.

Sincerely,

*Paul D. [Signature]*  
[Redacted Signature]

Enclosures (1)

bcc: Postmaster Horse Branch KY 42349  
Postmaster Rosine KY 42370  
Post Office Review Coordinator

000056



October 30, 2009

Dear Postal Service Customer:

As the Postal Service manager responsible for all Post Offices in your area, I would like your opinion concerning a possible change in the way postal services are provided. Our tentative plans will only lead to a formal proposal if we are satisfied that a maximum degree of regular and effective service can be provided.

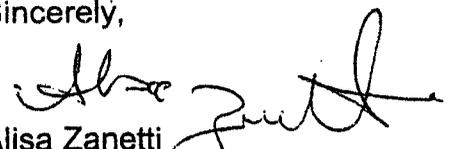
As you are aware the Horse Branch Post Office was emergency suspended on October 3, 2009 due to safety hazards at the office. Since that time Horse Branch Customers have received their mail via the rural route that serves the community and also at the Rosine Post Office located 4.5 miles away. The Rosine Post Office offers a 24 hour po box lobby. Horse Branch rural Customers and PO Box Customers will not experience an address change. Customers will continue to use Horse Branch KY 42329 as their last line address.

If you would like an opportunity to discuss alternatives with us, a postal representative will be at the Horse Branch Christian Church on November 19, 2009 at 6 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about our service.

If you have any questions, you may contact Tim Reynolds at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Alisa Zanetti  
Manager, Post Office Operations

[REDACTED]

000057



This letter is concerning the closing of the Horse Branch, KY, post office (Docket # PI 2010-1).

My name is Ronnie Renfrow, the grandson of Orena Renfrow, the owner and lease holder of the Horse Branch post office building. This property was purchased by my grandfather in 1956, and the post office moved into the building shortly thereafter. My grandfather was the postmaster for approximately 25 years, and my grandmother also served approximately 25 years in the position as well. During this time period, numerous changes were made to the building, and I have been in charge of the upkeep, improvement, and maintenance for the past 20 years. We have always tried to make the needed repairs that current staff has requested. In just the past few years alone, we have replaced the roof, septic system, heating system, and have rewired the building.

We were notified by the letter enclosed, at the same time as the patrons of the mail route, that due to rodent and snake infestation, the Horse Branch post office would be closing. To our knowledge, as the owners of said building, there has only been a single snake incident. About a year ago, the postmaster informed us via the mail carrier that a snake was found in the building. At this point, we contacted an exterminator who supposedly specialized in snake removal, and he sprayed the building at a cost of \$250. It should be noted that this building is inspected on a regular basis and sprayed by Orkin, and at no point did they inform us of any rodent or snake problems.

At the community meeting, November 19, 2009, community members asked several questions. One question raised was why a single snake would merit an emergency closing. Tim Reynolds remarked that this was not an isolated incident, and he informed us that for the past two years a company named LabCorp had been regularly inspecting the post office and there was proof there was a snake and rodent problem. At this point in the meeting, I asked why if for the past two years, an outside source has been inspecting the post office and found a problem, why were the landlords not notified and given an opportunity to rectify the situation. Tim Reynolds was unable to answer my question.

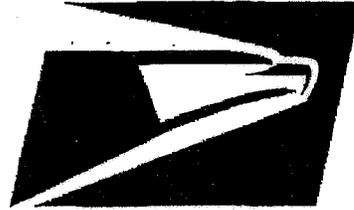
As stated before, this building has served as the Horse Branch post office since around 1956. It is an older building, but holds memories and value to the members of this small community. At no time has any member of the community remarked there were snakes in the building, or otherwise found the building inadequate for the purpose it serves. It is understandable that changes need to be made, and buildings may need to close for financial reasons. However, the manner in which this post office was closed, by the letter detailing a snake and rodent infestation, was very slanderous toward Orena Renfrow, a 95 year-old retired postmaster and very respected member of this community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronnie Renfrow".

Ronnie Renfrow

000058



**UNITED STATES**  
**POSTAL SERVICE™**

**Lease**

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

000059



**Lease**

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO  
Project: C87438

This Lease made and entered into by and between ORENA A RENFROW hereinafter called the Landlord, and the United States Postal Service, hereinafter called the Postal Service:

In consideration of the mutual promises set forth and for other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties covenant and agree as follows:

1. The Landlord hereby leases to the Postal Service and the Postal Service leases from the Landlord the following premises, hereinafter legally described in paragraph 7, in accordance with the terms and conditions described herein and contained in the 'General Conditions to U.S. Postal Service Lease,' attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Upon which is a one story, multi-tenant, wood/brick building and which property contains areas, spaces, improvements, and appurtenances as follows:

AREA	SQ. FEET
Net Interior Floor Space	960
Exterior, Platform and Ramp	168
Exterior Parking, USPS	300

LESSOR TO PROVIDE JOINT USE PARKING INCLUDING EGRESS AND INGRESS TO THE DEMISED PREMISES.

Total Site Area: 1,468

2. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises with their appurtenances for the following term:

FIXED TERM: The term beginning March 01, 2007 and ending February 29, 2012 for a total of 5 Years

3. RENTAL: The Postal Service will pay the Landlord an annual rental of: \$ 3,000.00

\*\*\* Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars\*\*\*

payable in equal installments at the end of each calendar month. Rent for a part of a month will be prorated. Rent checks shall be payable to:

ORENA A RENFROW  
PO BOX 466  
HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-0466

unless the Contracting Officer is notified, in writing by Landlord, of any change in payee or address at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of the change.



**Lease**

4. RENEWAL OPTIONS: The Lease may be renewed at the option of the Postal Service, for the following separate and consecutive terms and at the following annual rentals:

EFFECTIVE DATE	EXPIRATION DATE	PER ANNUM RENTAL
03/01/2012	02/28/2017	\$3,300.00
03/01/2017	02/28/2022	\$3,600.00

provided that notice is sent, in writing, to the Landlord at least 30 days before the end of the original lease term and each renewal term. All other terms and conditions of this Lease will remain the same during any renewal term unless stated otherwise herein.

5. OTHER PROVISIONS: The following additional provisions, modifications, riders, layouts, and/or forms were agreed upon prior to execution and made a part hereof:

Utilities Services & Equipment Rider, Maintenance Rider - Landlord Responsibility, Purchase Option Rider - Right of First Refusal, Mortgagee's Agreement.

6. TERMINATION:

The Postal Service may terminate this Lease at any time by giving 30 days written notice to the Landlord.

7. LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

The Deed was recorded on 1/7/1992, DEED BOOK 28, PAGE 455 IN OHIO County, KY and more particularly described on the attached addendum:



Addendum

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO  
Project: C87438

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A certain tract or parcel of land situated and located in Ohio County, Kentucky and more particularly described as follows:

Lot #1, Subdivision of Miller property west of the Owensboro District of the Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans R. R., described as follows: Beginning at a stone in North corner of strip conveyed by R. A. Miller to the above mentioned R. R. said point being 63 feet west of measured perpendicular to center line of main track of Owensboro District of said R. R. thence S. W. along a line 63 feet west of said center line and parallel thereto, eighty feet, N. W. measured perpendicular to said center line One Hundred feet to a stone; thence N. E. parallel to above mentioned center line of main track Seventy-nine and one half feet to a stone, thence S. E. One Hundred feet to the point of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to R. L. Renfrow and Orena Renfrow, his wife by deed dated October 9, 1956, and appearing of record in Deed Book 130, at page 327, in the office of the Ohio County Court Clerk.

STATE OF KENTUCKY  
COUNTY OF OHIO  
I, ROBERT C. MADON, Clerk of  
County Court do Certify that  
Gene this day  
of record, and that I have recorded  
same, and this certificate in my said  
Office under my hand this 7 day of Jan 1992  
Robert Madon Clerk  
Shetty D. C.



Lease

EXECUTED BY LANDLORD this 26 day of January, 2005

**INDIVIDUAL, ADMINISTRATOR, OR TRUSTEE**

By executing this Lease, Landlord certifies that Landlord is not a USPS employee or contract employee (or an immediate family member of either), or a business organization substantially owned or controlled by a USPS employee or contract employee (or an immediate family member of either).

Orena A Renfrow  
Name & Title: ORENA A RENFROW

Orena A Renfrow Landlord  
Name & Title:

Name & Title: HUSBAND

Name & Title:



Telephone No.: (502) 274 - 4732

Fax No.:

Tax ID: XXX-XX-6937

E-mail Address:

John W Renfrow (son)  
Witness

Charles E Renfrow  
Witness

- a. All co-owners and all other persons having or to have a legal interest in the property must execute the Lease. If the Landlord is married, the husband or wife of the Landlord must also execute the lease. The Landlord must submit adequate evidence of title.
- b. Where the Landlord is an administrator or an executor of an estate, there must be furnished a certificate of the clerk of the court or certified copy of the court order showing the appointment of the administrator or executor, together with a certified copy of the will of the deceased. If there is no will, or in the event the will of the deceased does not specifically authorize the administrator or the executor to enter into a contract to lease the proposed quarters, it will generally be necessary to furnish, in addition to the above named items, a certified copy of the court order authorizing such administrator or executor to enter into a lease with the Postal Service.
- c. Where the Landlord is a trustee, a certified copy of the instrument creating the trust must be furnished together with any other evidence necessary to establish the trustee's authority to lease.
- d. Any notice to Landlord provided under this Lease or under any law or regulation must be in writing and submitted to Landlord at the address specified above, or at an address that Landlord has otherwise appropriately directed in writing. Any notice to the Postal Service provided under this Lease or under any law or regulation must be in writing and submitted to "Contracting Officer, U.S. Postal Service" at the address specified below, or at an address that the Postal Service has otherwise directed in writing.

**ACCEPTANCE BY THE POSTAL SERVICE**

Date

MICHAEL LEGRAND  
Contracting Officer

Signature of Contracting Officer

[Redacted]  
Address of Contracting Officer



## General Conditions to USPS Lease

### 1. CHOICE OF LAW

This Lease shall be governed by federal law.

### 2. RECORDING

Not Required

### 3. MORTGAGEE'S AGREEMENT

If there is now or will be a mortgage on the property which is or will be recorded prior to the recording of the Lease, the Landlord must notify the contracting officer of the facts concerning such mortgage and, unless in his sole discretion the contracting officer waives the requirement, the Landlord must furnish a Mortgagee's Agreement, which will consent to this Lease and shall provide that, in the event of foreclosure, mortgagee, successors, and assigns shall cause such foreclosures to be subject to the Lease.

### 4. ASSIGNMENTS

a. The terms and provisions of this Lease and the conditions herein are binding on the Landlord and the Postal Service, and all heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

b. If this contract provides for payments aggregating \$10,000 or more, claims for moneys due or to become due from the Postal Service under it may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financing institution, including any federal lending agency, and may thereafter be further assigned and reassigned to any such institution. Any assignment or reassignment must cover all amounts payable and must not be made to more than one party, except that assignment or reassignment may be made to one party as agent or trustee for two or more parties participating in financing this contract. No assignment or reassignment will be recognized as valid and binding upon the Postal Service unless a written notice of the assignment or reassignment, together with a true copy of the instrument of assignment, is filed with:

1. the contracting officer; and
2. the surety or sureties upon any bond.

c. Assignment of this contract or any interest in this contract other than in accordance with the provisions of this clause will be grounds for termination of the contract for default at the option of the Postal Service.

d. Nothing contained herein shall be construed so as to prohibit transfer of ownership of the demised premises, provided that:

1. such transfer is subject to this Lease agreement;
2. both the original Landlord and the successor Landlord execute the standard *Certificate of Transfer of Title to Leased Property and Lease Assignment and Assumption* form to be provided by the USPS Contracting Officer; and
3. this Lease may not be assigned or ownership of the property transferred before commencement of the fixed term, without the prior written consent of the Postal Service.

### 5. APPLICABLE CODES AND ORDINANCES

The Landlord, as part of the rental consideration, agrees to comply with all codes and ordinances applicable to the ownership and operation of the building in which the rented space is situated and to obtain all necessary permits and related items at no cost to the Postal Service. When the Postal Service or one of its contractors (other than the Landlord) is performing work at the premises, the Postal Service will be responsible for obtaining all necessary and applicable permits, related items, and associated costs.

### 6. SUBLEASE

The Postal Service may sublet all or any part of the premises or assign this lease but shall not be relieved from any obligation under this lease by reason of any subletting or assignment.

### 7. RESTORATION AND ALTERATIONS

a. Upon written notification by Landlord within 30 days of the expiration or termination of this Lease, the Postal Service shall restore the premises to a "broom clean" and usable condition, excepting the following: reasonable and ordinary wear and tear; and damages by the elements or by circumstances over which the Postal Service has no control. If Landlord provides the above notice, the Postal Service and Landlord shall negotiate and reach agreement on necessary items of restoration and the reasonable cost for restoration; the Postal Service shall pay Landlord this agreed-upon amount and shall have no further restoration duties under this Lease.

b. The Postal Service shall have the right to make alterations, attach fixtures and erect additions, structures or signs in or upon the premises hereby leased (provided such alterations, additions, structures, or signs shall not be detrimental to or inconsistent with the rights granted to other tenants on the property or in the building in which said premises are located); which fixtures, additions or structures so placed in, upon or attached to the said premises shall be and remain the property of the Postal Service and may be removed or otherwise disposed of by the Postal Service.



## General Conditions to USPS Lease

### 8. CLAIMS AND DISPUTES

- a. This contract is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601-613) ("the Act").
- b. Except as provided in the Act, all disputes arising under or relating to this contract must be resolved under this clause.
- c. "Claim," as used in this clause, means a written demand or written assertion by one of the contracting parties seeking, as a matter of right, the payment of money in a sum certain, the adjustment or interpretation of contract terms, or other relief arising under or relating to this contract. However, a written demand or written assertion by the Landlord seeking the payment of money exceeding \$100,000 is not a claim under the Act until certified as required by subparagraph d below. A voucher, invoice, or other routine request for payment that is not in dispute when submitted is not a claim under the Act. The submission may be converted to a claim under the Act by complying with the submission and certification requirements of this clause, if it is disputed either as to liability or amount or is not acted upon in a reasonable time.
- d. A claim by the Landlord must be made in writing and submitted to the contracting officer for a written decision. A claim by the Postal Service against the Landlord is subject to a written decision by the contracting officer. For Landlord claims exceeding \$100,000, the Landlord must submit with the claim the following certification:
- "I certify that the claim is made in good faith, that the supporting data are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the amount requested accurately reflects the contract adjustment for which the Landlord believes the Postal Service is liable, and that I am duly authorized to certify the claim on behalf of the Landlord."
- The certification may be executed by any person duly authorized to bind the Landlord with respect to the claim.
- e. For Landlord claims of \$100,000 or less, the contracting officer must, if requested in writing by the Landlord, render a decision within 60 days of the request. For Landlord-certified claims over \$100,000, the contracting officer must, within 60 days, decide the claim or notify the Landlord of the date by which the decision will be made.
- f. The contracting officer's decision is final unless the Landlord appeals or files a suit as provided in the Act.
- g. When a claim is submitted by or against a Landlord, the parties by mutual consent may agree to use an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process to assist in resolving the claim. A certification as described in subparagraph d of this clause must be provided for any claim, regardless of dollar amount, before ADR is used.
- h. The Postal Service will pay interest on the amount found due and unpaid from:
1. the date the contracting officer receives the claim (properly certified if required); or
  2. the date payment otherwise would be due, if that date is later, until the date of payment.
- i. Simple interest on claims will be paid at a rate determined in accordance with the Act.
- j. The Landlord must proceed diligently with performance of this contract, pending final resolution of any request for relief, claim, appeal, or action arising under the contract, and comply with any decision of the contracting officer.

### 9. HAZARDOUS/TOXIC CONDITIONS CLAUSE

"Asbestos containing building material" (ACBM) means any material containing more than 1% asbestos as determined by using the method specified in 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E, Appendix E. "Friable asbestos material" means any ACBM that when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

The Landlord must identify and disclose the presence, location and quantity of all ACBM or presumed asbestos containing material (PACM) which includes all thermal system insulation, sprayed on and troweled on surfacing materials, and asphalt and vinyl flooring material unless such material has been tested and identified as non-ACBM. The Landlord agrees to disclose any information concerning the presence of lead-based paint, radon above 4 pCi/L, and lead piping or solder in drinking water systems in the building, to the Postal Service.

Sites cannot have any contaminated soil or water above applicable federal, state or local action levels or undisclosed underground storage tanks. Unless due to the act or negligence of the Postal Service, if contaminated soil, water, underground storage tanks or piping or friable asbestos material or any other hazardous/toxic materials or substances as defined by applicable Local, State or Federal law are subsequently identified on the premises, the Landlord agrees to remove such materials or substances upon notification by the Postal Service at Landlord's sole cost and expense in accordance with EPA and/or State guidelines; prior to accomplishing this task, Landlord must seek written approval by the USPS Contracting Officer of the contractor and scope of work, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld. If ACBM is subsequently found in the building which reasonably should have been determined, identified, or known to the Landlord, the Landlord agrees to conduct, at Landlord's sole expense, an asbestos survey pursuant to the standards of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), establish an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan for asbestos management, and provide the survey report and plan to the Postal Service. If the Landlord fails to remove any friable asbestos or hazardous/toxic materials or substances, or fails to complete an AHERA asbestos survey and O&M plan, the Postal Service has the right to accomplish the work and deduct the cost plus administrative costs, from future rent payments or recover these costs from Landlord by other means, or may, at its sole option, cancel this Lease. In addition, the Postal Service may proportionally abate the rent for any period the premises, or any part thereof, are determined by the Postal Service to have been rendered unavailable to it by reason of such condition.



## General Conditions to USPS Lease

The Landlord hereby indemnifies and holds harmless the Postal Service and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees from all claims, loss, damage, actions, causes of action, expense, fees and/or liability resulting from, brought for, or on account of any violation of this clause.

The remainder of this clause applies if this Lease is for premises not previously occupied by the Postal Service.

By execution of this Lease the Landlord certifies:

- a. the property and improvements are free of all contamination from petroleum products or any hazardous/toxic or unhealthy materials or substances, including friable asbestos materials, as defined by applicable State or Federal law;
- b. there are no undisclosed underground storage tanks or associated piping, ACBM, radon, lead-based paint, or lead piping or solder in drinking water systems, on the property; and
- c. it has not received, nor is it aware of, any notification or other communication from any governmental or regulatory entity concerning any environmental condition, or violation or potential violation of any local, state, or federal environmental statute or regulation, existing at or adjacent to the property.

### 10. FACILITIES NONDISCRIMINATION

- a. By executing this Lease, the Landlord certifies that it does not and will not maintain or provide for its employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments, and that it does not and will not permit its employees to perform services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained.
- b. The Landlord will insert this clause in all contracts or purchase orders under this Lease unless exempted by Secretary of Labor rules, regulations, or orders issued under Executive Order 11246.

### 11. CLAUSES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES, STATUTES, OR EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The following clauses are incorporated in this Lease by reference. The text of incorporated terms may be found in Appendix B of the Postal Service's *Purchasing Manual*, accessible at [www.usps.com/business](http://www.usps.com/business).

Clause 1-5, *Gratuities or Gifts* (January 1997)

Clause 1-6, *Contingent Fees* (January 1997)

Clause 9-3, *Davis-Bacon Act* (January 1997)<sup>1</sup>

Clause 9-7, *Equal Opportunity* (January 1997)<sup>2</sup>

Clause 9-13, *Affirmative Action for Handicapped Workers* (January 1997)<sup>3</sup>

Clause 9-14, *Affirmative Action for Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era* (January 1997)<sup>4</sup>

Clause B-25, *Advertising of Contract Awards* (January 1997)

Note: For purposes of applying the above standard clauses to this Lease, the terms "supplier," "contractor," and "lessor" are synonymous with "Landlord," and the term "contract" is synonymous with "Lease."

<sup>1</sup> For premises with net interior space in excess of 6,500 SF and involving construction work over \$2,000.

<sup>2</sup> For leases aggregating payments of \$10,000 or more.

<sup>3</sup> For leases aggregating payments of \$2,500 or more.

<sup>4</sup> For leases aggregating payments of \$10,000 or more.



## Maintenance Rider Landlord Responsibility

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO  
Project: C87438

1. The Landlord shall, except as otherwise specified herein and except for damage resulting from the act or negligence of Postal Service agents or employees, maintain the demised premises, including the building and any and all equipment, fixtures, systems, and appurtenances, whether severable or non-severable, furnished by the Landlord under this Lease, in good repair and tenable condition, during the continuance of the Lease. Landlord's duties include repair and replacement as necessary.

Notwithstanding the above, the Postal Service will be responsible for regular cleaning of gutters and downspouts.

For the purpose of so maintaining said premises and property, the Landlord may, at reasonable times, and upon reasonable notice to the facility manager, enter and inspect the same and make any necessary repairs thereto.

2. Landlord is responsible for inspection, prevention and eradication of termites and any other wood-eating insects and for repairs of any damage resulting therefrom during the continuance of the Lease.
3. Landlord shall paint all interior and exterior previously painted surfaces as follows: no later than six (6) months following the start of the lease, and at least once every five (5) years during the continuance of the lease unless required more often because of damage from fire or other casualty, or unless the time period is specifically modified in writing by the Contracting Officer. Landlord is required to apply only one coat of paint. USPS will be responsible for cost of additional coats of paint, including application costs. USPS will be responsible for moving furniture and equipment away from walls as required.
4. Any heating system furnished by Landlord must be properly sized for the facility, must be in good working order, and must be maintained and, if necessary, replaced by Landlord to ensure proper operation during the continuance of the Lease and in accordance with this Maintenance Rider; such system must be capable of providing a uniform temperature of at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit (65°F.) in all enclosed portions of the demised premises (excluding the rear vestibule) at all times. Regardless of whether Landlord is required by the Lease to provide fuel for a heating system, any investigative or remediation cost associated with a release of fuel from the system, including any fuel tank, shall be the responsibility of the Landlord, unless the release is caused by the act or negligence of the Postal Service or its agents. The Postal Service shall be responsible for regular replacement of filters.

Boilers (heating and hot water supply) and unfired pressure vessels provided by the Landlord as part of the leased premises shall be maintained and, if necessary, replaced by the Landlord in accordance with ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Sections IV, VI, and VIII; National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA)-70, National Electric Code; and/or ASME Safety Code No. CSD-1, Controls and Safety Devices for Automatically Fired Boilers; ASME A18.1, Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Chairlifts; NFPA-54, National Fuel Gas Code; and NFPA-31, Oil Burning Equipment Code, as applicable, or as required by local ordinances. Current safety certificates issued by an organization recognized by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors or a federal, state or municipal authority which has adopted the American National Standard Institute/American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Vessel Code, must be provided by the Landlord for boilers and unfired pressure vessels. In the event local jurisdictions do not require periodic inspection of such equipment, the Postal Service shall have the right to conduct inspections in accordance with the aforesaid codes, and may issue safety certificates, as appropriate.

5. Any elevators, escalators and dumbwaiters provided by the Landlord as part of the leased premises shall be maintained, and, if necessary, replaced by the Landlord during the continuance of the Lease in accordance with ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators, Escalators, Dumbwaiters, and Moving Walks; ASME A17.2, Elevator Inspectors Manual; and ASME A17.3 Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators; ASME A17.4, Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Elevators; and ASME A17.5, Elevator and Escalator Electrical Equipment. Landlord must ensure that current safety certificates for elevators, dumbwaiters and escalators are issued by an organization authorized to inspect in accordance with the ANSI/ASME Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters and Escalators or appropriate federal, state or municipal authority. In the event local jurisdictions do not require periodic inspection of

such equipment, the Postal Service shall have the right to conduct inspections in accordance with the aforesaid codes, and may issue safety certificates, as appropriate.

6. Any air-conditioning equipment furnished by Landlord must be properly sized for the facility, must be in good working order, and must be maintained and, if necessary, replaced by Landlord to ensure proper operation during the continuance of the Lease and in accordance with this Maintenance Rider; air-conditioning must be capable of providing a uniform temperature of no greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit (78°F.) in all enclosed portions of the demised premises at all times. Landlord shall be responsible for servicing of the air-conditioning equipment during the continuance of the Lease, including, refrigerant as required for proper operation of the equipment. The Postal Service shall be responsible for regular replacement of filters.
7. Any electrical/power system furnished by Landlord must be properly sized for the facility, must be in good working order, and must be maintained and, if necessary, replaced by Landlord to ensure proper operation during the continuance of the Lease and in accordance with this Maintenance Rider.
8. Any wiring, including, but not limited to, wiring for the Electronic Security and Surveillance Equipment (ESS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Criminal Investigation System (CIS), Intrusion Detection System (IDS), etc., installed by the Landlord shall be maintained, and if necessary, replaced by the Landlord during the continuance of the Lease. However, the Landlord shall not attempt any maintenance of, or repair of, or interfere with, the actual security, telephone, or telecommunications equipment, such as cameras, consoles, monitors, satellite dishes, telephone handsets, and Point-of-Service (POS) equipment.
9. Whether public or private water or sewer systems are provided, said systems are to be maintained and replaced by the Landlord during the continuance of the Lease, including any inspections that may be required.
10. If the demised premises or any portion thereof are damaged or destroyed by fire or other casualty, Acts of God, of a public enemy, riot or insurrection, vandalism, or are otherwise determined by the Postal Service to be unfit for use and occupancy, or whenever there is a need for maintenance, repair, or replacement which is the Landlord's obligation under this Maintenance Rider, the Postal Service will require the Landlord to rebuild or repair the premises as necessary to restore them to tenantable condition to the satisfaction of the Postal Service. The Postal Service will, except in emergencies, provide the Landlord with written notice stating a reasonable time period for completion of all necessary repairs. (A copy of any such notice shall be sent to the Landlord's mortgagee and any assignee of monies due or to become due under this Lease whose names and addresses have been furnished to the Postal Service by the Landlord. Failure to give such written notice to the Landlord or to the mortgagee or assignee shall not affect the Postal Service's rights to recover expended costs under this provision, provided that the costs expended by the Postal Service are reasonable in amount.) The Postal Service, acting through the Contracting Officer, may proportionately abate the rent for any period the premises, or any part thereof, are determined by the Postal Service to have been rendered untenable, or unfit for use and occupancy, by reason of such condition.

If the Landlord (or the mortgagee or assignee, on behalf of the Landlord) fails to prosecute the work with such diligence as will ensure its completion within the time specified in the notice (or any extension thereof as may be granted at the sole discretion of the Postal Service), or fails to complete the work within said time, the Postal Service shall have the right to perform the work (by contract or otherwise), and withhold the cost plus any administrative cost and/or interest, from rental payments due or to become due under this Lease. Alternatively, the Contracting Officer may, if the demised premises are determined to be untenable or unfit for use or occupancy, with reasonable discretion, cancel this Lease in its entirety, without liability.

The remedies provided in this section are non-exclusive and are in addition to any remedies available to the Postal Service under applicable law.

11. The Landlord must:
  - a. comply with applicable Occupational Safety and Health Standards, title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (including but not limited to Parts 1910 and 1926), promulgated pursuant to the authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA); and

- b. comply with any other applicable federal, state, or local regulation governing workplace safety to the extent they are not in conflict with a; and
- c. take all other proper precautions to protect the health and safety of:
  - (1) any laborer or mechanic employed by the Landlord in performance of this agreement; and
  - (2) Postal Service employees; and
  - (3) the public.

The Landlord must include this clause in all subcontracts hereunder and require its inclusion in all subcontracts of a lower tier. The term "Landlord" as used in this clause in any subcontract must be deemed to refer to the subcontractor.



**Purchase Option Rider  
Right of First Refusal**

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO  
Project: C87438

The Postal Service has the right of first refusal to purchase the leased premises during the term of this Lease and any renewal periods. If the Landlord desires to sell part or all of the leased premises and has received a bona fide offer, the Landlord shall promptly deliver to the Postal Service a copy of such offer, and the Postal Service may, within 120 days, elect to purchase the premises on the same terms as those set forth in the offer, except that the Postal Service will be credited the amount of any brokerage commission that Landlord will save by selling to the Postal Service. If the Postal Service does not elect to purchase within the prescribed period, the Landlord may then sell the property to offeror, provided the sale is for the same price and on the same terms and conditions set forth in the offer delivered to the Postal Service. If the Postal Service does not exercise its rights under this paragraph, and the premises are conveyed to a third party, this right of first refusal will remain in full force and effect and be binding on the third party.



## Utilities, Services, & Equipment Rider

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO  
Project: C87438

**1. HEAT**

Landlord must furnish heating system in good working order, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, during the continuance of the lease. Any investigative or remediation cost associated with a release of fuel from the system, including any fuel tank, shall be the responsibility of the Landlord, unless the release is caused by the act or negligence of the Postal Service. The Postal Service pays all recurring fuel charges, provided such charges are separately metered for postal consumption.

**2. AIR CONDITIONING**

Landlord must furnish air conditioning equipment in good working order, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, during the continuance of the lease. The Postal Service pays for recurring charges for power for the equipment, provided the power is separately metered for postal consumption.

**3. ELECTRICITY**

Landlord must furnish a separately metered electrical system in good working order for the demised premises, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, during the continuance of the lease. The Postal Service will pay all recurring electric bills.

**4. LIGHT**

Landlord must provide light fixtures in good working order, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, during the continuance of the lease. Landlord is not responsible for replacement of light bulbs.



## Utilities, Services, & Equipment Rider

### 5. WATER

Landlord must furnish a potable water system in good working order, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, during the continuance of the Lease. The Postal Service pays for all recurring water bills during the continuance of the Lease, provided a separate meter or separate invoice is furnished by the appropriate authority.

### 6. SEWER

Landlord agrees to furnish sewer systems including all equipment, piping, plumbing, lines, connections, septic tanks, field lines and related devices, as necessary, in accordance with the Maintenance Rider, and to pay all charges, fees, and other costs for such system and services, during the continuance of the Lease. Regardless of Landlord's responsibility for the sewer system under this Lease, if public sewer services are not currently available, but become available in the future, the Landlord agrees to accomplish connection, maintain, and pay all fees and costs involved in connecting the building system to the public sewer system. After connection, the Postal Service pays for all recurring sewer bills during the continuance of the Lease, provided such service is separately metered, or a separate invoice is furnished by the appropriate authority, for postal consumption.

### 7. TRASH

The Postal Service agrees to furnish and pay for all trash removal for the demised premises during the continuance of the Lease.

### 8. SNOW

The Landlord agrees to furnish and pay for the snow removal from the sidewalks, driveway, parking and maneuvering areas, and any other areas providing access to the postal facility for use by postal employees, contractors, or the public (including, but not limited to, stairs, handicap access ramps, carrier ramps, etc.) during the continuance of the Lease.



*No Mortgage*

**Mortgagee's Agreement**

(To be executed and attached to lease)

Facility Name/Location

HORSE BRANCH - MAIN OFFICE (203856-001)  
602 HORSE BRANCH LOOP, HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-9998

County: OHIO

Project: C87438

The undersigned, Holder(s) of a mortgage (or similar encumbrance, such as a Deed of Trust), in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ on the property situated at: \_\_\_\_\_

hereby consent(s) to the leasing of said property to the U.S. Postal Service and agree(s) for itself, its successors, executors, administrators, and assigns that in the event it should become necessary to:

- a) foreclose said mortgage or similar encumbrance, the Mortgagee will cause the sale of said premises to be made subject to said lease; or,
- b) take any other action terminating the mortgage or transferring title, the Mortgagee will cause such action to be made subject to said lease.

MORTGAGEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Mortgage Company

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mortgagee's Officer

Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Mortgagee's Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and ZIP+4

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and Sworn to before me, a notary public, in and for Ohio County, State of

Kentucky this 26th day of January, 2005

Mary Jo Green  
Notary Public

My commission expires 11-26-2008



January 12, 2005

ORENA A RENFROW

PO BOX 466

HORSE BRANCH, KY 42349-0466

Re: Postal Facility (203856-001)  
Horse Branch, KY 42349-9998

It is necessary that we secure a new lease well in advance of the expiration of the current lease term in order to provide continued service to postal customers at the referenced facility. Therefore:

Enclosed are four (4) copies of a new lease. Please read the lease carefully to ensure that you are in agreement with the terms and conditions of the contract. **THIS LEASE MAY NOT BE IDENTICAL TO YOUR CURRENT CONTRACT.**  
**To execute this lease, please:**

1. Review the lease, secure the appropriate signatures and date each copy. All signatures must be double witnessed and notarized. **Please review A.3 Execution Requirements on page A-1 of the General Conditions to USPS Lease for specific instruction on necessary signatures and appropriate documentation of legal authorization to execute the lease.** If ownership differs from that shown on the lease, please call for further instruction before signing.
2. Assure that the correct individual square foot areas for interior floor space, platform, parking, driveway, landscaping, sidewalk, other, and total site area have been inserted in Section 1 of Page 1. The total site area should include all areas that are for the exclusive use of the Postal Service under the lease.
3. Assure that the Addendum reflects the correct legal description. **If no legal description is shown on the Addendum, please include a copy of the deed to the property with the legal description.** If available, please also provide a dimensioned plat of the site and a dimensioned floor plan of the building.
4. Assure that the correct street address of the leased premises is provided at the top of page 1 and the bottom of page 2. The city or county of jurisdiction assigns street addresses.
5. Assure that the correct day and evening phone numbers and your Social Security or other Taxpayer Identification Number are entered in the spaces provided on the signature page.
6. Complete all applicable items on Pages B-1, B-2, and B-3.
7. If the property is encumbered with a mortgage, ask the Mortgage Holder to complete and return the Mortgagee's Agreement. **If there is no mortgage, print "NO MORTGAGE" across the form in large letters.**
8. Fill out the Designation of Emergency Repair Personnel at the end of the lease.
9. Please call before making any changes or corrections to the lease and initial any changes made.

The Contracting Officer CANNOT accept the Lease on behalf of the Postal Service unless the above items are complete and accurate. If you have questions or need additional information, please call or write to me at the telephone number and address shown below. **Please return three signed copies of the lease within ten days for acceptance by the Postal Service.** The remaining copy is for your reference until you receive a fully executed lease. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Melvin  
Real Estate Specialist

cc: Real Estate Secretary  
Real Estate File



000074



September 25, 2009

Dear Postal Customer:

The Horse Branch postmaster will be reassigned on October 3, 2009 to the Rosine Post Office. Due to safety hazards caused by snake and rodent infestation it will be necessary to suspend services at the Horse Branch Post Office at the close of business on October 2, 2009. This change is tentative and will not lead to a formal proposal unless we conclude that it will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services.

While the office is suspended, services will be consolidated with the Rosine Post Office, delivery and retail services will also be provided by a rural carrier to roadside mailboxes installed by customers effective October 3, 2009. Please contact the postmaster of the Horse Branch Post Office for advice regarding the placement of mailboxes. **Customers presently receiving rural delivery will not experience a change in service**, with the possible exceptions of picking up parcels and accountable mail at the Rosine Post Office that the carrier was unable to deliver. **Horse Branch Rural Route Customers will continue to use Horse Branch KY 42349 as their last line of delivery. Horse Branch PO Box Customers also will NOT experience a change in address. PO Box customers will continue to use their present address and last line address Horse Branch KY 42349. New keys will be issued to PO Box customers.**

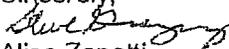
Rural delivery is particularly beneficial to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and working people because no one has to pick up the mail from the post office. You will have 24-hour access to your mail. In addition, the rural carrier can provide all the retail services provided at the Horse Branch Post Office. Enclosed is information about some of the services available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting a carrier at the mailbox. *Stamps By Mail* order envelopes and *Money Order Application* forms are available for your convenience; or you may place a note in the mailbox, with payment, and the carrier will provide the requested services. When an accountable item requiring a signature, such as a certified letter, cannot be delivered on the first day, the carrier will return the item to the Rosine Post Office. You may pick up the article at the Rosine Post Office, request redelivery on another day convenient for you, or authorize the carrier to deliver the item to another person. If appropriate, Post Office box refunds will be provided by the Rosine or Horse Branch postmaster.

Customers who wish to continue their post office box service may do so at the Rosine Post Office, located 4.5 miles away. The Rosine Post Office has 24-hour lobby access for customer convenience. Window service hours at Rosine are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Post Office boxes are available at this location at the same fees.

If you have any questions concerning the placement of rural mailboxes or the services available to you through the rural carrier, please contact the Horse Branch postmaster at (270) 274-3931, after October 2 at (270) 274-9375.

I realize with change there is always concern. No final decision to permanently discontinue the post office has been made. In the event that the office is officially closed the post office will become **the Rosine Horse Branch Post Office**. A community meeting will be held in the near future to explain our plans and solicit your comments concerning possible alternate means of providing postal and other services. In the interim, we are confident that carrier delivery and PO Box service at the Rosine Post Office will continue to provide Horse Branch customers with effective and regular postal services.

Sincerely,

  
for Alisa Zanetti

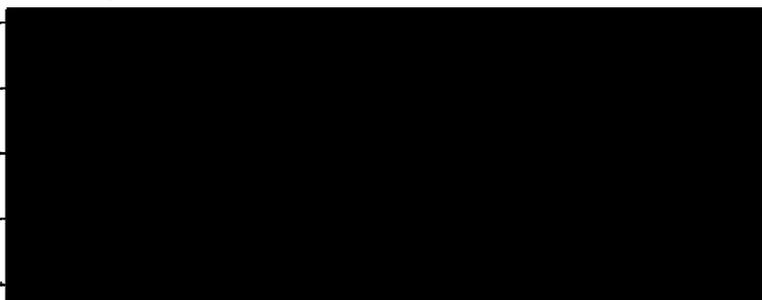
Enclosures (1)

bcc: Postmaster Horse Branch KY 42349  
Postmaster Rosine KY 42370  
Post Office Review Coordinator

000075

Docket #  
PI 2010-1

HORSE BRANCH  
KY 42349 Jan 7, 2010



Dear Sir:

Our advisor at NAPS told us to send all complaint letters to you. However, I am also sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Richard Oliver, our public advocate in Washington, D.C.

I think it is extremely unfair for us senior citizens (75+77) to be compelled to drive to Rosine or Caneville every time we need to purchase a big envelope, a money order, or to mail an oddly shaped or oversized envelope. We can walk from our house to the Horse Branch post office building.

Sincerely,  
Charles E Renfrow  
Mary Jo Renfrow

000076

HORSE BRANCH  
KY 42349

January 15, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268—0001  
ATT: Richard Oliver —Docket PI-2010-1

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

I had sent a letter to you in December about the Suspension of our Post Office, Horse Branch, KY. I wanted it to go to the special Docket PI-2010-1, but it went to the comments section.

I am requesting a waiver because I do not have the capability to do a PDF file. I am a senior citizen and find it difficult to do these complicated filings. Please see that my letter gets to the Docket.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Renfrow

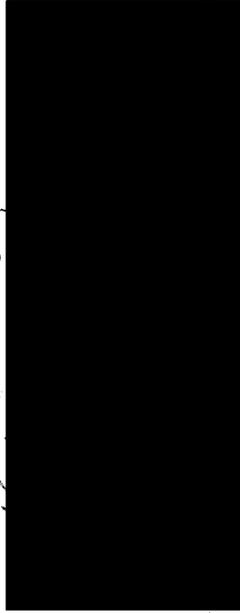
000077

HORSE SEARCH  
KY 42349

Dear Sir:

The U.S. P.S. was  
established to serve us  
not punish us. Bring our  
Post Office back to  
Horse Search.

Sincerely,



9

Packet # PI 2010-1

000078

PI 2010-1

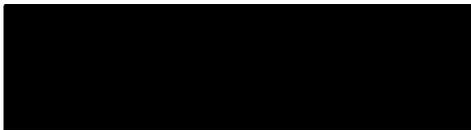
HACKER VALLEY  
WV 26222



REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Ann C. Fisher  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
and Government Relations

December 23, 2009



Dear Representative Rahall:

Thank you for contacting the Postal Regulatory Commission on behalf of your constituent Mr. Brian Van Nostrand and the residents of Hacker Valley regarding their concerns with the indefinite suspension of postal operations in their community.

Your constituents' concerns are important to the Commission and provide a valuable perspective to help us fulfill our duties. The Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service. While the docket for Hacker Valley's appeal has closed and a ruling was issued by the Commission on October 19, 2009, please be assured the Commission appreciates their additional thoughts and concerns.

During the consideration of Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov). Informal written comments, including Mr. Van Nostrand's, will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing all comments submitted on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Fisher".

Ann Fisher  
Director

000079

- 1 -

NICK J. RAHALL II  
3RD DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES  
DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
RAILROADS  
AVIATION

Internet: [www.rahall.house.gov](http://www.rahall.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4803

December 9, 2009

2307 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4803  
(202) 225-3452

301 PRINCE ST., BECKLEY, WV 25801-4698  
(304) 252-5000

845 FIFTH AVE., ROOM 152  
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701-2086  
(304) 522-NICK

601 FEDERAL ST., ROOM 1005  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701-3033  
(304) 325-6222

220 DINGESS ST.  
LOGAN, WV 25601  
(304) 752-4934

Director  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Director:

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. Brian Van Nostrand and the residents of Hacker Valley, regarding the concerns he has raised in his inquiry of me. Please refer to enclosure.

Since this matter is under your jurisdiction, I am referring it to you for your full consideration. Once you have reviewed the information, please contact me at the Beckley office at [REDACTED]

Please feel free to call upon me anytime that I can be of assistance.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/kam

Received

DEC 9 2009

Office of PAGR

000080 - 2 -

Northern Webster County Improvement Council  
Ad Hoc Hacker Valley Post Office



Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Ms. Goldway:

Since June of this year, the community of Hacker Valley, WV, has been struggling to cope with the loss of our post office as the result of an "indefinite suspension." We have been following closely the progress of our docket, A2009-1, and were heartened to learn of the PRC's conclusions, validating what we believed from the start, that "... the Postal Service is using its suspension authority to avoid the explicit Congressional instructions to hear and consider the concerns of patrons before closing post offices." Additionally, "These facts undermine any claim that the suspension of service to the Hacker Valley community reflected emergency action." In sum, postal patrons have been denied due process of the law.

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the PRC for taking up our case, for representing the interests of our isolated rural community, and for giving us a voice in Washington. In this day, when so many have nothing but contempt for government and its functions, the docket proceedings that we are undergoing serve to restore one's faith in government. For your work, through the efforts of our Public Representative, Richard Oliver, we are most grateful.

We understand that the PRC does not have legal authority to force the USPS to reopen our post office, and that, for the time being, its existence remains in limbo. We were encouraged to see that a new docket has been created, PI2010-1, to further pursue the issue of "suspending offices for extended periods without affording the public the rights guaranteed by 39 U.S.C.404(d)," as it pertains to Hacker Valley and to 65 other suspended post offices across the nation. We support any efforts that the PRC might make to strengthen its authority over the USPS, and to influence Congress to alter the provisions of the enabling statute. It is our firm belief, that once a full discontinuance study has been performed, it will be obvious that a retail post office is urgently needed in Hacker Valley.

We strongly agree with the PRC's conclusion, that postal service to our community has not been preserved during this suspension process, even though mandated by Congress. On October 26, we once again contacted the USPS, requesting a temporary alternate retail presence, and have offered several viable solutions for a permanent replacement facility. Since July, we have heard nothing from the USPS.

Again, we wish to thank the PRC for representing the interests of the public, and its efforts to uphold the rule of law.

Sincerely,

Brian Van Nostrand,  
Committee Chair

Cc: Richard Oliver, PRC  
Betty Eichler, Bob Levi, NAPUS  
Congressman Nick Rahall

000081

November 13, 2009

Ms. Deborah Willhite, Senior Vice President  
United States Postal Service  
Government Relations  
475 L'Enfant Plaza  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Ms. Willhite:

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Hacker Valley, regarding the proposed closure of the Hacker Valley Post Office. It is my understanding that the Board of Education has offered the former cafeteria building as an option for the post office.

At a time when our economy is being challenged, and small business owners work diligently to survive, it is so important that rural communities such as Hacker Valley have access to full-service postal facilities. I also want to point out the closure of this post office would have negative consequences for Holly River State Park, which is located near the center of the state in Hacker Valley, Webster County and is the second largest park in the West Virginia park system. I respectfully request that the U. S. Postal Service reconsider this proposed closure.

Once you have reviewed the information, please contact me at the Beckley office at [REDACTED]

Please feel free to call upon me anytime that I can be of assistance.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Copy*

NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/kam

000082

- 4 -

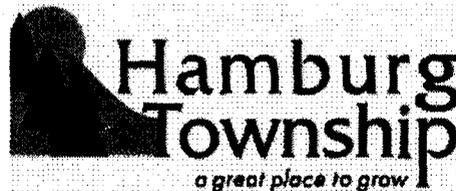
HAMBURG  
ME, 48139

Received

JAN 13 2010

Office of PAGR

PI 2010-1



Patrick J. Hohl, Township Supervisor ♦ Ext. 202

January 6, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001  
ATT: Richard Oliver, Docket PI 2010-1

Re: Closure of Hamburg, Michigan Post Office 48139

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

On the morning of January 5, 2010 I was contacted by Hildy Foley, Area Chairperson for the Committee to Prevent Post Office Closings, and informed that the Hamburg Michigan Post Office, 48139, will be closed on Saturday, January 9, 2010.

This is a shocking and unanticipated occurrence that adversely impacts the 553 resident who maintain P. O. boxes at this post office. The relocation of these P. O. boxes to the Pinckney Michigan post office will necessitate a daily 15 mile round trip for these P. O. Box holders. This is wholly unacceptable as many of these customers are elderly, several are business customers and most importantly, this closure ignores our rights as a community as defined in the National Association of Postmasters of the U.S. Guidelines as follows:

261. General—The community meeting is an excellent opportunity to explain service alternatives to customers, answer customer questions about the proposed alternatives and to help customers to complete their questionnaires.

262. Date and Location—Discuss the time and location of the community meeting with the postmaster or OIC. Schedule the meeting at a time that encourages customer participation, such as during an evening or weekend.

263. Notifying Customers—Notify affected customers of the community meeting and location at least 10 days in advance.

000083

-1-

Page Two  
January 6, 2010  
Re: Closure of Hamburg Post Office

613.3—Notify affected customers immediately by individual letter. Include the reason for the suspension.

A property access issue is cited as the reason for the closure. At noon today I met with the neighboring property owner while in phone contact with the developer who owns the site of the current Hamburg post office. The developer indicated that he was in contact with the U. S. Postal Service and a tentative agreement resolving this property access issue is being drafted. I can not definitively state at this time that this tentative agreement will be ratified by the developer, USPS and neighboring property owner. However, had the USPS provided even a 30 day notice of a pending closure our residents and business owners could have sought alternatives to the 15 mile round trip to Pinckney and the negotiations between affected parties which took place at noon today would have had reasonable time to resolve the issue cited for the closure.

Simply stated, is the US Postal Service interested in resolving the identified reason for the closure or is the US Postal Service using the property access issue as a convenient excuse to close the Hamburg post office regardless of the possibility of resolving the cited property access issue?

I ask that you please delay this closure to allow the access issue to be resolved. If this access issue can not be resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved significant vacant commercial lease space is available directly adjacent to the current post office location and the landlord has confirmed to me that they want the US Postal Service as a tenant.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Hohl

Digitally signed by Patrick J. Hohl  
DN: cn=Patrick J. Hohl, o=Hamburg Township,  
ou=Township Supervisor,  
email=pthohl@hamburg.mi.us, c=US  
Date: 2010.01.06 15:54:32 -05'00'

Patrick J. Hohl  
Supervisor, Hamburg Township Michigan



000084

# LIVINGSTON DAILY.COM

January 10, 2010

## Deal keeps Hamburg post office open

By Frank Konkel  
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

The Hamburg Township post office will stay open.

On Friday, the U.S. Postal Service, Village at Hamburg developers and the owners of Countryside Veterinary Clinic next door to the post office signed an agreement to keep the post office open.

"The impact to the township of keeping the post office open is immeasurable," said Hamburg Township Supervisor Pat Hohl, who mediated conversation involving all three parties on the township's behalf. "It is immeasurable in terms of maintaining our identity as Hamburg, Mich. And financially, it's significant because of the number of businesses and citizens that use the facility."

The Hamburg post office notified the public Tuesday that it was scheduled to be placed under "temporary emergency suspension" starting Monday, and that all 553 holders of post office boxes at the site would have to travel to the Pinckney post office for an unspecified duration of time while the Postal Service searched for a new post office location.

The move caused confusion and, in some cases, anger from residents who had little notice of the closing.

Ed Moore, manager of communications for the Detroit district of the U.S. Postal Service, said the post office's suspension was because the post office's trucks caused recurring damages to Countryside Veterinary Clinic's property. With the Postal Service's signature, that dispute becomes moot.

"An agreement has been reached, and post-office customers will not have to go to Pinckney," Moore said. "Operation will go on as regular. The move will not happen."

Hildy Foley, state president for the Retired Postmasters of National Association of Postmasters and chairwoman for Post Office Closings for Michigan, said the situation still needs to be monitored. She called the move "temporary," and said that unless a long-term lease was signed, a similar situation could arise again.

"It's not over with; it's something we're going to have to keep an eye on because (the Postal Service) wants to close these small post offices for cost reasons," Foley said. "They've known about this for months; it's not something that happened overnight."

For now, Foley said she's happy it will be business as usual for the Hamburg post office.

"When post offices close, it's not fair to the community," she said. "It's good to see that Hamburg residents still have a post office."



000085

- 3 -

JOSEPHINE  
PA 15750

December 8, 2009  
Received

DEC 1 2009

Office of PAGR

Annie Kennedy  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave. N.W. Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Annie Kennedy,

On December 2009 you replied to my letter of November 2005 concerning our towns inconvenience of you closing our Post Office. Our Post Office had been in our town for 100 years. The people in our town are for the most part elderly. It is hard for them to go to the next town to get the services we normally received at our local Post Office.

After all these years we are still getting other peoples mail and many times our bills are not delivered, I must call the companies and request new bills and explain what an inefficient system this is. The companies are understanding because I am not alone with this problem. The only thing that has happened is the postage keeps increasing. The service is extremely inadequate.

You didn't do your job back in 2005 and I certainly have no hope you will do anything at this time.

Sincerely  
John Fitch

000085

KEEZLETOWN  
VA 22827

January 4, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-001  
ATT: Richard Oliver-Docket # PI 2010-1

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

Our Post Office, Keezletown, VA 22832 was suspended on May 31, 2006 because of eviction.. This is not true for the following reasons:

1. Two years ago, the Retired Postmaster who owned the building gave the USPS notice that she no longer wanted the Post Office in her building. It was a month to month lease.

Since the USPS knew two years in advance, it cannot be classified as an "emergency suspension".

2. In August 2005, the USPS had a public meeting and distributed packets seeking available space for the facility. The USPS officials told us that it wouldn't be closed.

3. In the fall, members of the Keezletown Ruritan Club offered the second floor of their building for use by the Post Office. David Peters showed them the place and was told, "hey, there's some work that needs to be done". David Peters lowered their bid, but they never heard again from the Real Estate Office.

4. There was some talk about a trailer, which was located at Stanton, VA, but nothing was done about it.

There were alternate quarters available, but nothing was done about them. We didn't believe it would be closed because we had been told it wouldn't be closed.

As of this date, we have not received from the District Manager, a Letter stating what is going to happen to our post office. Will it be closed or reopened?

We object to this Temporary suspension because it is really a closing without giving us our rights according to Title 39. We should have had 60 days to object and 30 days to contact the PRC. We also object for the following reasons:

1. Not given much notice (include date of first notice of suspension)
2. Not given much notice on Community Meeting.
3. There were other places in the community to have the post office.

List how the community has been affected by the closing, how it affects seniors/minorities. Give some human interest stories. Any questions, contact me at

[REDACTED]

Thank the PRC for their attention to this problem.

Very truly  
*Charles F. Sholen*

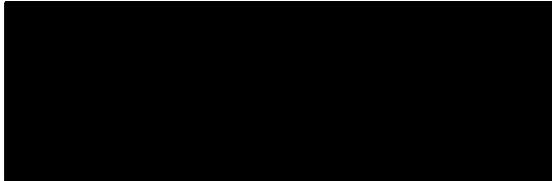
Name, address, telephone #

[REDACTED]

000087

LAKELAND  
FL 33806

November 17, 2009



Richard A. Oliver  
Public Representative Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave. N.W. Suite 200  
Washington D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Mr. Oliver

I owned the Dixieland Postal Station in Lakeland, Florida, which I have leased to the Postal Service for over 17 years. I have maintained the exterior of the building and the sewer and water lines under the building, according to the lease requirement. The present lease is for 3 years with an extension for an additional 3 years. However there is an escape clause which allows the Postal Service to cancel the lease with a 30 day notice. This Postal Station has been on the list of possible closings. A week ago the Post Office put a short notice in all box holders, that this Post Office might be closed and asked a few questions as to the type of service the box holder used. They also posted on of these small notices in the far back wall, which you would really have to look hard to find the notice. They only allowed 10 days for a reply.

Originally we were told there would be a public meeting, where everyone could express their concerns. Now we were told that they did not mention any such gathering. I have sent letters of concern to our senator and representatives, which I am enclosing copies of the letters for your review.

We are presently putting together a Save Dixieland Post Office campaign. We are going to get as many signatures as we can on a petition to keep the P.O. open. We are having signs made to put out near the P.O. and in the neighborhood. We also will hand out leaflets that will have phone numbers for the City Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, Local Post Master, Senator and

000088

Representatives. Could you tell us who in the Postal Service we should send the signed list to.

Not having been thru this type of situation before, I would deeply appreciate any advice you could give me. I can be reached at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] you for any help you might be able to give me.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Beswick

Update: 11/30/2009

We spent 2 days at the P.O. and collected over 775 signatures of people who do not want the P.O. to close. We would have been able to collect more names, but someone from the Post Office said we were not able to do this on Postal Property and if we continued, he would have us arrested. Can you give us some guidance?

000089

LEON  
JA 22725

## History of Leon Post office

Announcement of closing of the Leon Post Office 1996 alerted the local residents that their historic town of Leon, Virginia will temporarily close.

Timothy D Robinson owner of Heartland Restorations has been in the business of Historic Restorations for the past 30 years.

Projects include the oldest building of town of Culpeper 1749 and the oldest of Culpeper County 1741. Also the restoration of Montpelier (James Madison) home and the slave of the Madison's the (Gilmore house). Restoration of early structures of Wolf Trap Foundation Vienna Virginia, dismantle and rebuild of Tusculum for Sweet Briar College and Historic Resources of Virginia DHR. Recently the restoration of the oldest structure on Chincoteague Island (Timothy Hill House) 1820 and the rebuild of the 5<sup>th</sup> Presidents Child hood home of James Madison.

Preservation of homes and historic sites is not only an interest of the owner of Heartland Restorations but his business... having bought land directly across the street from historic James City, now called Leon prompt Mr. Robinson to step forward and offer the U.S. Postal service a deal that would keep the Historic Post Office alive for the next 10 years.

Mr. Robinson entered into a lease agreement with US Postal Service January 25th 1998 but did not open or receive rent income until following year July 1999 of 325.00 for the next 10 years with me paying utilities lease ending July, 2009.

Mr. Robinson went to the present location of the post office and owner Jack Golightly and purchased the older oak facade from him that was in the early post office across the street. Paid \$300.00 dollars for old façade.

Went before zoning of Madison County to get a special use permit, no ordinance allowed a private individual to own a post office on private land.

Was denied because law prohibited it, appealed decision many local residents came to hearing explaining the important need for post office because they would have to travel as much as ten more miles to get mail. Law was changed "first ever in state" to allow me to have post office on private land. Delayed opening for 9 months, opened July 1999.

Many residents used the facility but wanted it to open longer. Had many conversations with Post Master at the time George then Diane who simply explained it was income. I was told that if post office succeeded then the old routes would be added back including James City Road that the post office itself faced. I complained many times to Mr. Hanbright that it did not make sense to the people who lived directly across from post office received their mail from Culpeper County nearly 10 miles away.

000090

I had many conversations with Joe O'Connor original USP representative prior to opening Joe told me that it would make sense to have residents near by using the Leon post office once it reopened. I was told this would help guarantee that the post office would stay open because it would make enough income to justify a full time post master. Also was told I needed to add a secure separation room on side of building to increase the mail flow and allow the post office to go full time. Completed that work in 2002 only to be told they needed more income before they would consider full time.

The last post master explained to me that she (Diane) was making increasing amounts of money each month and would soon make enough to go full time, that it would be automatic. Diane explained to me that she made more income than anyone in her district considering patrons of the amount of less than 100.

Received a renewal contract on 2/3/2006 that ran through 6/30/2014 for 4,200.00 per year. (No increase in lease for 15 years) yet the utilities were already more than lease income.

Was put in touch with a Rufus Hambricht of Greensboro N.C. to discuss problems with cost of utilities. Explained that utilities had increase 300% since lease agreement signed 1998. Rufus told asked me what could be done to keep post office open. Also told me that lessor's often pay in to keep post offices open in their stores and remote locations.

I explained I could not do that! I am not a retail store looking for customers!

Sent letters to confirm conversations with Mr. Rufus Hambricht on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2006 "two years" before renewal of contract was to expire. This letter was also to postmaster of Leon and Mr. Hanbricht to confirm agreement of separation of meters and propane so new lease agreement would include USP paying their own utilities.

Mr. Robinson agreed to pay for separation of utilities and propane IF "US Postal Service" would agree to pay utilities. Started separation of meters heat and propane January 2007, all work completed May 2007 called and sent letter to confirm work completed.

Received email from Rufus Hambricht that he needed written confirmation. Called him told him I spent nearly \$ 1,800.00 to get work done suggested he could send someone by to inspect.

Faxed copy of bill showing meters separated told him was confused about heat source. Rufus started demanding that I do not involve post master getting applications for propane or electric but to talk directly with him.

Rufus notified me items were reviewed and approved, I explained to him that the apartment upstairs had its own electric baseboard and the central (gas) heat system would be entirely the Post Office use. Rufus asked told me there may have to be an adjustment to rent but I never heard back about decrease in lease amount, never received new lease agreement with adjustment as he agreed.

000091

No offer was ever made, yet I was told verbally and by written letter that these items were approved by District Management and the RE Manager. All work was completed as Rufus Hambright requested and as I agreed before the end of lease agreement by 2 years.

Received Notice of Termination January 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 complete closing of doors April 11<sup>th</sup> 2008. Signed by Rufus Hanbright.

Notice was placed on front door received immediate anger for closing from local residents. Letters of support coming in from as far away as Culpeper.

I sent addition request of explanation to Mr. Hambright. Did not understand why closing ! I had completed all his request for separation of utilities. Copied utility bills sent to him showing at any given month electric and propane was costing in excess of 450.00 per month but only receiving \$350.00 with new contract for next 10 years with me paying the utilities.

Had a petition to keep Post office opened from everyone person living in the immediate area nearly 85 even though there are only 75 patrons on route. Many customers saying it would disperse the small community and cause a lot of additional effort for them as older residents to travel to Brightwood.

I was told that the US. Postal Service had invested nearly 500,000.00 into purchase and set up of the trailer along Rt. 29. And yes they would have to pay their own utilities. This would translate into nearly 140 years at the current rate being paid for Leon, a newly renovated facility with a saver location off of busy Rt# 29.

**History of James City named changed to Leon 1930's:** Located on the oldest road in America established in 1699 by the House of Burgesses, Jamestown. On the busiest 18-19 century cross roads of the new world "Caroline and Plank Road" that ran east to the earliest port of Virginia near Falmouth.

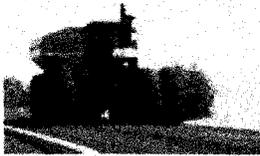
Town established in 1796 by Daniel James direst descendants are the "Notorious James Gang", Frank & Jesse James. The Ford family nearby buried behind the post office area, the very descendants of Robert Ford who followed the James Family to Kentucky, then Missouri and gunned down Jesse James.

Battle of James City, October 10<sup>th</sup> 1863 <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=4774>

Beginning of the Bristoe Station Campaign, noted to be the down fall of Commander of the Confederate Army Robert Lee. Headquarters of Robert E. Lee & Jeb Stuart was in the original room of the Post office with names of the Michigan 5<sup>th</sup> written on the walls upstairs when occupied by the Union commanding officer Gen. George Armstrong Cluster who died at the Battle of Little Bighorn 10 years later. <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/custer.htm>

Leon (originally called James City) Oldest post office of Madison County, Virginia originally opened in 1800 before the Madison Court House but was denied official use because post master was only 13 years old. Later recognized in 1811 stayed open until 1996, then reopened by Historian Timothy D. Robinson. Closed again by United Postal Service on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. 300 years after it was officially opened, 145 years after the end of the civil war.

000092



## CHAMBERLIN FARMS

Marvin L. Chamberlin



MIDLAND  
OH 45148

January 7, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 20  
Washington DC 20268-0001

Attention: Mr. Richard Oliver

Re: Docket No. P12010-1 - Midland, Ohio (45148) Post Office

Dear Commission Members:

In June of 2009, the Midland, Ohio Post Office (45148) was closed.

We the people in Midland's service area and beyond did everything we could to convince the authorities to keep the post office open, but to no avail.

We had petitions signed, we had people testify at the public meeting, we wrote letters to postal authorities, to our Congressman, the Honorable Mike Turner, who did everything he could and also United States Senator Sherrod Brown intervened on our behalf.

We felt the public meeting was held only because the postal service is required by law to do so before closing a post office.

Representatives from the postal service in attendance were friendly and cordial and took notes, but not one person or persons. who made the decision to close our post office, was present at the public meeting. We felt we were only being placated.

With no one present from the postal service, who ultimately made the decision to close our post office to give us straight answers, we felt we were wasting our time at the public meeting.

The people in the Midland service area jumped through all the hoops, dotted all the "i's" and crossed all the "T's". We felt that our legitimate issues were not considered.

The Midland, Ohio Post Office served a very unique purpose. It was situated at the crossroads of State Route 28 and US Route 68 and not only served the people of Midland and surrounding area but also served people driving through this intersection on their way to work, etc.

000093

It has been a hardship for many, many people since the post office closed. There are people in Midland that have no vehicle, only have a wheelchair for transportation or are financially unable to drive to Martinsville or Blanchester to do their post office business.

As you are probably aware, Midland is in Clinton County, Ohio and Clinton County has the fourth highest unemployment rate in the state at 15.0 in the November, 2009 rankings. Adjoining Highland County is No. 1.

Clinton County has been devastated by the closing of DHL Air Freight and the loss of over 10,000 jobs to our area. We are only a county of approximately 41,000 people. Midland was economically depressed before the DHL closing.

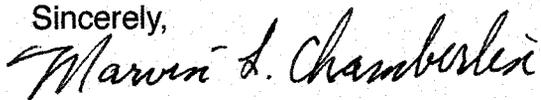
It sounds like a small amount of money in gasoline to drive to Martinsville or Blanchester but believe us when we say there are people who do not have extra money for gasoline to drive an additional ten miles for each trip to a post office.

In conclusion, we understand that Robert Cantrell, who owned the post office building that was closed, has offered the building just south of where the post office was located and has even said he will remodel the building.

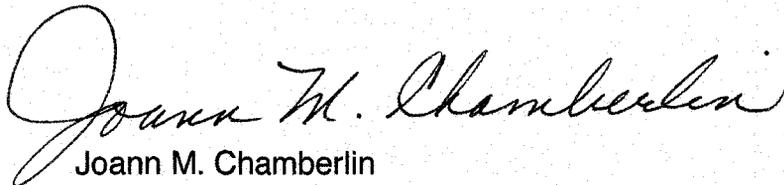
This post office should never have been closed. This was a viable post office serving a large area and an even larger constituency if you consider all of the people using the post office as they pass through Midland.

We feel it would be in the best interest of this area to reopen the Midland, Ohio Post Office.

Sincerely,



Marvin L. Chamberlin



Joann M. Chamberlin

000094

MIDLAND  
OH 45148 PI2010-1

**KENNEDY, ANNIE L**

---

**From:** TAYLOR, JOYCE A on behalf of PRC-DOCKETS  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** KENNEDY, ANNIE L  
**Subject:** FW: Docket No. PI2010-1

Hi Annie,

I think this my be for you.

Thanks  
Joyce

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** PRC-DOCKETS  
**Subject:** Docket No. PI2010-1

We are responding to a letter with regard to post office suspension. We have a vested interest in the Midland Post Office, formally located in Midland, OH a rural community and moved to Martinsville, OH. We were the Lesser for the previous post office in Midland.

We tried everything to accommodate the postal service before they decided to shut down that post office. There is another building in Midland that would have been larger and a better building for the post office. It could have a wall put in to make it a 24 hour post office. Many of the people in Midland were very sorry to see the post office go, as it is inconvenient to travel to Martinsville if they get their mail via a post office box.

The lease at the former building was up in June 2009, and instead of the postal commission asking for bids for another location in Midland it was decided to just move the post office. We offered to extend the lease until arrangements could be made in Midland (bids), but we were told a decision was made to suspend The post office.

We really do not know the reason for the suspension in Midland, it was never fully explained to us, or to anyone.

Thank you for your time and we hope this information helps in your review of the suspension of the Midland post office.

**Robert Cantrell, Sr.**  
**President**

000034-A

Noxen  
PA 18636

December 4, 2009

United States of America  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20268-0001  
Attn.: Richard A. Oliver

Dear Sir,

I recently received a copy of the Postal Regulatory Commission Order Number 335. I would like you to look in to the suspension of the Noxen PA 18636 Post Office. I have enclosed many of the articles, letters, and requests sent to the USPS and their responses. You may note when reviewing this information that the USPS replied with a basic form letters to almost everything sent to them. You will also notice the many notes and comments I have made on many of the papers. Not included is a petition with 277 signatures of people from Noxen and surrounding area which was also sent to Edward B. Burke. Please review all this information and you will hopefully realize that the Noxen Post Office is a much needed service in this area.

A recent article in the Postmasters Gazette, Oct/Nov. issue, by Jim Bibey says it all. Mr. Bibey covered the subject best when he stated " we are a service and are required to provide service to everyone without regard for monetary gain or loss." The Noxen Post Office paid its way well with all the clubs and services that mailed out and received replies through the mail. There would have been little if any loss to the USPS to provide services to this large area.

U.S. Congressman Chris Carney and at least 38 other Congressmen are working on HR 658 to prevent unnecessary closings of small Post Offices. I ask you to at least delay the closing of the Noxen 18636 Post Office until this Bill makes its way through the House and Senate.

Thank you for your attention,

  
Cathie Pauley

000095

## WV Community Speaks Up to Save Its Post Office

By Jim Bibey, vice president, Area 6



Nestled in Webster County, West Virginia, is the small, rural community of Hacker Valley. This peaceful little community recently received some dreadful news about the potential loss of one of its most important services: the post office.

To the surprise of the residents, they were informed by the Postal Service with a "Dear Customer" letter that the Hacker Valley Post Office would be suspended on close of business on June 30, 2009, due to the lease agreement expiring. Needless to say, many of the town residents were shocked and surprised, as well as upset to find out that they would be losing this important and vital part of their community.

They rallied together to discuss what they could do to ward off this major intrusion into their daily lives. Determined to fight to keep their post office open, Hacker Valley resident Retha Hinkle Casto sent a letter to the Postal Regulatory Commission objecting to the closing. She was helped by Post

Office Closings and Consolidations Committee Chair Betty Eickler and her committee.

On July 1, the PRC notified the USPS of the letter from Casto objecting to the closing. On July 6, the PRC posted a Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule, which in part designated Richard A. Oliver as the public representative to represent the general public.

On July 15, the Postal Service filed a Motion to Dismiss Proceeding using the argument it had not initiated a discontinuance study to close or consolidate the Hacker Valley Post Office and the operations currently were suspended due to the lessor's refusal to renew the lease. A July 17 letter to the PRC from Hacker Valley resident Brian Van Nostrand stated, in part, "We are protesting this suspension because there was a viable alternate location to have the post office and the landlord agree to extend the lease until October 2009."

He also explained the landlord had

sent information to Real Estate 10 days before the suspension and that she would extend the lease to give the community time to refurbish the alternate site. In a separate letter to the PRC from Montie Van Nostrand, she informed the commission the USPS had in its possession a copy of the extension to the lease.

She said the USPS had information of an alternative site for the post office in a suitable facility nearby, offered at little or no cost to the USPS, and information regarding the offer by local businesses to construct a new facility to USPS specifications for leasing.

She also stated in her letter, "As the process to close our post office continues, it is believed by our community that the USPS hopes our citizens will tire and simply accept and adjust to the lower-level, mediocre postal service that has been furnished after the temporary suspension of our post office. We feel the spirit of the law has been violated by the USPS." The PRC received several other letters from community residents asking that their post office be saved.

On July 22, Oliver submitted a Response of the Public Representative in Opposition to the USPS Motion to Dismiss Proceeding pending the receipt of additional information regarding the status of the Hacker Valley Post Office. In this document, he stated the facts presented so far did not permit the commission to reach a reasoned decision regarding whether operation of the Hacker Valley Post Office had been suspended or whether the Postal Service had, in fact, already determined this post office should be closed. He recommended the proceed-



ing should be held in abeyance pending the submission of additional information by the Postal Service.

On July 31, the PRC requested a written response from the USPS to several questions regarding this case to help them complete their records. Among the questions asked: "How much effort was made to locate an alternate site?" "Over the past five years, how many post offices had been suspended due to expiring leases?" "Of those, how many were subsequently closed, reopened or currently are pending to be closed?"

On Aug. 14, the USPS responded to the request for information by the PRC with a response to each question presented. As to the question of its effort to locate an alternate site, the letter stated that, in the initial survey, no suitable sites were found. But the Facilities Service Office now has advised that a proposal to design and build or convert an existing structure that would meet postal requirements could be feasible.

In response to the question of number of suspended offices in the past five

years, the USPS stated 97 offices have been suspended due to lease expiration. Of that number, 25 were closed, two reopened and five currently are pending. (I found no mention of the status of the remaining 62 affected offices.)

The information gathered to write this article mostly was taken from the Postal Regulatory Commission's website, docket number A2009-1. I would recommend researching this on your own and reading over the entries submitted with this case. There were 38 letters submitted from Hacker Valley residents and concerned citizens objecting to the closing of their post office and of their frustration in their attempts to communicate with the USPS.

I wrote this article with facts taken from public documents, with no attempt at or suggestion of being involved in the process of the suspension of operation of the Hacker Valley Post Office. As an active Postmaster, I am aware that I am not allowed to become involved in such proceedings. (This is my disclaimer.)

Few would disagree we no longer can survive as a viable Postal Service with "business as usual." We have seen many changes in the way we do business in the past couple years and likely will continue to do so in the near future.

One constant that is important for all of us to remember—Postmasters, Postal Headquarters and congressional leaders alike—is we are a "service" and are required to provide service to everyone without regard for monetary gain or loss.

That, in large part, is what our universal service obligation is all about. And until this mandate is changed, we are obligated to follow the letter of the law. There are legitimate reasons for the emergency suspension of some offices. However, all efforts should be made and proper guidelines followed in the Postal Service's attempt in continuing and/or restoring "service" to those communities. ❁

(304) 338-4783; mtneer.pm@verizon.net

## Did you know that NAPUS members could save money on auto insurance?

Responsibility. What's your policy?™



You may already know that National Association of Postmasters of the United States members like you can get a special group discount on auto insurance through Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus program. But did you know that you could save even more with a group discount on your home insurance, and a multi-policy discount if you insure both your auto and home?

To learn more about all the valuable savings and benefits available through Group Savings Plus, call today.

AUTO

HOME

Get more. Save more. Find out just how much more today.

- Call 1-800-524-9400 and mention client #112734
- Go to [www.libertymutual.com/lm/napus](http://www.libertymutual.com/lm/napus)
- Or visit a Liberty Mutual office near you



This organization receives financial support for allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.

Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. A consumer report from a consumer reporting agency and/or a motor vehicle report on all drivers listed on your policy may be obtained. ©2008 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved. Liberty Mutual is an Equal Housing Insurer.

000097

→3-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Tony L. Hammond, Vice Chairman;  
Mark Acton;  
Dan G. Blair; and  
Nanci E. Langley

Investigation of Suspended Post Offices

Docket No. PI2010-1

NOTICE AND ORDER PROVIDING  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

(Issued November 9, 2009)

I. BACKGROUND

Order No. 319 concluded Docket No. A2009-1, Appeal of the Hacker Valley, West Virginia Post Office Closing.<sup>1</sup> During that proceeding, information came to light that convinced the Commission that further inquiry and analysis was necessary. On August 14, 2009, the Postal Service filed with the Commission its response to Commission Information Request No. 1, questions 1 through 13 (CIR No. 1).<sup>2</sup> The Commission concerns arose as a result of the responses to questions 6 through 9. The Commission gathers from the Postal Service's responses that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain

---

<sup>1</sup> Docket No. A2009-1, Order on Appeal of Hacker Valley, West Virginia Post Office Closing, October 19, 2009 (Order No. 319).

<sup>2</sup> Response of the United States Postal Service to Commission Information Request No. 1, August 14, 2009 (Response).

000098

suspended. Response to CIR No. 1 at 8. The Commission initiates this public inquiry to develop further information on the status of these suspended offices and the Postal Service practice of suspending offices for extended periods without affording the public the rights guaranteed by 39 U.S.C. 404(d). The Commission seeks input from the public on this matter.

In CIR No. 1, questions 6 through 9, the Commission sought information pertaining to post offices suspended during the last 5 years due to lease expirations. The Postal Service's response to CIR No. 1, question 6, informs the Commission that 97 offices have been suspended from 2004 to 2009. *Id.* The response includes a list naming each of the 97 offices, their ZIP Codes, and date of suspension. In CIR No. 1, question 7, the Commission asks how many of the suspended post offices were subsequently closed. The Postal Service responds that 25 of the 97 offices were subsequently closed and provides another list adding a column providing the close date. *Id.* at 12. CIR No. 1, question 8, seeks to know how many of the suspended post offices were reopened. The Postal Service states that 2 of the 97 offices have been reopened. *Id.* at 14. CIR No. 1, question 9, asks how many of the suspended offices are pending closure. The Postal Service reported that the closure process had been initiated for five offices. *Id.* at 15. Based on these responses, the Commission establishes that 65 post offices suspended due to the expiration of a facility lease during the previous 5 years remain suspended.

The Commission is concerned that post office customers throughout the nation do not have access to local post offices and their services due to suspensions. It is evident that several post offices have been suspended for a number of years, and the Postal Service apparently has taken no effective action to reopen or close such offices. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(a)(3), the Postal Service has the authority to determine the need for post offices. Section 404 establishes the process with which the Postal Service must comply when closing or consolidating post offices. This process allows for public comment on the proposed closure and the appeal of a determination to close a post office. 39 U.S.C. 404(d). However, based on the information gathered in Docket

No. A2009-1, it appears that the Postal Service may be avoiding this process by suspending post offices and allowing them to simply remain suspended without any action.

Pursuant to Handbook PO-101 section 617, the District Manager, Customer Service and Sales must determine a plan of action to restore service, secure suitable alternate quarters, take other corrective action, or initiate a discontinuance study within 90 days of the suspension. Docket No. A2009-1, Commission Information Request No. 2, September 29, 2009, requests the Postal Service to provide a copy of its plan of action regarding the Hacker Valley post office. The Postal Service submitted the plan of action and indicated that it was studying the office for discontinuance.<sup>3</sup> However, in Commission Information Request No. 3, October 26, 2009, question 1, the Commission lists several of the tasks required for the Preparing for Investigation phase of the discontinuance study and asks which tasks had been completed. The Postal Service replied that though the study had commenced, none of the listed tasks had been completed.<sup>4</sup>

It is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. The Commission initiates this public inquiry to investigate this matter to better understand the scope of this problem. Interested persons, including members of the public who are patrons of recently suspended and not so recently suspended post offices, are invited to provide written comments.

## II. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

Section 505 of title 39 requires the designation of an officer of the Commission in all public proceedings to represent the interests of the general public. The Commission

---

<sup>3</sup> Response of United States Postal Service to Commission Information Request No. 2, September 29, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Response of United States Postal Service to Commission Information Request No. 3, October 26, 2009 at 1.

hereby designates Richard A. Oliver as Public Representative in this proceeding. Pursuant to this designation, he will direct the activities of Commission personnel assigned to assist him and will, upon request, provide their names for the record. Neither he nor any of the assigned personnel will participate in or provide advice on any Commission decision in this proceeding.

An aspect of the responsibilities of the Public Representative will be to work with the Postal Service to develop an accurate representation of how written procedures related to the emergency suspension of post offices are being adhered to in actual practice. In addition, the Public Representative should review subsequent Postal Service action related to the relocation or closing of post offices that were suspended due to the expiration of the lease for the facility.

### III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

*It is Ordered:*

1. Docket No. PI2010-1 is established for the purpose of receiving comments pertaining to the suspension of post offices due to lease expirations.
2. Interested persons may submit written comments by January 15, 2010.
3. Reply comments also may be filed by February 16, 2010.
4. Richard A. Oliver is designated as the Public Representative to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

TL 11/17/09

## USPS sees big loss

The Postal Service reported a loss of \$3.8 billion last year, despite a reduction of 40,000 full-time positions and other cost-cutting measures.

The loss was \$1 billion more than the year before despite job cuts and other efforts designed to save billions of dollars, postal officials said Monday.

The post office has been struggling to cope with a decline in mail volume caused by the shift to the Internet as well as the recession that resulted in a drop in advertising and other mail.

Could this also be due to massive closings and suspensions which denied the public access to services and forced them to go elsewhere?

POST OFFICE OPERATIONS



November 4, 2009



Dear Ms. Pauley:

This is in response to your letter regarding the suspension and possible closing of the Noxen Post Office. Thank you for writing and I appreciate your interest. As you are aware, the Noxen Post Office was housed in a motor home located next to the Noxen Food Mart. The move from the former facility was initiated following the lessor's refusal to make repairs to the building after it suffered severe damage from flooding in June, 2008. *no free*

When an emergency suspension occurs, alternate service is provided as quickly as possible, and a plan of action for a permanent solution is developed. Such plans can result in the reopening of the suspended facility or the establishment of a new facility; however, they can also result in a decision to propose the discontinuance of the suspended post office.

In this instance, post office box service, rural delivery and retail services are available to Noxen customers at the Harveys Lake Post Office located at 4829 Lakeside Drive, Harveys Lake, PA. The Harveys Lake Post Office is located approximately 7.5 miles from the Noxen Post Office. Customers who wish to receive home mail delivery from the Noxen rural carrier will continue using the Noxen town name and ZIP Code 18636 for their mailing address.

*in October 2009*  
A survey was conducted when the land the motor home was on had expired. We regret any inconvenience experienced by postal customers in the Noxen area as a result of this suspension. The US Postal Service has developed a number of convenient options that can save customers a trip to the post office. Customers may buy stamps online on our web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), by phone at 800-STAMP24, or by mail. Stamp orders are delivered directly to customer mailing addresses. Our Click-N-Chip online mailing service will calculate rates, find ZIP Codes, standardize and save addresses, store shipping history information, and print mailing labels with postage. It also offers free Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation as an option.

Like so many businesses, the Postal Service is experiencing significant financial challenges related to the current economic climate, declining mail volumes, and increased costs. Weakness in the financial, credit and housing sectors, which are traditionally heavy users of mail, resulted in a mail volume decline of more than 9 billion pieces last year. With no economic recovery in sight, we are facing another multi-billion dollar loss in 2009.

Additionally, as a result of population growth, we expect our delivery network to continue to expand, while First-Class Mail volume is projected to continue to decline. These conditions highlight the importance of realigning our resources to achieve long-term financial success. Failure to do so would be irresponsible and threaten our ability to accomplish our mission of providing universal service to the nation at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Varano  
Post Office Review Coordinator

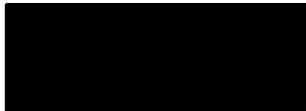


000104

POST OFFICE OPERATIONS



November 4, 2009



Dear Mr. Pauley:

This is in response to your letter dated October 26, 2009 regarding the suspension and possible closing of the Noxen Post Office. Thank you for writing and I appreciate your interest. As you are aware, the Noxen Post Office was housed in a motor home located next to the Noxen Food Mart. The move from the former facility was initiated following the lessor's refusal to make repairs to the building after it suffered severe damage from flooding in June, 2006.

When an emergency suspension occurs, alternate service is provided as quickly as possible, and a plan of action for a permanent solution is developed. Such plans can result in the reopening of the suspended facility or the establishment of a new facility; however, they can also result in a decision to propose the discontinuance of the suspended post office.

In this instance, post office box service, rural delivery and retail services are available to Noxen customers at the Harveys Lake Post Office located at 4829 Lakeside Drive, Harveys Lake, PA. The Harveys Lake Post Office is located approximately 7.5 miles from the Noxen Post Office. Customers who wish to receive home mail delivery from the Noxen rural carrier will continue using the Noxen town name and ZIP Code 18636 for their mailing address.

We regret any inconvenience experienced by postal customers in the Noxen area as a result of this suspension. The US Postal Service has developed a number of convenient options that can save customers a trip to the post office. Customers may buy stamps online on our web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), by phone at 800-STAMP24, or by mail. Stamp orders are delivered directly to customer mailing addresses. Our Click-N-Chip online mailing service will calculate rates, find ZIP Codes, standardize and save addresses, store shipping history information, and print mailing labels with postage. It also offers free Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation as an option.

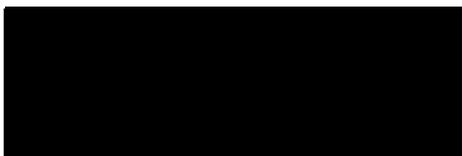
Like so many businesses, the Postal Service is experiencing significant financial challenges related to the current economic climate, declining mail volumes, and increased costs. Weakness in the financial, credit and housing sectors, which are traditionally heavy users of mail, resulted in a mail volume decline of more than 9 billion pieces last year. With no economic recovery in sight, we are facing another multi-billion dollar loss in 2009.

Additionally, as a result of population growth, we expect our delivery network to continue to expand, while First-Class Mail volume is projected to continue to decline. These conditions highlight the importance of realigning our resources to achieve long-term financial success. Failure to do so would be irresponsible and threaten our ability to accomplish our mission of providing universal service to the nation at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Varano".

Robert L. Varano  
Post Office Review Coordinator



000105

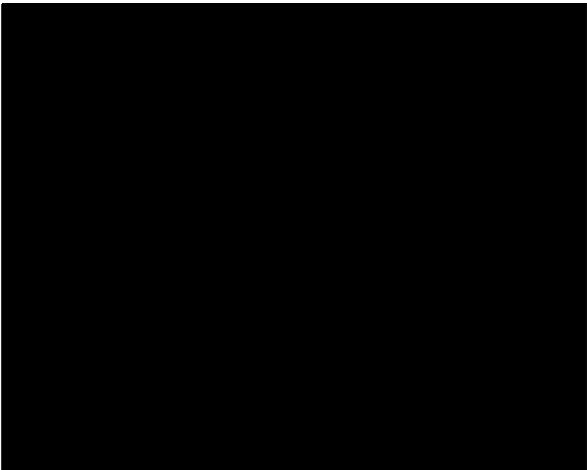
My



Sender: Fabricatore, Joe [REDACTED]  
Recipient: [REDACTED]  
Date: 06.09.2009 14:23

Hi Cathy. The only news that I do have is that the Noxen Schoolhouse did not make the list on the Omnibus Appropriations bill which was passed. The Appropriations Committee did not consider it a High Priority Request. New rules which were passed make it easier to track future appropriations requests. We have a spot listed on our website at [www.house.gov/carney](http://www.house.gov/carney). The emergency suspension I believe is still under effect for another month. I will try to get some information as to where Noxen goes from here. As I mentioned we are Co-Sponsors of HR 658. There are 38 of us trying to make it more difficult for the USPS to close offices. We are trying to do everything on our end.

Joe Fabricatore, Constituent Service Director



000106

- 12 -

*My*

**PenTeleData**  
**Webmail**

**Subject:** FW: Noxen, PA  
**Sender:** Fabricatore, Joe [REDACTED]  
**Recipient:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 06.10.2009 09:12

FYI

**From:** Solnik, Laurie - Washington, DC [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2009 9:10 AM  
**To:** Fabricatore, Joe  
**Subject:** RE: Noxen, PA

As I understand it, an emergency suspension is designed to allow for a minimum of 180 days to assess the future. The Postal Service can continue indefinitely with an emergency suspension if no option has been found at the end of that period, or it can move to officially "close" the Post Office in question.

I do not believe any long term decision has been reached regarding Noxen. So, even though the 6 month period for Noxen is up next month, it is likely that the current situation ("temporary suspension") will remain in place. If I learn anything different, I'll let you know.

Laurie Solnik  
Government Relations  
US Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington DC 20260-3500

**From:** Fabricatore, Joe [m [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 2:20 PM  
**To:** Solnik, Laurie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** Noxen, PA

I understand the Noxen PA Post office is still under the 180 emergency suspension. Do you know what happens which this is lifted next month as far as a town meeting to discuss where they go from here.

Joe Fabricatore, Constituent Service Director

Congressman Christopher P. Carney

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

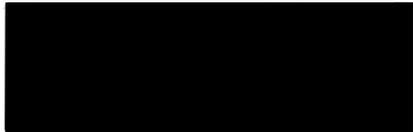
000108

-14-

TOM A. SAMRA  
VICE PRESIDENT, FACILITIES



April 3, 2008



Dear Ms Pauley:

Your correspondence has been forwarded to me for review and a response since it involves the potential reconstruction of a post office.

As we are all aware, in June of 2006, the Noxen Post Office was severely damaged by flood waters. After several requests by district personnel, the lessor refused to make the needed repairs to the building and forced us to vacate the facility. Since there were no suitable quarters to relocate the entire operation, we moved the rural carrier to a neighboring office and temporarily brought in a motor home for retail operations. We have been in discussions with Mr. Burke and the district staff as they continue to evaluate the operational barriers of having the rural carrier in another location and the impact the move had on retail sales and customers. We are now evaluating what alternatives exist with the current operation versus finding alternate quarters in the community. Although some time has passed, no final decision to permanently discontinue the Noxen Post Office had been made.

In the meantime, we will continue to serve the communities' retail needs from the mobile home that has been located at the food mart while all alternatives are explored before the lease expires in October 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tom A. Samra".

Tom A. Samra

ARLEN SPECTER  
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

711 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
202-224-4254

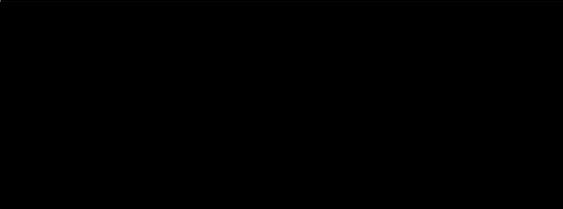
## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

March 12, 2008

STATE OFFICES:

- 600 ARCH STREET, SUITE 9400  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106  
215-597-7200
- REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER  
425 SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1450  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
412-644-3400
- STE B-120, FEDERAL BUILDING  
17 SOUTH PARK ROW  
ERIE, PA 16501  
814-453-3010
- ROOM 1104, FEDERAL BUILDING  
228 WALNUT STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17101  
717-782-3951
- FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 3814  
504 WEST HAMILTON  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101  
610-434-1444
- 310 SPRUCE STREET, SUITE 201  
SCRANTON, PA 18503  
570-346-2006
- 7 NORTH WILKES-BARRE BOULEVARD  
STEGMAIER BUILDING, ROOM 377M  
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702  
570-828-6265



Dear Ms. Pauley:

Enclosed please find the reply from the United States Postal Service in response to my inquiry on your behalf.

I appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you and hope that the information contained in this correspondence is helpful.

Please contact my Northeast Office at the above noted address or telephone number should you need any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlen Specter".

Arlen Specter

AS:cs

Enclosure

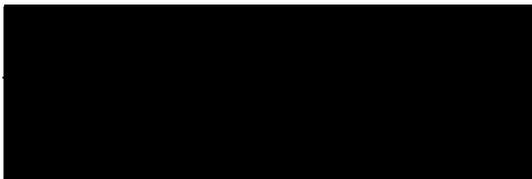
cc: Noxen Township Board of Supervisors

000110

-16-



March 10, 2008



Dear Senator Specter:

This is in response to your February 20 letter on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pauley of Noxen, regarding the Noxen Post Office.

Thank you for sharing Ms. Pauley's comments with this office. I appreciate your interest in assisting the residents of the Noxen area. The U.S. Postal Service is aware of the importance Post Offices play in the communities across our nation. We agree that it would be ideal if we could provide every community with a modern, state-of-the-art Post Office. Unfortunately, that is not always possible because of the current financial challenges that we face and the fact that we are a self-supporting agency that funds our operations from the revenue generated by the sales of our products and services – not taxpayer subsidies received through the Congressional appropriations process.

As you have been made aware, the Noxen Post Office is currently housed in a motor home located next to the Noxen Food Mart. The move was initiated following the lessor's refusal to make repairs to the former facility after it suffered severe damage from flooding in June 2006. To maintain a retail presence in the community we leased part of the parking lot of the Noxen Food Mart. That two year lease will expire October 2008. Central Pennsylvania District Manager of Post Office Operations Bob Varano informs us that at this time, there has been no final decision to permanently close the Noxen Post Office. Postal officials continue to evaluate options and look at other opportunities.

Furthermore, district officials express their appreciation concerning the town's efforts to pull together and offer to erect or house a new permanent Post Office. However, they emphasize that the Postal Service still incurs long-term expenses associated with a new facility under these arrangements. In addition to securing funding to "postalize" the interior to fit our operations, we face the obligations of the monthly lease, utilities and salary of the postmaster. All facility-related requests are therefore subject to detailed justification requirements at our district, area, and Postal Service headquarters organizational levels.

Page 2

We regret any frustration or inconvenience experienced by postal customers in the Noxen area. Please be assured that they will be notified once a decision has been made. In the interim, it may be helpful to note that the Postal Service has developed a number of convenient offerings that can save customers a trip to the Post Office. For instance, customers can buy stamps online through our Web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), by phone at 1-800-STAMP24, or by mail. Our Click-N-SHIP service on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) enables customers to print shipping labels with postage for Express Mail and Priority Mail and request that the items be picked up via our Carrier Pickup program. Customers also can place their mail on hold, file a change-of-address order, or request the redelivery of an item for which a notice was left by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS or visiting [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

---

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in other postal matters.

Sincerely,



Mitch King  
Manager, Government Relations

000112

-18-

CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY  
10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

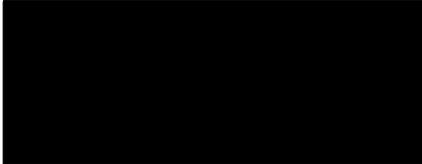
416 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3731



COMMITTEES:  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MANAGEMENT, INVESTIGATION AND  
OVERSIGHT  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3810**

March 3, 2008



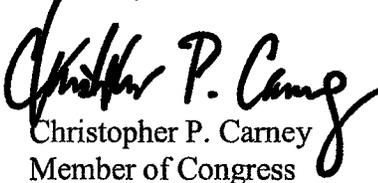
Dear Catherine,

The United States Postal Service responded to my inquiry on your behalf. Please find enclosed the letter I receive in my Clarks Summit Office which explains your situation in detail.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Should you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

  
Christopher P. Carney  
Member of Congress

CC/jf

If you would like to sign up for my e-newsletter and updates on issues that impact the 10<sup>th</sup> district and our nation, Please visit <http://carney.house.gov/signup>

233 NORTHERN BOULEVARD  
SUITE 4  
CLARKS SUMMIT, PA 18411  
(570) 585-9988  
(866) 846-8124

175 PINE STREET  
SUITE 103  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
(570) 327-1902

521 FRANKLIN STREET  
P.O. Box 397  
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872  
(570) 644-1682

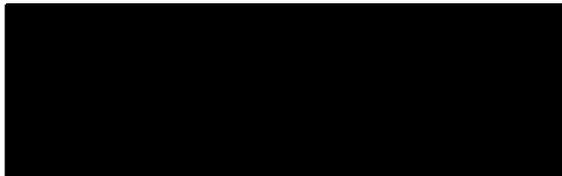
000113

-19-

DISTRICT MANAGER  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA PERFORMANCE CLUSTER



February 2008



Dear Congressman Carney:

This is in response to an inquiry made on behalf of Catherine Pauley and other constituents in the Noxen, Pennsylvania area.

The Postal Service is mandated to provide universal mail service to the nation at reasonable rates. With a national processing, distribution, retail, and delivery network comprised of almost 37,000 leased and owned facilities, one of our largest goals is to have the flexibility necessary to accommodate changes to work flow, processes, and equipment that occurs over time. Since 1998, the volume of single-piece First-Class letters has declined by almost 14 billion pieces, or 25 percent, and this erosion continues by about 1.5 billion pieces annually. At the same time, we incur the expense of expanding our delivery network to accommodate almost two million new homes and businesses each year. On average, we are delivering fewer pieces of mail to each address while average revenue per delivery is decreasing.

As you may already be aware, the Noxen Post Office is currently housed in a motor home located next to the Noxen Food Mart. The move was initiated after the lessor refused to make repairs to the former facility after suffering damage during the flood that occurred in June, 2006. To keep retail presence in the community we leased part of the parking lot of the Noxen Food Mart. That lease was just recently renewed with an expiration date of October 2008. At this time, there has been no final decision to permanently close the Noxen Post Office. We are still evaluating our options and looking at other opportunities.

We also appreciate that the town has pulled together and has offered to erect or house a Post Office. However, our organization still incurs long-term expenses associated with a new facility. In addition to securing funding to "postalize" the inside to fit our operation, we have the obligations of the monthly lease, utilities, and salary of the Postmaster. That is why all facility-related requests are subject to detailed justification requirements and intense scrutiny at our district, area, and Postal Service headquarters organizational levels.

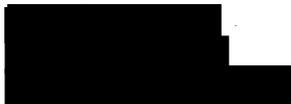
1425 CROOKED HILL ROAD  
HARRISBURG PA 17107-9631  
717-257-4837  
FAX: 717-257-2340

- 20 -

000114



March 17, 2009



Dear Mr. Robbins:

Thank you for writing the United States Postal Service regarding your request for a mileage reimbursement for traveling to and from the Post Office.

As stated in the previous letter sent to you from District Manager Edward B. Burke, unfortunately, the Postal Service cannot reimburse you for the mileage you incurred while your local Post Office was temporary suspended.

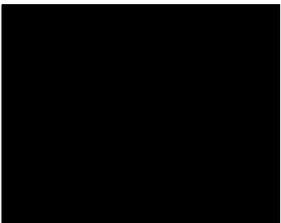
Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this matter may have caused you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Davis".

D. Davis  
Consumer Research Analyst

Reference: CA41939958



The Honorable John E. Potter-Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0001

Honorable Sir,

I write to you with a request for your help with our postal situation in Noxen PA. June 29, 2006 was a day that will live with the people of our town forever. Bowman's Creek all but wiped our small town off the earth. Many homes and buildings were destroyed by the flood waters. One of the buildings housed our Post Office. Our postal services were moved into an RV located in our local store's parking lot. This served the area for the short term but was only supposed to be a temporary solution to our problem. The RV is very small and leaks badly. Several people have written to Mr. Edward B. Burke with offers of our restored train station and an offer to erect a new building per specifications for our Post Office. To date Noxen is still getting the run around from Mr. Edward B. Burke. There was also a veiled threat of removing our Post Office completely and making Noxen Rural Delivery.

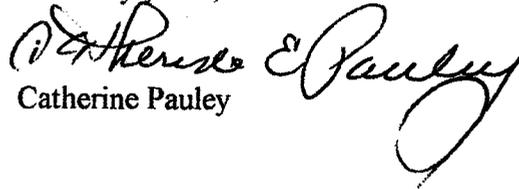
Noxen is a small town nestled in a valley completely surrounded by mountains. Our population is mostly third and fourth generation. Our ancestors worked hard to build our town and get our post mark. That is one, perhaps personal, argument. The second is that our Post Office does not just serve Noxen but Evans Falls, Bowman's Creek, Beaumont, Harvey's Lake and Lake Township. These people come to Noxen for their postal needs rather than travel a distance and over a mountain in any direction to complete their needs. The Dallas and Tunkhannock Post Offices are already too busy and although it is argued that Harvey's Lake Post Office isn't that busy, if all these areas are forced to go there, it will be.

I am sending everything that has gone to Mr. Edward B. Burke and his replies. I ask you to please review the information and contact Mr. Edward B. Burke and tell him to give us back our Post Office. The fixtures removed from our old post office are still in storage. A new building done to his specifications has been offered. The only cost to the Postal Services would be rent, and man power, just like it has been for over 100 years.

I beg you to intercede on Noxen's behalf and help us with this situation that has gone on way too long.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,

  
Catherine Pauley

000116

POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE



April 8, 2009



Dear Cathie:

Pursuant to our conversation on April 8, 2009, I would just like to reaffirm my statement concerning the Noxen identity.

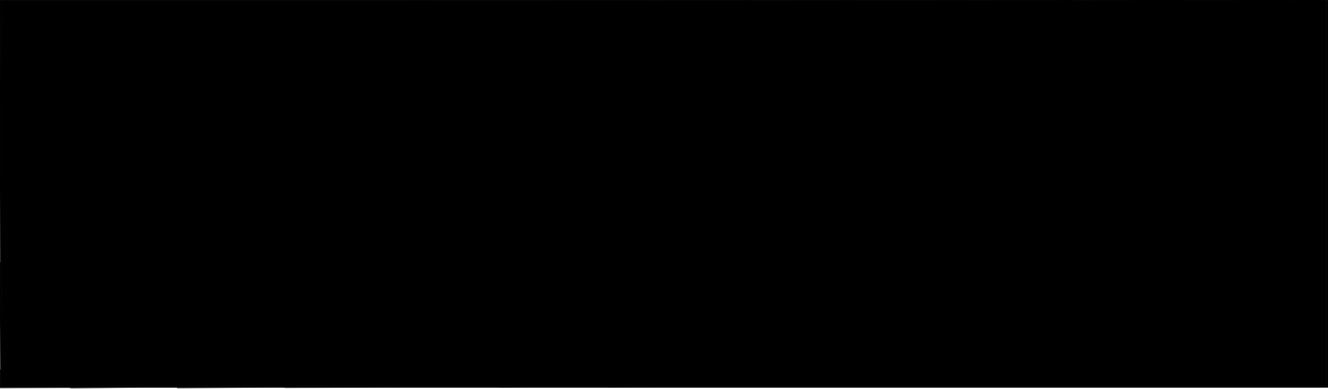
In the event the Postal Service pursues full discontinuance of the Noxen Post Office, residents served by the rural carrier will continue to use the Noxen PA 18636 as the last line of their address.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Varano".

Robert L. Varano  
Mgr. Post Office Operations



March 10, 2009

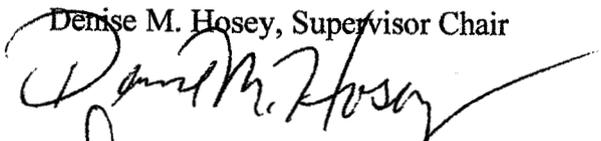
Honorable John E. Potter Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0001

To the Postmaster General,

Please reconsider closing the Noxen Post Office in Noxen, PA 18636. Many of our residents have expressed their concern over the suspension of services as the post office offers the only postal services in a large area in southwest Wyoming County. We, as supervisors, and the residents of Noxen Township appreciate your anticipated consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Denise M. Hosey, Supervisor Chair



David Hettesheimer, Supervisor

000118

**Noxen Township**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009 9:55 AM  
**Subject:** FY10 LHHS Apportions Bill-Noxen Historical Community Association, Inc. - Noxen, PA #1

FY10 LHHS Apportions Bill-Noxen Historical Community Association, Inc. - Noxen, PA - #1

Senator Specter,

Please strongly consider lending your name and support to the Historical Noxen School Siding Project. The Nationally Registered building is a wonderful asset to Noxen Township and Wyoming County.

Sincerely,

David Hettesheimer,

Noxen Township Supervisor,

Building & Grounds Chair

000119

- 25 -

ARLEN SPECTER  
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

711 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
202-224-4254

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

February 20, 2008



Dear Ms. Pauley:

Thank you for contacting U.S. Senator Arlen Specter's Northeast Office regarding the Noxen Post Office.

Without voices such as yours, the Senator would be unable to serve his state and country to the best of his abilities. Please keep us updated with your thoughts and opinions in the future so that the Senator may stay well informed.

We are forwarding your comments to the Senator's staff in his Washington, D.C. office so that they may receive proper attention. For future reference, please do not hesitate to contact the Senator's Northeast office at the above noted address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DeRosa".

Michael DeRosa  
Staff Assistant  
Northeast Office  
U.S. Senator Arlen Specter

STATE OFFICES:

- 600 ARCH STREET, SUITE 9400  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106  
215-697-7200
- REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER  
425 SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1450  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
412-644-3400
- STE B-120, FEDERAL BUILDING  
17 SOUTH PARK ROW  
ERIE, PA 16501  
814-463-3010
- ROOM 1104, FEDERAL BUILDING  
228 WALNUT STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17101  
717-782-3951
- FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 3814  
504 WEST HAMILTON  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101  
610-434-1444
- 310 SPRUCE STREET, SUITE 201  
SCRANTON, PA 18503  
570-346-2006
- 7 NORTH WILKES-BARRE BOULEVARD  
STEGMAIER BUILDING, ROOM 377M  
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702  
570-826-6265

000120

DISTRICT MANAGER  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA PERFORMANCE CLUSTER



February 2008



Dear Ms. Pauley:

Thank you for taking the time to write regarding the Noxen Post Office. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

The Postal Service is mandated to provide universal mail service to the nation at reasonable rates. With a national processing, distribution, retail, and delivery network comprised of almost 37,000 leased and owned facilities, one of our largest goals is to have the flexibility necessary to accommodate changes to work flow, processes, and equipment that occurs over time. Since 1998, the volume of single-piece First-Class letters has declined by almost 14 billion pieces, or 25 percent, and this erosion continues by about 1.5 billion pieces annually. At the same time, we incur the expense of expanding our delivery network to accommodate almost two million new homes and businesses each year. On average, we are delivering fewer pieces of mail to each address while average revenue per delivery is decreasing.

As you may already be aware, the Noxen Post Office is currently housed in a motor home located next to the Noxen Food Mart. The move was initiated after the lessor refused to make repairs to the former facility after suffering damage during the flood that occurred in June, 2006. To keep retail presence in the community, we leased part of the parking lot of the Noxen Food Mart. That lease was just recently renewed with an expiration date of October, 2008. At this time, there has been no final decision to permanently close the Noxen Post Office. We are still evaluating our options and looking at other opportunities.

We also appreciate that the town has pulled together and has offered to erect or house a Post Office. However, our organization still incurs long-term expenses associated with a new facility. In addition to securing funding to "postalize" the inside to fit our operation, we have the obligations of the monthly lease, utilities, and salary of the Postmaster. That is why all facility-related requests are subject to detailed justification requirements and intense scrutiny at our district, area, and Postal Service headquarters organizational levels.

Customers today have access to stamps and other retail services from numerous channels. They may obtain Stamps-by-Mail order forms from their carrier or local Post Office to order stamps and receive them at their home or business by mail, at no additional cost. And for customers that have a delivery address on a rural route as many of your constituents do, the rural carrier sells stamps and other Postal services from their vehicle—a veritable "Post Office on wheels."

1425 CROOKED HILL ROAD  
HARRISBURG PA 17107-9631  
717-257-4837  
FAX: 717-257-2340

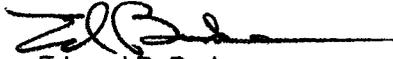
000121

- 27 -

Customers can buy stamps online from The Postal Store at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or by calling 1-800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724). Appropriate shipping and handling fees will apply.

Please be assured that all Postal customers will be notified once a decision has been made. Thank you for your interest. If you have additional questions, please contact Marita Hines, Manager, Consumer Affairs, at the address and phone number below.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Burke

cc:    Manager, Post Office Operations  
      Manager, Operations Program Support  
      Manager, Marketing  
      Manager, Consumer Affairs  
      Postmaster, Noxen, PA

000122

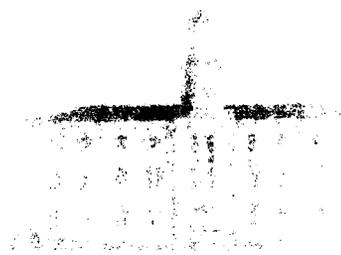
Anthony F. Litwin  
Chairman

Judy Kraft Mead

A. Stark Bartron II

William Gaylord  
Chief Clerk

James E. Davis  
Solicitor



March 20, 2009

The Honorable John E. Potter  
Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington DC 20260-0001

Honorable John Potter:

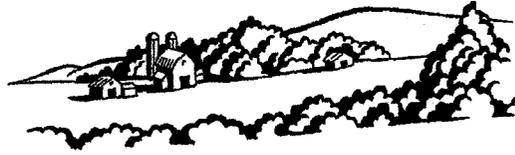
The Wyoming County Board of Commissioners are asking that you please reconsider closing the Noxen Post Office in Noxen Pennsylvania. The Post Office offers the only postal services in a large area in southwestern Wyoming County.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wyoming County Commissioners

000123



North Branch Land Trust

Board Members

Lynn K. Aldrich, Ed.D.  
Chairman

Gary Williams  
Vice Chairman

John P. Keker  
Treasurer

Sarah P. Carr  
Secretary

Douglas J. Ayers, V.M.D.

William H. Conyngham

Mary Louise Faber, Esq.

Douglas Gaudet

James T. Gorman

Robert H. Graham

Alan C. Gregory

Marlyne A. Lipfert

Philip A. Muntzel, Ph.D.

Anthony T. Palischak

Matthew Sordoni

Michael D. Weaver

Staff

Paul Lumia  
Executive Director

Linda Thoma  
Director of Operations

Richard L. Koval  
Land Protection Specialist

Barbara Romanansky  
Administrative Assistant

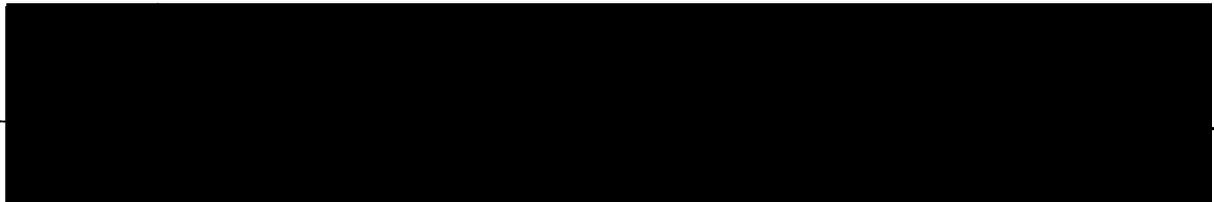


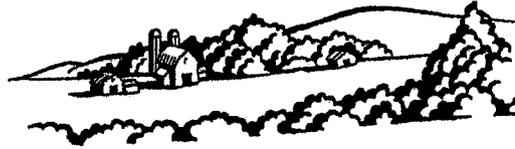
Dear Cathie,

Enclosed is the letter I sent to the Post Master and the reply I received back. We would still entertain having the Post Office at the Depot but we will also be pursuing other avenues.

If you have any leads for us as to who or what organizations might be interested in utilizing the Depot please let us know.

Best,  
  
Paul Lumia





North Branch Land Trust

February 13, 2009

Board Members

Lynn K. Aldrich, Ed.D.  
Chairman

Gary Williams  
Vice Chairman

John P. Keizer  
Treasurer

Sarah P. Carr  
Secretary

Douglas J. Ayers, V.M.D.

William H. Conyngham

Steven C. Dressler

Mary Louise Faber, Esq.

Douglas Gaudet

Robert H. Graham

Alan C. Gregory

Marlyne A. Lipfert

Philip A. Muntzel, Ph.D.

Anthony T. Palischak

Michael D. Weaver

Staff

Paul Lumia  
Executive Director

Linda Thoma  
Director of Operations

Richard L. Koval  
Land Protection Specialist

The Honorable John E. Potter  
Post Master General  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Sir,

I am writing you in reference to the Noxen post office in Noxen Pennsylvania. As you know the postal service has closed the Noxen post office and moved the operations to Harvey's Lake. The residents of Noxen are very saddened by this and are hoping the postal service will reconsider this move and reestablish a post office in their community.

North Branch Land Trust has a presence in Noxen as we own the old railroad station in the community. We are currently looking to finish renovations on this historically significant structure and are in the beginning stages of planning for its reuse in the community.

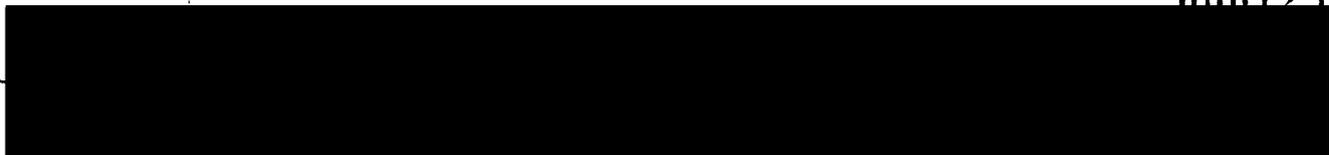
We believe this beautiful building would make an excellent home for the U.S. Postal Service and would ask that you consider leasing all or part of the building for that purpose. We are a non profit land conservation organization and would be willing to work with you on establishing a favorable lease arrangement and retrofitting the building for your needs.

If you or a postal service representative would like to visit the site please contact us at anytime.

Sincerely,

Paul Lumia

000125



DISTRICT MANAGER  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA PERFORMANCE CLUSTER



March 2009



Dear Mr. Lumia:

Your letter to Postmaster General John E. Potter was referred to this office for response.

Like so many businesses, the Postal Service is experiencing significant financial challenges related to the current economic climate, declining mail volumes, and increased costs. Weakness in the financial, credit and housing sectors, which are traditionally heavy users of mail, resulted in a mail volume decline of more than 9 billion pieces last year. With no economic recovery in sight, we are facing another multi-billion dollar loss in 2009.

Additionally, as a result of population growth, we expect our delivery network to continue to expand while First-Class Mail volume is projected to continue to decline. These conditions highlight the importance of realigning our resources to achieve long-term financial success. Failure to do so would be irresponsible and threaten our ability to accomplish our mission of providing universal service to the nation at affordable prices.

Accordingly, as we budget and plan for this Fiscal Year 2009, the Postal Service is shifting our emphasis to ensure that our capital resources are focused on maintenance of our existing infrastructure. No new post office projects have been approved, and approvals for certain projects from prior years have been rescinded.

Thank you for taking the time to write with your concerns about the suspension of the Noxen Post Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Varano, Post Office Operations Manager, at the address and phone number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. B. Burke".

Edward B. Burke

cc: Post Office Operations Manager  
Manager, Customer Relations  
Manager, Consumer Affairs

1425 CROOKED HILL ROAD  
HARRISBURG PA 17107  
717-257-4823

000126



USPS Facility Relocation Regulations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FACILITY RELOCATION REGULATIONS**

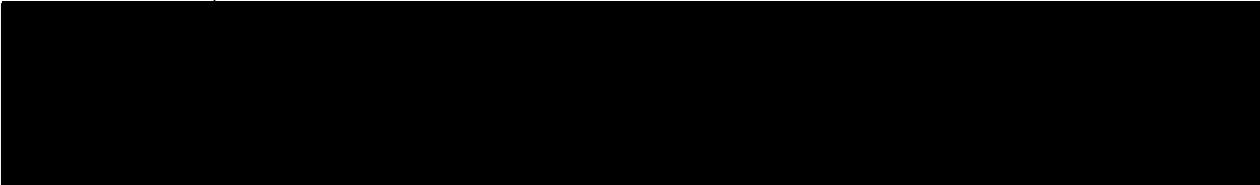
**39 CFR Part 241  
Expansion, Relocation, Construction of New Post Offices**

AGENCY: Postal Service.  
ACTION: Final Rule.

**SUMMARY:** This final rule establishes procedures by which the Postal Service notifies local citizens and public officials of facility projects, and solicits and considers the community's input before making a final decision to expand an existing facility, relocate to a new building, or start new construction. The purpose of the rule is to build into the facility project planning process specific opportunities and adequate time for the community to be an active participant in the decision making process and to have its views heard and considered.

DATE: Effective October 5, 1998. *Michael LeGarde*

*Central Post District  
HBO*



**Part 241 - [Amended]**

- 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 241 continues to read as follows: Authority: 39 U.S.C. 401.
- 2. Effective October 5, 1998, 39 CFR Part 241 is amended by revising 241.4, to read as follows:

**241.4 EXPANSION, RELOCATION, AND CONSTRUCTION OF POST OFFICES**

**(a) Application.**

(1) This section applies when the USPS contemplates any one of the following projects with respect to a customer service facility: expansion, relocation to another existing building, or new construction, except when the project is to meet an emergency requirement or for temporary use. Emergency situations include, but are not limited to, earthquakes, floods, fire, lease terminations, safety factors, environmental causes, or any other actions that would force an immediate relocation from an existing facility. Temporary relocation of space is used for, but not limited to, holidays, special events, or for overflow business. Use of emergency and temporary space will be limited to 180 days in duration. Any additional incremental time periods of up to 180 days each must be approved by the Vice President, Facilities.

- (2) This section does not apply when the project under consideration is limited to repair and alterations, such as-
  - (i) painting;
  - (ii) repairs;
  - (iii) replacement or upgrade of structural or functional elements of a postal building or of its equipment;
  - (iv) paving, striping, or other repair of parking areas;
  - (v) landscaping.

**(b) Purpose.**

[http://www.usps.com/news/2000/press/fit\\_print.htm](http://www.usps.com/news/2000/press/fit_print.htm)

000127

2/7/2008

The purpose of the procedures required by this section is to assure increased opportunities for members of the communities who may be affected by certain USPS facility projects, along with local officials, to convey their views concerning the contemplated project and have them considered prior to any final decision to expand, relocate to another existing building, or construct a new building that is owned or leased.

**(c) Expansion, relocation, new construction.**

When a need is identified that will require the expansion, relocation, or new construction of a customer service facility, postal representatives responsible for the project will take the following steps in accordance with the time schedule shown:

*next done*  
(1) Personally visit one or more of the highest ranking local public officials (generally individuals holding elective office). During the visit, the postal representatives will -

*done*  
(i) Identify the need and fully describe the project that is under consideration to meet it, explain the process by which the Postal Service will solicit and consider input from the affected community, and solicit a working partnership with the community officials for the success of the project.

*next done*  
(ii) emphasize that in meeting a need for increased space, the first priority is to expand the existing facility; the second priority is to find an existing building in the same area as the current facility; and the third option is to build on a new site; all within the downtown area, if possible.

*next done*  
(iii) ask that a Postal Service presentation of the project be placed on the regular agenda of a public meeting or hearing. If no such meeting is planned within the next 60 days or the agenda of a planned meeting cannot accommodate the project, the USPS will schedule its own public hearing concerning the project, and will advertise the meeting or hearing in a local general circulation newspaper.

*next done*  
(iv) give the local officials a letter describing the intended project.

*next done*  
(2) Notify the lessor of the affected facility of the project, in writing.

*next done*  
(3) Send an initial news release to local communications media.

*next done*  
(4) (i) Post in the public lobby of the affected post offices a copy of the letter given to local officials, or the news release, or, space permitting, both. If such information is available at the time, include in the posting a public notice of the date, time, and location of a public meeting or hearing at least 7 days prior to the meeting or hearing.

*next done*  
(ii) Except as provided in this paragraph, attend, or conduct, one or more public hearings to describe the project to the community, invite questions, solicit written comment, and describe the process by which community input will be considered. If it is believed at the time that the existing facility is not able to be expanded or that expansion is impracticable, disclose that fact and the reasons supporting that belief. If, during the public meeting or hearing process, a new development should occur to allow for an expansion of the existing facility, the Postal Service will make a good faith effort in pursuing this alternative. Under exceptional circumstances that would prevent postal representatives from attending a public meeting or conducting a postal hearing on the planned project within a reasonable time, and subject to approval of the Vice President, Facilities, the Postal Service may distribute a notification card to all affected customers, seeking their comments or other feedback. An example of exceptional circumstances would be a project in a sparsely populated area remote from the seat of local government or any forum where a postal conducted meeting could be held.

*next done*  
(iii) At any public meeting or hearing, advise local officials and the community of their appeal rights and the process by which an appeal can be made. Information provided must include time limitations and an address for the appeal.

*next done*  
(5) Review comments and notify local officials of decision. Not less than 15 days after the date of the most recent public meeting, or after receipt of notification cards, make a decision that takes into account community input and

is consistent with postal objectives (e.g., expansion, relocation to another building, or construction of a new owned or leased facility), and notify local officials in writing. This notification must include information on the availability and terms of review under paragraph (c)(6) of this section. At the same time, post a copy of the notification letter in the local post office for the community. Take no action on the decision for at least 30 days following notification of local officials and the community.

(6) Within the time period identified in paragraph (c)(5) of this section, any person may request in writing that the decision be reviewed by the Vice President, Facilities, at Postal Service Headquarters. No particular format is required for requesting review, but the request must be in writing and identify the post office or location affected; and should identify the decision objected to, and state the reasons for the objection. The Vice President, Facilities, will obtain the views of the decision maker, review relevant parts of the project file, and if necessary request more information from the appellant. Upon review of the facts, the Vice President, or a representative, will issue a written determination; if possible, within 15 days. In no event will the Postal Service take action on the decision being reviewed until 15 days following issuance of the final review determination. If the determination on review is to set aside the decision, the project process will return to the public hearing stage of paragraph (c)(4) of this section.

(7) Advertise for sites and existing buildings, in accordance with existing postal procedures.

**(d) Discontinuance of Post Office; Historic Preservation**

(1) It is the policy of the Postal Service, by virtue of Board of Governors Resolution No. 82-7, to comply with Section 106 of the general provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq., Executive Order 12072, and Executive Order 13006. Therefore, any facility project that will have an effect on cultural resources will be undertaken in accordance with that policy.

(2) Any action involving the closing or other discontinuance of a post office shall be undertaken only in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 404(b) and 39 CFR 243.1. In the event a facility action is subject to both this section, and either the NHPA or the post office discontinuance requirements, all comment periods and other public participation matters shall be governed by those statutes.

**(e) Site Selection**

(1) When the decision is to advertise for sites and existing buildings, and after such sites have been identified, advise local officials in writing of all contending sites, and with respect to all sites not selected, provide an explanation. This notice will advise local officials, and the community, that no decision to select a site will be made for a minimum of 30 days, and that comments or discussions of all sites are solicited. Post a copy of this letter in the lobby of the affected post office for public notice.

(2) Once a specific site is then selected, notify local officials in writing of the selection decision.

(3) Take no final action to acquire or lease the selected site for 30 days following the notification in paragraph (e) (2) of this section.

**(f) Planning, zoning, building codes.**

In carrying out customer service facilities projects, it is the policy of the Postal Service to comply with local planning and zoning requirements and building codes consistent with prudent business practices and unique postal requirements. In order to promote a partnership with local officials and assure conformance with local building codes, plans and drawings will be sent to the appropriate building department or other officials for review. Where payment of fees is normally required of private entities, the Postal Service will pay a reasonable fee for the review. The Postal Service will give local public officials written notice of any timely, written objections or recommendations that it does not plan to adopt or implement.

**(g) Continuing communication.**

During construction, whether renovation or new construction, the postmaster should keep local officials and the

[http://www.usps.com/news/2000/press/frr\\_print.htm](http://www.usps.com/news/2000/press/frr_print.htm)

000129

2/7/2008

community informed via letters and news releases. The postmaster and other postal officials should plan, conduct, and invite the community and local officials to any "grand opening", as appropriate.



Date: January 15, 2009

To: The Honorable John E. Potter

From: The South Mountain Land Association, Noxen Pa.

Our Association leases land from a lumber company for the purpose of conservation, outdoor recreation and hunting. Our membership total is 1182 people. Because our lease is renewable on a yearly basis, we need to have our members renew their membership every year which is done by mail. We use a mail meter, which credits the Noxen Post Office with what we spend on postage. Initial postage is \$496.44 to mail out. On average, about 175 people do not renew their memberships, which cause us to mail out another 175 membership applications to people on our waiting list at \$73.50 of postage. About 33% of these applicants don't respond so we end up mailing out 58 waiting list applications and then membership applications to these people at a cost of around 50 to 60 dollars more in postage. Along with other correspondence, we use approximately \$660 in postage per year.

Our Association does not own or rent a building from which we operate. Our meetings and other activities are done in a public building in Noxen, which we donate to, so we need to use a PO Box which we have used since the mid 1970s. We also require a PO box for security reasons because our renewal return mail contains checks and money orders.

Our secretary, who picks up the mail, travels 6 miles to the Noxen Post Office. During the 90-day shutdown of the Post Office, he will have to travel 16 miles one way to the Harveys Lake Post Office. During our renewal drive (from March through July) this trip must be made every day to keep up with the volume of mail.

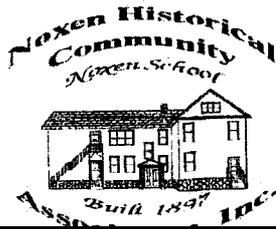
At our last Association meeting on January 11 this issue was discussed and our membership was not very happy with this move. They questioned why the Government is giving out billions and billions of dollars to failing companies but is not willing to fund a much needed Post Office in a rural area that has served this community for over 100 years.

Thanks

**South Mountain Land Association Executive Board Members:**

- Donald Kachmar      President**
- Bill Vivian            Vice President**
- Joseph M. Gydosh    Secretary**
- Harry Sweppenheiser Treasurer**

000131



January 12, 2009

Post Master,

The Noxen Historical Association mails 240 letters from the Noxen Post Office each year. The Association also mails out a minimum 5 grants yearly. All these mailings receive replies through the Noxen Post Office.

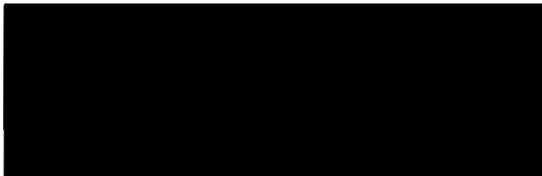
Catherine E. Pauley

President

000132



January 9, 2007



Dear Ms. Hosey:

Thank you for your interest in the status of the Noxen Post Office.

At this time, we are reevaluating the service we provide to the community of Noxen. Funding is not available for a new post office and as a result, the Postal Service has to decide whether leaving a recreational vehicle there is a solution. As you may be aware, the trailer was placed in its current location as a temporary solution. Without necessary funding, we are currently considering if we can continue to provide services using alternative methods, such as rural delivery and/or a Community Post Office.

Noxen does have one rural delivery route. That carrier is currently stationed at the Harvey Lakes Post Office. For customers who receive delivery via the rural route, the rural carrier sells stamps and other postal services from their vehicle—a veritable "Post Office on Wheels."

Customers can also buy stamps online from The Postal Store at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or by calling 1-800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724). Appropriate shipping and handling fees will apply.

For future reference, vendors can find information on doing business with the US Postal Service at <http://www.usps.com/communications/organization/doingbusinesswithus.htm>.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Marija Hines

cc: Manager, Post Office Operations  
Manager, Marketing

December 29, 2008

An Open Letter to the United States Postal Service

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently the community of Noxen, PA was informed via a newspaper article that our postal service was to be suspended, TEMPORARILY, as of January 17 2009. The community held a protest rally to save the Post Office on December 20 2008. (Please see articles enclosed.) Speakers at the rally pointed out several problems with this closing.

- (1) Many People do not drive or do not have a vehicle, so they would be unable to get to Harvey's Lake to retrieve their mail or do their postal business.
- (2) Many people pay their bills with money orders which are only available at the Post Office in town.
- (3) Associations use the Post Office for mailing letters, grants and membership renewals which creates a hardship. Mailing sometimes thousands of letters, picking up answers and donations, and having to drive to Harvey's Lake to post special mailings would be costly and time consuming for these associations and members.
- (4) Anyone deciding to switch to rural delivery, which is what USPS is hoping for, could not possibly set up a mail box in January when the ground is frozen solid.
- (5) The Lake Road is less than "User Friendly". To get to the Harvey's Lake Post Office from Noxen, two mountains must be traveled over in winter weather and the Lake Road is narrow, especially after a snow.

These facts have been pointed out to the USPS several times in the last two and a half years.

- (1) According to USPS's own rules and regulations for relocating a Post Office, USPS had a maximum 360 days to resolve Noxen's postal issues. USPS supplied, TEMPORARILY, a winebago and has done nothing more in the past two and a half years. No surveys, questionnaires, discussions with Supervisors, or Town Meetings have been done as per USPS's own regulations.
- (2) USPS and Edward B. Burke insist on repeating USPS cannot afford to build a new postal facility, but TWO buildings in Noxen have been offered for their use. One a historical restored train station and the other built to USPS specifications where the TEMPORARY Post Office is located.
- (3) The hardship of removing the Post Office from Noxen effects more than just the community. Beaumont, Bowman's Creek, Evans Falls, and parts of Harvey's Lake and Lake Townships also use the Noxen Post Office as it is closer and more accessible than Tunkhannock, Harvey's Lake or Dallas Post Offices.
- (4) In doing research on the Post Office problem, it was learned that the 10,000 plus small Post Offices in the Nation cost the USPS LESS than 1% of their entire budget. Perhaps USPS should look elsewhere to cut cost. Perhaps USPS should check into their

000134

high paid administrators who refuse to follow company rules and regulations and who seems to discriminate against small towns and Post Offices.

If the USPS and the Postmaster General took the time to review all the correspondence it has received from the community, US Congressman Chris Carney, State Representative Karen Boback, and State Senator Lisa Baker and took the time and effort to do their job properly and follow their own rules and regulations, it would see the Noxen Post Office pays its way and is worth replacing and maintaining. If this is done with common sense and responsibility it is believed the USPS will conclude the Noxen Post Office should stay, and stay without interruption of our services.

Cathie Pauley

000135

72 1/8/07

# Harveys Lake woman dies in accident outside home

Victim, 81, was hit by vehicle while retrieving the newspaper and mail on Lakeside Drive.

By EDWARD LEWIS

elewis@timesleader.com

**HARVEYS LAKE** - An elderly woman retrieving her mail and newspaper outside her home was killed Wednesday morning when she was struck by a vehicle on Lakeside Drive, authorities said. Luzerne County Chief Deputy Coroner William Lisman identified the woman as 81-year-old Joan E. Batory, of Pole 165, Harveys Lake. Lisman said Batory and her husband, Daniel,

have been residents of Harveys Lake for nearly 30 years.

A neighbor, who declined to give her name, said Batory was a wonderful person who enjoyed spending time at her home with family and friends.

Mayor Richard Boice and his wife, Michelle, said Batory volunteered to help with the borough's election.

"When you walk in the precinct, she was the first person you saw," Boice said. "She would take your

name. She volunteered to work the polls on every election."

"I've been judge of elections for 11 years and she was working there before me," said Joan Kelly of Harveys Lake. "I couldn't believe it. She loved life. She looked forward to every day. I never heard her say anything downbeat about anybody in the 12 years I knew her."

See FATAL, Page 10A

## FATAL

Continued from Page 1A

"She was very attached to her husband and her family, and she would tell me about the prom dresses she made for her granddaughter," Kelly said. "It's tragic, very tragic."

Lisman said Batory was found at the bottom of a steep embankment near the lake's shoreline. She was pronounced dead at the scene, he said.

According to authorities and Lisman:

Batory walked down her driveway and across Lakeside Drive to retrieve her mail and newspaper when she was struck by a vehicle, driven by a male, at about 9:30 a.m. The driver, whose name wasn't released, immediately stopped a short distance from the accident, approximately 50 yards north from Newmarth Road.



Luzerne County Chief Deputy Coroner William Lisman, wearing a blue cap, talks to rescue personnel at the scene of a fatal pedestrian accident on Lakeside Drive in Harveys Lake on Wednesday.

PETE G. WILCOX/THE TIMES LEADER

Lisman said it appeared the vehicle slid on ice before hitting Batory, who was forced over a guide rail and down the embankment.

The vehicle had minor damage

to its front end, where it struck the guide rail.

Lakeside Drive was covered in slush with icy patches at the time of the accident. Several plow trucks were observed removing ice and slush from the roadway. A state police trooper is reconstructing the accident, Lisman said.

*This is the road we are forced to use to get to the Harveys Lake Boat Office*

# rallies

(Continued from page 1)

Bryant said she has already left that loss because of the nature of her job. Ever since the old post office on Main Street was shut down after being damaged in the June 2006 flood, she has had to pick up the mail for her route at Harveys Lake each morning and drive it back to Noxen for delivery.

"It's a sense of community I've sort of lost that being at Harveys Lake the past two years," Bryant said.

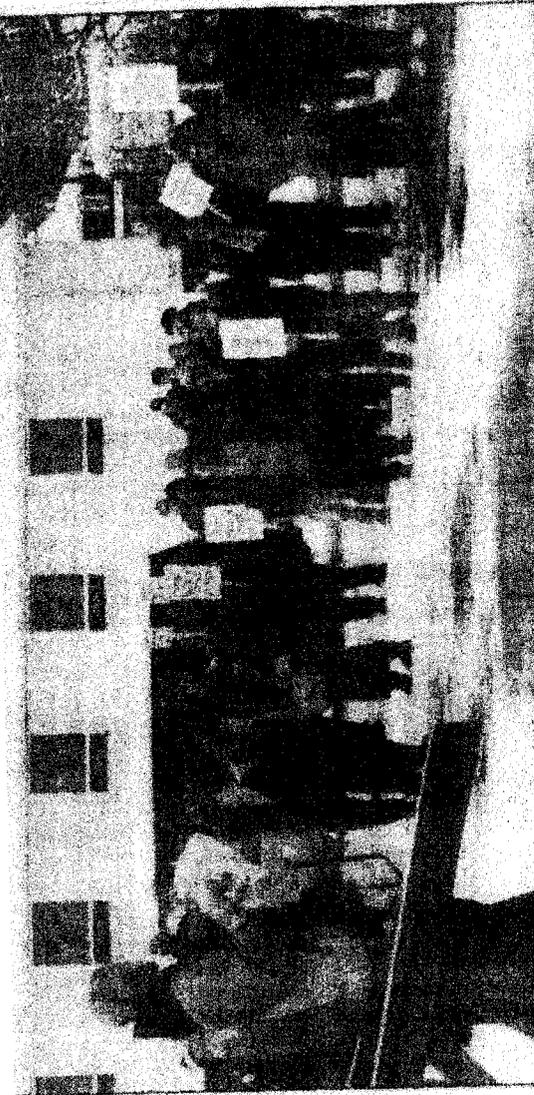
Bryant wasn't the only postal employee to speak out at the rally. Postmaster Marty Lenkofsky said he believes the postal service is making an uninformed decision.

"They haven't come out and done their homework," Lenkofsky said. He said postal officials need to look harder at the community's needs, and at what this office brings in.

"Once they come out and get the information they need, I'm sure they'll make the right decision," Lenkofsky said.

State Rep. Karen Boback, R-Harveys Lake, said she will do what she can to help Noxen residents keep their local post office. "It would create hardships for them, particularly the elderly," Boback said.

Postal service officials said the shutting down of the temporary office in Noxen is a suspension, not a closure.



Dozens of Noxen residents gathered to protest the closing of the community's post office.

## Noxen rallies to save P.O.

BY MICHAEL J. RUDOLF  
Wyoming County Press  
/ 7/27/08 Examiner

NOXEN — Neither rain nor snow would keep several dozen Noxen residents from protesting on Saturday afternoon to keep their post office open.

The group carried signs and spoke out in an effort to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from shutting down the office, as has been proposed.

"We want our own post office," said Ann Marie Hackling. She and the others oppose the planned suspension of operations at the temporary office in a motor home next to the Noxen Food Mart.

The residents claim that transferring mail service to Harveys Lake, about four miles away, would be a hardship for many people.

"To go mail a package, a lot of

choice but to have a post office box.

"The mailman doesn't even come to my house. I live so far out," said Debbie VanBuskirk, who lives on Stall Road, about five miles from the post office. She said there are a number of families who live just as far away. Their trek to get their mail would nearly double by having to go to Harveys Lake.

"I can't afford to go that far," VanBuskirk said. "I sell on eBay, so I bring a lot of packages to this post office."

In addition to the practical concerns, residents said losing the post office would mean the loss of a key aspect of the community.

"Having the Noxen 18636 Zip Code is an important factor in maintaining our community. It's the identity of the town," said Margie Bryant, the rural carrier for Noxen.

(See rallies on page 12)

"There is a difference," said spokesman Ray Dautolo at the postal service's regional office in Philadelphia. "Technically no decision has been made."

According to a release, the postal service has 180 days to evaluate its next step. The release says the suspension will not lead to a formal proposal to close the Noxen office "unless we conclude that it will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services."

Lenkofsky said he understands the postal service's rationale, even if he doesn't agree with its decision.

"The postal service is the postal business. They look at the bottom line," he said.

But other residents are skeptical. They said they believe the postal service has already made a decision.

"There's no doubt in my mind that if the U.S. Postal Service wanted a post office in this town, it would be here," said Russell Newell.

Cathie Paulley, who helped organize the rally, said the postal service has had plenty of time to find a permanent location since the flood.

"In that two-and-a-half years, we have been able to climb back and rebuild our lives. Yet the postal system can't give us back our post office," she said.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPH BY MARY

Rural mail carrier Margie Bryant joined in the rally to save the Noxen post office.

# Many post offices hub of Wyoming County

BY MICHAEL J. RUDOLF  
Wyoming County Press  
1/22/67 Examiner

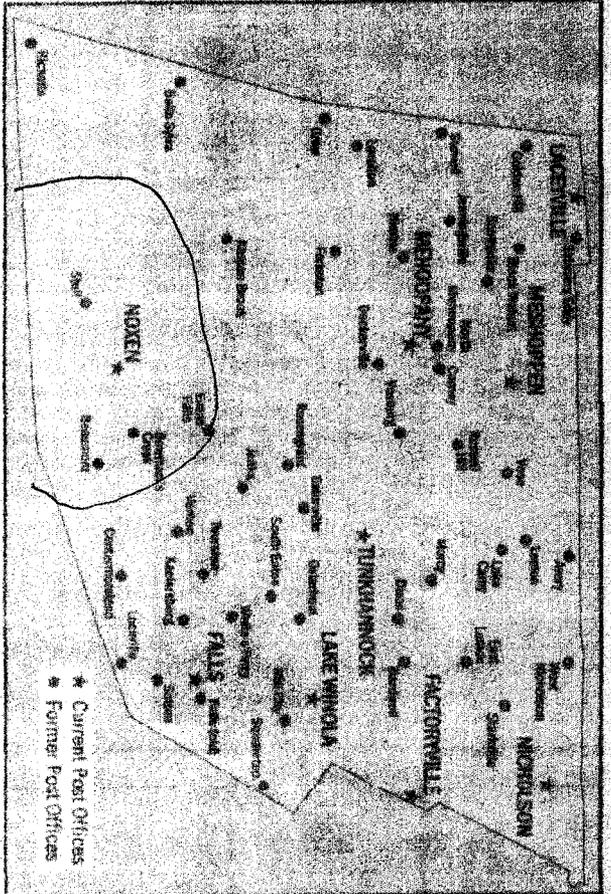
At one time, you could find a post office every three or four miles in Wyoming County.

Of course, that was in the day when there was no rural delivery and everyone had to pick up their mail at the nearest post office. Mail was shipped from office to office by horse-drawn carriage, and many of the larger post offices were near railroad lines.

A check of records at the Wyoming County Historical Society shows that at one time or another nearly 60 communities in the county had mail delivery. Some provided service for fewer than a dozen residents. Many were located inside businesses or homes.

Nicholson resident Dick Squier, a local historian, said it was essential to have post offices that close together, especially in the days before most people had cars. A trek of just a couple of miles by horse and carriage would take a considerable amount of time.

"You'd chew up a half a day just to go check the mail," Squier said. A local post office also brought people together, adding to a sense of community, Squier noted.



These communities in Wyoming County all had their own post offices at one time.

"It was a gathering place. You went to the post office to get the news," he said.

The historical society has a record of correspondence between local postmasters and the Postmaster General's office verifying office locations and openings. The record is admittedly incomplete, but it gives an idea of the scope of post office locations. The record begins with a verifi-

cation from the Postmaster General's office of all locations in Wyoming County March 1864. That list contains 29 communities. Some of those towns still have postal service today, such as Tunkhannock, Nicholson, Factoryville, Falls and Meshoppen.

There are other names on the list that may be unfamiliar, but are also still around under new identities. For example, the post office

then known as Brantum is now Laceyville, while Sterlingville now goes by the name of Meshoppen.

Other communities listed are still familiar to residents today, but no longer get their own mail service. These are places such as Forkston, Ketserville, Lovelton and South Easton.

Finally, there are communities listed that have all but been lost to history. With names like Bella Sylvia, Pierceville and LaOrange.

Over the years — especially during the late 19th century — dozens of post offices were added, and a few were even closed when no longer needed. Names of some offices were changed, and occasionally changed again.

The community between Tunkhannock and Factoryville known as Bardwell, for example, got its first post office in 1879. In

1887, however, the village got a post office that was known as Mumbucker. It eventually resumed its Bardwell name again.

With improvements in transportation and the advent of rural delivery, many of these small postal outlets were determined to no longer be needed. One after another, service was consolidated with offices in larger communities.

"People could be more mobile," Squier said.

The last post office to close in Wyoming County was in Centemoreland. The small office inside the Centemoreland Grocery & Deli was shut down in March 1961, and its services transferred to Tunkhannock.

"We fought it to the end," said deli owner Frank Lawrence, whose wife Jan worked as a clerk in the post office.

Lawrence said the office had to close because his expenses in operating it weren't being matched by the amount the U.S. Postal Service was willing to reimburse him.

Most people served by the Centemoreland office had their addresses changed to Tunkhannock, but others found themselves with a Dallas address, with mail coming from that Luzerne County community.

*Notes record a wide area in Wyoming County plus areas in Luzerne County not shown on this map.*



MARK HOBAN / THE SUNDAY VOYCE

Supporters of the Noxen Post Office attend a rally where the temporary post office is located in the parking lot of the Noxen Food Mart. The United States Postal Service announced Friday plans to temporarily close the trailer Jan. 17.

# Noxen's message for post office

*Township residents rally to keep 'small-town institution' open*

By Ryan Grochowski  
Staff Writer

NOXEN TWP. — Clutching protest signs and cups of coffee, residents gathered around Cathie Pauley as she shouted through a bullhorn, perched on the steps of the Noxen Post Office mobile trailer.

The trailer has served as Noxen's post office after a June 2006 flood damaged the former office on Main Street. The United States Postal Service announced Friday plans to temporarily close the trailer Jan. 17. Noxen's mail delivery will be routed to the Harveys Lake post office.

About 60 residents rallied around the trailer Saturday afternoon to support what

they called a "small-town institution."

"It's time that the postal service get off their butts and give us a post office," Pauley clamored as people cheered.

"I think they're prejudiced against small-town post offices," she continued. "Well, we have our rights, too."

The postal service has 180 days to evaluate the fate of Noxen's post office. District managers for the U.S. Postal Service said keeping the small office open is costly and ineffective.

Resident Grace Nalbhone expects proposed wind turbines and gas drilling in Noxen to greatly increase the town's business and traffic.

"There's going to be a lot of people, a lot of activity in this

town," Nalbhone said. "But no post office?"

Noxen's postmaster Marty Lenkofsky estimated that if the approximate 150 residents who get mail delivered to the Noxen office drive to Harveys Lake's office three times a week, their automobiles would expend about 25,000 gallons of gas a year.

"Everyone talks about being green," Lenkofsky said. "Well, that's not a good green initiative."

State Rep. Karen Boback spoke briefly to the residents and promised to support the Noxen office.

"I'm here to mail some letters," she said to the crowd, holding up a handful of Christmas cards.

Pauley also thanked U.S. Rep.

Chris Carney and state Sen. Lisa Baker for speaking with U.S. Postal Service officials.

After the rally, many residents worried out loud about how people without cars would access their post office boxes — most currently walk to the trailer, located in the parking lot of the Noxen Food Mart. The Harveys Lake post office is about 5 miles from the center of Noxen.

Margie Bryant, Noxen's long-time rural route letter carrier, said eliminating the post office does more than merely inconvenience residents.

"It's the sense of community," she said. "It is the town's identity."

rgrochowski@citizensvoice.com  
570-821-2100

# Noxen residents livid over P.O. closing

BY JOSH MROZINSKI  
Wyoming County Press  
12/17/08 Examiner

NOXEN — Cathie Pauley is furious the U.S. Postal Service plans to suspend operations in the township after an existing lease for an office ends in January.

Pauley isn't alone. On Saturday at 1 p.m., residents plan to hold a rally at the office, which is located in a trailer at a parking lot at the Noxen Food Mart on Route 29.

"Basically, I think they (the postal service) are doing this because they can and they haven't thought it out, about how many people this will affect," Pauley said. "I know most people are up in arms."

Residents hope the rally will convince the postal service to have an office in the township.

A post office located on Main Street was closed after it was damaged in the June 2006 flood.

The office was then moved to the trailer at the food mart.

It serves Noxen, as well sur-

rounding communities, including parts of Monroe Township.

"The operations managers are still evaluating the situation and the exact day for the emergency suspension is unknown at this time," postal service spokesman Ray Dautolo in Philadelphia said. "Once that date has been identified, the customers will be notified in writing."

When the suspension takes effect, the postal service has 180 days to determine what steps to next take, Dautolo added.

"The public will be given an

opportunity to provide feedback during that time," Dautolo said.

He noted that the postal service is experiencing financial difficulties and that is why suspending service at "new post office projects at this point in time make good business sense."

According to the postal service, the financial troubles are being caused by rising costs, declining mail volumes and the recession.

The postal service is project-

(See Noxen on page 16)

## Noxen

(Continued from page 1)

ing a revenue loss of more than \$2 billion.

With the emergency suspension, 140 P.O. Box customers will be moved from the Noxen location to a post office in Harveys Lake.

Previously, rural deliveries were moved to the Harveys Lake location, Dautolo said.

The post office in Noxen is seen by residents as a vital part of the community's identity, Chuck Kovalick said.

Noxen has been home to a post office since 1888.

"It's a shame we would lose it," Kovalick said. "We don't have anything else."

## Don't want to lose Noxen post office

Dear Editor:

I am writing to remind folks about the Noxen Post Office closing. Our very own U.S. Government has decided that our little town is not important enough to have our own post office. As we all know, when a town loses its post office and zip code and it loses its identity. Isn't that what happened to Beaumont?

I wanted to encourage folks to attend the 'Save Our Post Office Rally' we Noxen residents are holding on Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. in the post office parking lot which is shared with the Noxen Market. There will be TV and newspaper coverage.

I had heard talk about the post office closing, last summer but I shrugged it off. I was too busy to bother at the time. But then my aunt called and asked me to paint some signs for the Post Office Rally on the 20th. I always help her out when possible, so I went over and painted those signs last Saturday afternoon. I hope they help because I'd hate to see our town lose its zip code, then be a forgotten town like Beaumont. But, it's a little too late for my suggestions because I failed to attend the town meetings. It's very important to attend those meetings, now isn't it?

Meanwhile we must do what we can to keep our identity. Our little town is progressing into the future with the windmills and the gas drilling and some newly paved roads in the future, yet it's taking a step back with the postal service. Did the township of Noxen have its own post office in 1895 when it was incorporated from Monroe Township where Beaumont is located? I imagine it did, so it must be nearly 114 years old. We do NOT want to drive all the way to Harvey's Lake to mail a package and take care of business, we want our zip code!

Lorraine Brelsford  
Noxen

12/17/08 Examiner

000140



JONATHAN J. JUKA PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Four-year-old Simon Vieczorek, of Noxen, does his part to save the post office in his town.

# Rallying to save the P.O.

Noxen residents rallied on Saturday, Dec. 20, at the temporary mobile postal facility on Route 29 in an attempt to save their post office.

The Noxen Post Office will likely undergo an emergency suspension of operation for up to 180 days beginning next month, said Ray Dautolo Sr., public affairs and communications representative for the Postal Service. Operations managers are evaluating the situation and the exact start date for the suspension is not known. Operations will suspend when the land lease expires in January.

The Noxen Post Office is housed in a trailer on property leased to the Postal Service.



At left, Noxen resident Kimberly Atkinson braves the cold to offer her support. Below, Kathy Pauley, of Noxen, rallies the crowd to save the post office.



ON THE WEB

To see more photos, go to [www.mydallaspost.com](http://www.mydallaspost.com)

000141

# Noxen residents fight for post office

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

After the flood of June 2006 destroyed the Victorian building that housed the Noxen Post Office, the office moved to a temporary mobile facility on Route 29.

Two years later, the office remains in the mobile unit and many residents fear the Noxen Post Office will be eliminated.

"As I understand it, the district is still evaluating this particular situation and no decision has been made at this time," said Ray Daiutolo Sr., a public affairs and communications representative for the United States Postal Service. "I understand that the lease for the property where the trailer is located is good to October. I am sure that this will be reviewed and a decision made before that lease expires."

Russ Newell, Sr. wrote a letter in July 2006 to the district postmaster, offering to build an expansion onto Noxen Food Mart, which he owns, for the use of the Postal Service. In his offer, Newell said he would charge the Postal Service only monthly rent, but not for the cost of the expansion.

Newell said the Postal Service never responded to his offer. He said he was forwarded a letter written by the Postal Service to then-Congressman Don Sherwood, indicating that his offer to build a space for the Postal Service had been sent to the facilities service office for future reference.

"I grew up in Noxen; I went to a one-room schoolhouse in Noxen," Newell said. "And if they take that post office out of here, that's the heart of the town. Anything I feel I could do to enhance Noxen or further the stability or future of it, I would try to do it."

Daiutolo says he spoke to the post office operations manager who said there may have been an offer made, but couldn't recall the details of the offer. According to Daiutolo, the postal service is required by law to publicly seek bids before a move can take place.

"From time to time, we will receive offers from people regarding buildings and facilities," Daiutolo said. "This happens whether or not we are actually actively looking to move a facility or not. As an organization, we are prohibited from sole soliciting and are required to follow certain guidelines. These guidelines stipulate that when we are moving forward on a potential facility project, we are required to advertise and solicit bids. Therefore, when we receive an offer or interest from a landowner, we will forward that to the facilities department for file."

Noxen resident Cathie Pauley has been leading a campaign to keep the post office in her town, having sent numerous letters to legislators and even one to the Postmaster General with a petition containing over 200 signatures of Noxen residents.

"They figure because we're from Noxen, we're just a bunch of uneducated locals," Pauley said.

See POST, Page 10

Delaware Post 112110

"We're proud of what our parents did and what our grandparents did," Pauley said.

Pauley is especially concerned about removing the town post office because she is a descendant of the Englemans, one of the founding families of Noxen. The Newells were also a Noxen founding family.

But we don't just serve Noxen. We serve Bowman's Creek, Beaumont, Evans Falls, Lake Township and part of Harveys Lake. "It affects way more people than they are considering. Centralizing is not always a good idea."

Continued from Page 1



Postal worker Tammy Traver hands mail to Noxen resident Martha Luketic. The mobile postal unit replaces the post office damaged by floodwaters two years ago. Residents fear the Noxen Post Office will be eliminated.

CHARLOTTE BARTZ/FOR THE DELAWARE POST

000142

-48-

# 39 USC 404 Sec. 404. Specific powers

39 USC - US Code - Title 39: Postal Service (January 2003)

**Permanent Link:** <http://vlex.com/vid/19236237>

**Id. vLex:** VLEX-19236237

Click [here](#) to download this article in graphic format (Acrobat Reader)

## Search in this document

 Exact phrase

## Document options

- [Printable page](#)
- [E-mail this](#)
- [Download this](#)

## Sponsored Ads:

### 2009 Post Office Jobs

Average starting pay \$20 per hour. Apply today. Call 1-800-910-9941  
[www.postalbatteryexam.com](http://www.postalbatteryexam.com)

### Us Postal Service Jobs

No Experience Necessary Full Benefits, Vacation, & More!  
[www.TestingAuthorityInc.net](http://www.TestingAuthorityInc.net)

### Title Loan Transferring

Complete Title & Closing Services Serving The Twin Cities  
[TitleProslnc.com](http://TitleProslnc.com)

Ads by Google

## Citations:

Loading article preview... 

000143

US Code - Title 29: Labor - 29 USC 651 - Sec. 651. Congressional statement of findings and declaration of purpose and

<http://vlex.com/vid/19236237>

12/24/2008

-49-

policy

- See other documents that cite the same legislation

**Text:**

(a) Without limitation of the generality of its powers, the Postal Service shall have the following specific powers, among others: (1) to provide for the collection, handling, transportation, delivery, forwarding, returning, and holding of mail, and for the disposition of undeliverable mail; (2) to prescribe, in accordance with this title, the amount of postage and the manner in which it is to be paid; (3) to determine the need for post offices, postal and training facilities and equipment, and to provide such offices, facilities, and equipment as it determines are needed; (4) to provide and sell postage stamps and other stamped paper, cards, and envelopes and to provide such other evidences of payment of postage and fees as may be necessary or desirable; (5) to provide philatelic services; (6) to provide, establish, change, or abolish special nonpostal or similar services; (7) to investigate postal offenses and civil matters relating to the Postal Service; (8) to offer and pay rewards for information and services in connection with violation of the postal laws, and, unless a different disposal is expressly prescribed, to pay one-half of all penalties and forfeitures imposed for violations of law affecting the Postal Service, its revenues, or property, to the person informing for the same, and to pay the other one-half into the Postal Service Fund; and (9) to authorize the issuance of a substitute check for a lost, stolen, or destroyed check of the Postal Service. (b)(1) The Postal Service, prior to making a determination under subsection (a) (3) of this section as to the necessity for the closing or consolidation of any post office, shall provide adequate notice of its intention to close or consolidate such post office at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of such closing or consolidation to persons served by such post office to ensure that such persons will have an opportunity to present their views. (2) The Postal Service, in making a determination whether or not to close or consolidate a post office - (A) shall consider - (i) the effect of such closing or consolidation on the community served by such post office; (ii) the effect of such closing or consolidation on employees of the Postal Service employed at such office; (iii) whether such closing or consolidation is consistent with the policy of the Government, as stated in section 101(b) of this title, that the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining; (iv) the economic savings to the Postal Service resulting from such closing or consolidation; and (v) such other factors as the Postal Service determines are necessary; and (B) may not consider compliance with any provision of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.). (3) Any determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office shall be in writing and shall include the findings of the Postal Service with respect to the considerations required to be made under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

Such determination and findings shall be made available to persons served by such post office. (4) The Postal Service shall take no action to close or consolidate a post office until 60 days after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office. (5) A determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate any post office may be appealed by any person served by such office to the Postal Rate Commission within 30 days after such determination is made available to such person under paragraph (3). The Commission shall review such determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of such determination.

The Commission shall make a determination based upon such review no later than 120 days after receiving any appeal under this paragraph.

The Commission shall set aside any determination, findings, and conclusions found to be - (A) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law; (B) without observance of procedure required by law; or (C) unsupported by substantial evidence on the record.

The Commission may affirm the determination of the Postal Service or order that the entire matter be returned for further consideration, but the Commission may not modify the determination of the Postal Service.

The Commission may suspend the effectiveness of the determination of the Postal Service until the final disposition of the appeal.

appealed in fiscal years 1995 and 1996. Attributes of affected communities included population and number of businesses, and attributes of post offices within these communities included level of postal service, postmaster salaries, post office revenues, and annual operating costs. In most cases, the annual operating costs of the closed post offices and those proposed to be closed exceeded their postal revenues.

## The Post Office Closing Process

The Postal Service has a detailed process for closing post offices. To assist its managers in deciding whether to close a post office, the Service developed and issued the Post Office Discontinuance Guide (Handbook PO-101), dated January 1, 1994, which provided policy guidance regarding the appropriate procedures for closing a post office. The guide states that three circumstances may prompt the Service to initiate a feasibility study to determine whether to close a post office: (1) a postmaster vacancy; (2) the emergency suspension of the operations of a post office; or (3) special circumstances, such as the incorporation of two communities into one.

According to the guide, under any of these circumstances, postal managers may conduct a study to evaluate the post office workload and the service needs of the community. In addition, postal managers are to

- consult with county or city officials for information on population, area or post office building historical significance, and growth trends within the community;
- consult with managers of the post office under consideration for closure and nearby offices that may provide alternative service;
- analyze and rank alternative postal services in order of practicality, costs, and the maintenance of effective and regular service to the community;
- hold public meetings, poll affected customers using questionnaires, and propose alternative postal services at less cost; and
- give customers written notice of Service proposals, decisions, and appeal rights. (See br. section I.)

## Number of Post Offices Closed

According to Service records, since fiscal year 1970, the Service has closed 3,924 post offices, leaving 26,189 post offices open at the end of fiscal year 1996. These closures averaged 218 per year during the 6-year period (fiscal years 1970-75) before the 1976 amendments, while closures averaged 124 per year for the 21-year period (fiscal years 1976-96) after the amendments. In fiscal year 1995, the Service closed 239 post offices--the

*Post Office Closing Process*

000145

customers is the most efficient way to serve our customers, increase our profits, and become a much more sophisticated marketer and provider of services. Second, NSAs—and not necessarily big ones—are the perfect vehicles to test drive the new and creative concepts that we desperately need to develop in order to survive and prosper.

New and creative ideas are wonderful things, but they are a dime a dozen until they are actually tried; that is, until they are tested. Testing—going out and *actually trying new ideas and creative concepts* instead of just talking about them—is the key to the development of new and innovative products. The Postal Service has not been very good about doing this in the past. We hope this will change in the future.

We trust that both the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission understand that the fundamental principles of sound management and innovation require the Postal Service to try new things, and that trying new things means taking, balancing, and managing small risks, with the emphasis on the balancing and managing rather than the taking. Unless the Postal Service actually goes out and tries new ideas—without worrying whether they are going to work perfectly or not—and actually finds out how and where the new ideas will work well and how and where they will not, we are not going to see the innovations we so desperately need.

An extremely critical part of this effort will be the Postal Regulatory Commission having the breadth and depth of vision necessary to understand that the Postal Service must take these relatively insignificant risks on the market-dominant side if it wants to innovate, or it will slowly whither away and die. If the Postal Regulatory Commission won't allow the Postal Service to try new things without making any mistakes, it does not make any difference whether the Postal Service wants to innovate or not.

Put another way, without the Postal Service trying to innovate, and without the Postal Regulatory Commission giving it freedom to make mistakes in

doing so, all the time and trouble that everyone took to pass postal reform, including the time of all the members of this subcommittee, will have been in vain. The company that takes no risks never innovates.

## II. State of Postmasters

In the past we have come before this Committee to express our concern about the workload that is being thrust upon Postmasters, and how 60- and 70-hour work weeks are becoming all too common. Unless I have missed something, a five-day work week is still the law of the land and the norm for all businesses. I know of no other industry where top management is trying to turn back the clock on the five-day work week, and we wish the Postal Service would stop trying to do so.

In a somewhat related vein, one of the major issues in the postal area today is that of contracting out. While this is not an issue upon which the League has taken an official position, we do have certain strong philosophical concerns about the matter.

Putting aside the question of possible union busting—which is not a good thing to do—there is a very real public policy question of whether we want to end up creating another class of postal-related personnel that receive little training, low pay, no medical insurance, and no benefits. What will that do to our society? How many more uninsured people would that throw into the mix? What will this do to the postal system? Also, what will this do to the image or the reality of the postal letter carriers?

While it is hard enough as it is in our modern system to measure up to that famous motto "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from their appointed rounds," a massive shift to contracting out would make that simply impossible. As the League has said before and as we reiterate now, the issue of contracting out is a very important issue that must be worked out between the Postal Service and the unions.

Until and unless the unions and the Postal Service agree on some reasonable

solution to this issue, the problem is not going to go away. It has already brought down morale in the field to a noticeable degree, and it will potentially bring it down even farther. Both the Postal Service and the unions need to work together to come to some common understanding on this issue, for the long term and for the good of everyone.

## III. Rural America, Rural Post Offices and the Universal Service Obligation

As the committee knows, I am from rural America where small towns are the norm. Indeed it is difficult to get smaller than Gold Run, California, where I was appointed Postmaster in 1986. Gold Run is a community of several hundred people, nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

Keeping rural America healthy is critical for the political, economic, and social well-being of America. The glue that binds rural America together is our postal system and the local post offices. Rural America has not gone out of style. Nor is it about to. Communication by paper has not disappeared from our system. Nor is it about to. If we want to keep rural America strong, and by extension to keep America strong, we need to keep our rural postal system strong.

### Rural Post Offices.

The role rural post offices play in rural America goes far beyond the mere delivery of mail. It is a role that goes to the essence of rural cohesion and to what makes up the notion of "community." The rural post office is an institution that literally binds rural America together—culturally, socially, politically, and economically. It, along with the rural newspaper, set the framework within which rural communities operate. To interfere with either is to interfere with the fundamental dynamics of rural communities and to risk the destruction of them.

It is in the rural post offices that community members encounter one another each and every day, greet each other every morning, and daily reinforce their ties of community. Rural post offices

*Continued on Page 24*

Testimony of Charles W. Maps, President of the National League of Postmasters  
Before the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia  
Of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the  
United States House of Representatives • June 8, 2008

serve as gathering places where social news is exchanged and political issues are discussed, often with some heat. It is in the rural post offices that political questions are addressed, sides argued, and opinions formed. It is where friendships are made and maintained, and scouts and scout masters scouted and recruited. It is the forum where municipal and county leaders are formed, the forum where their criteria for office discussed and debated, and the forum where the decisions that will be carried out at the ballot box are made. It is the one place where local leaders can go and take the pulse of their community and find out just what are the burning issues of the day.

Local post offices also provide space for community bulletin boards and post federal notices. They are shelter where children can wait for the school bus.

None of these functions are functions that can be filled by having rural letter carriers sell stamps from their cars.

Moreover, in some rural areas, Postmasters play a very important social role that has nothing to do with the postal system or postal revenues. These are roles whose value cannot really be measured in dollars, and it is in part for these roles that the universal service mandate exists and the private express statutes remain. For instance, many rural Postmasters help customers with low literacy levels in a variety of ways, providing assistance in writing checks and money orders to pay bills.

Many rural Postmasters address envelopes for their patrons, as well as read and explain mail to them. As such, they perform a valuable social function and have done so for centuries. In a related vein, state and federal forms are available on site, and rural Postmasters often help local citizens with these. Without rural Postmasters, this social need would not be met. The rural post office is an icon of rural America, and neither Congress nor the Postal Service should tamper with it. This is because, as the committee knows well, once a rural town's post office disappears, the town often shrivels up and dies.

Finally, we would once again like to

reiterate that the cost of keeping rural post offices open is *de minimus*. As we pointed out many times, the cost of the 10,000 smallest post offices—about one-third of all post offices in the United States—is less than 1 percent (1%) of the total budget of the Postal Service. That is a small price to pay for the social, cultural, political, and economic stability that America has for so long enjoyed in rural America.

#### The Universal Service Obligation

As the League stated in its appearance before the President's Commission on the Postal Service several years ago, the defining public policy that has guided and governed the Postal Service from the early years of our history to the present has been the vision of a universal mail service. That vision was founded on the notion of equal access to postal services that would connect the American people for generations to come.

Equality demanded that the Post Office Department set at least one uniform rate so that a single stamp could get a letter from any place in America to its destination anywhere in America—whether around the block or across the country. Equality demanded that the government provide postal services to everyone, not just the privileged and well-to-do, including rural and urban areas that some perceive as being unprofitable.

The League strongly believes that we in the Postal Service should never lose that orientation. Mail service every day to every address and every resident in the country is a fundamental right of being an American.

It is important to state for the record that while we understand that developments in the world of electronic communication have altered the dynamics of mail, it really hasn't diminished.

There are some that say that post offices that operate at a loss or do not pay their way should be closed.

The question of post offices operating at a loss or paying their own way is not an easy question to address. This is because the system the Postal Services uses to determine whether a post office is "making a profit" keys on the amount

of revenue accepted at that post office, regardless of where the deliveries are to be completed. Thus, the postage for a hypothetical mailing of 15,000 is all credited to the post office where the mailing is entered and none of the revenue to the post offices where the actual pieces are delivered.

That situation creates an enormous disconnect. For most of the costs of delivering those 15,000 pieces are borne by the post offices of delivery (to which no revenue is credited) and not the post office of origin (to which all the revenue is credited). Thus, the system inherently skews the relationship of revenue and costs among the nation's post offices and should call into question the very notion of a post office "operating" at a loss, the importance of the postal system to rural America, nor the role of the Postal Service, and no one has suggested anything to the contrary.

The Postal Service still is the economic backbone of this country and critical to the social, cultural, political, and economic well-being of rural America and is going to remain so for the foreseeable future. Any change in its universal service obligation would negatively affect that function. Some economists would suggest that universal service and the private express statutes have outlived their usefulness. They are, no doubt, the same economists that argued for the deregulation of the airline industry and for the deregulation of electricity.

Speaking as a president of a national organization who must fly constantly, and as a resident of California, I surely do not want the Postal Service to devolve to the level of today's airlines, nor to the level of the electric companies in California, where—just as in certain third-world countries—rolling blackouts were quite common for a while. See e.g., <http://blackoutstatus.sdge.com/reo/>;

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/blackout/california/timeline.html>; see also

[www.redecross.org/static/file\\_cont1359\\_lang0\\_609.pdf](http://www.redecross.org/static/file_cont1359_lang0_609.pdf).

Thank you for considering our views, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have. •



Fax Transmittal Form

TO

Name:	DENISE HOSEY
Company:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Fax:	[REDACTED]

Urgent:	Date: 11-27-07
For Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number of pages including cover: 7
Please Comment:	
Please Reply:	

Message:

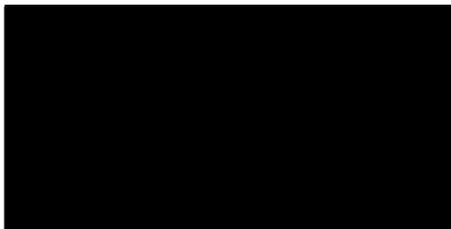
HI DENISE

THIS IS THE CORRESPONDENCE  
 I HAVE HAD WITH THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT  
 I AM WILLING TO CONTACT THEM AGAIN

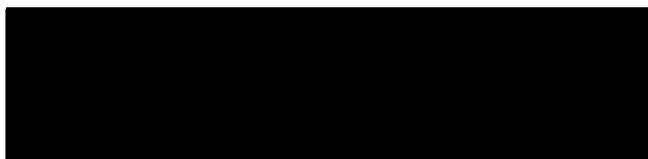
REGARDS,

*Russ*

000148



July 20, 2006



Dear Mr. Burke,

This letter is in reference to the U.S. Post Office in Noxen, Penna. The Post Office in Noxen is in an old building with many negative features. Some of the negative features include the lack of off street parking, insufficient heating systems, no air conditioning, no loading dock, no handicap access, and it was flooded this year.

The Noxen post office serves around 500 families on the Rural Route and has about 150 Post Office Box Customers. The people of Noxen also rely on the other services this Post Office provides for them.

There is a new convenience store on Tunkhannock Road in Noxen called Noxen Food Mart, which is located a block from the existing Post Office . We would like to construct an addition, to your size and specifications. We could include a handicap access, off street parking, new heating and air conditioning, a loading dock and a modern rest room or rooms. It would be constructed to the postal department's fire and security standards. This location has never been flooded. We and the residents feel the town of Noxen would lose its identity if the post office was closed.

We are confident that we could do this and stay within the U.S. Postal Department's lease budget. We look forward to hearing from you on this very important matter.

Respectfully Yours,

Russell G. Newell

CC: Honorable Charles D. Lemmond  
Honorable George C. Hasay  
Honorable Donald D. Sherwood

000149

