



Horned Dorset Colony

Post Office Box 182, Leonardsville, NY 13364
RECEIVED

2011 AUG 22 A 11: 22

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chairman

AUG 18 2011

A2011-51

Honorable Ruth Goldway
Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 200, West Tower
Washington DC, 20268

August 12, 2011

Dear Chairman Goldway,

I wrote to you on May 15, 2011 about the possible closing of our Post Office in Leonardsville, NY (Docket# 1370252-13364), and received a very kind reply from Annie Kennedy, Consumer Relations Specialist, dated June 7, 2011. We are now in the official period of appeal and I begin this process with great misgivings knowing that the unilateral actions of the USPS may preempt any further discussion and our post office will be lost forever.

On the chance that the closure of rural post offices will actually be reviewed case by case, I am appealing to your Commission's oversight in these matters by briefly stating our own case, but judging from the form letters we have received from USPS (copies enclosed), we believe that they have already eliminated us.

Located in a beautiful but economically disadvantaged area of upstate New York, we consider our post office as an important component of our economic recovery. Already, we have lost one potential local business, a medical billing company, which was discouraged from locating here by the prospect of the post office closure. Another developing local business, an artists' residency program, which relies heavily on certified postmarked applications, recommendations, and shipment of work samples, would be greatly handicapped by the loss of our post office. 2011-12 is the inaugural year for this business and comparing its potential for increasing postal revenue with a similar business in Vermont (see attached email from Vermont Studio Center) indicates that this business alone might double the revenue of our post office within a period of two years. Also, a restaurant will open here in 2012 as

a direct effect of the residency program. There are good indications that other new businesses will follow.

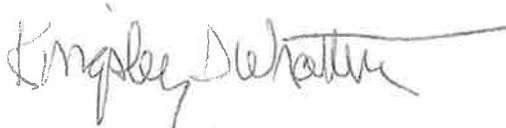
At present, a great percentage of our community are retired and elderly. We believe that the intention of the Postal Regulatory Act of 1970 was to insure these citizens with efficient postal service. Loss of our post office would place an undue hardship on them, forcing them to drive 10 miles to get their mail and almost certainly prevent them from receiving important medications during the harsh upstate winter months.

The Leonardsville Post Office is also important in the annals of U.S. postal history as one of the first to be established in the former "Indian Territory" after the Revolution.

Bill Owens, our Congressional Representative, is familiar with our anxiety and feelings of helplessness. He has pledged his support (see attached letter) against this constitutionally dubious aggression. Nevertheless, it is discouraging to think that the appeal process may be just that: a "process" which USPS, above criticism or censure, must simply tolerate to achieve their predetermined objectives.

Please contact me if you wish additional supporting information in regards to this appeal before our deadline date of September 10, 2011. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Kingsley D. Wratten

enclosed:

photo and map of the historic Leonardsville Post Office

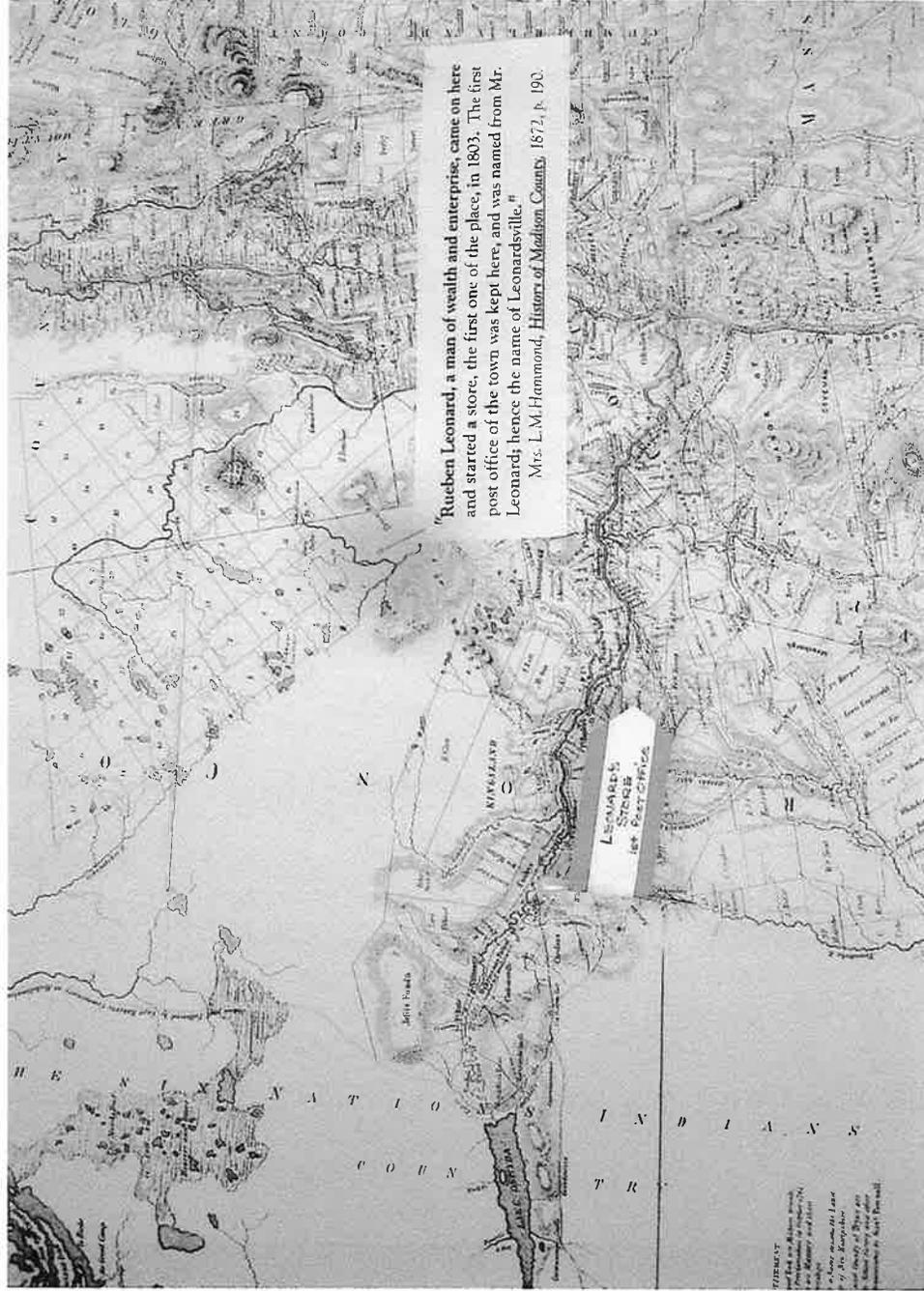
email from Vermont Studio Center

petition from Leonardsville Post Office customers

email from Congressman Bill Owens

statement from the Upper Unadilla Valley Association

assorted form letters from USPS



"Rueben Leonard, a man of wealth and enterprise, came on here and started a store, the first one of the place, in 1803. The first post office of the town was kept here, and was named from Mr. Leonard; hence the name of Leonardsville."

Mrs. L.M. Hammond, *History of Madison County*, 1871, p. 190.

STATEMENT
 This map is published under the authority of the
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, and is intended to
 show the location of the town of Leonardsville,
 Indiana, and its surrounding territory.
 It is based on the original survey of the
 town, made by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
 and is published by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
 Washington, D.C., 1871.

From: Kathy Black <kblack@vermontstudiocenter.org>
Subject: **Fwd: Another residency looking to know how much we spent on postage**
Date: May 6, 2011 3:27:19 PM EDT
To: Roberta Wratten <honeyroad@gmail.com>

Dear Roberta and Kingsley,
Thanks for your e-mail and I am sorry it took a while to reply. It was a very hectic April. I am catching up now and our bookkeeper put our postage numbers below. Hope all is well.

Best,

Kathy

Kathy Black
Program Director
Vermont Studio Center
P.O. Box 519
Johnson, VT 05656
802-635-2727

Begin forwarded message:

From: Louise Cross <[REDACTED]>
Date: May 6, 2011 2:41:43 PM EDT
To: Kathy Black <[REDACTED]>
Subject: **Re: Another residency looking to know how much we spent on postage**

Kathy, for Admin., operations, and development: 2009 approx. \$24,000, 2010 approx. \$22,000.

On May 6, 2011, at 2:11 PM, Kathy Black wrote:

Hi Louise,
Do you have a number for VSC postage for 2009 or 10.
Thanks
Kathy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roberta Wratten <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 21, 2011 11:34:44 AM EDT
To: Kathy Black <[REDACTED]>
Subject: your Horned Dorset Colony support

Dear Kathy,

From: "Congressman Bill Owens" <NY23WOIMA@mail.house.gov>
Subject: **Reply from Congressman Bill Owens**
Date: May 6, 2011 8:57:30 AM EDT
To: <hueyroad@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Wratten,

Thank you for contacting me about potential post office closures or consolidations. I appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns with me, and the opportunity to share an update with you on the work I've done on this issue.

As you know, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has slated the possible closure or consolidation of several Northern and Central New York post office facilities in the coming year. You and I agree that the timely and accessible delivery of needed goods and services to rural regions like Upstate New York is important to ensure long-term economic growth. That is why I recently sent a letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe urging him to reconsider the USPS's misguided attempt to alleviate its financial difficulties by closing or consolidating rural postal facilities, which is not an efficient means for returning the USPS's fiscal house to order.

You may also be interested to know that I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act. I believe this legislation will help the USPS system work better for its customers and employees while recovering funds that could be used to preserve rural mail service.

Please be assured I will keep your comments in mind as I continue working to support rural post office facilities and their employees during the 112th Congress.

Again, thank you for contacting me about this important issue. To receive updates on my work in New York and Washington, please visit my website at www.owens.house.gov. Should you have additional comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open as I believe that we function better as a society when we engage in nonpartisan, civil discourse.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens
Member of Congress

Upper Unadilla Valley Association Statement Against Closing the Leonardsville Post Office

The Upper Unadilla Valley Association (UUVA) opposes the proposed closing of the Leonardsville Post Office. The UUVA is a non-profit organization that has worked for more than three decades to protect and preserve the Upper Unadilla Valley's natural and historic resources.

The UUVA urges the U.S. Postal Service to keep the post office open for the community for the following reasons:

- It is our understanding that the post office takes in at least \$52,000 per year, indicating it is a busy rural postal operation. The post office provides a service for not just the box holders, but also for large numbers of people driving north toward Utica after working at the New York Central Mutual Insurance Company in Edmeston, as well as for those living over the river who actually have other zip codes.

This postal location helps those users save fuel. Requiring everyone to drive farther to send or pick up a package, buy stamps or use other postal services will only increase our use of energy. This is not a trend we should be pursuing.

- The UUVA uses the post office community board to post announcements of events during the year. It is one of the most effective ways to share such information with local residents.
- The UUVA also uses the Post Office for its mailings.
- Because the building is historic to Leonardsville, supporting its preservation fits with the UUVA's mission. More importantly, the post office provides a great use for such a building.

The post office is one of the last public entities of a once vibrant community. Closing it only serves to further harm the economy of rural Upstate New York. People tend to want to live where there are at least some basic services, and closing the post office will remove one of the last basic services available. It also will create one more empty building, which may only help drive down local property values.

- The post office is essentially the last community meeting place left in Leonardsville. There is no other place for residents of all ages to regularly meet and greet each other daily or weekly.



05/03/2011

ROBERTA WRATTEN
PO BOX 182
LEONARDSVILLE, NY 13364

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for returning your questionnaire concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Leonardsville Post Office. Your comments, along with others received, will be included in the official record and considered carefully before further action is taken.

In response to your letter:

- You expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox. Customers are not required to erect rural mailboxes. Customers may receive PO Box service from the administrative Post Office located _____ miles away.
- You expressed a concern about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows. Please contact the administrative postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.

If it is determined that a discontinuance of the Leonardsville Post Office should be pursued, a formal proposal will be posted in the Bridgewater Post Office and Leonardsville Post Office at a later date. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Nadine Tremblay at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Shepardson".

Brian Shepardson
Manager, Post Office Operations
30 Karner Rd
Albany, NY, 12288-9992



06/02/2011

KINGSLEY WRATTEN
PO BOX 182
LEONARDSVILLE, NY 13364

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments on the proposal to consolidate the LEONARDSVILLE. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.
- You expressed a concern about senior citizens. Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Bridgewater Postmaster for more information.
- You expressed a concern about the loss of the Communities' identity. A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the suspended Post Office name and ZIP Code in addresses and in the National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory.

I realize that with change there is always concern. However, we are confident that rural route service will continue to provide you with effective and regular service. If you have questions or further comments concerning this change in service, please feel free to contact Nadine Tremblay at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Shepherd".

Manager, Post Office Operations
30 Karner Rd
Albany, NY, 12288-9992



07/21/2011

ROBERTA WRATTEN
PO BOX 182
LEONARDSVILLE, NY 13364

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Leonardsville Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service -- found at the Locate A Post Office tab at www.usps.com --- can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the usps.com website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product -- stamps -- in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers.
- Part of our obligation to study expenses includes an assessment of our infrastructure. The Postal Service spends nearly \$2 billion on building expenses to operate its real estate inventory of more than 34,000 facilities. In 1970, with passage of the Postal Reorganization Act, the old Post Office Department was transformed into the U.S. Postal Service. At that time more than 2,000 facilities served as our primary, outgoing mail processing locations. Today, that number has been reduced to less than 300. As mailing habits of the nation change, we must consider the careful, but continuous streamlining of our retail facility footprint as well. For all postal facilities, annual net rental costs exceed \$1 billion. This expense reflects the fact that almost three-quarters of Postal Service facilities are leased. As we study facilities to take out of our network, we look at leasing costs as well as ancillary costs like utilities. We have an aggressive energy conservation program in place at all of our facilities and the Postal Service estimates that it has already saved around \$400 million in facility energy costs since 2006. Shorter hours at leased facilities reduce, but do not eliminate, pressures on our overhead expenses as we need at this time.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.
If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Nadine Tremblay at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Krul".

Michelle Krul
Manager, Post Office Operations
30 Karner Rd
Albany, NY, 12288-9992



07/21/2011

ROBERTA WRATTEN
PO BOX 182
LEONARDSVILLE, NY 13364

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Leonardsville Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a Post Office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.
If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Nadine Tremblay at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Krul".

Michelle Krul
Manager, Post Office Operations
30 Karner Rd
Albany, NY, 12288-9992



07/21/2011

KINGSLEY WRATTEN
PO BOX 182
LEONARDSVILLE, NY 13364

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Leonardsville Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Postal review of local office operations follows a strict process dictated by regulation. The community-based meeting is designed to collect public comments from a cross-section of users of a facility. Additional access is provided by a questionnaire and a mailing address for lengthier comments. Multiple options allow customers to comment, publicly or privately, regardless of personal schedule. We conduct one meeting per location to assure consistency and fair levels of participation for all communities.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Nadine Tremblay at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Krul".

Michelle Krul
Manager, Post Office Operations
30 Karner Rd
Albany, NY, 12288-9992

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED POSTAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS IN LEONARDSVILLE, N.Y., DO NOT BELIEVE THAT "A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE WAY (OUR) POSTAL SERVICE IS PROVIDED" WOULD BE POSITIVE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD DO IRREPARABLE HARM TO OUR COMMUNITY.

	NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
1	Knipf Walter	A	4/20/11
2	Knipf Walter		4/20/11
3	Robert Walter		4/20/11
4	Tommy Duggan		4-20-11
5	Nancy Ange		4-21-11
6	Jim Dault		4.21.11
7	Angeline Steptoe		4/21/11
8	DeWaf		4/21/11
9	Richard T McNamee		4/21/11
10	Daniel Huns		4/21/11
11	Jean Davis		4/21/11
12	Leah G. Doughty		4-21-11
13	Barb Land		4/21/11
14	Judy Beach		4/21/11
15	Tom Mazzoni		" "
16	Melinda Ward		Leonardsville, NY 4/21/11
17	Lynn Duggan		Leonardsville 4/21/11
18	Don Long		Leonardsville NY 4/21/11
19	Carolyn Pritchard		Leonardsville NY 13364
20	Wendy Barnett		Leonardsville NY 4/21/11
21	Russ Mulvihill		175 Leonardsville 4/21/11
22	Cheryl Tortwell		Leonardsville 4/21/11

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

	NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
23	Lindsey Davis	ville NY 13364	4/22/11
24	Mary Van Dyke	Leonardsville	4-29-11
25	Richard Fralick	Leonardsville	4/22/11
26	Lyle Jones	Leonardsville	4-22-11
27	James E. Fletcher	Leonardsville	4-22-11
28	Margaret Hughes	Leonardsville	4/22/11
29	Carol B. Le	Leonardsville, N.Y.	4/22/11 13364
30	Babs Wheeler	Leonardsville NY 13364	
31	Rebecca Tiller	Leonardsville	
32	Renae Nollen	Leonardsville	4-23
33	Brian Witter	Leonardsville	13364
34	Amanda Effner	Leonardsville	13364
35	Clint Effner	Leonardsville	13364
36	Pat Gunk	Leonardsville	13364 4/23/11
37	T.W. DATMAN	Leonardsville	13364
38	Lorraine McDuffy	Dr. West Winfield NY	13364 4/23/11
39	John Paparella	Dr. W. Winfield NY	13364 4/23/11
40	Paul H. Hiko	Leonardsville	13364
41	Frederick C. S.	Dr., Utica NY	13501
42	Jon Jh	W. FOMERON NY	13465 4/25/11
43	David P. Soto	L-Link	4-25-11
44	Dawn Scholtz	Leonardsville	4-25-11
45	John Stevens	Leonardsville NY	13364
46	Diane Castle	Leonardsville NY	13364
47	Mark		
48	Marep Mein	Leonardsville	
49			

	NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
77	Brian K Chase	Leonardsville	4-25-11
78	Corey R Hill	Leonardsville	4-26-11
79	TRAVIS OSTRANDER	N. EDGESTON NY	4-26-11
80	DAVE BOKETT	NY	4-27-11
81	Bonnie Kurch	2 Leonardsville	4-26-11
82	Wendy Tanney	Ad. W. Winfield	4-26-11
83	Pamela Witter	13364	4-26-11
84	Shelly Jones	3364	4-26-11
85	Jayne Kabana	13364	4-26-11
86	Elaine Boback	13364	4-26-11
87	William H. Lee	78-13364	4-27-11
88	Fred & Dorothy C.	77 13364	4-26-11
89	Jaye Word	3364	4/26/11
90	Kendra E. Gray	3364	4/26/11
91	Ross Word	3354	4/25/11
92	Karen Chilson	13364	4/25/11
93	David F. Hunter	3364	4/26/11
94	Z	3364	
95	Jo Kay	364	4/26/11
96	Kimberly Eggleston	3364	4-26-11
97	LeRoy Egey	3364	4-26-11
98	Will Lewis	3364	4/26/11
99	Lu Roberts	3364	4-27-11
100	Renee Moore	364	4-27-11
101	Erin Palmer	13364	4-27-11
102	Ruth Palmer	13364	4-27-11
103	Bonnie Adams	13364	4-27-11

104	Bruce Adams P.	3364
105	Dorothy Bunker W.	13485
106	C. Schwin	3364
107	Bruce Edrington	13364
108	John M. Hopson	3 13364
109	Joseph C. Korman	7 13364
110	Tom R. Wmms	Aug 8 13485
111	Andy Tully P.	13364
112	Anita Sirke I	13364
113	Joan Rudek P.	Brooklyn NY 13364
114	Robby Wmms	West Virginia NY 13485
115	Tamara Lewis	13364
116	Elaine Whitten	13364
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