

Postal Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 23, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Argyle post office located in Argyle, Florida. The petition for review was filed by Blythe D. Gottlieb (Petitioner) and is postmarked September 15, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 11, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: September 27, 2011

Attachment

A2011-89

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

SEP 20 2011

Blythe D. Gottlieb

P.O. Box 31

Argyle, FL 32422

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 23 P 1:17

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

901 NEW YORK AVENUE NW SUITE 200

WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF APPEAL TO FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
ARGYLE POST OFFICE**

RE: DOCKET NUMBER 1353310-32422

The Postal Service's decision to close our post office and provide rural delivery service raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risks involved concerning identity theft in the handling of our mail. We also foresee inconveniences in purchasing money orders and stamps, and sending accountable mail. We have the same concerns regarding the receipt of accountable mail, such as certified letters, registered letters, and COD's.

A serious concern previously brought before the Postal Service and not considered nor addressed in Number 13 of the final determination is the safety of our senior citizens. A large number of the customers served by the Argyle Post Office are elderly and/or handicapped. They are not able to ambulate quickly when crossing the road and their vision and hearing is poor. According to the response listed in Number 7 of the final determination it states that mailboxes must be placed on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of the carrier's travel. This means that these persons will have to cross a busy road in order to access their mailboxes. This creates a credible safety issue.

Also, there is no public transportation available to take these persons to the post office located in DeFuniak Springs where there are often long waiting lines. The elderly and the handicapped are unable to stand in these lines for any length of time. So accessing another post office for services is not an option for this population.

Another concern previously brought before the Postal Service and not considered nor addressed in Number 7 of the final determination is the hardship placed on the elderly, handicapped, and widows in installing and maintaining mailboxes. This large population is made up of persons with limited resources. For them to initially purchase a mailbox, install it, and then to maintain and/or replace mailboxes that are damaged due to vandalism will create a financial burden and a physical hardship for them.

We also have concerns pertaining to Paragraphs III and IV in the final determination. Paragraph III states that the postmaster retired on November 21, 2009. She was actually on leave without pay until the year 2010. The current OIC reported to work on Nov. 21, 2009. We question the accuracy/proof of the amount of economic savings listed under Salary and Benefits in the final determination.

Paragraph IV states that the postmaster salary with benefits is \$33,168 plus \$11,111. The current OIC is not a Postmaster and her pay grade is not the same as a Postmaster. Therefore her salary is/was less than that of a Postmaster. The Postal Service does not pay /provide for her any benefits. The annual lease costs listed in Paragraph IV at \$4800 is also incorrect. We believe that the correct amount is \$3300 per year. Therefore we question the accuracy/proof of the amount of economic savings listed in the final determination under Salary, Benefits, and Lease Costs.

A final concern pertains to the information that we were told by Postal Authorities saying that we could maintain our current mailing addresses if we moved our post office boxes to the DeFuniak Springs Post Office. This option is not listed in the final determination to close the Argyle Post Office.

We understand that Post Office revenues are down nationwide for a number of reasons. Locally, some post office customers have heard the negative news about the financial condition of the Postal Service. They have determined that the closing of the Argyle Post Office is inevitable. They are afraid that their ability to receive mail will be interrupted dramatically. Since early 2011, they have prematurely taken measures such as closing their post office boxes causing more reductions in the number of transactions and revenues coming into the Argyle Post Office. We suspect these box closings are occurring nationwide because of the anxiety caused by the uncertainty of the future of the Postal Service based on the financial information being received by post office customers. This further contributes to lower Postal Service Revenues overall.

We would suggest that instead of closing our facility and other post offices located in rural areas where there are very limited or no resources that you order the Postal Service to consider closing branch facilities in larger urban areas. Larger urban areas have more resources available to the disadvantaged in helping them to get to other locations for services and assistance. We would also suggest that you order the Postal Service to consider continuing operations at the Argyle Post Office with an OIC and a PMR who are already in place. Both of these pay grades are considerably lower than that of a Postmaster and do not include paid benefits thereby reducing operating costs to a minimum to the Postal Service. The performance of the OIC and the PMR is excellent and the customers of the Argyle Post Office do not feel that a Postmaster in that office would enhance the service in any way. We would suggest that if under Title 39, U.S. Code an assigned Postmaster is required in a rural Post Office then another cost cutting measure be implemented bringing rural post offices/OIC's/ PMR's under the umbrella of the jurisdiction of Postmasters in the larger facilities located nearby.

We feel that as citizens of the United States, we are entitled to 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 appeal and order the Postal Service to give additional considerations to our service needs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Blythe Gottlieb". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Blythe Gottlieb

Enc: Signed Petition

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. 3-21-2011	W. C. Liles	Baroness
2. 3-21-2011	Kathryn Hobbs	
3. 3-21-2011	Salvatore Robinson	
4. 3-21-11	Robert L. Carter	
5. 3-21-11	Janice S. Jones	
6. 3-21-11	F. Estep	
7. 3-21-11	Tommy S. Jones	
8. 3-21-11	Michael Strutz	1121
9. 3-21-11	George S. Jones	1121
10. 3-21-11	Mantra Howell	1121
11. 3-21-11	Fannie	1121
12. 3-21-11	Charles Morrow	1121
13. 3-21-11	Bert Adams	1121

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
14.	3/21/11	Debra King	3
15.	3/21/11	Anderson Reed	2
16.	3/21/11	Theresa A. Harris	2
17.	3/21/11	3/21/11 - [unclear]	
18.	3/21/11	St. John's Church	
19.	3/21/11	Jamie Tolbert	
20.	3/21/11	Paul Underhill	1
21.	3-21-11	Ryan Rushing	100
22.	3-21-11	Justin Livingston	160
23.	3-21-11	R Miller	87
24.	3-21-11	Samuel Nelson	21
25.	3-21-11	Joyce Williams	2
26.	3-21-11	David Byers	5

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps, who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
27. 3-21-11	Ezekiel Gordon	
28. 3-21-11	Carman Caryl	
29. 3-21-11	David Payne	
30. 3-21-11	Annette Lawrence	
31. 3-21-11	Jeremy Marcus	
32. 3-21-11	Attcher Fisher	
33. 3-21-11	Cath ...	
34. 3-22-11	Tommy Gires	
35. 3/22/11	Tran ...	
36. 3/22/11	Tom ...	
37. 3/22/11	Ang ...	
38. 3/22/11	Lina McKee	
39. 3-22-11	JASON AND MANHA MEEKER	
4-28-11	John ...	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
40. 3/23/11	JAMES ALFORD	
41. 3/23/11	Bob White	
42. 3-23-11	Henry Thomas	
43. 3-23-11	Eric A. Washington	
44. 3-23-11	Jessie Washington 31	
45. 3-23-11	Harley Routley	
46. 3-23-11	Jaske Routley	
47. 3-23-11	Gene Baker	
48. 3-23-11	Henry Calver	
49. 3-23-11	ER HATFIELD	
50. 3-23-11	Jayle Roudley	
51. 3-23-11	Marta	P
52. 3/23/11	Michelle Duffett MICHELLE DUFFETT	P

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
53.	3-24-11	Josh Jones	
54.	3-24-11	Robin Stanley	
55.	3-24-11	ANTON J GEIGER	
56.	3-24-11	Mark Henderson	47
57.	3-24-11	Cecil Johnson	19
58.	3-24-11	Kle Martin	
59.	3-24-11	Roger Caproni	
60.	3-24-11	Tina Caproni	
61.	3-25	Shirley	
62.	3-25	Tony	
63.	3-25	Bruce Smith	
64.	3-25	Ricky Fox	9
65.	3-25	J. Sheffield	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

DATE NAME ADDRESS

- 66. 3/25/11 Jennifer McArthur
- 67. 3/25/11 Diana Garcia
- 68. 3-25-11 Senta Kelley, B018
- 69. 3-25-11 Pat Winters
- 70. 3-26-11 Willie James - 608
- 18-11 71. Calvin Ruffin Sr. 112
- 25-11 72. Angela Ruffin A
- 8-11 73. Donald P. Carr 2
- 8-11 74. Jermiah Cates 114
- 9-11 75. Jessica Harris 114
- 24-11 76. Louis Roberts 260
- 29-11 77. Elvira Baldwin 247

Total 112 Signatures

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. 3/21/11	Charles Dry	
2. 3/22/11	Seahie Masly	
3. 3/22/11	James Smith	
4. 3/22/11	James Smith	
5. 3-22-11	D. ROBERTS	2402 7th 143 90
6. 3-22-11	CARI HALL	
7. 3-22-11	Diana C. Hester	
8. 03/22/11	Garrett C. Mitchell	
9. 3-22-11	KENNETH W. ROBERTS	22
10. 3-22-11	TAMMY PAYNE	11
11. 3-22-11	Carolina Smith	
12. 3-22-11	Craig English	
13. 3-22-11	Barbara Lippson	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
14. 3/22/11	Rose K. Randolph	
15. 3/22/11	Carri R. Langford	
16. 3/22/11	Briahett Ortega	
17. 3/22/11	James Burick	
18. 3/23/11	Diana G. Hill	
19. 3/23/11	Ken Dy	
20. 3/23/11	Ken W. Hill	
21. 3-23-11	Bryant Hill	
22. 3/23/11	Marta Hill	
23. 3/23/11	Marta (nee) Anderson	
24. 3/23/11	Donald Hill	
25. 3/23/11	Shirley Turner	
26. 3/24/11	Lillian Hill	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
27. 3/19/10	Royell Burt	
28. 3/24/10	Gene Ferber	
29. 3/24/10	Doreen Roberts	
30. 3/24/10	Ellen Burt	
31. 3-24-11	Jonathan Day	
32. 3-24-11	Royle Fire District Inc.	
33. 3-24-11	Luckie Markew	
34. 3-24-11	Jessie Kinross	
35. 3-24-11	Jeremiah Cates	
36. 3-24-11	Jonathan Day	
37. 3-24-11	Jeremy Cates	
38. 3-24-11	Dylan Marshall	
39. 3-25-11	Teresa Nelson	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
40.	3-25-11	Bryson Little	
41.	3-25-11	Alvin Little	
42.	3-25-11	Thomas Nelson	
43.	3/25/11	Campbell, Willie	Willie
44.	3/25/11	Doc Dennis	
45.	3/25/11	William Dennis	
46.	3/25/11	Thomas Jordan	
47.	3/25/11	Louis Perkins	
48.		Louis Perkins	
49.		Louis Perkins	
50.	3/27/11	Gobal K...e	
51.		Glenn Peacock	
52.		Glenn Peacock - 3/25/11	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
53.	3-25-11	Eggy Bryan	
54.	3-25-11	Stephanie Bennett	
55.	3-25-11	Andros Animal Clinic	
56.	3-25-11	Rose Jones	
57.	3-25	Bobby B. Smith	P.O. R.R.
58.	3-25-11	3000 3000 3000 3000	14 no signature!
59.	3-26-11	P.O.B 13	Florida Impregable
60.	3-26-11	Michael Marzullo	
61.	3-26-11	Harvey Rafferty	P.O.B. 99
62.	3-26-11	Alice Apple	
63.	3-26-11	MRS E. Campbell	
64.	3-26-11	Helen / Helen	
65.	3-26-11	Wanda K. Kitchener	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
66. 3-27-11	Margaret Day	
67. 3-27-11	Timmy Stokes	
68. 3-28-11	Fatima Johnson	
69. 3-28-11	Sandra Williams	
70. 3-28-11	Seena Jones	
71. 3-29-11	Tamea Buchanan	
72. 3-29-11	Carly Lewis	
73. 3-29-11	Aster Randolph	
74. 3-29-11	Freddie Randolph	
75. 3-29-11	Hilda Boyington	
76. 3-29-11	Margaret McLeod	
77. 3-29-11	Trudie Crumwell	
78. 3-29-11	L. Taylor	
79. 3-30-11	...	
80.	...	
81.	...	
82.		
83.		
84.		
85.		
86.		
87.		
88.		

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFunlak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
66. 3/27, 2011	Cletta Ray	
67.		
68.		
69.		
70.		
71.		
72.		
73.		

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps, who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
66. 3/24/2011	LINDA MIMS	
67. 3-26-2011	ROBERT HILL	
68. 3-27-2011	Deann's Lambert	
69. 3-27-2011	Judy Lambert	
70. 3-29-2011	Pauline Johnson	
71. 3-29-2011	Lisa Robinson	
72. 3-29-2011	Mike Algh	
73.		

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
66. 3-23-11	Billy Scott	
67. 3-24-11	Ron Davidson	
68. 3-24-11	Wendy Scott	
69. 3-24-11	J.D. Scott	4.
70. 3-24-11	Casey Nelson	4
71. 3-24-11	Jeremy Dinan	8
72. 3-24-2011	Shade Theriot	12
73. 3-24-2011	Tabitha Miller	12L
74. 3-24-2011	Herman Jordan	15
75. 3-24-2011	Robert A. Scott	
76. 3-24-2011	Barbara C. Scott	
3-25-2011	Jeremy Griggs	
3-25-2011	Casey Nelson	
3-24-11	James W. Scott	
3-24-11	Mike Scott	
3-24-11	Johnny Allen Scott	

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. 3/30/11	ALBERT CAMPBELL	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		

Deadline for signing this petition is March 29, 2011. It will be presented to postal reps. who will be present at a public meeting to be held on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the DeFuniak Springs Civic Center. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. 3-28-11	John B. 1995	
2. 3-29-11	Terr. Cotton	
3. 3-29-11	Lincoln Cannon	
4. 3-29-11	Vann Thomas, II	
5. 3-29-11	Gregory [unclear]	
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		