

## FACT SHEET

**VILLAGE POST OFFICES**

As the U.S. Postal Service continues to evolve to better meet customers' needs, it is rethinking how to provide more convenient access to postal products and services. One new concept developed is the Village Post Office.

Village Post Offices are part of the Postal Service's "Approved Postal Provider" network — retail outlets for postal products and services that also include Contract Postal Units, Approved Shippers, Stamps on Consignment locations and Community Post Offices. Approved Postal Providers are operated by third parties and complement the Postal Service's own network by offering customers expanded retail access to postal products and services at convenient hours and locations.

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- Village Post Offices will be located within existing communities in a variety of locations, such as businesses, town halls or government centers, and will be run by those entities.
  - Village Post Offices will offer a range of popular products and services — the ones most used by customers — that could include collection boxes, PO Boxes, Forever stamps, and Prepaid Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and envelopes.
  - By being located at businesses and other places that consumers already frequent, Village Post Offices will offer Postal Service customers time-saving convenience, and in many cases, longer hours than regular Post Offices.
  - Village Post Offices will provide operators — in most cases, local business owners — with opportunities for increased customer traffic and revenue, as well as the opportunity to provide enhanced service to their customers and clients.
  - The Postal Service will consider a Village Post Office in locations where a community either has no existing Post Office or the community could be affected by ongoing postal facility study initiatives currently being conducted.
  - A Village Post Office will provide stability for the community by permitting retention of the town's ZIP Code and the town's name — for example: Springfield Village Post Office.
  - Currently, Village Post Offices are being negotiated with various third parties. At this time, one contract has been signed for a Village Post Office in the state of Washington, and dozens of other locations have expressed interest. Nationwide, interest is expected to grow among local business owners as the Village Post Office concept becomes more widely known.
  - The Village Post Office is an important new example of how the Postal Service is changing to better meet America's needs.