



December 3, 2018

Dear Residents:

Due to the many personnel changes at the USPS Regional Office, getting answers to our local postal concerns has been quite challenging. However, the following is what we have been told by the USPS regarding our local issues...

- Curbside delivery (mailbox at each residence) is not cost-efficient to the USPS and would not be approved.
- Installing "cluster units" of mailboxes could possibly be approved. However, it would require residents to go to the location of the cluster unit to retrieve their mail. The location of the units would be determined by the USPS with efficiency as the priority, meaning they would likely be located as close to the Post Office building as possible. Packages would still need to be picked-up at the Post Office. The Village would bear the responsibility/liability of keeping the clusters accessible (i.e. clear snow, ice, etc.). It is unclear who would be responsible for the actual cost of the units and their installation. The Village Council does not view this as a very practical option.
- Hours of operation are set at the national level of the USPS. The Post Office size, amount of revenue generated and several other factors are used to determine the hours of operation for each USPS facility. There is not much that can be done at the local/regional level to adjust the hours of operation.

I know this may not be what some wanted to hear. However, I think we need to be thankful that we have a Post Office facility here in Westphalia. As the USPS continues to look for ways to save money, closing postal facilities is always an option.

Also, please remember to add your PO Box number to all deliveries. If a PO Box number is not allowed when ordering, please try addressing as follows, "123 Main St., #XXX" (XXX being your PO Box number). If you receive mail or packages with your PO Box number hand-written on the piece by the Post Office, please contact the sender to request your PO Box number be included on future mail and package deliveries.

Although the weather was less than perfect, the Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting was once again a great success. Neighbors and friends gathered to see all the great floats, sing a few carols, watch the lighting of the beautiful Christmas tree and enjoy each other's company. Many thanks to the Westphalia Historical Society for sponsoring this event which brings our community together in such wonderful way during this very special time of the year.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please remember and be generous to those that are less fortunate or may be going through a difficult time during this holiday season. May God bless each and every one of you during this very special time of the year.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia