



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 6, June 2024

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

WILKPEX 2025 –Saturday and Sunday April 12 & 13 (Times TBD), 2025 –
Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

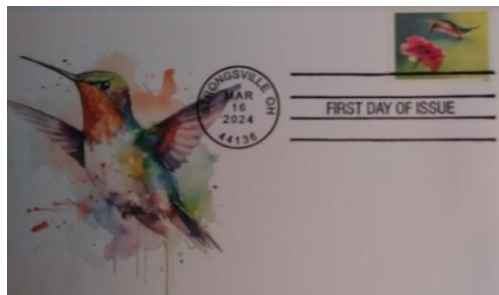
WILKPEX 2025: Mark your calendars now!

2025

Logo - Deb and Rebecca are working on an updated Club logo stay tuned!



Rebecca has created some beautiful cachets with hummingbirds to go with the new Garden Delight stamps issued on 3/16. She has some as First Day Covers – if interested in these or her other stationary please let her know! She is considering other upcoming issues for creating cachets as well - if you have a topic you would like her to do as a cachet let her know!



Wylie is petitioning Dr. Joseph Kelley of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee (475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300, Washington DC 20260-3501) for a Circus Wagon stamp series, using photos of classic circus wagons, many of which have been preserved and restored around the country. If you would like to help, please ask Wylie for a template to send in your own letter.



Stevan had some ideas about getting speakers or presentations for meetings. If someone would like to be the point person to contact potential speakers or work with APS to get videos, etc, please let the club know.

Philatelic News

- June 2024 US Stamps issues (as of now):
 - Carnival Nights – (6/6) – A series of 10 Forever stamps showing various nostalgic carnival scenes
 - Protect Sea Turtle – (6/11) – A series of 6 Forever stamps with some of the most vulnerable sea turtles protected in the US.
 - Flags – (6/14) – New Forever US Flag stamps (issued on Flag Day) that come in panes of 20 and coils up to 10,000. Because who doesn't need another US Flag stamp!
 - Horses – (6/17) – A series of 5 Forever stamps with various horses pictured.
 - Shaker Design – (6/20) – A series of 12 Forever stamps showing different classic Shaker designs, a unique US art form.
 - Northern Pintail – (6/28) – 2024's Duck Stamp (\$25)



Renfrew residents frustrated after extended post office closure, no explanation

Story by Pete DeLuca Channel 11 News 5/22/24

Flooding last month covered the entire Main Street area of Renfrew, Butler County. A note on the post office door says it had to close for repairs on April 17. Now, more than a month later, it's still closed.

"I don't know what the hold up is," Renfrew resident Leroy Bunyan told Channel 11.

It's a big deal for residents who live close by. They do not get mail delivered to their homes. "For 40-some years I've been here, 50 years, you come down to the post office and get your mail," Bunyan explained. "That's just the way it works. We're in the country."

So, for the last five weeks, residents have had to drive to downtown Butler to get their mail from that post office. "If you need your mail every day, it's five miles, six miles each way into Butler to go to the Post Office, get your mail, and drive back here. You're putting 12 miles on your car every day to get your mail," Bunyan said.

A statement from a postal service spokesperson, Mark Lawrence, said, "The facility is currently in the repair stage with no set date for reoccupancy. We appreciate customers' patience and understanding during this time."

But residents are growing impatient. "I've been fighting it ever since, tooth and nail, after two weeks in when they didn't do anything. They came out and gutted the bad stuff out and closed it up and said goodbye," said resident Bill McDonough. "They haven't done nothing down there, that I've seen."

"It's a big issue for people that they have to drive in and get their mail every day," added Bunyan. "The fact that you have a lot of elderly in this neighborhood that are 80, 85 years old and for them to have to go into Butler every day and get their mail, it's not right."

According to Lawrence, there's currently no timetable for when the post office will reopen.



PMG DeJoy grilled by U.S. senators over delivery delays

Apr 25, 2024, 2 PM Linns

By Allen Abel, Washington Correspondent

United States Postmaster General Louis DeJoy was intensely questioned by senators from both parties on April 16, with members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs giving him "weeks, not months" to remediate delivery delays in Atlanta, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Houston, Texas; and other major cities.

Leading the rhetorical charge in a hearing room of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., was Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., whose state's selection as a logistical testing ground for DeJoy's Delivering for America plan has been a well-documented disaster.

What was intended to be a seamless consolidation of a dozen separate sorting facilities into one megalith in the Atlanta suburb of Palmetto has instead resulted in mile-long lineups of trucks, a precipitous decline in on-time deliveries of first-class and package mail, and having Ossoff, a freshman senator, on the warpath.

"Let me be clear," Ossoff said. "I think postal workers are out there every single day working their hearts out to deliver the mail on time. But if they don't have the infrastructure and the management competence over them to make a transition like this without drastically impairing the core function of the Postal Service, everyone in my state is losing. The amount of distress this is causing my constituents is massive."

"Are mail and packages being delivered on time in Georgia today?" Ossoff demanded of DeJoy.

"No, sir," the postmaster general replied.

"Why not?" Ossoff said.

"We have had significant issues in terms of transitioning from 11 plants in the Atlanta area into three," DeJoy explained. "The Georgia area has been one of our worst-served areas over the last 10 years, mostly because we had 10 to 12 different locations around the Atlanta area."

"The team is working, working very hard, and I can assure you that in the long run that you will have probably the best service in the country," DeJoy said.

“The long run is too long,” Ossoff replied. “You’ve got weeks, not months to fix this. And if you don’t fix it, 36 percent on-time delivery, I don’t think you’re fit for this job.”

At the hearing, other committee members voiced commensurate displeasure.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., the well-known deficit hawk, said that at a previous inquiry, “Mr. DeJoy predicted a bright future. I argued that giving more money to the Postal Service was equivalent to burning money, but this might be a false equivalence because at least when we burn money it provides warmth.”

None of the senators in attendance made any mention of the Postal Service’s intention to raise the price of a first-class forever stamp from 68¢ to 73¢ in July.

Also at the witness table were Roman Martinez IV, chairman of the USPS board of governors; Michael Kubayanda, chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission; and USPS Inspector General Tammy Hull. But all the prosecutorial wrath was directed at DeJoy.

The impolitic hectoring reached its comedic nadir when Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., demanded that DeJoy give her a yes-or-no answer to the question of whether he knows how many days in an average year the Donner Pass on Interstate Highway 80 in California is closed to traffic due to blizzards, ice storms, wildfires, deluges and other acts of God.

(Sen. Rosen was objecting to a proposed repositioning of USPS sorting facilities from Reno, Nev., to Sacramento, Calif., which she charged will require that even a simple birthday card to grandma on the other side of Reno, the self-declared Biggest Little City in the World, make a 260-mile round trip across the mountains.)

“Why would I know that?” DeJoy said. He then commented that he accepted that 10 percent of Nevadans might experience slower delivery times in the future.

In his defense, DeJoy apologized for the deteriorating service, but insisted that “if we don’t make these changes,” situations such as the Atlanta meltdown “will be every day everywhere around the nation.”

“It’s a good plan. It’s a simple plan,” DeJoy told committee chairman Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., in reference to the Delivering for America plan.

“I’m not against change, change is good,” Peters said. “But if you’re starting to see this kind of impact, is it time to pause a little bit?”

“I’ve taken my foot on and off the pedal,” the postmaster general stated. “I’m very sensitive and have stopped other initiatives.”

DeJoy then revealed that he intended to forestall several planned consolidations until after the November election.

“We’re not doing this with the intent to destroy service,” DeJoy said. “Richmond and Atlanta will be the finest-running parts of the organization very shortly.”

“Go look at the overall strategy before we started,” he asked of the assembled legislators. “No strategy existed!”

“It’s not that complex — it’s simple,” DeJoy said. “Load these trucks!”

USPS plans 5¢ letter rate increase, other price hikes for July 14

Apr 9, 2024, 4 PM By Linn's Staff

The United States Postal Service announced April 9 that it will boost the price of a first-class forever stamp to 73¢, a 5¢ increase from the current 68¢ price.

If approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission, the change will be effective July 14, along with a series of other increases. A number of other proposed increases were announced by the Postal Service.

Metered first-class letters will rise to 69¢ from 64¢.

The additional-ounce rate for first-class letters will jump 4¢, from 24¢ to 28¢.

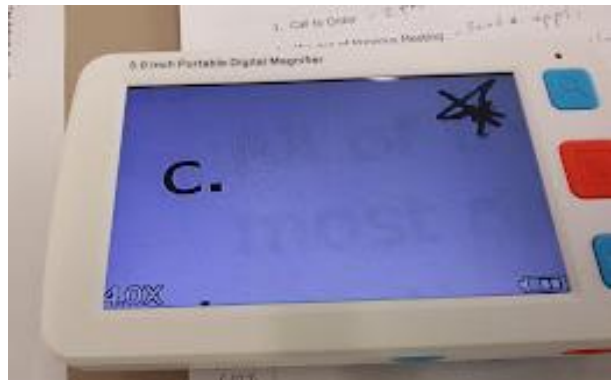
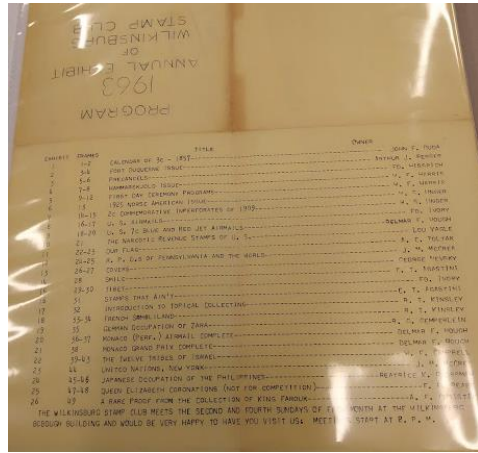
Domestic postcards will go to 56¢ from 53¢, and international letters will rise to \$1.65 from \$1.55.

In an April 9 news release, the Postal Service indicated the proposed increases were approximately 7.8 percent on average. The April 9 Postal Service press release included two exceptions to the pending higher rates. "There will be no price increase for Post Office Box rental fees, and the Postal Service will apply a price reduction of 10 percent for postal insurance when mailing an item," the USPS said.

The rate increases were defended by the USPS, which said they would help achieve Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year Delivering for America plan.

Collector's Corner

- Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month. Please bring an item to show and talk about. It can be about a topic other than stamps. Sharing the story is the important part.
- Show and Tell – April 28, 2024:
 - Maureen had a 1986 WILKPEX program and two pieces of ephemera from the SS Laconia from 1937 – a postcard with the trip log and a 3rd Class menu.
 - Gene had a 1963 WILKPEX program and a letter to Lou Yagle from Frank stating that the dealers at that show were complaining that the members were selling too much good (and expensive) stuff at the show.
 - David had a plate that he bought in Berlin from the city's bid for the 2000 Olympics with the bear mascot that they would have used.
 - Dave P had a magnifier that can go up to 32 times amplification – it also can take still or video pics. Designed for people whose vision is fading.



Upcoming Events Nearby

- June 7 – 9, 2024 – NAPEX, McLean VA
- June 9, 2024 – K2 – Churchill PA
- June 16, 2024 – K2 – Lancaster PA
- June 22 – 23, 2024 – SCOPEX, Bellefonte PA
- July 13, 2024 – EPASS, Schnecksville PA
- August 15 – 18, 2024 – Great American Stamp Show, Hartford CT
- August 25, 2024 – K2 – Lancaster PA
- September 8 - K2, Churchill PA
- November 16 -17, 2024 – PITTPEX – **NEW LOCATION!** Fairview Sunset Room 3326 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
- April 12 – 13, 2025 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 9 – 10, 2025 – Butlerpex, Lyndora PA (tentative)

For more details google the stamp club or look at the latest issue of the American Philatelist Magazine or the calendar at APS - (<https://stamps.org/events/events-calendar>)

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Meetings – 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

All are welcome! Free admission! Wonderful snacks! Stamps! Fun for all!

WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2025 – Saturday April 12 & Sunday April 13 (Times TBD) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

Officers:

President & Membership: Danielle Weaver (dmm742000@yahoo.com)

Vice President & Circuit Manager: John Harding (hardingeb@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lois Gregg (mooneymanor@yahoo.com)

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever (maurmomck@gmail.com)

Web Tech: Dave Duggins (davidfduggins@gmail.com)

WSC c/o Danielle Weaver, 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235

Newsletter:

Original articles for the newsletter can be submitted from any member to Maureen at a meeting or emailed to her (see above) or via regular mail:

Maureen McKeever, 118 Larchwood Drive, Turtle Creek PA 15145.

Club members will be mailed a black and white copy of the newsletter each month. Anyone can request a color copy to be delivered at a meeting, but please let Stevan or Chris (stevanw2020@gmail.com) know ahead of time.



(Yay! Here comes my newest cheap stuff from China!)