



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 10, October 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

The 2024 Club Picnic was held in Lion's Park in Wilkins Township (just down the road) on Sunday September 22. We had 10 people attending on a perfect beautiful day. Maureen cooked burgers and dogs and everyone else brought wonderful sides (carrots, beans, 2 salads and cake and eclairs for desserts). John did a demonstration of using Pure Citrus Orange Air Freshener to remove newer self-adhesive stamps from paper – just spray, let soak in then peel. The final step is to scrape the last of the adhesive from the stamp with a credit card edge. He says that as far as he knows the spray does not stain the stamps. It is available at Walmart and Amazon. It does have an intense orange odor so be aware!



I am sorry that I have no pictures!

Our Christmas/Holiday Party will be on our regular meeting day Sunday December 8 at the usual meeting spot. Deb Folytn has agreed to bake a holiday dinner and members can bring desserts. John agreed to make another trivia game and Maureen will get prizes. There will be more discussion on details before we get to that date.



Rebecca Folytn has curated some beautiful cachets suitable for First Day covers or everyday stationery. If you are any of her creations please let her know!



If you can think of something appropriate for the 2025 Souvenir Sheet that might look like it belongs on a button or could be on a "Jeopardy" stamp, please let John Harding know.



Maureen has the old APS Circuit books for sale and will bring them to future meetings.

For WILKPEX- If you can think of something to make Day 2 special (auction, presentations, etc.) please bring that idea to the meetings. We are working to get a separate room at the Fire Hall for this. We want good attendance on both days!

Philatelic News

- October 2024 US Stamps issues (as of now): The final ones for 2024
 - Healthcare Community – (10/1) – FINALLY! A forever stamp honoring the first responders who helped everyone (with much sacrifice) during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 – 2023.
 - Winter Whimsy – (10/10) – 4 stylized images of snowflakes (almost like paper ones) to celebrate winter.



The First Day Ceremony for the 2024 Kwanzaa Stamp took place on Wednesday September 25th at 12:30 PM at the Heinz History Center in the Strip District.

Here is a picture from the USPS Website:



USPS explains chunky bumpers on new duck-shaped trucks

Story by Andrew Paul - Popular Science - 9/26/24

Only a few communities have been lucky enough to experience the awesome presence of the USPS "Next Generation Vehicle" mail trucks in person so far. Within the next few years, however, fleets across the country will upgrade to an almost entirely electric fleet, complete

with airbags, 360-degree cameras, blind spot detection, anti-lock brakes, collision sensors, as well as (finally) the addition of A/C. Although just a handful of the vehicles debuted on regular routes in August, the upgraded rides are already receiving A+ reviews from their drivers.

But there may be a pressing question on residents' minds when they first see their satisfied mail carriers rolling through their neighborhoods: Why do the USPS Next Generation Vehicles look so incredibly weird?



The main body is almost comically tall, while the flat, low-rise front end sports an extra-thick bumper. Meanwhile, the windshield is equally huge in order to match the frame's size. Taken altogether, and the resemblance to a duck's head is uncanny. But according to the USPS, the explanation behind the oddly proportioned, fowl-like mail trucks is pretty simple—it's all about substance over style.

"There are several important reasons for this design choice," a spokesperson told *Popular Science*.

First and foremost is safety. The giant windshield provides a much wider line-of-sight than the soon-to-be-retired Grumman Long Life Vehicles. This is also the principal reason why the front bumper is so chunky.

"It provides better protection for the driver and the vehicle in the event of a collision," they explain, adding that its size makes it better at absorbing impact by reducing the force transmitted to the driver and the truck's "vital components" in the event of an accident.

Next up is durability. According to the USPS, their trucks spend only a fraction of their time ambling through neighborhoods. When they aren't out for deliveries, they are often subjected to countless dings and scrapes from their encounters with loading docks, other vehicles, and unfortunately, sometimes even wildlife. The bumpers were designed to withstand a 5 mph impact without incurring any "permanent deformation." Their width also needed to extend beyond all other vehicle projections like mirrors and side door handles.

"A larger, more robust bumper helps minimize damage from these incidents, ensuring the truck remains operational and reducing repair costs," the spokesperson explained.

As for the top-heavy driver compartment: you'd be thankful for the extra inches, too, if you knocked your head on the ceiling while attempting to stand and retrieve packages on a semi-regular basis. So, when you finally get the pleasure of seeing the new USPS trucks in action, know that their so-ugly-it's-kind-a-cute aesthetic was all part of the plan.

Never Buy Stamps on These 10 Websites

Story by Gillian Manning - Money Talks News 8/14/24

A typo in your search bar or one trusting click could get you scammed.

Akamai, a cloud technology company, recently analyzed data about malicious websites masquerading as legit United States Postal Service pages. According to Akamai, USPS is a common target for phishing — a type of scam where fraudsters mimic a legitimate company to take your personal information such as credit card numbers.

Scammers are able to make websites that look like they're associated with the USPS, but that's far from the case. Paying close attention to a site's URL can help you dodge malicious websites.

The most popular malicious and non-legitimate domains include:

- usps-post.world
- uspspost.me
- usps-postoffices.top
- stamps-usps.online
- usps-shop.shop
- uspspostoffice.top
- uspspostoffices.top
- usps-post.today
- usps-help.store
- usps-pst.xyz

Although the above are the most popular over the five-month period Akamai studied, they aren't the only fraudulent USPS websites out there.

The legitimate website domain for USPS is usps.com. To shop for stamps, you can also visit their online store directly or purchase from retailers like Office Depot.

Scammers will include "USPS" in their fake domains so that they look legitimate to users who may not know otherwise.

UPS to replace FedEx as primary air cargo provider for USPS

Apr 12, 2024

By Allen Abel, Washington Correspondent, Linn's Stamp News

The United Parcel Service, generally referred to as UPS, will replace FedEx as the carrier of the majority of airborne Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail beginning in late September, the United States Postal Service announced April 1.

The designation of UPS as the primary air cargo provider for the Postal Service came two days after negotiations between the USPS and FedEx broke off with no agreement on a new contract. FedEx had been the principal air carrier for domestic first-class and parcel mail for more than 20 years.

The switch of air partners comes at a time when the USPS already has begun to divert the majority of package and first-class mail delivery to trucks rather than planes.

"More than 95% of First-Class Mail and more than 95% of First-Class packages are moved through our ground transportation system," Postmaster General Louis DeJoy told the USPS board of governors in August 2023, according to an Aug. 8, 2023, press release from the USPS. "This is a reduction by over 90% from just two years ago and puts us on course to reduce approximately 1 billion dollars from our annual air transportation cost."

Postal Service mail accounts for only 4 percent of FedEx's annual revenue, according to the Reuters news agency. However, the loss of the postal contract could leave the carrier with 200 to 300 surplus pilots, according to analysts at the FreightWaves website.

According to FreightWaves, which was citing what it called "an unauthorized recording," Pat DiMento, FedEx's vice president of flight operations and training, recently told a group of the company's senior pilots, "If I were to bet, I think we lose 50% of our daytime flying."

After the deal between UPS and the USPS was made public, a spokesperson for the Air Line Pilots Association, International, the union representing FedEx pilots, said, "With each new announcement, FedEx management continues to threaten every FedEx employee's job security and quality of life."

In an April 1 report on the UPS website, Carol Tome, CEO of UPS, described the agreement as "an innovative solution that is mutually beneficial and complements our unique, reliable and efficient integrated network."

Remember when kids could be mailed?

I found an old picture online:

Sent The Crumb-Snatcher To Gramma's! A Postman With A Baby In His Mailbag When It Was Possible And Legal To Send Children Through The U.S. Postal Service, 1913



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.

Upcoming Events Nearby

- 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>)

Boston 2026 World Stamp Show will be the 12th International Philatelic Exhibition hosted in the United States. The show will be held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center from May 23-30, 2026, to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary). There is no separate GASS in 2026.

Wilkesburg Stamp Club Information:

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.



(Whew! No longshoremen strike (for now).)