

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Quincy fights move of postal jobs to Springfield

The post office on Cook Street may take on some operations now done in Quincy. Jason Johnson/The State Journal-Register

By TIM LANDIS (tim.landis@sj-r.com)
THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER
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Quincy is fighting. Springfield is watching.

The U.S. Postal Service is expected to get study results in about a month on the feasibility of relocating pieces of the Quincy postal operation to the main post office on Cook Street in Springfield.

But a postal service spokesman in Chicago said Tuesday the agency has “clarified” the study goal to calm concerns in Quincy that the entire operation, including about 70 jobs, might be leaving town.

“There seemed to be some misunderstanding about the possibility of closing the plant. It was never about closing the plant. It was more about moving the collection mail from Springfield to Quincy,” said Jim Mruk, who represents the Great Lakes Region.

“Collection mail” is mail left in drop boxes.

The postal service is looking nationwide at consolidation of branches and processing operations after reporting a loss of \$2.8 billion for the federal fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30. Losses have continued to pile up this fiscal year, totaling nearly \$2.3 billion for the six-month period ended March 31.

Post officials say the slow economy also has continued to cut into the volume of mail, which is down 4.5 percent in the last fiscal year and nearly 10 percent in the three-month period that ended on March 31.

“I guess from a Quincy, tri-state perspective, we’re breathing much better,” said Jim Mentesti, president of the Great River Economic Development Partnership in Quincy.

Mentesti said postal facilities in small towns just across the Mississippi River in Missouri and Iowa also could be affected. However, he said there appears to be no immediate threat that the Quincy operation would be shut down.

“We don’t take anything for granted, but retention is one of the areas we spend the vast majority of our time on. We’re being very cautious,” he said.

Spokeswoman Sarah Wolin of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce said the chamber is monitoring developments in Quincy. The chamber is leading a local campaign begun in 2007 to create or retain 4,500 jobs in Sangamon County by 2012, but Wolin said the Quincy postal operation is not a target of the effort.

“We understand it’s a federal decision, and we’ll leave it up to federal officials at this point,” said Wolin.

Elected officials nationwide have weighed in on plans to close and cut back local postal operations. U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, last month introduced a bill in Congress to block any move of the Quincy operations.

Mruk said it is possible the postal study will come back with a finding it would be economically infeasible to move the collection-mail operations from Quincy to Springfield, or that it would hurt mail delivery time.

Tim Landis can be reached at 788-1536.

Springfield main post office location:

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[Comments \(26\)](#)

[Bender](#)

[1 week ago](#)

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This needs to serve as a wake up call for those who want the let the federal government run everything. They are not very good at it and definately are not the answer.

gramps

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Yeh, Bender, but how about that lady who fears that medical reform will turn Medicare into a federally operated program. Sure gave Obama a chuckle. Medicare has done a good job over the years. Look how much longer folks are living. It's not only advances in medical care, it is access to medical care.

denmac

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Bender: Let me get this straight: The federal government is looking for possible ways to streamline operations and save money, but you think that shows incompetence. Wow!

JebediahSpringfield

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Losing 2.8 billion this past fiscal year and a 2.3 billion loss in the first six months of this one show incompetence. How long until we have to bailout the postal service. USPS should give up the operation to FedEx and UPS.

4MyKids

1 week ago

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The postal service has been the longest running federally run institution in the US. It has been running in the black for probably 99% of that time. The problem with the USPS is that it is now competing with email/texting which most people have and use instead of snail mail. Before that they had to deal with the fact that people could just pick up the phone and call friends and family. The postal system is slowly just becoming a direct mail advertising pipeline that delivers junk mail directly to peoples homes. I can't remember the last time I actually got a letter from someone via the USPS. Can you?

When I was a kid, I remember getting the mail and finding that 75% of it were letters from friends and family. Today I get the mail and 99.9% of it has bulk mail stamps and goes directly into the recycling bin never being opened. The marketplace has changed and that is not the government's fault. So don't even try and stretch this situation to be anything like healthcare. Let us compare apples to apples please.

Bender

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Read the story denmac. They lost 2.8 billion dollars last year and 2.3 so far this year. Yes, I'd call that incompetence. WOW!!!! Better yet, give me some examples of where you think the government has done a bang up job of managing your tax dollars.

jd

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Durbin has introduced legislation to stop a move???? an example of the party in power leading the surge toward efficiencies in gov.....reorganizing the health insurance industry?...don't let politics get in the way.

kalena

1 week ago

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I agree, text and email are virtually taking over the mailing system. With the wireless technology sweeping the nation off their feet who would want to 'write' a letter, take it to the post office, pay for postage then wait for the recipient to get it and correspond when now we just open our email or phones 'type' in what we want to say and in a matter of minutes we get correspondence without leaving the house and no charge for postage.

millertx

1 week ago

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I live in a rural area served by the Quincy center. People here live 60 miles from a big town and rely on their mail to deliver medicines and items we shop for so moving the mail would slow down our service. Medicine mailed locally for deliver 25 miles away will go through Quincy to springfield and then back and will probably not be the one day service we now have.

Here are some postal facts for some of the uninformed bloggers. Since the 1980 postal reform the post office does not receive tax revenue. From what I read, the postal service delivers to every house every day including the remote places like in North Dakota would a business just for profit give everyone that service?

As far as having someone else like UPS take over look at how the other carriers are also suffering in this bad economic times. Also, Ups charges the sender a service charge for ever non-business delivery.

I just read an article where it said one of the most treasured items for our military men are the letters they receive from home. Another story told how everyone loves to get personal mail. I know for a fact how this is true. I have a family member going through a serious health crisis and every day they are receiving cards of encouragement and it is uplifting their spirits.

I send cards out on a weekly basis to encourage others and to thank people who have gone out of their way for me or my family. More people should get back to this personal touch instead of belittling one of our sacred institutions. I for one would miss terribly our mail delivery.

Davos

1 week ago

Report Abuse

The post office and the government is bankrupt and you have Dick Durbin introducing a bill that would micromanage the post office. This is why they need to set-up something similiar to what they did with the military bases. You will have every congressman and senator introducing bills to stop the post office from closing facilities in their area. Shut Quincy down if needed, shut Springfield down if needed. We don't have the tax dollars to keep the post office running as if this 1909.

Rudy

1 week ago

Report Abuse

millertx

They are planning on eleminating one or two delivery days. Quincy is not three states away from Springfield and they do not use the pony express anymore, so I can't imagine this move would add an extra delivery day. The military families I know stay in touch through the phone, email, and cameras on the computer. I know they treasure seeing or hearing their loved ones more than they do old mail. The people using the post office the way you describe are older. In 10-20 years they will not be around. We better make the adjustments now. Also, the other carriers are still making money.

bigdipper

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Why not trade the 'Jeeps' in for drop boxes. I am old enough to remember what a big deal the USPS made when the drop boxes were discontinued. It could be adouble win; less gas purchased, carriers walking more, which means healthier carriers and lower medical insurance cost.

millertx

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Here is UPS news, the company said the severe downturn in the global economy has caused UPS package and freight volumes to decline. They have trimmed over \$1 billion from their budget by freezing management salaries, suspending matches for its 401(k) plans, cutting capital expenditures, restructuring package operations in some locations, and a series of other activities, according to the company. Showing the economy is a big factor in all deliver services who are suffering right now.

A little know fact is that Postal Service business partners with traditional competitors like FedEx, and UPS, who pick up packages from large retailers then transport and deposit these packages at a Postal Service facility near the customers address. From there, Postal Service carriers deliver the packages the last mile to their final destinations. So if there were no postal delivery how would these companies make a profit delivering to every address.

Older people who need vital medicine and do not always think to order it early, like diabetics, could face a medical crisis waiting one more day.

The article I read was telling there are still many people stationed who do not have the modern methods of receiving greetings from loved ones especially service men in Afghanistan. The same article tells of a soldier from the Gulf War who has all the letters he wrote his wife and she has all the ones he wrote, and they greatly treasure them. He was stationed in Iraq and got emails and web visits but said the letters can be read over and over and can be kept. Just think how much family history is being lost because we do not have written letters that can be kept.

Mark Observed

1 week ago

Report Abuse

'Elected officials nationwide have weighed in on plans to close and cut back local postal operations. U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, last month introduced a bill in Congress to block any move of the Quincy operations.' Although the postal service is no longer a government operation, they still have to go to the government, hat in hand, to ask for an increase in their rates. When are Durbin and his ilk going to realize that government usually is the problem and not the solution????

Rudy

1 week ago

Report Abuse

So how is 100 miles going to cause the collapse of elderly medical care in west central Illinois? I could leave right now and be in Quincy in less than 60 minutes. What happens when they stop Tuesday or Saturday delivery for these people? It is the post office that uses the private companies to help transport their packages across the country. The post office is the modern horse-and-buggy. Everyday when someone dies they lose a customer. Everyday when someone is born, that is someone that will never step foot in a post office or put a stamp on an envelope.

doinglife

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Rudy, I do not know where you live but if you can be in Quincy in one hour you do not live in Springfield or any where near. Quincy has lost a lot of blue collar jobs in this recession already. The US Postal service is pricing themselves out of business, when my kids send out ten thank you notes from their birthday parties and have to spend over four dollars of their b-day money they decided to send free email thank you notes instead.

Rudy

1 week ago

Report Abuse

i do live in Springfield and travel to Quincy in a hour twice a month.

Steve 2

1 week ago

Report Abuse

The postal service does the near impossible everyday. Take a letter from any mail box and deliver it to any other mail box any place in America and do it efficiently. The postal service does a great job. Seldom have they every failed me. However times are changing. I suggest the Postal Service drop Saturday delivery and phase out thousand of unneeded small town rural Post offices. See how the public likes that.

topdog2

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Lets stop a correct some post, 'doinglife', kids send out 10 thankyou's, its not \$10.00, but less that \$5.00. As the price of vehicles, gas, and other expenses have risen, the rural carriers have only covered part of that cost. There wages are configured on the 'Mail Count', so I suspect that will be less in there pockets.

to Steve 2, if the Postal Service cuts out the smaller rural post offices, then the cost will go up again, as the milage for the Carriers will need an increase, as someone needs to pick up the Mail. For an example, Peoria is the Main office for Forest City, Manito, Green Valley, and many other small towns.

And I do agree with NO Saturday delivery. As for another persons post, the Post Offices strives on the Bulk Delivers, (junk mail). As for Saturday, that will cut out the relief carriers position to some extent, as most carriers each have a relief carrier to cover there days off, sick leave and Saturdays. Something like those others in other jobs that like to have a day off. This all goes to the point of yet more people not having a job. One solid solution is to cut out the IN TOWN mail boxs that are in front of every house in these small towns, go to a Walking Carrier, thus the milage is deleted.

Problem is the USPS has gone the route of listening to the employees that have sucked the profits out of the service, something like most other jobs that pay way to high a pay scale, but that's the American way. Now it is a 'pay for the play' way of life that we all love. The flip side is we are all like kids in the candy store, 'just gotta have' or we cry and stomp our feet till we get it. AND WE DID, no job!

ch2535

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Rudy, I go from Springfield to Mt. Olive and it takes me 1hr 5 min to reach my friends house, that is 57.8 miles from Springfield. Quincy is 119.81 miles from Springfield, approx a 2hr 3 min trip. This is according to mapquest.com. Please tell me how you get to Quincy in 60 minutes? Surely you are not driving the legal speed limit, does your car have wings?

Tu Stultus Es

1 week ago

Report Abuse

The USPS should be shut down and the private sector should be allowed to carry regular mail. Eliminate this government monopoly.

nolalady1

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Rudy, to get to Quincy from Springfield in 1 hr, you have to be driving over 100 mph...be sure to let the rest of us know when you will be traveling that route so that we can stay out of your way.

millertx

1 week ago

Report Abuse

If the private sector took over, how would that work. The cushie routes like bigger cities would have delivery possible at cheaper costs, but rural America which is a lot of our country would not have delivery because what company could lose money on delivery or the cost of delivery would be too high. That is why mail delivery is written in the constitution so all can have service.

Mark Observed

1 week ago

Report Abuse

I want to opt out like Kramer did. Don't deliver any mail to my house ever again.

Fullhouse

1 week ago

Report Abuse

Top Dog, What do you do for a living?

millertx

5 days ago

Report Abuse

shut down the post office, do away with land line phone companies are the cry of people who believe everyone has options to do life in the new fast high tech way, but some of us live so rural that our land line is all we can use, fast speed internet is not an option because the cost is so high for people living on the income made in our area, so for many the post office and local phone is a life line.

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2. Postal Service hopes new routes will save money

by Carol Crump

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 9:28 AM MDT

You may have noticed that your mail now comes at a different time, brought by a different carrier.

The route changes that started in Casper on July 18 are part of a bigger plan.

“We have to be self-sustaining, with no bailout and no tax money,” said Al DeSarro, United States Postal Service spokesperson for Colorado and Wyoming.

The recent “squaring up” of routes in Casper was done to better utilize staff and time. As Casper grew, it was common to add little bits onto routes to accommodate new addresses.

After a while, the routes started crisscrossing, according to Casper Postmaster Mark Lambert. The new routes will make delivery more efficient and economical.

The same kinds of readjustment to routes, for the second time this year, are happening in up to 3,000 city letter carrier routes in Wyoming and Colorado.

The shifts are just one of the ways the USPS will continue to avoid layoffs and maintain mail service, DeSarro said.

The Casper post office has been hiring only temporary workers since before Lambert became the postmaster last December.

“The Post Office has never had a layoff,” Lambert said.

Nationwide, early retirements and normal attrition eliminated 30,000 USPS positions last year.

Steps like route readjustments already have saved the USPS \$6 billion, a necessary saving at a time when national mail volume is down 15 percent from last year.

The Post Office also has streamlined its national delivery system network and restructured district offices by eliminating positions and offering reassignments to personnel. The USPS also is looking at paring customer service hours in some locations or even consolidating post offices in larger metropolitan areas than Casper.

Five-day delivery may be on the horizon, a change that 66 percent of the respondents favored in a recent Gallup poll. In the same poll, 75 percent responded that it was “very important” that the Post Office stay in business.

“We have to look at doing these things,” DeSarro said.

The economic downturn is driving the need to make adjustments to a postal service that became a self-sustaining government agency in 1971. The USPS, which receives no tax support, is facing a \$6.5 billion or more operating budget deficit this year.

Ninety-five percent of the mail volume is business-oriented, and the advertising and bulk mail that are a large part of business mail have fallen off.

First class mail, which is the USPS’s largest revenue producer, has dropped 7 percent in the last five years. Online bill payment, direct deposit and electronic communication all have contributed to the downturn in first class mail.

The USPS also is facing the same Congressional mandate to create a prepaid health benefit pool for retirees as other governmental entities like states, cities and counties. Putting millions into the pool last year resulted in a deficit at year end rather than a break-even outcome.

According to DeSarro, the USPS is hoping to convince Congress to allow the payments to the \$7 billion pool to be stretched out over a period of years.

There are bright spots for the USPS. An extensive advertising campaign about shipping packages through the Post Office Web site and priority mail flat rate boxes are a "tremendous success," especially with home-based businesses and small retailers, DeSarro said.

Revenue is up 25 percent since the ad campaign began and overall shipping is up 2 or 3 percent.

The USPS is still the largest postal system in the world, with mail rates that are second to the bottom. The Postal Service is the federal agency ranked highest for keeping information safe and secure by 87 percent of 7,000 Americans surveyed in each of the last five years surveyed by the Ponemon Institute.

"The economy is going to turn and direct mail and bulk mail will come back," DeSarro said. "Mail is a communication business."

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