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WINTER 2012

Greater Madison Area Postal Customer Council

2012 Price Changes

New prices take effect on Jan. 22, 2012 for the following domestic and international mailing services:

- First-Class Mail
- First-Class Mail International
- Periodicals
- Standard Mail
- Package Services
 - Bound Printed Matter
 - Media Mail/Library Mail
 - Parcel Post
 - Extra services and fees.

Mailing Services prices can, on average, increase no more than the rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Mailing Services prices will increase by an average of 2.1 percent across each class of mail. Individual prices within a mail class may have an increase that is higher or lower than 2.1 percent.

Highlights of Changes

For business mailers who are First-Class Mail Presort mailers, the Mailing Services announcement offers good news. When the new prices go into effect, presorted and automation letters weighing up to 2 ounces will be charged the same price.

Single-piece, 1-ounce First-Class Mail letters will increase 1 cent, to 45 cents (additional ounces remain at 20 cents). The price for mailing a First-Class Mail postcard will increase 3 cents to 32 cents and the cost of stamped postcards will increase 3 cents to 35 cents.

Letters to Canada or Mexico will increase 5 cents to 85 cents and letters to other international destinations increase 7 cents to \$1.05.

New for all customers is a payment option that allows customers to obtain PO Boxes online or at retail for a 3-month period with auto-renewal through a credit card — perfect for people on the move and others who need a PO Box for a short time period.

Priority Mail Flat-Rate products continue to offer a wide choice of options. The new domestic retail prices are:

- Regular envelope - \$5.15
- Legal-size and Padded envelope - \$5.30
- Small box - \$5.35
- Medium box - \$11.35
- Large box - \$15.45
- Large APO/FPO/DPO box - \$13.45

All new Shipping & Mailing Services prices are available at pe.usps.com.

Visit our website! www.madisonpcc.com

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New Self-Mailer Rules - 2013

Beginning January 5, 2013, folded self-mailers (FSMs) that do not meet the requirements listed below will be assessed postage as follows:

- First-Class Mail® and Standard Mail® customers will pay nonmachinable prices
- Periodicals mailers will pay nonbarcoded prices

A folded self-mailer is formed of panels that are created when one or more unbound sheets of paper are folded together and sealed to make a letter-size mailpiece. (Sheets that are bound by one or more staples are not considered folded self-mailers).

The maximum height for all automation and machinable FSMs is 6 inches and the maximum length is 10 1/2 inches, with a maximum thickness of 1/4 inch. The maximum weight of three ounces is applicable to all mailpieces prepared without envelopes.

The final fold must be at the bottom for all designs except oblong style pieces. For oblong-style FSMs, the final fold is on the leading edge. Tabs cannot be placed on the bottom open edge of an oblong-style FSM.

A minimum of two tabs will be required to seal all FSMs when tabs are used as the sealing method. Tabs used as seals may not have perforations. Glue may be used as an alternate sealing method when applied according to the standards for FSMs.

See the entire notice at <http://www.gpo.gov>

USPS DELAYS CLOSINGS AND CONSOLIDATIONS

USPS, in response to a request made by multiple U.S. Senators, has agreed to delay the closing or consolidation of any Post Office or mail processing facility until May 15, 2012.

The Postal Service will continue all necessary steps required for the review of these facilities during the interim period, including public input meetings. USPS hopes this period will help facilitate the enactment of comprehensive postal legislation. Given the Postal Service's financial situation and the loss of mail volume, the Postal Service must continue to take all steps necessary to reduce costs and increase revenue.

USPS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Monday, January 2*	New Year's Day
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
Monday, February 20	Washington's Birthday
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 3	Labor Day
Monday, October 8	Columbus Day
Monday, November 12*	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day

***This day falls on a Sunday. The following Monday will be treated as a holiday**

EMCM – EXECUTIVE MAIL CENTER MANAGER PROGRAM

The EMCM is an extremely challenging program, and usually requires 4 days in Norman, Oklahoma for training and testing. The Central Wisconsin Postal Customer Council is bringing the training to Wausau, Wisconsin on March 13, 14 and 15. An overview of the course can be found at <https://www.usps.com/business/emcm-curriculum.htm>. If you are interested, please send an email to marv.anderson@libertymutual.com. Cost is \$900.00.

You are invited to attend the 2012 Annual GMAPCC Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Zor Shrine Temple, 575 Zor Shrine Place, Madison WI

USPS Lakeland District Manager Charley Miller will be the keynote speaker for this Breakfast Meeting. He will provide the latest updates on the future of the Postal Service and how upcoming changes would affect the mailers in this district. Don't miss out on this opportunity to meet with postal representatives, network with others in the mailing industry and ask questions. Several GMAPCC members registered for the Mailpiece Design Consultant Certification Program in November. All of the MDC graduates will be presented with their MDC certificates. The GMAPCC Board will present the annual awards to the Industry, Industry Person and Postal Person of the Year. We will also be electing new members to the Board of Directors. The Board meets once each month to network and plan educational events for the mailing community.

TIME: 7:30 Registration, Breakfast and Social/Networking Time
8:15 Welcome & Vote for New PCC Board Members
8:30 Award Presentations
Update on August Golf Outing – Dave Byrne, A.M. Mailing
9:00 MDC Certificate Presentations to Graduates
9:20 USPS Lakeland District Manager Charley Miller Presentation
10:00 Election Results for Board of Directors and closing remarks

COST: \$35.00

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Register for this event at www.madisonpcc.com or by completing this form and sending a check payable to GMAPCC, PO Box 14285, Madison, WI 53708-0285. Registration deadline is February 13, 2012. If you have questions, please contact Karen Cronin at 608-246-1282 or by email karen.j.cronin@usps.gov.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

Do you know of someone in the mailing industry that stands out as extraordinary? Each year the GMAPCC presents awards to knowledgeable and helpful individuals and businesses that share their knowledge and expertise with others. The nominees must possess a broad knowledge and understanding of Postal rules and regulations and participate in the GMAPCC activities. Please send your nomination for **Industry of the Year, Industry Person of the Year and Postal Person of the Year** to karen.j.cronin@usps.gov by February 9.

NEED A MAILPIECE DESIGN ANALYST?

Customers can begin creating official Reply Mail artwork online immediately using the new online tool at <https://abrm-prod.usps.com>. Please be aware that this tool is only for card and envelope printing – not flats. If you are creating BRM or QBRM pieces, you will need a BRM permit, a Mailer ID (MID), a BRM ZIP+4 Code, and a PostalOne! account. If you are creating CRM pieces, you will only need a Mailer ID (MID). You will find that this tool provides easy to follow, step-by-step processes for mailers to create mailpiece artwork, attach logos, as well as archive mailpiece images for future use.

You will need to register for the ABRM tool in the Business Customer Gateway, have a Mailer ID (MID) and a valid Business Reply Permit.

To reach a Mailpiece Design Analyst call (708)563-7744 or email rosanna.l.sarniak@usps.gov. In addition, USPS has launched the MDA Support Center, a new service that provides nationwide expertise for mailpiece design and artwork. Call (855)593-6093 or email MDA@usps.gov.



Watch the website for Future Events

- March 15 Mailroom Tour at a large local business – watch the website for location
- April 1-4 National Postal Forum in Orlando, Florida – visit www.NPF.org
- April 19 Lunch Bunch Seminar – 11:00-12:30- watch the website for topic
- August 2 Golf Outing at Coachman’s Golf Resort, Edgerton WI
- Sept. 19 National PCC Day – American Family Insurance

Please send us your suggestions for future seminar topics and mailroom tours. We value your ideas.

Are you a stamp collector?

The Badger Stamp Club of Madison, WI, is hosting a special event for Sunday, April 15, 2011. The event is WISCOPEX ‘12, the annual convention and exhibition of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53704 from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Free Stamp Collection Appraisals, Special Display of Civil War Artifacts, Judged Philatelic Exhibits, 15 Dealers, Door Prizes, Beginners Table for Youth and Adults, Pictorial Show Cover & Cancel commemorating the American Civil War, U.S. Postal Service Station, Free Admission and Parking.

Visit our website! www.madisonpcc.com