



**GREATER BOSTON  
POSTAL CUSTOMER COUNCIL**

**[www.bostonpcc.org](http://www.bostonpcc.org)**



# POSTAL CUSTOMER COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## **PCC SPOTLIGHT**

### **WELCOME TO TIMOTHY O'CONNELL, NEW GBPCC INDUSTRY CO-CHAIR**



Welcome to our new Industry Co-Chair, Timothy O'Connell, who succeeded Deb Visco. A graduate of Merrimack College, Timothy is a dynamic sales professional with business development and management expertise. He is a Major Account Manager for Pitney Bowes. With over 20 years experience in sales and training services, Timothy specializes in the Government Vertical Market Space. He earned certificates in Certified

Mail and Distribution Systems Supplier and Mail Piece Design Consultant. Timothy develops and participates in trade shows and conferences for the PCC, Association of College and University Mailers, National Association of Educational Buyers - New England, and Massachusetts Mailer Association. Tim has served on the Executive Board for several years. Timothy is an avid skier and enjoys vacationing at the Cape with his family.

# THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TIGER



**Dave Guiney, Postmaster of Boston and Bill Collins, Manager of the Malden Post Office, unveil the Year of the Tiger stamp.**

In a virtual event on January 29, 2022, Postmaster Dave Guiney, accompanied by Bill Collins, Manager of the Malden Post Office, unveiled this year's Chinese New Year Stamp – the Year of the Tiger - continuing a long USPS tradition begun in 1972 of issuing stamps in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

The Year of the Tiger begins February 1, 2022 and ends on January 2, 2023.

Utilizing orange as the predominant color – characteristic of the marking of Bengal tigers and said to be one of

the lucky colors for individuals born during the Year of the Tiger – the tiger mask in the stamp design incorporates elements with symbolic meaning. Several of the patterns and details were created with the style of Asian textiles in mind as well as green flowers that represent the arrival of spring, which Lunar New Year also signals in Chinese culture. The motif atop the tiger's head - printed with purple foil - references the celestial themes of the Chinese zodiac. On the stamp pane, simplified illustrations of the 12 zodiac animals are printed with gold foil.

The Tiger is the third of 12 zodiac animal signs associated with the Chinese lunar calendar. Many ancient fables and legends explain the origin of the zodiac signs. The most common story is that all the animals were racing across the river to determine the order of the cycle. The rat crossed over by riding on the back of the ox, jumping off at the last minute to cross and win the race. The ox came in next followed by the tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and the boar in last place.

As with other Zodiac signs personality traits and other attributes are often associated with people born in the year of a particular animal.

Those born during the Year of the Tiger may be seen as brave, confident, and well-liked by others. Blue, orange, and gray are lucky colors for Tigers and yellow lilies and cineraria may also bring good luck.

Here's to good luck in the Year of the Tiger.

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## JUST TWO MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY – LISTEN TO MARLO THOMAS ON THE MAILING INDUSTRY

If you work in the mailing industry, this video by Marlo Thomas is a MUST SEE as she appreciates and praises the mailing industry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vlz5SECdx4>



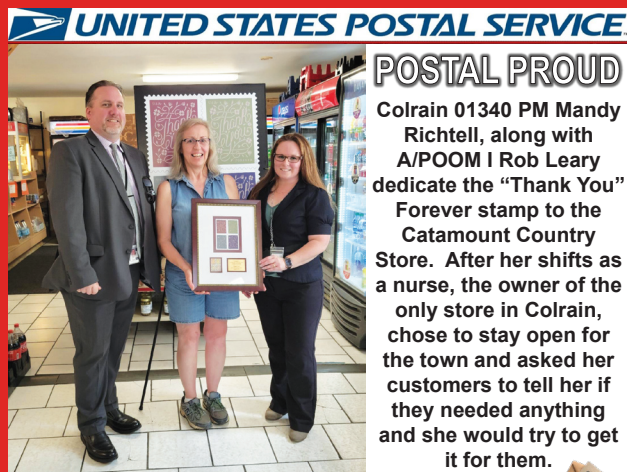


## POSTAL PROUD – USPS CONTINUES THANK YOU DEDICATIONS TO LOCAL TEAMS

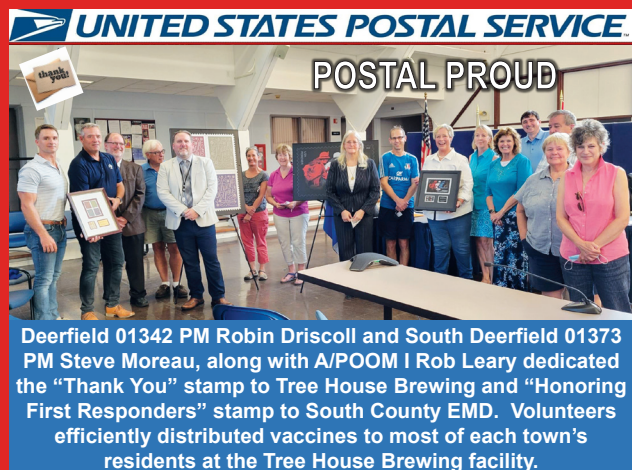
USPS has continued its “Thank You” Forever Stamp dedications at local businesses to say Thank You to those who went above and beyond to help others during the ongoing pandemic - staying open late, distributing vaccines, distributing meals, donating profits, and ensuring kids got fed - organizations and businesses stepped up to support their communities. The dedication events illustrate the partnership between local organizations and USPS.



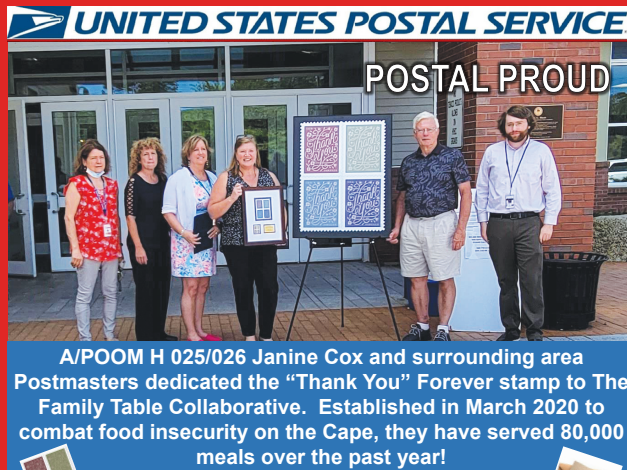
Chelsea A/Mgr. Mike DaSilva dedicated the “Thank You” Forever stamp to Bella Isla Café and St. Luke’s-San Lucas Episcopal Church Food Pantry. A collaboration allowed the weekly Food Pantry to offer freshly made food from the Bella Isla Café!



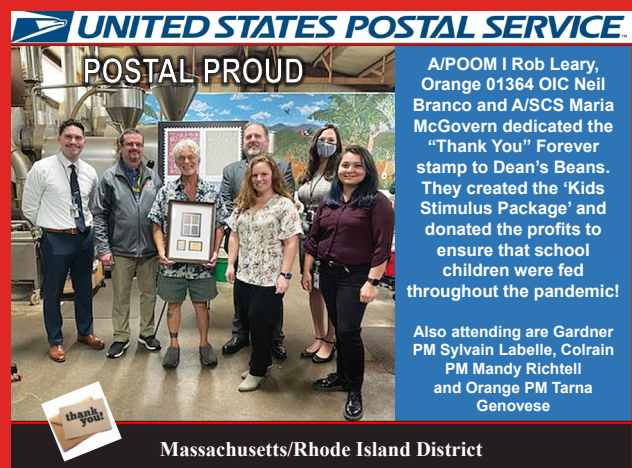
Colrain 01340 PM Mandy Richtell, along with A/POOM I Rob Leary dedicate the “Thank You” Forever stamp to the Catamount Country Store. After her shifts as a nurse, the owner of the only store in Colrain, chose to stay open for the town and asked her customers to tell her if they needed anything and she would try to get it for them.



Deerfield 01342 PM Robin Driscoll and South Deerfield 01373 PM Steve Moreau, along with A/POOM I Rob Leary dedicated the “Thank You” stamp to Tree House Brewing and “Honoring First Responders” stamp to South County EMD. Volunteers efficiently distributed vaccines to most of each town’s residents at the Tree House Brewing facility.



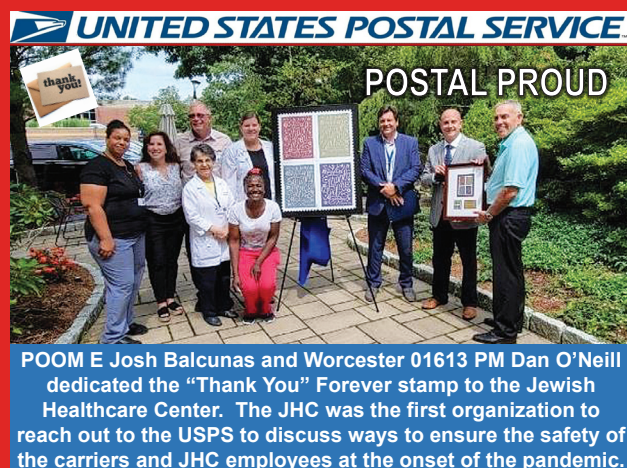
A/POOM H 025/026 Janine Cox and surrounding area Postmasters dedicated the “Thank You” Forever stamp to The Family Table Collaborative. Established in March 2020 to combat food insecurity on the Cape, they have served 80,000 meals over the past year!



A/POOM I Rob Leary, Orange 01364 OIC Neil Branco and A/SCS Maria McGovern dedicated the “Thank You” Forever stamp to Dean’s Beans. They created the ‘Kids Stimulus Package’ and donated the profits to ensure that school children were fed throughout the pandemic!

Also attending are Gardner PM Sylvain Labelle, Colrain PM Mandy Richtell and Orange PM Tarna Genovese

Massachusetts/Rhode Island District



POOM E Josh Balcunas and Worcester 01613 PM Dan O’Neill dedicated the “Thank You” Forever stamp to the Jewish Healthcare Center. The JHC was the first organization to reach out to the USPS to discuss ways to ensure the safety of the carriers and JHC employees at the onset of the pandemic.



## FOREVER STAMP CELEBRATES WOMEN'S VOTE

To celebrate the one hundred and first anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, Boston Postmaster David Guiney and representatives of the Spellman Museum held a stamp unveiling of the 19th Amendment: Women Vote Forever Stamp. This stamp, issued in 2020, commemorates the centennial celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote. This stamp dedication, which took place on October 23, 2021, was part of the Spellman Museum's exhibit that traces the history of women's suffrage using stamps from colonial days until the present.



Boston Postmaster David Guiney along with members of the Red Hat Society.

## OPERATION SANTA - A HOLIDAY WONDER



Over 100 years ago, the Postal Service – then the Post Office Department – began receiving letters addressed to “Dear Santa.” The Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock allowed postal employees to open, read and respond to these letters - Operation Santa was launched! In the 1940s, mail volume swelled, and USPS invited the public to help by writing responses and providing small gifts. The program grew over the years and in 2017, Operation Santa went digital. Individuals and organizations can now adopt letters online and send gifts in Santa's place.

The Greater Boston Postal Customer Council was grateful to adopt letters from seven children this past holiday season, six within New England. Gifts included a Barbie townhouse and Dream plane, Polaroid camera, Fujifilm camera, Cinderella dress-up clothes, basketball, Poke-man and lots of Legos and dolls!

Overall, the 2021 USPS Operation Santa program received 24,972 letters and shipped 21,443 packages to children and families across the United States. Additional information is available at [uspsoperationsanta.com](https://uspsoperationsanta.com)





## A TREASURE TROVE OF AMERICAN HISTORY SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum, located in Washington, D.C. next door to Union Station, was the D.C. city post office from 1914 – 1986. In 1993, the Museum was established through a joint agreement with USPS and the Smithsonian. The Museum has the world's largest collection of stamps and postal artifacts, housing over six million objects.

Members of the Greater Boston PCC were recently treated to a virtual highlights tour of the National Postal Museum (NPM). The webinar, organized by Karen McCormick, Greater Boston PCC Board member and member of NPM's Museum Advisory Council, included a panel of knowledgeable and professional docents. The program was filled with a diverse array of fascinating facts about postal and stamp history.

Here's a sampling:

- Museum exhibits range in size from stamps and mailboxes to trains, stagecoaches, trucks, and airplanes.
- The Pony Express began operations in 1860 between MO and CA lasting only 18 months until the telegraph took over. Riders, ranging in age from 18 to 20, had to swear on a Bible not to cuss, fight or abuse their animals. They rode about 100 miles per day, changing horses every 10 miles and were paid \$75 month. Lincoln's inaugural address was carried by Pony Express taking 7 days and 17 hours to travel the 2,000 miles.
- Owney (1888-1897), the unofficial mascot of the Railway Mail Service (RMS) in the late 19th century, was a dog who fell in love with the smell and texture of mail bags. Owney traveled with postal employees to 220 cities and even overseas on a steamship. Along the way, Owney collected hundreds of tags identifying the locations he visited. Owney was honored with his own postage stamp in 2011.
- The "Inverted Jenny" is a mis-printed U.S. postage stamp showing an inverted image of a blue airplane. The mistake occurred in the printing of the 24-cent airmail stamp issued on May 10, 1918. Only one sheet of one hundred inverted stamps were sold; when the error was discovered, all other sheets were destroyed before being sold. The Museum is fortunate to have four Inverted Jenny stamps, still together in a "block of four", in its collection.
- The U.S. Post Office created the nation's commercial aviation industry. From 1918 to 1927, they built and operated the airmail service, establishing routes, testing aircraft and training pilots. It was dangerous work and out of 200 pilots hired, 34 died. In 1927, the Post Office relinquished control of the airmail service to private industry and entrepreneurs.
- The Hindenburg carried 17,000 pieces of mail – 336 pieces, some burned, survived the 1937 disaster. When the R.M.S. Titanic sunk on April 14, 1912, all six to nine million pieces of mail and 700 to 900 packages onboard, were lost. None of the Titanic's five postal clerks survived the disaster.

**You'll be sure to find something of interest at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.**

**Visit <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/>**

## Greater Boston PCC Corporate Sponsors



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**GREATER BOSTON  
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**JOIN THE GBPCC**

The Greater Boston Postal Customer Council (GBPCC) is a United States Postal Service (USPS) sponsored organization comprised of a local network of business mailers, mail service providers and USPS representatives. GBPCC offers opportunities to participate in educational programs, networking events and discussions focused on changing postal regulations, rates and local/national mailing issues. If you are interested in becoming a member please use

**MEMBERSHIP RESPONSE FORM**

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## **USPS DELIVERS DURING PEAK SEASON!**

The Postal Service accepted more than 13.2 billion cards, letters, flats and packages during the holiday season, according to preliminary data released on January 10, 2022.

The volume from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day exceeded the 12.7 billion pieces accepted during the same period one year earlier.

The average delivery time for holiday mail and packages in 2021 was 2.7 days.

The season's highest volume came during the week between Saturday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Dec. 3, with 2.8 billion mailpieces accepted for delivery.

"Our mission to deliver for America is an enormous responsibility, especially during the holidays," said Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. "I am humbled by the hard work and dedication of each and every one of our 650,000 employees who, despite the challenges of the pandemic, helped bring joy and commerce to people across the nation."

The unprecedented preparations for the 2021 peak season began at the start of the year. These initiatives not only addressed many of the challenges of the 2020 peak but aligned with Delivering for America, the Postal Service's 10-year plan to achieve financial stability.

For more information about the Greater Boston PCC, visit us at: **[www.bostonpcc.org](http://www.bostonpcc.org)**