



**UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec. 18, 2006

# **POSTAL NEWS**

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Release No. 06-088  
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## **Making Your Holidays Sparkle**

### ***Postal Service marks the busiest mailing and delivery days this week***

Washington, DC – Even Charlie Brown is helping the U.S. Postal Service make the holidays sparkle this year, as the Postal Service prepares for the busiest mailing and delivery days of the year.

Today is the busiest mailing day, with more than 280 million cards and letters being processed, nearly three times that of an average day. And the majority of that additional mail will be delivered on Wednesday, making it the busiest delivery day of the season.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re mailing. Over miles, over continents or overnight. If the destination is around the corner, across town or overseas, the Postal Service is working around the clock to help make your holidays sparkle,” said Susan Plonkey, vice president, customer service.

Adding to the sparkle this year is “A Charlie Brown Holiday Collection,”<sup>®</sup> a CD of holiday music based on the long-running TV special. This special edition CD is exclusive to the Postal Service and features two new recordings of holiday songs created especially for the Postal Service: the David Benoit Trio’s “Jingle Bells” and “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.”

The CDs sell for \$9.99 and can only be purchased in select Post Offices.

Retail centers in Post Offices also offer colorful, decorative packing and shipping supplies. Gifts and collectible items can be purchased in many Postal retail centers featuring various stamp images and commemorating moments in American history, popular culture and hobbies.

But there is more to customer convenience than last-minute gift ideas and packing supplies.

More than 7,400 Post Offices have extended evening and weekend hours to better serve customers. Almost 2,500 Automated Postal Centers (APCs) in lobbies allow customers to ship and mail quickly, without having to wait in line. Many are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Just as an ATM is a virtual, stand-alone bank, the APC is a virtual, stand-alone Post Office. The APC does everything short of face-to-face transactions, including dispensing stamps, weighing packages and calculating postage for Express Mail, Priority Mail, First-Class Mail and Parcel Post items.

Running out of time? Log on and step into a Post Office at a time that works for you. Purchase gift cards and send greeting cards ([USPS.com/cardstore](https://www.usps.com/cardstore)), print postage ([USPS.com/clicknship](https://www.usps.com/clicknship)), buy insurance ([USPS.com/insurance](https://www.usps.com/insurance)) or shop for stamps and gifts ([USPS.com](https://www.usps.com), *click on “buy stamps and shop.”*)

One of the most popular online services is Carrier Pickup, where customers may take advantage of the personal convenience and service of requesting a free package pickup from home or office ([USPS.com/carrierpickup](https://www.usps.com/carrierpickup)).

“We’ve been delivering holiday cheer for 231 years,” Plonkey said. “Whether it’s online or in person, we are ready for you.”

**###**

Since 1775, the United States Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency that visits more than 146 million homes and businesses every day, the Postal Service is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. It receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$72 billion, it is the world’s leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world’s mail volume—some 213 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves ten million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

**Visit the Holiday Press Room at [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com)**