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## **POSTAL NEWS**

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### **Rent a PO Box Without Leaving Your Home *New Online Service Emphasizes Convenience***

WASHINGTON, DC — Find, and now rent, a Post Office Box along with the morning cup of coffee or after putting the kids to bed at night.

“PO Boxes Online” is a quick, easy and convenient online service that lets customers find, apply for and rent an available Post Office Box – simply by going online to *usps.com/poboxes* instead of making a trip to a Post Office.

“Convenient products and services easily accessible at times that fit our customers’ active, busy lifestyles. PO Boxes Online is one more way the Postal Service is responding to the needs of consumers and business owners,” said David Shoenfeld, senior vice president, Mailing Services.

This enhancement to *usps.com* allows customers to find a PO Box near their home or business, determine the box size that is available and, using either an existing Postal Service account or valid credit card, rent the box for six months to a year.

Five box sizes are available at most post offices. Fees are based on a six-month term and determined by box size. Customers also are charged a \$2 key deposit. An email message is automatically generated at the beginning of the month reminding box holders that the fee is due.

After logging on to *usps.com/poboxes*, customers simply enter a street address or ZIP Code under “search for a PO Box,” click “search” and scroll through a list of Post Office locations within a 50-mile radius. Search results provide box sizes available, fees, street address of the Post Office, business hours, lobby hours and available parking.

Once an available box is found, customers can indicate box size and complete the online application. The printed application form and two forms of identification are needed for the customer to pick up the keys to the PO Box. Customers must be 18 years of age to rent a PO Box. Boxes also can be rented in person at the retail counter in Post Offices across the country.

PO Box renewal payments also made by made at Automated Postal Centers (APCs). Just as an ATM is a virtual stand-alone bank, the APC is a virtual stand-alone Post Office.

PO boxes are as secure as mailboxes but provide more flexibility for mail pickup. The convenience of earlier mail delivery is helpful to small business owners. Boxes provide home-based businesses with the ability to separate business and personal mail. Many Post Office Box

lobbies have extended hours and are open 24 hours a day

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.