

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on October 20, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review and application for suspension of the Postal Service's determination to close the Fairfield post office located in Fairfield, Kentucky. The petition for review was filed by William T. Trent, Mayor of the City of Fairfield, and is postmarked October 12, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than November 4, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: October 25, 2011

Attachment

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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William T. (Tom) Trent  
Mayor, City of Fairfield

Received

OCT 17 2011

Office of PAGR

Petitioner,

**Petition to review  
determination to close  
the Fairfield, KY 40020  
Post Office located in  
Fairfield, Nelson Co.,  
Kentucky**

**Request to suspend  
determination to close  
Post Office until  
disposition of appeal**

-against-

Received

OCT 17 2011

Office of PAGR

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,

Respondent.

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William T. Trent, a petitioner in the above-captioned proceeding, on behalf of himself and, in his capacity as Mayor of the incorporated City of Fairfield, on behalf of all the residents of the City served by the Fairfield Post Office, respectfully alleges as follows:

## **Introduction**

1. This an appeal from the final determination of the United States Postal Service (USPS) to close the Fairfield, Nelson County, Kentucky Post Office (Docket Number 1362993-40020). This determination was posted in the Fairfield Post Office on September 16, 2011, and a copy of this determination is included as Exhibit A.
2. Petitioner is requesting to suspend determination to close the Fairfield Post Office until disposition of this appeal.
3. Petitioner is also requesting that **all** of the USPS administrative record for the Fairfield Post Office review and closure determination be included in this appeal. If the USPS does not provide the administrative record, the petitioner requests the opportunity to provide a copy.
4. The USPS has failed to meet its statutory obligation to consider 1) the effect of the closing of the Post Office on the Fairfield community and 2) whether such closing is consistent with the congressional policy, stated in 39 U.S.C. 101 (b), "that the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining."

## **Petitioners**

5. Petitioner in this proceeding include the elected Mayor of the City of Fairfield, individually, and, the citizens who are served by the Fairfield Post

Office of the incorporated City of Fairfield, Nelson County, Kentucky, with the Mayor as their representative.

### **The City**

6. The City of Fairfield is an incorporated sixth-class city located in Nelson County, Commonwealth of Kentucky, and, according to the 2010 Federal census, has 113 residents.
7. Its government is a mayor and four commissioners. It has citizen representatives that serve on the Bardstown, Fairfield, Nelson County Joint Ethics Commission, the Joint City-County Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Fairfield Board of Adjustment.
8. The City hosts a two-day community festival each June with support from the three community churches (Fairfield Second Baptist, Little Union Baptist, and St. Michael Catholic).
9. The City, like all of America today, is facing hard economic times with struggling businesses, an aging population, and declining tax revenues.
10. Recently, the city of Bardstown extended cable TV and broadband internet service to Fairfield. Fairfield is currently included in the regional plan to receive sewer service from the connection of the Bloomfield sewer to Bardstown's facilities.
11. Fairfield will grow again when the economy recovers and sewer service arrives to promote new business. Fairfield has land zoned I-2 (heavy industrial) that is waiting for the right industry to come.

12. For Fairfield City to grow economically, a post office with retail services available inside the city limits is vital.
13. A copy of the U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder for Fairfield city, Kentucky is included as Exhibit B.

### **Concerns of the Community**

14. The USPS states in the first two paragraphs of Exhibit A, "The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Fairfield, KY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by nonpersonnel unit under the administrative responsibility of the Bloomfield Post Office, located four miles away. Service will be provided to cluster box units (CBUs). CBUs are secure free-standing units of individually locked mail compartments installed and maintained by the Postal Service at no cost to the customer. A parcel locker may also be installed." Concerns of the community are:
  - a. Customers will no longer be under the statutory protections of Federal guidelines that provide nondiscriminatory mail service and will have no recourse when the USPS decides to eliminate the CBUs and forces Fairfield customers to rural delivery or post office box service in another town.
  - b. Will there be, or will there not be, parcel lockers?
  - c. There is no mention in the above description of a receptacle for outgoing mail. When the question was asked at the community

meeting, the postal representatives could not provide an answer. As of today, there is no answer. An outgoing mail receptacle is a necessity.

- d. Safety of the outside CBU boxes and the safety of the property. These CBU boxes are known for freezing locks and vandalism. Some of the current Fairfield Post Office box customers are residents of the surrounding farming community and pay for a post office box in Fairfield to safely protect their checks in a secure building. Outside CBUs do not provide that safety.
- e. Who is going to maintain, clear, and clean the access to these CBUs? Today the USPS owns the property. Are they going to continue the expense of maintaining the property?

15. Under **Concerns** in Exhibit A, most of the USPS responses are stating that the services can and will be provided by the carrier, which in this case would be a rural carrier. The rural carrier that drives through Fairfield on State Highway 48 is from Cox's Creek, not Bloomfield. Why then is Bloomfield the administrative office and not Cox's Creek? Is the rural carrier going to provide these services when the residents of Fairfield have CBU boxes, not rural boxes? Why were the concerns answered with rural delivery solutions when the USPS has stated it is providing CBU boxes?

16. The City of Fairfield will lose its identity. Exhibit C shows a map of Fairfield. If Fairfield Postal customers decide not to use the CBU boxes, their options are to obtain a P. O. Box at another Post Office and use that office's town name or to erect a rural mailbox. If they erect a rural mailbox, Fairfield

residents could have mailing addresses of Taylorsville, Cox's Creek, or Bloomfield. Soon the community name and identity of the incorporated city of Fairfield will no longer exist.

### **In Conclusion**

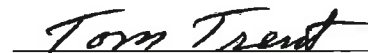
17. The data collection by the USPS that began in February 2011 concerning the Fairfield Post Office showed a total lack of understanding of the facility and its customers. The USPS did not know:
  - a. that Fairfield was an incorporated city,
  - b. that they (USPS) owned the building and land,
  - c. that Fairfield Post Office had general delivery customers,
  - d. or the number of businesses and civic groups served by the office.
18. The USPS ambushed the Fairfield Post Office and set it up for closure by not maintaining the USPS-owned modular building and reducing the hours of operation that, in turn, reduced revenue and access to the Post Office and postal boxes.
19. The USPS is not using current figures when it compares cost savings using salaries from when Fairfield had a full-time postmaster, but is now served by a flex-clerk and a PMR (Postmaster Relief) employee.
20. Since the USPS owns the Fairfield Post Office building and land and is providing retail service with a flex-clerk and PMR employee, the USPS will not save money by closing this office.

**21. The USPS has not considered the impact upon the community, particularly with respect to the hardships that will be caused to individuals, businesses and civic/church organizations.**

**Wherefore, petitioner respectfully urges the Postal Review Commission to set aside the determination, findings and conclusions of the USPS to close the Fairfield Post Office, and further request that the Commission keep the Fairfield Post Office open until this appeal is decided.**

**Dated: Fairfield, Kentucky  
October 12, 2011**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Trent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

William T. (Tom) Trent  
Mayor  
City of Fairfield  
P.O. Box 51  
Fairfield, KY 40020-0051  
Tel.: (502) 252-9202  
e-mail: [wtrent42@aol.com](mailto:wtrent42@aol.com)



Exhibit A



FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE FAIRFIELD, KY POST OFFICE  
AND ESTABLISH  
SERVICE BY NONPERSONNEL UNIT

DOCKET NUMBER 1362993 - 40020

## I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Fairfield, KY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by nonpersonnel unit under the administrative responsibility of the Bloomfield Post Office, located four miles away. Service will be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

CBUs are secure free-standing units of individually locked mail compartments installed and maintained by the Postal Service at no cost to the customer. A parcel locker may also be installed.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on November 01, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Due to declining workload. Regular and effective service will be provided to PO Boxes presently housed at the Post Office or by Centralized Boxes Units maintained by the Postal Service. Retail services will also be provided by Bloomfield Post Office located 3.8 miles away.

The Fairfield Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 10:00 to 14:00 Monday - Friday, 08:00 to 11:45 Saturday and lobby hours of 08:30 to 16:00 on Monday - Friday and 08:30 to 16:00 on Saturday to 93 post office box or general delivery customers and no delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 19 transaction(s) accounting for 17 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by nonpersonnel unit. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$19,142 ( 50 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$18,980 ( 50 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$17,606 ( 46 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On March 14, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Gardiner Hall, St. Michael's Catholic Church to answer questions and provide information to customers. 74 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On February 25, 2011, 99 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Fairfield Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Fairfield Post Office. 31 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 3 favorable, 20 unfavorable, and 8 expressed no opinion.

A petition supporting the retention of the Fairfield Post Office was received on June 08, 2011, with 255 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Bloomfield Post Office, an EAS-16 level office. Window service hours at the Bloomfield Post Office are from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, and 09:00 to 11:00 on Saturday. There are 91 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Fairfield Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Fairfield Post Office and Bloomfield Post Office from April 07, 2011 to June 08, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:**

Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.

**Response:**

Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport.

2. **Concern:**

Customer expressed a concern about the inability of the rural carrier to weigh and rate letters and packages.

**Response:**

The rural carrier will accept any letters or packages for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate.

3. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to Bloomfield or Cox's Creek Post Office to pick up their mail.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster.

4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the roadside mailbox to pick up their mail.
- Response:** Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster.
5. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern over the dependability of rural route service.
- Response:** Rural letter carriers perform a vital function in the United States Postal Service serving thousands of families and businesses in rural and suburban areas while traveling millions of miles daily. Rural letter carriers are highly respected by the American public. This respect has been earned by many years of dedication to the Postal Service and to postal customers. During national and local emergencies, including prolonged periods of extreme weather conditions, rural carriers have demonstrated great responsibility in providing mail service to postal customers. Rural carriers are required to serve the route expeditiously and arrive at boxes at about the same time each day.
6. **Concern:** Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.
- Response:** Carrier service is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an positive annual savings.
7. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about a change of address.
- Response:** Customers will be assigned a 911 address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change.
8. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.
- Response:** Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.
9. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.
- Response:** Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
10. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.
- Response:** Retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

#### **PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL**

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order

made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

#### **PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

#### **HOLDING MAIL**

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

11. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

**Response:**

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster for more information.

12. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the limited hours of operation at the post office.

**Response:**

Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue. A workload analysis conducted indicated the office had declined.

13. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows or vandalized.

**Response:**

Please contact the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows. After a check with the Nelson County Sheriff's Office, there have been no recent reports of vandalism.

14. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows.

**Response:**

Please contact the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.

15. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged.

**Response:**

Please contact the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.



16. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about a change of address.
- Response:** PO Box customers will not be required to change their address, they will continue to use their present PO Box address and last line address Fairfield KY 40020.
17. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about an Officer in Charge that had been at the Fairfield Post Office.
- Response:** Ms. Franklin had nothing to do with the study to close the Fairfield Post Office.
18. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about an Officer in Charge that had been at the Fairfield Post Office.
- Response:** The customer expressed a concern about an Officer in Charge that had been at the Fairfield Post Office. Ms. Franklin had nothing to do with the study to close the Fairfield Post Office.
19. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about leaving the post office in its present status.
- Response:** Plans are to continue to serve the PO Boxes at the present location. The Postal Service plans to either sell or lease the unit and retain space for the PO Boxes. If not successful with this option, Centralized PO Boxes will be erected to provide PO Box service to the Fairfield Customers. If the Centralized Box unit is chosen, PO box customers will have 24 hour access to their mail box, and customers will be able to retain their present PO Box number and last line address Fairfield KY. 40030.
20. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about the cost savings obtained by the Postal Service from the closure of Post Offices. Quoting the PRC which said if the Postal Service closed 1000 Post Offices, it would only save 0.7% of the postal budget.
- Response:** The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service, in an effort to grow revenue.
21. **Concern:** Customer stated a concern about delivery emanating from the Cox's Creek rural route.
- Response:** Initial plans had been to provide rural route service to the Fairfield customers. After further consideration a decision was made to provide service in one of two ways, by delivery to the present location or to centralized box units. PO Box customers will be able to retain their present address with either option. Bloomfield will be the administrative office, yet customers have the option of delivery from Bloomfield, Taylorsville or the Cox's Creek rural routes depending on the location of their business or residence. Rural delivery customers will use their 911 address.
22. **Concern:** Customer stated a concern about maintaining services.
- Response:** The Postal Service must provide regular and effective service to the community in the most cost efficient manner possible. The Postal Service feels that this can be provided by delivery to PO Boxes at the present location or to centralized boxes.
23. **Concern:** Customer stated a concern about the mail volume survey period.
- Response:** This was a two week survey period, while not in a high volume period, it was not performed in mid summer when volumes are dramatically lower.
24. **Concern:** Customer stated a concern about the maintenance on the facility.

**Response:**

The Postal Service has and will provide required maintenance on the facility as long as it is postal owned.

**25. Concern:**

Customer stated a concern that some businesses were not listed on page 13.

**Response:**

The following businesses will be listed in the revised proposal: Reid's Hauin, M&M Recycling, Angie Ford's Jewelry Sales, Mike Dant's ebay business, Mayer Livestock, City of Fairfield, Fairfield Homecoming Committee, and Fairfield Cemetery Fund. The revised proposal will be sent to Postal Service Headquarters for review.

**26. Concern:**

Customer stated a concern that they would lose the opportunity to dispatch mail several times per day.

**Response:**

Mail deposited in the collection box will be picked up at 4 p.m. daily.

**27. Concern:**

Customer stated that according to title 39 of US code 101 the office cannot be closed for operating at a deficit.

**Response:**

The office is not being considered for a study solely due to the fact that it operates at a deficit. The reason for the study is due to declining workload. Our window operations survey indicated an average workload of 17.1 minutes of work per day. The Postal Service is required to provide regular and effective services to the community. This can be accomplished by the continued delivery of mail to the PO Boxes and by the neighboring post offices. Bloomfield is located four miles away.

**28. Concern:**

Customer stated that the proposal did not list General Delivery as a service at the office.

**Response:**

General Delivery service is for transient customers only, however there are three customers presently receiving General Delivery service. Customers have been asked to begin PO Box service.

**29. Concern:**

Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to administrative Post Office to pick up their mail.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.

**30. Concern:**

Customers felt the office was being closed due to operating at a deficit.

**Response:**

The Postal Service must provide regular and effective service to the community in the most cost efficient manner possible. The Postal Service feels that this can be provided by delivery to PO Boxes at the present location or to centralized boxes.

**31. Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.

**Response:**

A parcel locker will be used for the delivery of packages to the PO Box customers, accountable mail can be picked up at the Bloomfield Post Office. Accountable mail makes up less than 1% of mail volume for the office.

On the rural routes that serve the community-If the customer lives less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the customer lives over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a location designated by the customer (if authorized by the customer), or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the Post Office.

Customers may pick up the item at the Post Office or request redelivery online at usps.com or by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS.

32. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about purchasing postage and money orders.

**Response:**

Customers have many options concerning the purchase of postage. Customers can often purchase postage at their local bank or at a nearby retailer. Fairfield PO Box customers will be able to order postage using stamps by mail envelopes, and they may also order postage at usps.com. Money orders will be available at the Bloomfield Post Office, or by completing a money order application and placing it in your mail box. The Bloomfield Post Office will issue a money order and return the receipt on the following business day.

33. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about purchasing postage.

**Response:**

Customers have many options concerning the purchase of postage. Customers can often purchase postage at their local bank or at a nearby retailer. Fairfield PO box customers will be able to order postage using stamps by mail envelopes, and they may also order postage at usps.com.

34. **Concern:**

Customer expressed a concern about their 911 address.

**Response:**

911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.

35. **Concern:**

Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.

**Response:**

Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

36. **Concern:**

Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.

**Response:**

Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.

37. **Concern:**

Customers felt the route should emanate from Bloomfield or Cox's Creek because those offices are in Nelson County and are closer.

**Response:**

The delivery route will be carefully reviewed to ensure that the most cost-efficient service is provided.

38. **Concern:**

Customers inquired about building a new facility or a mobile unit.

**Response:**

New construction or the placement of a mobile unit or trailer is not feasible when regular and effective service can be provided by more cost-effective alternatives, such as rural delivery.

39. **Concern:**

Customers stated the town was incorporated and should have a Post Office.

**Response:**

The incorporated status of a town has no bearing on its requirements for postal services.

**Some advantages of the proposal are:**

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.

5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

**Some disadvantages of the proposal are:**

1. The loss of a retail outlet. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

## **II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY**

Fairfield is an incorporated community located in NELSON County. The community is administered politically by the Fairfield City Commissioners. Police protection is provided by the Nelson County Sheriff Dept. Fire protection is provided by the Northeast Nelson County Fire Dept. The community is comprised of Farmers, commuters, retirees and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Stevens and Sons, Fairfield Auto Mart, Fairfield Grocery, Reid's Haulin, M&M Recycling, Angie Ford's Jewelry Sales, Mike Dant's ebay business, Mayer Livestock, City of Fairfield, Fairfield Homecoming Committee, and Fairfield Cemetery Fund. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Fairfield Post Office will be available at the Bloomfield Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Bloomfield Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.  
**Response:** Nonpostal services provided at the Fairfield Post Office will be available at the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the post office will also be available at the Bloomfield or Cox's Creek Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.
2. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.  
**Response:** A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Fairfield Post Office name and ZIP Code in addresses and in the National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory.
3. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern that the proposal stated that the city was unincorporated.  
**Response:** The Revised Proposal will state that the city is incorporated.
4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern about how the loss of the Post Office would negatively impact the historical dimension of the community.  
**Response:** The Postal Service is helping to preserve the community name by continuing the use of the Community name in addresses.
5. **Concern:** Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.  
**Response:** Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.



6. **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of the Post Office would discourage new businesses from coming to the community.

**Response:**

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

7. **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of the Post Office would discourage new businesses or individuals from coming to the community.

**Response:**

Businesses and residential customers generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the community will be adversely affected. Most new customers or businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth. And PO Box service will still be available at the present location or at Centralized PO Boxes.

8. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.

**Response:**

Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

9. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about growth in the community.

**Response:**

The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a post office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

### III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on November 01, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

### IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 39,443 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	+ \$ 0
Total Annual Costs	\$ 44,279
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	- \$ 4,836
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 39,443</u>

A one-time expense of \$ 1200 will be incurred for the movement of this facility. 2

### V. OTHER FACTORS

Centralized Box Unit (CBU) service will only be established if the Postal Service is unable to lease space in the present location. In the event that CBU's are installed, PO Box customers will retain their present PO Box address and last line Fairfield KY 40020. The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

## VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Fairfield, KY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by nonpersonnel unit under the administrative responsibility of the Bloomfield Post Office, located four miles away. Service will be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

The postmaster retired on November 01, 2009. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by nonpersonnel unit.

The Fairfield Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 93 PO Box or general delivery customers and no delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 19. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$39,443 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

## VII. NOTICES

- A. **Support Materials.** Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Fairfield Post Office and Bloomfield Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. **Appeal Rights.** This final determination to close the Fairfield Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Fairfield Post Office and Bloomfield Post Office during normal office hours.



Dean J Granholm  
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

08/22/2011

Date

## U.S. Census Bureau

FactFinder

DP-1

Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010  
2010 Demographic Profile Data

NOTE: For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010/doc/ipeds.pdf>.

Geography: Fairfield city, Kentucky

Subject	Number	Percent
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>		
Total population	113	100.0
Under 5 years	8	7.1
5 to 9 years	4	3.5
10 to 14 years	8	7.1
15 to 19 years	3	2.7
20 to 24 years	7	6.2
25 to 29 years	5	4.4
30 to 34 years	10	8.8
35 to 39 years	5	4.4
40 to 44 years	4	3.5
45 to 49 years	5	4.4
50 to 54 years	3	2.7
55 to 59 years	8	7.1
60 to 64 years	13	11.5
65 to 69 years	6	5.3
70 to 74 years	13	11.5
75 to 79 years	2	1.8
80 to 84 years	5	4.4
85 years and over	4	3.5
Median age (years)	46.5	( X )
16 years and over	93	82.3
18 years and over	91	80.5
21 years and over	89	78.8
62 years and over	36	31.9
65 years and over	30	26.5
Male population	59	52.2
Under 5 years	7	6.2
5 to 9 years	2	1.8
10 to 14 years	5	4.4
15 to 19 years	1	0.9
20 to 24 years	4	3.5
25 to 29 years	3	2.7
30 to 34 years	5	4.4
35 to 39 years	1	0.9
40 to 44 years	3	2.7
45 to 49 years	2	1.8
50 to 54 years	2	1.8
55 to 59 years	4	3.5
60 to 64 years	6	5.3
65 to 69 years	4	3.5
70 to 74 years	5	4.4
75 to 79 years	2	1.8
80 to 84 years	1	0.9
85 years and over	2	1.8
Median age (years)	42.3	( X )
16 years and over	45	39.8
18 years and over	45	39.8
21 years and over	44	38.9

Subject	Number	Percent
62 years and over	16	14.2
65 years and over	14	12.4
<b>Female population</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>47.8</b>
Under 5 years	1	0.9
5 to 9 years	2	1.8
10 to 14 years	3	2.7
15 to 19 years	2	1.8
20 to 24 years	3	2.7
25 to 29 years	2	1.8
30 to 34 years	5	4.4
35 to 39 years	4	3.5
40 to 44 years	1	0.9
45 to 49 years	3	2.7
50 to 54 years	1	0.9
55 to 59 years	4	3.5
60 to 64 years	7	6.2
65 to 69 years	2	1.8
70 to 74 years	8	7.1
75 to 79 years	0	0.0
80 to 84 years	4	3.5
85 years and over	2	1.8
<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>(X)</b>
16 years and over	48	42.5
18 years and over	46	40.7
21 years and over	45	39.8
62 years and over	20	17.7
65 years and over	16	14.2
<b>RACE</b>		
Total population	113	100.0
One Race	108	93.8
White	99	87.6
Black or African American	2	1.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Asian Indian	0	0.0
Chinese	0	0.0
Filipino	0	0.0
Japanese	0	0.0
Korean	0	0.0
Vietnamese	0	0.0
Other Asian [1]	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0
Guamanian or Chamorro	0	0.0
Samoan	0	0.0
Other Pacific Islander [2]	0	0.0
Some Other Race	5	4.4
Two or More Races	7	6.2
White; American Indian and Alaska Native [3]	1	0.9
White; Asian [3]	2	1.8
White; Black or African American [3]	2	1.8
White; Some Other Race [3]	1	0.9
<b>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races: [4]</b>		
White	106	93.8
Black or African American	5	4.4
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	0.9
Asian	3	2.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Some Other Race	6	5.3
<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO</b>		
Total population	113	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8	7.1
Mexican	0	0.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0

Subject	Number	Percent
Cuban	0	0.0
Other Hispanic or Latino [5]	8	7.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	105	92.9
<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
Total population	113	100.0
Hispanic or Latino	8	7.1
White alone	8	7.1
Black or African American alone	0	0.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	0.0
Asian alone	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0
Some Other Race alone	0	0.0
Two or More Races	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	105	92.9
White alone	91	80.5
Black or African American alone	2	1.8
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	0.0
Asian alone	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0
Some Other Race alone	5	4.4
Two or More Races	7	6.2
<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
Total population	113	100.0
In households	113	100.0
Householder	48	42.5
Spouse [6]	23	20.4
Child	32	28.3
Own child under 18 years	19	16.8
Other relatives	7	6.2
Under 18 years	3	2.7
65 years and over	1	0.9
Nonrelatives	3	2.7
Under 18 years	0	0.0
65 years and over	1	0.9
Unmarried partner	2	1.8
In group quarters	0	0.0
Institutionalized population	0	0.0
Male	0	0.0
Female	0	0.0
Noninstitutionalized population	0	0.0
Male	0	0.0
Female	0	0.0
<b>HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE</b>		
Total households	48	100.0
Family households (families) [7]	30	62.5
With own children under 18 years	10	20.8
Husband-wife family	23	47.9
With own children under 18 years	8	16.7
Male householder, no wife present	4	8.3
With own children under 18 years	1	2.1
Female householder, no husband present	3	6.3
With own children under 18 years	1	2.1
Nonfamily households [7]	18	37.5
Householder living alone	17	35.4
Male	9	18.8
65 years and over	5	10.4
Female	8	16.7
65 years and over	6	12.5
Households with individuals under 18 years	11	22.9
Households with individuals 65 years and over	22	45.8
Average household size	2.35	(X)
Average family size [7]	3.07	(X)

Subject	Number	Percent
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Total housing units	57	100.0
Occupied housing units	48	84.2
Vacant housing units	9	15.8
For rent	2	3.5
Rented, not occupied	0	0.0
For sale only	2	3.5
Sold, not occupied	2	3.5
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	2	3.5
All other vacants	1	1.8
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent) [8]	4.3	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent) [9]	28.6	(X)
<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
Occupied housing units	48	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	43	89.6
Population in owner-occupied housing units	100	(X)
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.33	(X)
Renter-occupied housing units	5	10.4
Population in renter-occupied housing units	13	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.60	(X)

X Not applicable.

[1] Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

[2] Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

[3] One of the four most commonly reported multiple-race combinations nationwide in Census 2000.

[4] In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population, and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

[5] This category is composed of people whose origins are from the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Spanish-speaking Central or South American countries. It also includes general origin responses such as "Latino" or "Hispanic."

[6] "Spouse" represents spouse of the householder. It does not reflect all spouses in a household. Responses of "same-sex spouse" were edited during processing to "unmarried partner."

[7] "Family households" consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. They do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same-sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption. Same-sex couple households with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households. "Nonfamily households" consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder.

[8] The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner inventory that is vacant "for sale." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for sale only" by the sum of owner-occupied units, vacant units that are "for sale only," and vacant units that have been sold but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.

[9] The rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory that is vacant "for rent." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for rent" by the sum of the renter-occupied units, vacant units that are "for rent," and vacant units that have been rented but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau | American FactFinder



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