



POSTAL NOTES

RAY BERG, POSTMASTER

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Our Aumsville Stamp Club is having a good time and would like you to join us on Thurs. Mar. 25th at 6:30 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center. Even if you have never collected stamps before, this is a great place to come and check it out!

A STORY WITH A NICE RING TO IT -

Mary Dolabany's best Valentine's Day present came from a stranger — West Roxbury, MA, Letter Carrier Frank Whall. Mary lost her wedding ring the week before Valentine's Day. She thought she would never see the ring again. But that was before letter carrier Whall found the ring near a church on his route. "I knew right away someone had lost a very valuable ring." The following Monday, he delivered a letter to the church asking anyone who may have lost valuable jewelry to call him. A priest from the church called Mary to wish her a happy birthday and mentioned Frank's letter. Mary called Frank, she described the ring and then met with Frank at the Post Office and tried it on. "Yup, it's yours!" said Frank. Mary was excited to have her ring back by Valentine's Day. "I can never repay him for what he did for me," she said.

Did You Know?

Collectors can look forward to two United States stamp issues in March.

Ten 44¢ Abstract Expressionists stamps picturing different works of art will be issued Mar. 11 in Buffalo, N.Y. None of the stamps in the set conform to standard U.S. postage stamp dimensions, as each painting is reproduced un-cropped.



Hans Hofmann's *The Golden Wall* stamp is one of 10 Abstract Expressionists stamps to be issued Mar. 11th.



The 44¢ Bill Mauldin stamp is scheduled to be issued Mar. 30th. Pulitzer Prize winner Bill Mauldin, whose Willie and Joe cartoons entertained the troops during World War II, will be honored with a 44¢ commemorative stamp that will be issued March 30 in Santa Fe, N.M.



And, from Mr. Zip:

PROTECTING AGAINST FRAUD - NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK MAR. 7-13th

As in past years, USPS is joining with the Federal Trade Commission to help alert the public about fraud in the mail and online. This year's theme is "Dollars and Sense: Rated 'A' for All Ages."

Common Defenses Against Fraudulent Schemes

It is never too early to learn the warning signs of scams: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. Avoid: pressure to act right away; guaranteed success; promises of unusually high returns; something that requires an upfront investment — even for a free prize. If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. And even if all looks right, it never hurts to do your homework and check the offer out with a local Better Business Bureau, state's attorney's office, or local consumer groups. Even if the person or company has no track record of complaints, a scam may be familiar to watchdog consumer protection agencies. Also, don't hesitate to discuss identity theft and fraudulent schemes with friends and family.

What should you do if you've been tricked into fraud through the US Mail?

Keep all correspondence (e-mails, faxes, etc.) related to these scams. Contact Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455.

Fraud on the Internet - old games, new tricks. Originally, they came by mail or in a phone call. Now they're coming through a more anonymous venue to pitch fraud — the internet. Although the internet offers a safe and convenient venue to do business, fraudsters also like the internet to target unsuspecting consumers. Online scammers can ignore national borders or boundaries. They have only one objective: to steal your money. Whether it's auction fraud or identity theft, reshipping scams, or foreign lotteries, be cautious, and be smart. Be suspicious of e-mail that appears to be from banks, online auction sites, or other retailers. Never use a link in an e-mail to visit a website. Only purchase goods and services from sites you trust. Examine all online offers before buying anything. When you're online, be on guard. Don't respond to suspicious e-mail. **The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has consumer brochures to help you learn more about fraud concerns; ask us if you need any of this information.**

