

Dear Quogue residents,

Among the workers who are on the job and continue to interface with the public in the face of risks to their own health are our own post office employees, Yaira, Sherri, Bozena and Vinnie. I had a back room tour of the post office last Friday afternoon and witnessed the daunting task that confronts our people because of this pandemic. The Quogue Post Office has been getting 300-500 parcels per day from Amazon and similar vendors that are sent via UPS, FedEx and through the postal service. About 75% of these come without a post office box number. The staff does the best it can to identify the recipients, but that requires a computer check that is very time consuming and often is not successful. The postal regulations and directions of the regional postal supervisor require that a package for which a receptacle (box number) does not exist be returned to the sender after a day. That does not make anyone happy.

So how can you help? First, if you are a resident and do not have a post office box, get one. The Quogue Post Office does have boxes available. Second, always put your post office box number as part of your address. You can add it at the end of your street address. Also, append it to your zip code whenever you have an opportunity. Lastly, because shippers will not change the "name" line of the address (unlike the "address" line if the shipper wishes to use the postal service), you can actually add it to the end of your name when filling in the shipping instructions for your online purchases. That is the most foolproof technique, according to Yaira.

Help the post office staff by picking up your mail regularly. You know whether you are a person who gets a lot of magazines and the like that often fill your box. If you are, you have to pick up your mail more frequently.

Finally, when you go to the Quogue Post Office, put in a kind word of thanks to the staff (while wearing your mask and gloves and maintaining a safe social distance, of course). These are trying times for them and they are doing the best to serve all of us efficiently and effectively.