

USPS Informed Delivery Service

By Becky Thurmond, Crime & Safety Committee Chair

This new service from the post office is really cool! Every morning that you are scheduled to receive a delivery of letter-sized mail pieces, you get an email that shows images of the exterior address side of the mail that will be placed in your mailbox that afternoon. These images represent letter-sized mail pieces that are sorted on USPS automated equipment. Since a digital image of the front is made with their automation equipment, they're now able to send those images on to us. It even includes the letter-sized junk mail. It also includes everything for your address, regardless of whose name is on it. The email does not include items like magazines and catalogs or regular mail that, for whatever reason, has to be manually sorted. And if you're going to get more than ten pieces of mail, there's a link in the email to see the rest of the images.

It's free! And I can decide if I really need to make the arduous trek to the mailbox! More importantly, you know the same day if something important is missing, whether mis-delivered or stolen. There's even a link in the email to easily report missing mail.

To use this service, go to InformedDelivery.usps.com and sign up for a usps.com account if you don't already have one. You can also go to usps.com, register for an account or sign in, then hover over your name in the top right corner. Select My Profile, then select Preferences, then Informed Delivery in the Account Management section. And since everything for your address, not just your name, is included in the email, you only need one account per address.

Our Zip code was part of the beta test for this service so I signed up a couple months ago, then promptly forgot about it. Eventually, I realized that I wasn't receiving the promised daily email and started looking around in the Account Management section. I found a check box that I had apparently missed the first time around so if this happens to you, click on the Informed Delivery Mail Preferences, and make sure Email Opt-In is selected. You can also uncheck it if you decide you no longer want the emails.

Informed Delivery is a separate service from USPS Tracking that sends notifications about packages coming to you. I've used the package tracking service for several years now with great results. Both services use the same usps.com account and share a dashboard so everything's in one place.

If you want to stay on top of what you're supposed to be receiving from the post office, check out both of these services!