

As in many rural communities across the country, residents of Otisco were concerned when their local Post Office reduced its retail service hours. Enter the owners of The Store in Otisco, Jimmy and Flo Woods, to fill the void.

Through a partnership with the United States Postal Service, The Store in Otisco is now an official Village Post Office (VPO). Customers have a range of products available to them in The Store including the sale of First Class postage stamps and Priority Mail choices. The Store also accepts outgoing mail.

"The VPO is an exciting new concept," says Roland Moore, VPO Coordinator for the Postal Service in the Kentuckiana District. Unveiled in 2012, VPO's are targeted to communities where there is no Post Office or where the Post Office has reduced hours. They are designed for non-Postal Service establishments, such as a business, town hall, library or government center. Jimmy Woods said the decision to become a VPO was an easy one to make.

"Anything we can do to help this community is appealing to us," he said. "We were afraid what would happen if Otisco didn't have a place for people to gather throughout the day."

Jimmy happily acknowledges the VPO adds another feature that pulls customers in to The Store and supplements his core business.

The process was surprisingly quick once Moore made an initial visit with the Woods' son, Eddie. Father and son readily agreed adding a VPO was a good fit for The Store. "The whole process was complete in a couple of months," noted Jimmy.

The Store in Otisco VPO is operational during regular business hours at The Store: Monday – Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Otisco Post Office is open Monday – Friday, 12:15 to 4:15 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 to 11 a.m. PO Box services are available at the Post Office.