

Mail sorting operations move to Vernal Pike - - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - November 7, 2010

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Although the mail in your box probably didn't look much different Saturday, the behind-the-scenes process has changed for your postal carrier.

By Monday, all local mail will be sorted and delivered through the U.S. Postal Service's annex on Vernal Pike, according to Kevin McCaffery with the American Postal Workers Union Local 2122.

On Saturday, local carriers worked through a hybrid process where they reported to the Vernal Pike facility and were shuttled downtown to prepare mail for their routes, McCaffery said. In the meantime, other workers moved all necessary equipment to the Vernal Pike facility so carriers will be able to start and end delivery from there, he said.

"It's kind of chaotic as far as moving goes," he said Saturday morning, taking a break from helping pack equipment to answer a phone call. "It'll be an adjustment, but we always seem to muddle through. The mail will go on."

The move is part of the postal service's recent cost-saving measures. Local mail processing moved to Indianapolis in January, a change the postal service said will save about \$1.1 million a year. That freed up space at the Vernal Pike facility for carriers, allowing the postal service to seek a smaller site for a downtown post office since its lease is up on the Fourth and Washington site owned by First United Methodist Church.

In September, the U.S. Postal Service announced it had settled on a new downtown location — the former Ponderosa restaurant at 520 S. Walnut St. At that time, a postal service spokeswoman said officials anticipate the new site will be open for business next summer.

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