The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
American Topical Association Chapter #113

NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

NEXT MEETING

November 19, 2026 7:30PM
Westfield Township
Recreation Conference Room
25 E Broad St,
Westfield, NJ 07090

The Westfield Philatelist

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Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) andJuly and August (summer recess) .Dues are $8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31 .

For information visit our website:
westfieldstampclub.org/

CLUB News...

WSC Member Marvin Platt presented his “EFO‘s for the Columbian envelopes with new findings and recent research for shifts on the two cents Columbian stamp.” Marvin began with a display of the Columbian embossed envelope issues. Showing examples of an ‘albino’ (embossed/no ink); and various iterations of the embossed stamp on the envelope paper. He further highlighted watermark variations. He was also able to share research results on the 3 mills that produced the paper. (Continued on page 2)



November Presentation...

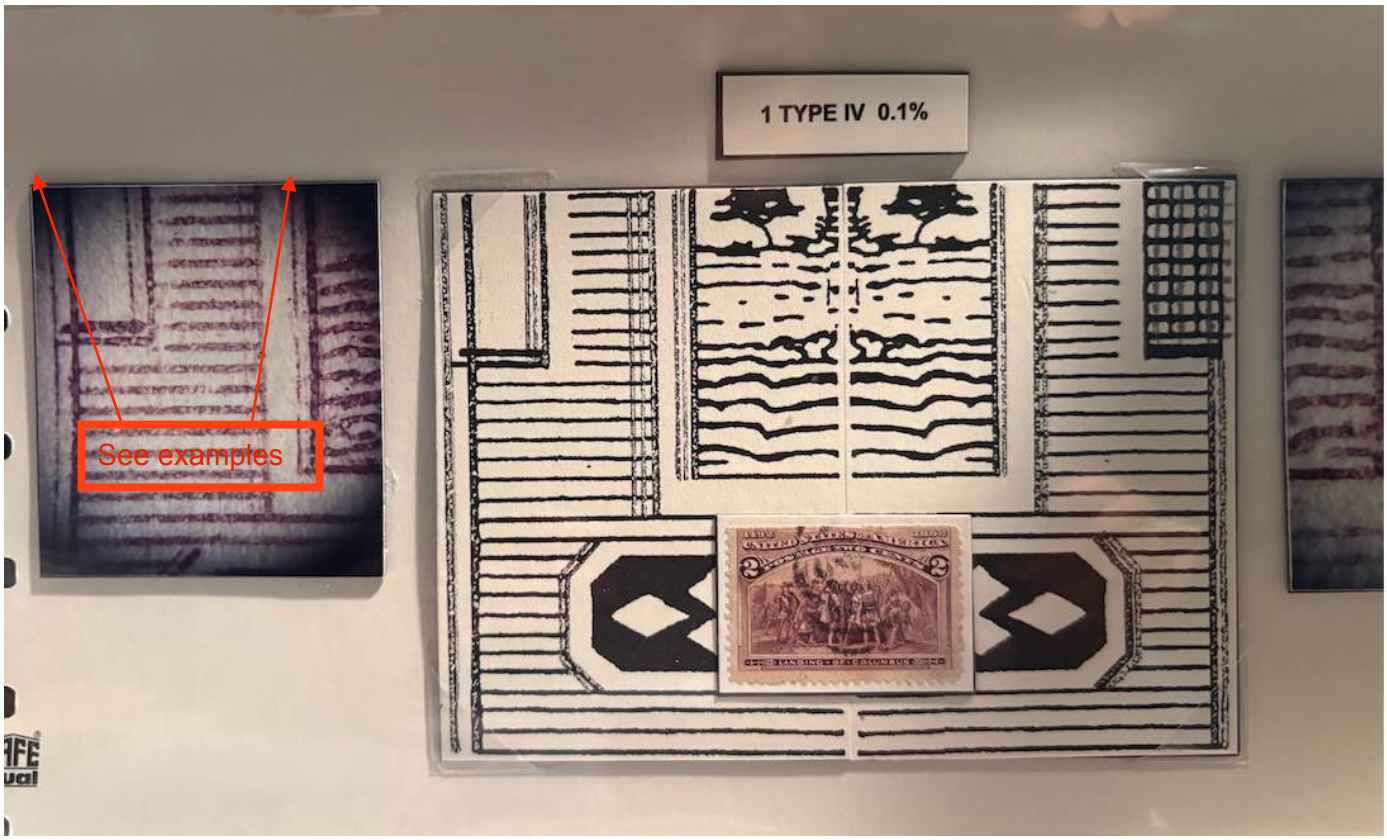
Jennifer Dulemba turns a single stamp show into a masterclass in creative philately. At Boston 2026, the World Stamp Expo, she didn't just buy stamps, she built an entirely new, personalized "Boston 2026" album from scratch, using postal administration cancels, first day covers, topical stamps, and postcards to turn duplicates and odds-and-ends into a one-of-a-kind collection. Jennifer will be presenting this interesting exhibit at our November meeting. *Not to be missed!*



EFO's for the Columbian envelopes...

Then for ink shifts on the 2¢ Landing of Columbus (Scott #231c) of the 1893 Columbian Exposition series, having reviewed ~1200 stamps, Marvin showed specific examples to the audience of the line engraving shifts. Examples of the Type IV shift can be seen on page 2. To further the understanding of his research, Marvin also set up a low power microscope with a stamp example of which several members took a look-see of the actual details.

Marvin was able to provide digital closeups of the stamp shifts and reference drawing of this rare



Examples of Columbian embossed envelope stamps:

1893 5c Chocolate #U348 / 1893 1c Deep Blue #U350





The WATERMARK...

(A column for the membership to share stories, information, and philatelic experiences.)

A family friend gave me a stamp album with stamps in it when I was four. Too early. What did I know? I pulled all the stamps out!

Fast forward to fifth or sixth grade. About half the boys (not the girls) in my class collected stamps. Not covers, just loose stamps. We all had our albums. We'd go to each other's apartments to trade, or maybe to the stamp club at school. Those were fun days. I remember one friend who'd say, "No, it's torn" or "A little rip won't hurt it," depending on which way the trade was going. We learned to bargain and stand on our own two feet.
Our parents? Maybe they'd help us get to a stamp store outside the neighborhood once in a while, but most neighborhoods had one. Certainly no involvement with the collections.

Now? Kids hardly see stamps. There's far less postal mail and most of that is metered. Kids have more options to collect, and other recreational activities to engage in. Grandparents complain that the grandkids aren't interested. Maybe if the parent is a philatelist, they'd go to a stamp show.
- Michael Franks



"Great news, the burglars only took your stupid stamps."

USPS Announces 2027 Stamps



Sports Legends: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays will be honored as the 50th stamp in the USPS Black Heritage series, featuring an homage to classic baseball cards and his famous 1954 World Series catch. Legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt will also be commemorated with an oil-on-primed-linen portrait.



Patriotic & Historical Themes: A new 2027 U.S. Flag stamp features a photograph taken outside Virginia's historical Alexandria City Hall to mark the 250th anniversary of the Stars and Stripes. Another stamp celebrates the national motto *E Pluribus Unum* paired with an image of Lady Liberty.

Mythical & Folklore Creatures: The collection introduces regional cryptids and folklore figures, including the Mothman (West Virginia), the Jackalope (Wyoming), as well as stamps depicting Sasquatch/ Bigfoot, unicorns, and a Vampire, Witch, Mummy, and Frankenstein for Halloween.





Everyday & Occasion Series: Upcoming designs include *Veggies Forever* (10 close-up photographs of styled produce), *Colorful Blooms*, a Lunar New Year *Year of the Goat* stamp, and specialized wedding/ invitation stamps like *You're Invited — Wedding Edition* and *With Love*.



Semi-Postal: A *Cure Childhood Cancers* semi-postal stamp is also on the docket, with net proceeds from the surcharge directed to the National Institutes of Health.

See the full announcement here-> USPS

Note: The designs released are preliminary, and additional subjects are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.