



# POSTAL NEWS

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## USPS Unveils Latest Lunar New Year Stamp *2026 is the Year of the Horse*

HOUSTON — Today, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled the [Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse stamp](#) at the [Chinese Community Center](#) in Houston. The Year of the Horse begins Feb. 17, 2026, and ends Feb. 5, 2027.

"The Postal Service is one of the nation's oldest public institutions and for 250 years it has carried out a simple yet powerful mission, to connect the American people via the U.S. Mail. This Lunar New Year stamp dedication shows our continued storied tradition of using stamps to spotlight the diverse events, ideals, and people that make our nation great," said Postmaster General and CEO David Steiner, who also served as dedicating official for the stamp. "Starting today, this lovely illustration will be carried on letters and packages to millions of households and businesses throughout America and across the globe. As you use them, we hope that the 'Year of the Horse' brings each of you good health, great joy and boundless prosperity."

Joining Steiner for the ceremony were [Gary Poon](#), CEO of the Chinese Community Center; Kenneth Li, board chair of Houston's Southwest Management District; and opera artist Lian Chen Walker.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Association Board of Directors President [Luis M. Chen](#) was the master of ceremonies.

In 2020, the Postal Service introduced its third — and current — Lunar New Year stamp series. The Year of the Horse is the seventh stamp in that series, which will continue through 2031 with stamps for the Year of the Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar.

Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with original art by Camille Chew. Two previous Lunar New Year series ran from 1992 to 2004 and from 2008 to 2019 and showcased the art of Clarence Lee and Kam Mak, respectively.

“I love the current series!” Alcalá said. “Whenever I speak about the stamp program to students or other professional designers, this Lunar New Year series always gets positive feedback. One woman even got a tattoo of the Year of the Rat artwork on her leg — truly a ‘Forever’ stamp!”

The latest release features a colorful three-dimensional mask depicting the face of a horse. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon and lion dances often performed during Lunar New Year parades, artist Chew’s designs are a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk-art crafts created during this auspicious time of year.

Chew constructed the horse mask out of hand-printed paper, then cut, scored and folded it into shape. She then embellished the mask with acrylic paint and other paper elements, such as flowers and tassels, and covered the back in a layer of papier-mâché. The mask was photographed on a white background for this series.

“Overall,” Alcalá said, “the positive responses to the more contemporary look are numerous and encouraging.”

People born in the Year of the Horse are said to be energetic, free-spirited, confident and hardworking, as horses are symbols of speed, strength and endurance. These attributes resonate with many who seek success, stability and good fortune in the new year.

In the United States, the Year of the Horse is particularly popular because of its associations with independence and freedom — qualities that align with the American ethos. Many Asian Americans and non-Asians alike view the Year of the Horse as a time to embrace energy and drive, set new goals, and tackle challenges head-on.

The Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse stamp is being issued in panes of 20 and as a Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtags **#LunarNewYearHorse** and **#LunarNewYearStamp**.

The Postal Service printed 20 million stamps that are now on sale at Post Offices and on [usps.com](https://usps.com).

## Postal Products

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The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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