Goodbye, Mark

Union Grove mail carrier retires after 38 years of delivering letters, smiles and friendship

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UNION GROVE — For nearly 40 years, Mark Murdoch has delivered for Union Grove.

Delivered the mail, yes. But also delivered a friendly smile and sunny outlook that has made him a popular figure in the hundreds of homes and businesses that he visits every day.

Union Grove customers are bidding a heartfelt goodbye now that the beloved mail carrier is walking his route for the last time and heading into retirement after 38 years on the job.

"I am going to miss him very much," customer Marian Henningfield said while leaning out her back door Friday to greet Murdoch on the day he made his final deliveries.

Murdoch, 60, said he is turning in his uniform and leaving the U.S. Postal Service — somewhat reluctantly — because he wants to rest his aging body and spend more time on the golf course.

The 1980 graduate of Union Grove High School has been delivering mail in the community since he was 22 years old.

"It just fits me," he said.

Raised on a farm in unincorporated Kansasville in the Town of Dover, Murdoch applied for a job with the U.S. Postal Service at his father's suggestion. When he was hired as a mail carrier, he

Mail carrier Mark Murdoch heads out with a full truck Friday to make his final deliveries in a 38-year career serving Union Grove through the U.S. Postal Service.