



U.S. Embassy Prague American Citizen Services Newsletter

June 2009

Dear American Citizens:

Greetings from Prague! I hope to meet many of you at our upcoming Open House.

Open House for American Citizens. The American Citizens Open House is quickly approaching! Please join us in the Embassy garden on **Monday June 22, from 5-7 p.m.** You will be able to find out more about the various services available to American citizens at the Embassy, so bring your questions about passports, notariats, immigrant visas for family members, taxes, and Social Security. An official from the Ministry of Interior's Schengen Office will be on hand to field questions about Czech visas as well as a representative of the Foreigner's Police. There will also be informational tables with representatives from several organizations that offer services to Americans living in the Czech Republic (Expats.cz, Association of Americans Resident Overseas, Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad, American Citizens Abroad and others).

American citizens and their immediate family members are invited to attend this event. Please remember to bring your U.S. passport to show proof of citizenship, and not to bring mobile phones or cameras, which are not permitted in the Embassy and will have to be checked at the door. An Embassy photographer will take pictures for the Embassy's Facebook website, and you will have the opportunity to be photographed with glorious views of Prague from the top of our Glorietta. You can later download these photos from our Facebook website.

Plzen American Citizen Services Day. Our second American Citizen Services day is next week on **June 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the American Center in Plzen** located at **Dominikánská 9**. Similar to our previous ACS day in Brno in March, we will provide services such as passport renewals, notarial services, and reports of birth abroad. If you plan to request citizen services in Plzen, please email us at ACSPrg@state.gov.

American Citizen Service – Passport Renewal. If your passport expires soon or has already expired, the Embassy recommends that you apply for a new one as soon as possible. Passport applications are usually processed within five business days, but please set aside extra time prior to travel to avoid last minute complications. Additionally, all U.S. citizens traveling or living overseas should have valid proof of citizenship. If you have a full-validity (10-year) passport issued within the past 15 years, which was issued when you were at least 16 years old, and is not mutilated in any way, you may apply for passport renewal by mail. For more information on applying for a U.S. passport, please visit our website at http://prague.usembassy.gov/acs_passports.html.

New Distribution List. The way in which we generate and send information to you using our e-mail distribution list is, frankly, antiquated (at least by 21st century standards!). For this reason we will be moving to a more secure and efficient system using a contact management database that better protects the privacy of your information. The new system requires a bit more minimum information than the simple e-mail distribution list – first and last name, e-mail address, and region of residence (*kraj*). As we make this change we may be coming to you to fill in the blanks where we are lacking this information. We thank you for your patience!

As always, you can reach us at ACSPrg@state.gov if you have specific questions.

Best Regards,

Stuart Hatcher
Consul General