



U.S. Embassy Prague American Citizen Services Newsletter

July 2009

Dear American Citizens:

Thank you to all those who came out and joined us for the American Citizens Open House at the Embassy last month. The event's success was largely due to your excellent participation. Those who came to the Open House received answers to questions about passports, visas, taxes, and Social Security. Representatives from the Interior Ministry, Foreigner's Police, IRS, the Social Security Administration, and other expat groups were also in attendance. Although this was only our 2nd annual Open House, we are looking forward to hosting it in the coming years.

PASSPORTS – Did you know...?

- Passport photos must be 5cm x 5cm. We cannot process pictures of any other size.
- A standard passport has 28 pages; however, if you travel frequently, you can request a passport with 52 pages at no extra charge.
- If a child under the age of 16 is applying for a passport and both parents are unable to appear in person at the time of application, the parent who is **not** present may sign a statement of consent to accompany the passport application. This statement of consent should be notarized and submitted with the passport application. The Embassy can provide the form, or you can download it from the Department of State's website at: http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds3053/ds3053_846.html.

American Citizen Services in Brno and Plzen. We are taking our services on the road to better serve you! We will hold one American Citizen Services Day every month starting in September, alternating locations between Brno and Plzen. These American Citizen Services Days are tentatively scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month during mornings hours. Please mark your calendars for the morning of September 29th in Brno if you require consular services such as passport renewals, notarials, and reports of birth abroad. More details to come! If you plan to request citizen services in Brno, please email us at ACSPrg@state.gov.

Updated contact information. We are continuing to update our Newsletter mailing list. Please help us by filling out the form below and returning it to us. If you have recently registered with the Embassy (including during last month's Open House), it is not necessary to reregister using the form below unless you wish to provide us with any additional information. If you are not sure, please complete the form. Required fields are marked with an asterisk. Please email your completed form to us at ACSPRG@state.gov.

NAME*: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS*: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
ADDRESS (IN CZECH REPUBLIC)*: _____
REGION/KRAJ: _____
DURATION OF STAY IN CZECH REPUBLIC: _____
DATE OF BIRTH*: _____
U.S. PASSPORT NUMBER*: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

California Special Primary Election. California will hold a special primary election on September 1, 2009 for candidates to represent the 10th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are California residents within the 10th District can request a ballot for this special election by completing and submitting a registration and ballot request, Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, by August 17, 2009, if they have not done so already in calendar year 2009. The online version of the FPCA is available from the FVAP at www.fvap.gov. The FPCA may be submitted by fax or email in addition to regular mail. County Election Office information is available at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm. Your county elections official must receive the request for an absentee ballot not later than Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

Changing of the Guard. My three-year tour in the Czech Republic ends July 31, when I will be transferring back to the State Department to work in the Office of Legislative Affairs. My successor, David Beam, will arrive in early August to lead the Consular Section and continue our efforts to reach out to the expatriate American community. Dave, a native of the Philadelphia area and 16-year veteran of the Foreign Service, has many consular tours in Latin American under his belt and most recently served in our home bureau (Consular Affairs) in Washington. A graduate of Georgetown University and an avid photographer and sportsman, I know he is excited to begin work here. I hope you will welcome him warmly; I am sure you will be glad he is here. We also have a great local Czech staff with many years of experience that will still be here to continue serving you. I have enjoyed my time here, not the least because you are such a diverse and interesting group. I wish you all the best!

Na shledanou!

Stu Hatcher
Consul General
Embassy of the United States