

SPECIAL PASSPORT NIGHTS FOR MERCER RESIDENTS

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello will once again hold special Passport Nights for residents throughout Mercer County. The County Clerk and her staff will visit town centers throughout Mercer County to process US Passport applications on-site for all residents.

Passport nights will take place from 3:30 pm through 7:30 pm on the following dates:

March 10 - Robbinsville Municipal Center, 1 Washington Boulevard

March 24 - East Windsor Municipal Center, 16 Lanning Boulevard

April 13 - West Windsor Municipal Center, 271 Clarksville Road

April 28 - Ewing, PEAC Health & Fitness, 1440 Lower Ferry Road

May 13 - Hightstown Borough Hall, 148 North Main Street

To apply for a US Passport, residents will need 1) Proof of US citizenship in the form of a state certified birth certificate, a US naturalization certificate or a previous US Passport; and 2) Proof of identity in the form of a current driver's license or state issued identification card. A US Passport is valid for ten years for adults and five years for minors. The cost for a passport is \$75 for adults and \$60 for minors plus a processing fee of \$25. The federal government requires a separate check for each passport application. Passport photos will be taken on-site for \$15 or \$10 for senior citizens and minors. The Clerk's Office will accept checks or money orders for payment.

For children, Federal passport guidelines now require both parents are required to appear in person -- or one parent in person with required documentation -- when applying for a passport for a child under 16.

While routine applications for US Passports are now being processed much faster, generally from six to eight weeks, the springtime is a good time to apply since the US State Department historically receives large numbers of applications as the summer nears. "Travelers who have not yet applied for a passport, should not hesitate, because the overall demand for passports has been rising

due to changes in US travel requirements, which now requires travelers to have passports for air, land and sea travel outside of the United States, including Caribbean islands, Canada and Mexico,” advises County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello.

For those who will be unable to participate in these passport events, the Mercer County Clerk’s office processes US Passport applications on a regular basis, at County Clerk’s Office, 209 South Broad Street in Trenton and is open from Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Wednesdays until 6:45pm. In addition, one can also apply for a US Passport at the Mercer County Connection located at the Hamilton Square Shopping Center on Highway 33 & Paxson Avenue in Hamilton and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Passport photos are available at both locations.

For further information on US Passport requirements, and what personal documents are needed to obtain a passport, residents should visit www.mercercounty.org and click on *County Clerk* or call 609-989-6473.