

Getting a U.S. Passport just got easier.

As new passport requirements go into effect I want to remind the residents of Bedford that our staff will be in the Cherry Street parking lot for Town of Bedford offices to process passport applications on **Thursday, June 28th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

Passports have always been a necessary document for those who traveled outside of the North American continent, but now a U.S. Passport will be required for travel even closer to home. So as you are planning your next vacation or business trip, here are some things to keep in mind:

Do not wait until the last minute: Apply now. Routine passport applications generally take approximately ten to twelve weeks. For an additional charge, expedited service will result in your obtaining your passport in no more than six weeks. But only in emergency circumstances can a passport application be processed more quickly, so do not delay.

The new rules: As of January 23, 2007, everyone, including U.S. citizens, traveling *by air* from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda will be required to have a passport or other acceptable documentation in order to enter the United States. As early as January 1, 2008, the requirements will be extended to adults traveling *by land or sea*. And please note that many cruise lines are already requiring a passport to travel to any destination outside of the United States.

Be sure to bring the proper documentation: You will need proof that you are a United States citizen such as a previous unexpired U.S. Passport, an original or certified copy of your birth certificate, a consular report of birth abroad or a naturalization certificate. You will also need proof of your identity such as a current valid driver's license or a government issued identification card. The fee for an adult passport is \$97.00 and for a child's passport is \$82.00. Our staff can take your photo for an additional \$10.00 fee. Expedited service costs an additional \$60.00 for each passport application which must be expedited. Fees can be paid in cash or by check. Be sure to bring original documents with raised seals to avoid having to make a second trip. If you have questions about whether you have what you need to apply, do not hesitate to call our office at 995-3086 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. or visit our website at www.westchesterclerk.com.

We look forward to the opportunity to help you with your U.S. Passport application when our staff visits Bedford on June 28th.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Idoni
Westchester County Clerk