

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



WELCOME TO MONGOLIA, DIANNA!



Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.

Please join the Consular Section in welcoming our new Vice-Consul Dianna Palequin to Mongolia! Dianna and her husband Andrew arrived in Ulaanbaatar on April 28th from Washington, DC. US Embassy, Ulaanbaatar is her first assignment with the Department of State. She will serve in Mongolia for two years.

Welcome, Dianna!

TOWN HALL MEETING - MAY 15TH

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To answer any questions and discuss any concerns you may have about the upcoming elections in Mongolia and the US, the Consular Section would like to invite you to attend the **Town Hall Meeting on Elections**. Consul Phil Cargile will talk about the upcoming elections in Mongolia and the US, and Tim Feeney, the Regional Security Officer, will discuss security issues in Mongolia.

The Town Hall Meeting will take place at the Star Apartments Community Center on **Tuesday, May 15, between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served and you are welcome to bring something to share!

If you will be attending, please send an email with the names of the people who will be attending to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov no later than Sunday, May 13. Your passport is required to get through the guard gate at Star Apartments. **Only US Citizens** are allowed to attend the meeting unless the US Citizen attendee is a minor. For Mongolian parents of American children, one parent is welcome to attend the Town Hall Meeting. Please bring a photo ID to get through the guard gate. Please note that due to the nature of the meeting and space limitations, we discourage you from bringing children.

Address: Olympic Street, Star Community Center (across the street from the Continental Hotel).

Parking: Parking spaces are very limited and attendees may want to consider taxi service or other means to arrive to the complex rather than driving.

We hope to see many of you at the Town Hall Meeting on May 15th!

ATTENTION VOTERS!

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to the FVAP.gov web portal or by following the instructions in the [Voting Assistance Guide](#), also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include an email address, phone number, and/or fax number on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs

**DID YOU REMEMBER TO FILE YOUR TAXES ?**

If not, don't worry. If you reside overseas or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

Publication 4732 contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has requested that the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) bring to the attention of U.S.

to contact you. Remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your [State's election website](#) to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpc.html>, or visit your [State website](#).

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in **March** Primary States), vote the FWAB at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Additional information

Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

citizens abroad a new information reporting form that taxpayers will start using this tax filing season to report specified foreign financial assets for tax year 2011.

The Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets) should be filed by taxpayers with specific types and amounts of foreign financial assets or foreign accounts. It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply.

Form 8938, the instructions, regulations implementing this new foreign asset report, and other information to help taxpayers determine if they are required to file Form 8938 is available on the IRS website.

"If you plant one tree,
it is a good deed for this life-
time;
If you plant two trees,
it is a good deed
for your next life" -
Mongolian proverb



SECURITY ADVISORY

As the weather warms and the days become longer, people from all walks of life spend more time outside and attempt to break the solitude of being trapped inside during the cold winter months and unfortunately this includes criminals.

Spring time historically sees an increase in pick pockets, assaults, sexual assaults, and rapes. Mongolians chalk this phenomenon up to 'Spring Madness.'

The spring thaw usually sees an increase in street assaults as we all hit the street for a daytime stroll to enjoy the above freezing temperature and thereby providing an easy target of opportunity for criminals. Assaults can occur anywhere at any time. Additionally, as we peel away and store the heavy winter jackets, we make ourselves vulnerable to pick pockets. The heavy winter jackets provided an extra layer of protection against wandering hands when at the supermarket or walking around tourist attractions. As the nights become warmer, street children and beggars will become more aggressive in their actions around the expat restaurants, bars, and supermarkets. If a specific establishment is known to have aggressive beggars frequent the perimeter with no security staff on hand, we advise you to avoid the establishment and take your business elsewhere. Finally, complaints to the establishment's management about the aggressive beggars and the threat of taking your business elsewhere will hopefully alert them to the problem and the need to take immediate action.

All American citizens are reminded to exercise caution and good judgment:

- Avoid going anywhere alone. If you must travel alone, ensure you have your cell phone and that someone is aware of your plans.
- Be vigilant of your surroundings, even the area near your home can be a dangerous place.
- Maintain a low profile; do not draw unnecessary attention to yourself.
- When driving, ensure that your doors are locked and windows closed.
- Know where the nearest safe havens are located (police booths, 24 hour shops, bus stops, and restaurants).

Thankfully, there is no evidence that indicates U.S. citizens are being specifically targeted in this seasonal increase in crime. We encourage everyone to commit themselves to taking that extra minute to think about doing the right thing as it pertains to security.

If you are a victim of a crime, regardless of how minor you feel the incident was, please immediately contact the Consular Section. We cannot alert the American community of potentially new dangerous areas and criminal tactics without your input.

* Courtesy Regional Security Officer

INCREASE OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION FEE

Starting April 13, 2012, applicants for all visas that are not petition-based, including **B1/B2 tourist and business visitor visas** and all student and exchange-visitor visas, will pay a fee of **\$160**.

Applicants for petition-based visas will pay an application fee of **\$190**. These categories include:

- H visa for temporary workers and trainees**
- L visa for intracompany transferees**
- O visa for aliens with extraordinary ability**



Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
 Embassy of the United States
 11th Micro District
 Big Ring Road
 Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
 Tel: 976-11329-095
 Fax: 976-11323-788
 After-hours
 or emergency number: 9911-4168
 E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
 - or -
 American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
 4410 Ulaan Baatar Place

P visa for athletes, artists and entertainers
Q visa for international cultural exchange visitors

R visa for religious occupations

Visa fee for **E visas for Treaty Traders/ Investors** will be **\$270**, and for **K visas for Financées of U.S. Citizens** - **\$240**.

For further information on the fee changes for non-immigrant and immigrant visas, please see [here](#).

For more information on the U.S. visa application process, please visit the Embassy website at:

<http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/>.

Upcoming Holidays

May 28—Memorial Day

June 1—Mother and Child Day

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Tunisia](#) 04/17/2012

[Guinea-Bissau](#) 04/13/2012

[Mali](#) 04/09/2012

[Niger](#) 04/06/2012

[Kenya](#) 04/04/2012

[Chad](#) 03/29/2012

[Yemen](#) 03/27/2012

[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 03/19/2012

[Egypt](#) 03/29/2012

[Syria](#) 03/06/2012

[Nigeria](#) 02/29/2012

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html