

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger

Broward County Commission, District 6

Day-long Summit to Focus On Needs of Broward Elders

The Broward County Commission, in cooperation with the County's Elderly and Veteran's Services Division, Florida International University (FIU) and community partners, will sponsor a *2007 Elder Services Summit* on **Wednesday, January 31**, at the **Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84, Davie, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The day-long summit, the first in what the County hopes will become an annual event, will focus on themed facilitated sessions on elder issues, including basic needs, housing and emergency preparedness. FIU's Center of Aging will release preliminary findings from their recent analysis on the needs, concerns and services for the County's senior population. Following FIU's presentation, attendees will be invited to participate in five break-out sessions to discuss topics in detail. Organizers of the summit hope these focus groups will provide solutions and recommendations on a number of issues.

The summit hopes to promote community consensus on elder issues and solutions, as well as contribute to the development of a Broward County Elder Care Business Plan. Your observations and input are important to the success of the summit.

There is a modest registration fee of \$25 for the summit, which includes a continental breakfast, full lunch and snacks. A very limited number of "scholarships" are available to those with limited means. Elders, caregivers and service providers are strongly encouraged to attend. The event will also feature speakers, distribution of informational packets and giveaways.

If you are interested in attending the summit or need additional information, please feel free to contact my office at 954-357-7006 or email me at sgunzburger@broward.org.

U. S. Passports Required in 2007

Beginning **January 23, 2007, U.S. citizens** (including infants and children) will **need a valid passport to travel by AIR** to and from Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean (excluding Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). If any portion of a trip will take place after January 22, a U.S. citizen will need a valid passport to re-enter the United States. As early as January, 2008 requirements for **land and sea** travel will be implemented. Ample notice will be given at that time.

Passports can be obtained from the **Broward County Passport Application Center (Revenue Collection Division), Governmental Center Annex, 1st Floor, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale** (metered parking is available on surrounding north/south streets or at the City of Fort Lauderdale parking garage on S.E. 2nd Avenue).
Hours: Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Procedure for new passport applications:

1. Passport applicants must fill out Form DS-11 *Application for Passport* (copies of this form will be available at the Revenue Collection Division passport application counter, and also at the Governmental Center lobby information desk.)
You can download the application from: the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, at www.travel.state.gov/passport.

2. Applicants must bring proof of U.S. citizenship (such as a certified birth certificate) plus proof of identity (such as driver's license) and two identical photographic portraits 2x2 inches in size.
3. **There are two fees for passport applications.** A passport fee of **\$67** is charged, payable to *U.S. Department of State*. A reduced fee of **\$52** is charged for children under 16. **In addition, there is a \$30 service fee, payable to Broward County Revenue Collection for handling the application.** Cash will not be accepted. Payment may be made by personal check or money order.
4. When submitting the form (complete with required proofs and fees), the applicant must swear to an oath of allegiance and sign the document in front of the person authorized to accept the application.

The entire procedure for obtaining a passport is **six to eight weeks**. Passport renewals or changes may be done by mail. Passports are valid for ten years. For additional information on obtaining, renewing or requesting an expedited passport, call the **Broward County Call Center, 954-831-4000**, or visit www.broward.org/revenue and click on *Passport Applications*.

Until next month,

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger
Broward County Commission, District 6

January 2007