PENFIELD, N.Y., JULY 16, 2010 –Penfield residents in need of a new or updated passport are invited to attend “Passport Night in Penfield” on Thursday, August 5, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue. This event comes to Penfield through the partnership of Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo, Councilman Rob Quinn, and Penfield Town Clerk Amy Steklof. Please call the Town Hall at 340-8600 to sign up in advance, however registration is not required.

“Passport Night in Penfield is a popular service that makes applying for this important government document convenient for Penfield families,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain.

Residents may also apply for a Passport Card, which is limited to land and sea crossing between the US and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

“I am excited to partner with County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo and Councilman Quinn to make the passport process more convenient for Penfield families,” said Town Clerk Amy Steklof. “Passport events are always popular in Penfield, indicating an ongoing need for this service.”

“Again, I am delighted to join clerks Dinolfo and Steklof to assist residents that are applying or renewing their passports,” said Councilman Rob Quinn, who co-hosted Penfield’s earlier Passport Night in April. “Many residents were able to visit the Town Hall, take their pictures, ask their questions, and walk away knowing that their passports were filed correctly. I am hopeful that this Passport Night will be as successful as our first one.”

The federal government increased US Passport fees on July 13, 2010. The fee for a new US Passport for an applicant 16 and older is $135 ($110 plus a $25 application fee). For an applicant under 16 the fee is $105 ($80 plus a $25 application fee). Renewals by mail are $110. Passport cards - which may be used only for travel by land or sea between the US, Canada, and Mexico - are $55 ($30 plus a $25 application fee) for age 16 and older and $40 ($15 plus a $25 application fee) for applicants under 16. Passport card renewals are $30.00. Passport photos remain at $7.00 for a set of two.

For application requirements, residents can visit the County Clerk’s website at http://www.monroecounty.gov/clerk-passports.php. Residents may download a passport application to fill it in advance. Forms are available on the US department of State’s Travel Web site at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Passport processing time is typically 4-6 weeks. Please call the Monroe County Clerk’s Office at 585-753-1600 with specific questions regarding the passport application process.

**Please Note:** Applicants between the ages of 16 to 18 must appear with a parent or legal guardian. Children under 16 must appear with both parents or legal guardians or one parent or guardian may appear, if and only if, the parent or guardian that is not present completes and has notarized a DS-3053 Form, Statement of Consent: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor Under Age 16.

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**Media Contacts**

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