

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

This past summer Westchester County contracted with a company to produce oblique (angle) aerial and street photography for every property in the County. Weather permitting, this project will begin this week in Bronxville. Oblique photography is taken from a plane and may not even be noticed. However, the street level effort will be quite obvious. A van with a FACET Technologies logo will go down every street with numerous cameras taking pictures in every direction. The aerial photography will capture panoramic views. The aerial photographs can then be used to create or update footprints of structures; measure height and number of stories of buildings, thereby calculating total gross square footage, and to find accessory structures such as decks, pools, sheds and garages.

The street level photography is a cost effective way to verify addresses, section, lot and block numbers and enhance property card information. The photos will also capture the exterior quality of construction and materials and the general "curb appeal" of each residence or business.

These photos will particularly benefit the assessment offices throughout the County by providing additional accurate information about properties in order to make transparent and equitable valuations.

The information will also be shared with police, fire and emergency medical services. These departments will use the information in a myriad of ways including pinpointing locations with even greater precision in case of emergencies. Also Planning and Public Works Departments will use the photographs to locate manholes, storm drains, fire hydrants and observe the condition of street trees.

The Village will receive the photographs and related software for no additional fee above and beyond what we pay in County taxes. The information will have many applications in almost every Village department and further refine and improve our record keeping in general. All departments in our Village are anxious to have this material to upgrade their databases.

In the same spirit of good news, it has been a week of various celebrations and milestones in our Village. Two of our stores, Silver Spoon and J. Pocker & Son, are celebrating ten years of business in our Village. We thank their proprietors Barbara and Liba for their excellent service and unfailing generosity to our Village.

The new incarnation of Pete's Park Place Tavern opened this past weekend. It is a family friendly spot with burgers, wings, and steak on the menu. Thanks to assistance from our Bronxville Historical Conservancy, the space is decorated with beautiful reproductions of Bronxville scenes past and present. We welcome new owner John Lugano and his staff to our Village. You will also notice that a very beautifully appointed Sotheby's Realty has also opened on Park Place. Our empty stores are continuing to fill up with new and quality businesses.

Right here in Village Hall, Department of Public Works staffer, Luigi Mignardi, received one of the highest awards for service given by the New York Chapter of the American

Public Works Association. Those of you who know Luigi, know there is no one more deserving of being honored for hard work and professionalism. Luigi is best known as the man who is out early in the morning running the sweeper. He is the longest tenured Department of Public Works employee, having served the Village with pride for over 36 years. Luigi started his career as a landscaper and continued in that profession even after he was hired by the Village. He works closely with the Bronxville Beautification Committee and takes great pride in using his considerable talents to make our Village more attractive. His favorite part of the job is just talking to our residents and catching up with their families. So next time you see Luigi, congratulations are certainly in order.

Staying in the good news mode, our Bronxville Historical Conservancy is reprinting Bronxville's popular history book, Building a Suburban Village. First published during the Village's centennial celebration in 1998, it sold out completely nearly two years ago. In response to repeated requests for copies, it will be available in early December through the Conservancy's website, www.bronxvillehistoricalconservancy.org or at Womrath's Bookstore. In addition, the Conservancy has also reprised the self-guided historical stroll through our business district that was also created at the time of the Centennial. The expanded guidebook for the "stroll" is available at the front desk at Village Hall.