

## **MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN**

Last week, the Village experienced an armed robbery at our Chase Bank on Parkway Road. It was a frightening wake-up call to us all.

This event prompts me to write a column updating residents on what has been an extremely busy winter period for our Police Department.

First to the robbery - it happened 37 minutes after a similar bank robbery in White Plains and based upon a review of surveillance cameras, it appears to have been committed by the same individual. Our police are also working with officers in Briarcliff Manor and the New York State Police in Cortlandt where bank robberies similar in method to ours occurred recently.

As an historical backdrop, this was the fifth bank robbery in the Village in the past 35 years. We had two other armed robberies, one on Palmer Avenue and one on Pondfield Road which resulted in the shooting death of the perpetrator by one of our officers. Two other robberies involved notes being passed as opposed to weapons. The Palmer Avenue robbery was the only one that remained unsolved until the one this past week. Modern technology and the close proximity both in time and distance of the robberies on Monday offer valuable aids in apprehension of the criminal. In concert with White Plains police officers, our department is reviewing all cameras on highways and buildings between Bronxville and White Plains. We are also studying all the cars that travelled past our new license plate reader on our patrol car in hopes of matching a plate. In addition, our officers are canvassing all cell towers for records of calls made in our area in the time period to identify and correlate numbers.

Our police department follows the security procedures dictated by each bank's corporate policy. The Chase Bank has rightly determined that the safety of their employees is paramount. To that end, employees do not press a panic button during a robbery attempt for fear of employees being held hostage or precipitating a police-criminal confrontation which could injure employees. Officers are only called after the perpetrator has left the building which typically gives the criminal a several minute "head start".

Another interesting and "I didn't know that" factoid - the bank photos of the criminal are never released until all other avenues of apprehension are exhausted. The rationale being that if the criminal is arrested and put in a line-up or featured in a photo array, a defense attorney can argue his

identification was tainted due to the broad circulation of his photo as opposed to a fresh and fair identification.

We do have some positive news in our effort to curb larcenies from Village cars. The rash of break-ins in late 2009 has ebbed with only two in January and none in February. This was a result of a combination of factors. Our police department joined with officers from Pelham, Tuckahoe and Eastchester to share data and coordinate police activity. We did incur some overtime but it was well worth it since our team joined the other departments in arresting seven individuals committing this crime throughout our communities.

Though you may not be aware as part of this special effort, we had officers not only in cars on the night shift but also on foot and bike patrol so they could hear noises and act as quickly as possible.

We have also experienced a dramatic reduction in home burglaries. This definitely runs counter to the national and local trend of marked increase due to the economic downturn. We seem to buck the trend because of our small size and intense patrolling as well as the fact that most of our homes are alarmed and prominently display their alarm designation. Your alarm is clearly a deterrent so please renew your permit with our police department. Permits expired on December 31, 2009 but we have extended a grace period until March 1, 2010 before issuing tickets for the activating of unregistered alarms. Also, now is the time to contact our police department, preferably after 7PM when calls quiet down, to add to or update your emergency contact names and numbers should an incident occur at your home. Our police department will also keep a house key on file for residents to be used in emergency situations or if a family member is locked out. In addition, if you would like to be notified as to police activity and important Village announcements via an e-mail message, just log on to [www.bronxvillepd.com](http://www.bronxvillepd.com) and follow the links to the e-alert sign up.

Unfortunately, our Village continues to attract teens on weekend evenings who come to the Village just to hang out. This past weekend, the majority of visitors were from local private schools though it varies from school to school each weekend. Thanks to the increased police presence, no incidents occurred though the congregating of large numbers of teens creates a great deal of noise for our residents living adjacent to the business district who deserve a peaceful weekend. We will continue to actively discourage students and their parents from using Bronxville streets as a weekend babysitter.

Our Village continues to be a safe, welcoming and well patrolled community and keeping it so is one of the Trustees' highest priorities.