

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

This beautiful spring weather signals a new season in the Village and with it a host of worthwhile activities.

This past weekend the Women's Club hosted a tribute to our Village veterans incorporating their stories and photos in a poignant display organized by Villagers Kathy De Russo and Mary Westmoreland, USA Colonel Retired, with the assistance of the Bronxville Historical Conservancy. They have collected the names of over 1,500 residents who have served in the Armed Forces. Not only are we grateful to them as a group, but if you see a veteran, especially at this time of the year, a personal thank you is certainly in order. We do have heroes among us.

Our Farmer's Market will officially open on May 29th with a season extending until November 20th. The Market is located at Stone Place and Paxton Avenue adjacent to the paddle courts from 8:30AM to 1PM every Saturday, rain or shine.

Our Market is so popular that new vendors ask to join weekly. In addition to the fruits, vegetables and meats from only Hudson Valley farms, new products include ice pops made with fresh local fruit, organic baby food and homemade candles, soaps and lavender products.

In its ninth year and ably run by former Chamber of Commerce Director, Mary Liz Mulligan, the market is a joint venture between the Village and the Chamber.

The Market keeps expanding because its philosophy of "growing local and buying local" resonates with the customers. One of our fruit vendors still works the orchard that has been in his family since 1712 and our produce supplier is the fourth generation to work on the family's black dirt farm. As a result, the products sold are fresher and healthier than what is traditionally offered. Mary Liz Mulligan is also a member of the Village's Green Committee which dovetails nicely with both our missions.

In the theme of healthy and organic, our very own Bronxville Beautification Council is sponsoring a Garden Tour, rain or shine, from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday, June 12th. This is a self-guided tour, beginning in front of Village Hall, of some of the most beautiful gardens in our Village followed by a wine and cheese reception. Tickets are \$20 in advance and may be purchased at Tryforos and Pernice, Kensington Paper, East India Designs,

Mrs. Morgan's Flower Shop, Pete's Park Place Tavern, Isabel's Hair Salon and Womrath's Bookstore. Tickets may also be purchased outside of Village Hall on the day of the event. The Garden Tour is the Bronxville Beautification Council's major fundraiser and all proceeds go directly back into making the Village resplendent with flowers and new landscaping.

In stark contrast, the signage and walking advertisements for Swoozie's detracts from the standards of our Village and has added an unattractive storefront to our streetscape. Our Building Department has issued violations and I have spoken to the liquidation company. However, they refused to comply with Village ordinances and our counsel has advised that the language in the Federal Bankruptcy decree from the Federal Court in Atlanta effectively trumps our local Village Code. The language in the ruling specifically mentions/encourages this kind of marketing with the theory that it will aid in maximizing the return to investors. Our only recourse was to hire a Georgia-based attorney to argue our position. We did not believe we could win on the merits and with the store scheduled to close on June 3rd, we did not believe it was a wise use of resources.

Finally, in an effort to generate new non-property tax revenues for the next budget year, we have elected to enforce our parking meters starting at 8AM instead of the traditional 9AM. We are legally allowed, given current code, to charge from 8AM to 9PM but we have only chosen to add the one morning hour. We expect to generate over \$80,000, or the equivalent of one percentage point in taxes, by adding this one hour to our enforcement policy. Since it is a change from the norm, we will be alerting parkers with flyers and e-mails and will give ample time to adjust to the new regulations.

We are starting to see some positive signs in the revenue sources that affect our budget and we hope the trend continues.

Happy Spring and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Memorial Day Parade on May 31st at 9AM on Pondfield Road.