

## THE CURRENT ECONOMY'S IMPACT ON CRIME

### *Protection Available from a Wide Array of Technology Choices*

Is the economy moving some to take desperate measures? Perhaps, according to a nationwide survey of mayors and police chiefs conducted by the US Conference of Mayors, including respondents from Arlington Heights, Palatine & Northbrook. The survey results show that 42 percent report that they are seeing increased crime as a result of current economic conditions. These crimes include increased home invasions. Additionally, increases in gas prices have cut police patrols.

Dr. Carl Bell, of the Community Mental Health Council, says that stress often leads people to criminal behavior. "When the money gets tight, people get creative and interesting. They get pressured and stressed and they start taking it out on other people," states Bell.

What's a homeowner to do?

"You can protect yourself and your belongings using a wide array of technology," says Pete Panagakis, President of Advanced Security Technologies, Inc, (AST) of Lake Zurich, IL.

While there are simple steps homeowners can take to make their property safer, such as keeping shrubbery and foliage trimmed to eliminate potential hiding places and keeping the doors and windows locked, the fact remains that homes with security systems are less attractive to would-be thieves. According to Simon Hakim, professor of economics at Temple University, homes lacking alarm systems are 3.5 times more likely to be burglarized.

The days of having your home protected solely by sensors on windows and doors are long past. AST offers services ranging from closed-circuit television systems to intercoms. "We can design and install a security system that will let you preview all visitors on a video screen. We can use lighting to give the impression someone is home," says Diane Panagakis, who works in the business with her husband.

Additionally, says Pete Panagakis, "You need to think about protecting your lifestyle. Not all your valuables are tangible. Identity theft is rampant.

"If you have a 20-year-old home security system, you're really at a minimum level of protection. You're not securing everything you own. With all of the electronic information transmitted nowadays, anybody's identity is open to theft."

By utilizing various technological tools, including firewalls, Panagakis tells homeowners that they can rest assured that personal information is secure from intruders.

Once you have a home security system installed, you have to remember to use it. By working with a local company, such as AST, homeowners can find a personalized level of service. "Since we're a locally based, family-owned business we are personally involved with every customer to secure their safety, satisfaction and way of life," says Panagakis.

###

### **About Advanced Security Technologies, Inc. (AST)**

Locally-owned and operated in Lake Zurich (IL) by Peter and Diane Panagakis, AST provides security and fire detection services, including the latest in equipment advances and around-the-clock monitoring, for homeowners and businesses throughout the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. AST is personally in touch with securing your way of life. To learn more, visit [www.astprotectsyou.com](http://www.astprotectsyou.com) or call 847-540-9166.