



The New \$5

What businesses need to know

By Zaher Karp

There were over 3,000 counterfeit-related arrests in 2006, resulting in a total loss of \$62 million to individuals and businesses who accepted false bills. The fight against counterfeiters has been armed with continually evolving currency, as the government routinely redesigns bills every seven to 10 years. The new \$5, which is scheduled to hit banks and pocketbooks in this first quarter of 2008, is part of the effort started in 2003; changes to the \$10, \$20 and \$50 bills have already been made.

While the \$100 was next in line for a redo, counterfeiters have favored the \$5, using a method of reproduction that involves the bleaching of ink off \$5 bills and using them to print \$100 bills, as they currently share

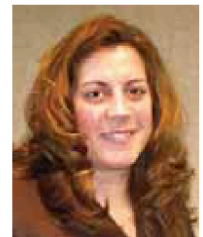
several security features.

“This new bill is designed to prevent against [this form of counterfeiting], with new features... such as two different watermarks [which will clearly] distinguish it from the \$100 bill,” explains **Ruth Potter**, vice president of compliance and security at **Park Bank**.

“Though these new features may look odd,” says **Theresa Wiese**, senior vice president of operations at **First Business Financial**



Theresa Wiese
First Business
Financial Services



Kaylin Stampfl
Capitol Bank

Services, “they are vital to protecting innocent businesses.”

The new security features found in the upcoming bill are new watermarks; one of a large number “5” (which will replace the current President Lincoln portrait watermark) to the right of the center portrait, and the other a column of three smaller 5s to the left of it. The security thread, containing an alternating pattern of USA and 5, previously found on the left of the portrait, has now been moved to the right side, and will visibly glow blue when held under an ultraviolet light.

“Counterfeiters often are unable to duplicate the security thread, so they rely on people to overlook this and instead trust the color of the bill,” emphasizes **Kaylin Stampfl**, retail sales officer at **Capitol Bank**. New colors have also been added to the bill — a light purple in the center of the bill that shifts to gray toward the border, and yellow 05s are printed near the portrait on both sides of the bill. The bill has also been adapted for those with low-vision with the addition of a large 5 in the lower right corner of the back of the bill. The familiar border of the portrait has been removed, and now Lincoln’s shoulders extend into the border.

Potter, Stampfl and Wiese all emphasized the necessity for businesses to educate their employees in regards to this new currency.

“The biggest losses companies can face are the result of not educating employees, and there is no reason not to with the amount of information available,” says Potter. Businesses that use ATMs and change machines, or any machine that would require small bills, should have their machine software updated. Property managers and property management companies, says Wiese, may have to upgrade vending machines or change machines to recognize the new bill; however, it depends on how sophisticated the machine actually is. “If it can recognize counterfeit money, then they will need to upgrade their machine.” Otherwise, businesses should be able to function easily with this new currency, as long as the indispensable education is supplied to employees.

Information about the new \$5 bill, including security highlights and training materials, can be found at www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney.