



Matthew P. Doughney,  
Chief of Police

# **CITY OF AVON PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

---

304 W. Pleasant Street  
Avon Park Florida, 33825  
Telephone 863-453-6622  
FAX 863-452-4424  
[www.avonparkpolice.com](http://www.avonparkpolice.com)

## *News Release*

### ***Bank Robbery Arrest***

*October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009*



*Michael James Bowers*

The City of Avon Park Police Department is pleased to announce that the perpetrator responsible for the April 14, 2009 Robbery of the Heartland National Bank in Avon Park has been arrested.

The arrest was made late this evening at the City of Avon Park Police Department headquarters. The perpetrator has been identified as 56 year old W/M, Michael James Bowers of 1995 County Line Road in Avon Park. Bowers is cooperating with Law Enforcement and has confessed to committing the robbery. Detective Harbaugh made the arrest.

The robbery occurred shortly after 12:00 on Tuesday April 14, 2009. Bowers planned the robbery throughout the morning and waited for the severe thunderstorm to move over Avon Park before acting. Bowers entered the Bank and passed a note to the teller, demanding \$1,500.00 in U.S. currency from the teller. The note also indicated that Bowers was armed with a firearm and had placed an explosive device at the door. Bowers fled the bank on foot after the robbery, discarding a shirt along the way.

Bowers is currently being held at the Highlands County Jail on a \$15,000.00 bond.

Chief Matthew P. Doughney