



NEWS RELEASE
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Orland Park Police Utilizes Nixle to Distribute Information to Residents

Residents Can Register for Public Safety Messages

ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS – The Orland Park Police Department is using a new communications service to send important public safety information directly to residents.

The Nixle Community Information Service allows the department to create and publish messages to subscribed residents instantly via cell phone text messages and/or email. Notifications can also be accessed online at Nixle's website at www.nixle.com. Standard text message rates apply.

"The Orland Park Police Department prides itself on having strong communication with the community it serves. Being able to distribute safety related information via the Nixle System is one more way for the police to reach the public," said Trustee Brad O'Halloran, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee.

Messages may include crime alerts and high risk missing persons reports as well as other relevant safety and community event information.

"We chose Nixle because it is a secure, easy to use, free system that enables us to share important information with the public," said Chief Tim McCarthy.

Messages can be transmitted anywhere from a quarter mile to twenty miles, allowing neighborhood-level, time-sensitive information to be sent to only affected areas. Nixle enables community policing outreach in new ways, building a communications structure to help solve crimes, build safer communities and create a positive dialogue between residents and the Police Department.

"If we have a missing person or an emergency within a specific neighborhood, we can target the registered residents in that area, instantly sending out an alert," said Deputy Police Chief Jerry Hughes. "That in itself makes Nixle appealing for public service agencies," he added.

"Nixle builds on the foundations of other public-to-public communication services like Twitter; however, it adds a key component for public safety agencies --- security," McCarthy said. "When citizens receive information from the Orland Park Police via Nixle, they know it can be trusted," the chief said.

Nixle has been used around the country to help find missing seniors, evacuate flooded areas and capture criminals shortly after a crime has happened. Its content is diverse as

the service not only provides emergency alerts, it is also used to announce road closures and other “want to know” information.

“Nixle is a first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents,” said Craig Mitnick, founder and CEO. “In today’s world, you have to trust the source of your information. Residents of Orland Park can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic,” Mitnick said.

Residents of Orland Park and those in neighboring communities can immediately begin receiving pertinent information via text message, email and the web by registering at www.nixle.com. Collected information is not sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. There is no advertising associated with the municipal wire.