



For Immediate Release: January 17, 2019
Contact Person: Sheriff Jamie Patton
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CHANGES TO NIXLE

Emergency service agencies in Union County and the City of Marysville need to make a change in their community notification programs. Nixle, a free software program owned by Everbridge, has been used for several years to send out community notifications related to road closures and other emergencies. In December 2018, Nixle notified emergency service agencies to stop using their text service for road closure and other types of messages. According to Nixle, texting costs from the cellular companies created a situation where they could no longer offer their service for free. Road closure messages are still being sent via email. Union County has almost 9,300 Nixle users signed up to receive messages and agencies have been hearing how much residents miss this type of community information. Agency leaders are in the process of reviewing software program options to replace and expand community notifications, which will allow a return of the popular text message notification. This review includes an analysis of the current Reverse 9-1-1 Program called Code Red and Code Red Weather that is used for critical incident notification and severe weather announcements affecting Marysville and Union County. Officials believe a solution will be decided upon before the end of January and implementation of the new program could begin as early as mid-February. At that time, agencies will begin a mass community education campaign to notify current Nixle and Code Red users of the new and expanded options available to them for notification via, text, email, phone call, and social media.

Approval: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Malcum J. Patton", written over a horizontal line.

Malcum J. "Jamie" Patton
Sheriff – Union County