



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BEHIND THE STAR

SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



Changes to the Nixle Community Notification System

For the past three years, the Union County Sheriff's Office, the Union County Emergency Management Agency, and the City of Marysville, have partnered with the townships and villages in Union County to make available a community notification system called Nixle. This system has been utilized to alert residents, in real-time, of local emergency situations, including road closures, weather emergencies, and snow emergencies. Recently, the company that owns Nixle (Everbridge) has transitioned the Nixle program to a credit-based system, due to cellular text messaging fees. As a result of this change, the Nixle system can no longer be utilized as it has been in the past. This change will limit the use of Nixle to emergency situations only for Union County and our communities. Most information previously sent through Nixle, such as road closures and snow emergency levels, will now only be available and pushed out utilizing the Union County Sheriff's Office App and social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter). Nixle will still be activated to notify the public of imminent "emergency situations" that are impacting our community. Situations that qualify as an "emergency" include, but are not limited to the following:

- Haz-mat or other situations that require sheltering in place, evacuation orders, etc.
- Terrorism events
- School incidents involving student safety and parent notification
- A missing child
- Criminal events that can impact the safety of residents, such as a prisoner escape
- Major road closures of heavily traveled State and US Routes with long-term impacts on traffic and travel.

In addition to emergency situations, time sensitive National Weather Service alerts for severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings will continue to be sent automatically through Nixle.

While this change is not welcome news, there are other avenues for residents to be alerted to events that impact our community. The Sheriff's Office social media accounts for Facebook (Union County Sheriff's Office – Marysville, Ohio) and Twitter (@ucso80) can be found online. The Union County Sheriff's App is available for download for free on your Android or Apple phone through the appropriate "app store".

UNION COUNTY
Sheriff's Office

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