

As technology continues to advance, many people are keeping up with current news and events through notifications that come directly to their cellular phones in the form of a text message. Whitley County has announced that as of Nov. 1, a partnership with the Nixle Community Information Service (nixle) will allow residents to do just that and more.

Nixle is a reliable tool which provides a system for municipalities and law enforcement agencies to communicate directly with residents over various platforms, such as text messages, e-mail, or directly through the web on their website, www.nixle.com. The platform gives agencies a secure, easy-to-use and effective system to share relevant information with residents about the neighborhoods where they work, live and visit.

The system is currently configured to provide two types of information:

ALERT: The most critical pieces of information, such as tornado sightings, flood evacuation notifications or a missing person report.

ADVISORY: Intermediate yet relevant information, such as traffic delays, upcoming road closures and general safety information.

The system is simple, yet highly effective and easy to use, giving those providing updates the ability to create and dispatch informative messages in a quick, efficient manner that does not take away or impede them from their regular duties.

A few minutes is all that is needed to sign up for the service at www.nixle.com. A simple texting option is also available, however one of the most beneficial features of signing up through the website is its customizability. For starters, users can choose to receive the updates through either text, e-mail or directly over the website should they not want their text messaging rates to be affected. Subscribers may also select which agencies they would like to receive updates from.

As of the Nov. 1 launch, the network for Whitley County will be a joint effort between the Whitley County Sheriff's Department dispatch, the Whitley County Emergency Management Department, the city of Columbia City, city of Churubusco, city of South Whitley and the Whitley County Highway Department.

Whether it's for a student, parent, resident or visitor, the nixle system is designed to provide pertinent, up-to-date information to the community. Whitley County encourages not only that residents sign up at www.nixle.com, but also that they pass along the information to family and friends in an effort to encourage all county residents to take advantage of this opportunity.

Nixle is partnered with the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), making it a safe, reliable and trustworthy source when providing information while also ensuring that subscriber information will never be shared, sold, or used in any sort of solicitation manner.

Interested parties can register at www.nixle.com or send their zip code via text to 888777.