

Sherman, Williamsville to begin electronic information

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Sherman and Williamsville are using a new electronic system to notify residents about weather alerts, public safety and boil orders, among other information.

The service, provided by the San Francisco-based company Nixle, will be launched Oct. 31. It will send out alerts to subscribers via text message and e-mails.

Nixle is a secure-communications service available to municipal, county and state government agencies.

The area system is free thanks to a grant the company received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Sherman's Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Moos said.

Standard text message rates will apply for subscribers.

To sign up, residents should go to www.nixle.com. Both village Web sites also will have links to Nixle's site. Residents may sign up for the service before Oct. 31.

Subscribers do not have to live in Sherman or Williamsville to receive notifications about the villages, which will be divided into four categories: alert, advisory, community and traffic, Moos said.

Sherman and Williamsville each will run their own Nixle alert program, but Moos said the communities' proximity to each other and joint school district made officials want to launch the program together.

He also noted that the Nixle system is not meant to replace weather radios, emergency sirens and other existing alert systems.

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