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New app sends jail release notifications

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Written by Chris Mayhew

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Victims of crimes in Campbell County are now able to receive electronic alerts if a suspect is released from jail for the first time instead of having to call and check daily.

The new notification system is part of a new software application issued by the Campbell County Sheriff's Office for mobile phones and tablets. Campbell County is the first agency in Kentucky to utilize the MobilePatrol app.

Sheriff Jeff Kidwell said he is announcing the app's release today through *The Community Recorder*.



Kidwell

The app opens a lot of doors for safety communication to keep people informed, and the directory of government resources in Campbell County will help people, Kidwell said.

The app is integrated with VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), to allow crime victims who sign up to be notified about the custody status of an offender, according to a news release from Kidwell.

Previously, people had to call the Campbell County Detention Center and ask each day if a person was still lodged in the jail, he said.

"They had to really do that foot-and-leg work on their own to see if someone they were victimized by was out on the street," Kidwell said.

The VINE system requires a person seeking notifications to sign up, set a personal identification number, and select the inmate they want notifications about.

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Kidwell said he also is willing to send alerts for other area police agencies through the app if they request an alert.

The app also has a most wanted section and a list of people being sought for child support violations, and a sheriff's news section.

The only function not operating in the app is up-to-date information on sex offenders, he said. Kidwell said he is working with state officials to bring the sex offender data online as soon as possible – possibly by Christmas.

Kidwell said he has already received calls from the Boone County and the Grant County sheriff offices about getting their information into MobilePatrol. So far, without any publicity, more than 1,000 people have signed up in the past two months to receive information about the Campbell County Sheriff's Office through the app, he said.

The MobilePatrol app is available for the iPhone and iPad and Android smart devices, according to Kidwell's news release. The MobilePatrol app is available online, including iTunes and Google play.

"The most beneficial and significant feature of this app is that it lets us get important information right to people's fingertips," Kidwell said in the news release. "The app greatly improves our ability to serve the public, and that's what we're here for. I'm thrilled that we can provide this to the community."

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