



Board of Commissioners

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COMMISSIONERS APPROVE PURCHASE OF NEW REVERSE 911 SYSTEM

Starting in January 2021, Lake County residents will have a new Reverse 911 system to receive emergency notifications. Purchased from Inspiron Logistics, LLC, the County's new WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) alerting solution is scheduled to replace VESTA, which has been in use since 2016. WENS, like VESTA Alert, employs a secure web-based technology in its operation. The program has many features which will assist in getting critical information to Lake County residents in a timely manner, including updated technology for text message notification. An additional feature allows residents to sign-up to receive warning alerts for severe weather that will affect Lake County (i.e. Lake Effect Snow Warning, Thunderstorm Warning, etc.)

A transition team, headed by the Lake County Emergency Management Agency and comprised of staff from the Lake County Sheriff's Office Central Dispatch Division, conducted extensive research comparing various notification systems before deciding on WENS. The team was impressed with the robust capabilities of the system including its simple-to-use mapping platforms which allow operators to quickly search areas of the detailed maps and high-quality aerial imagery, setup boundaries and deploy alerts.

All of the landline and wireless information from VESTA Alert was migrated over to the new WENS system during setup. WENS also uses a secure online Self Registration Portal to enhance real-time contact information. Lake County residents are encouraged to visit https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lake_oh/wens.cfm to update their information and also select any weather alerts they would like to receive.

For the past several months, staff have been entering data, training and preparing to migrate from the county's current VESTA system to WENS. In the meantime, both systems will be used in redundancy through the end of VESTA Alerts contract on January 31, 2021.

Questions may be directed via email to EMA@lakecountyohio.gov or by calling County Administrator Jason Boyd at (440) 350-2334 or EMA Director Joseph Busher at (440) 350-5499.

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