

Sheriff Gives a Link to Seniors During an Emergency

Everyone needs to be aware of the dangers the elderly and those with medical conditions face every day when they live alone. We need to take extra care of our seniors and make sure that they are safeguarded. With that in mind, Sheriff Zaruba calls for a re-release of vital information that could save their life.

In 2001, DuPage County Sheriff John E. Zaruba launched a program called Cell Link to give senior citizens immediate access to help in an emergency.

The Cell Link program provides donated cell phones to senior citizens who may otherwise not have the need or funds to purchase one. These cell phones are programmed to dial 911, but cannot make or receive any other outside calls. If 911 is called from a cell20phone in DuPage County it is answered by the Sheriff's Communication center and then transferred to the appropriate agency for assistance for the caller.

Also available to seniors is Sheriff Zaruba's Guardian Program. The Guardian program calls members registered in the program on a daily basis to check on their well being. If the member does not answer the phone, Sheriff's dispatchers contact a relative or neighbor or dispatch a deputy to the residence.

"Guardian is a valuable for the elderly at home, but many seniors are still very active," Sheriff Zaruba said. "If something happens to them while they are on a walk or driving to the store, a cell phone might save their life.

For more information on Cell Link or the Guardian Program please contact the Community Resource Unit 630-407-2317. If you would like to donate an old cell phone to the Cell Link Program, donations can be dropped off at the Sheriff's Communications Center 24 hours a day, seven week at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office located at 501 N County Farm Rd. Wheaton.