

To Our Norridge Community,

Summer is in full force, and as we know the dog days of August are ahead. In the last three weeks we have experienced some very hot and humid days, along with unbelievable rain amounts that have hit the Village of Norridge very hard. I urge all residents to check on your neighbors, and if you have any doubt about someone's well-being, please contact the police department immediately.

I write this letter with some excellent news. I am a member of the Legislative Committee for the West Central Municipal Conference. Legislation has been passed that will allow the use of remotely-activated bracelet technology to contact emergency services directly (911).

The bracelets allowed under the new law are activated upon alert from the missing person's registered caregiver. Immediately upon activation, the device contacts emergency services and provides a message on behalf of the wearer. The call will then be handled as any other 911 call involving a person in need of assistance.

Under current law, it is a Class A misdemeanor to install or connect an automatic alarm, automatic altering device, or mechanical dialer that contacts "911" to directly access emergency services. This bill establishes an exemption for bracelets which can be remotely activated to alert emergency response personnel of a person in need.

The legislation was spurred by a 2007 incident where a seven-year-old child with autism disappeared for several hours in Elmhurst. Like many children with autism, James often runs out of his parent's sight. After a large search effort that included the Village's police, fire and public works departments, James was found at a grocery store more than two miles from his home. The new law takes effect January 1, 2012.

This measure will help caregivers and emergency personnel to respond to someone in need and return them to safety. If someone in your family is ever missing, please dial 911 immediately.

Please enjoy the remainder of your summer and please drive safely.