

Bartonville Launches the Blackboard Connect Platform to Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Communication

Test Call Planned to Ensure Residents are Ready to Receive Important Messages

[BARTONVILLE, IL – May 1, 2010] – The Village of Bartonville announced today it has launched the Blackboard Connect mass notification platform, enhancing communication and emergency preparedness. The first community-wide test call is scheduled for May 2 at 5:00p.m.

Bartonville has implemented the Blackboard Connect platform so that village officials can directly notify, update and provide direction to the community in an efficient, timely manner, should a need arise. Using the Blackboard Connect platform, officials can record, send and track personalized voice messages to thousands of residents, businesses, and local agencies in just minutes, through a single phone call. The village can also send text messages to cell phones, PDAs, e-mail accounts, and TTY/TDD receiving devices for the hearing impaired.

“Effective communication with citizens has a direct impact on their safety and the Village of Bartonville has implemented the Blackboard Connect service because we recognize the importance of communication before, during and after a situation occurs,” said Rhonda Wolfe, Mayor of Bartonville. “The Blackboard Connect service is a positive addition to our emergency preparedness and general communication plans and will help to keep our community safe, informed and connected.”

“In an urgent situation, we can use the Blackboard Connect service to send vital information and directions to residents in just minutes, through a single call, which will help to save valuable time and resources,” said Brian Fengel, Police Chief of Bartonville. “All residents are strongly encouraged to add their contact information into the Blackboard Connect system so that they are prepared to receive important messages at any time.”

Publicly available primary residential and business phones in Bartonville will automatically be included in the system. However, to ensure that the village has the most up-to-date contact information, residents should visit one of the Web sites (www.bartonvillepd.com, or www.villageofbartonville-il.com) and click on the link that says “SIGN UP NOW – SERVICES BY BLACKBOARD CONNECT,” to provide their complete information (up to three phone numbers and two e-mail addresses) and indicate if they have a TTY/TDD. Those without Internet access are encouraged to use the computers at the local library or call (309) 697-2323 to provide their up-to-date contact information. Residents with call blocking services should add (309) 697-2323 to their approved number list to ensure they receive essential notifications from the village.

“The best way to keep residents informed and, therefore, safe is through communication, and the Blackboard Connect platform makes it easy,” said Karl Engkvist, Executive Vice President of Blackboard Connect. “With the

Blackboard Connect platform, administrators have a powerful tool for mass communication without having to purchase new computers, software and telephone lines.”

For more information on the Blackboard Connect platform please visit <http://www.blackboard.com/Alert-Notification/Connect-Platform.aspx> or contact the company at (818) 808-1789.

Additional Information about the Blackboard Connect Platform

The Blackboard Connect platform allows officials to send thousands of messages in minutes, requires no additional hardware, and can be used from any computer with Internet access or telephone. This ensures that administrators can send vital messages from wherever they are located—even if they are evacuated. Additionally, officials receive detailed reports on contacts that did not receive a message, enabling them to follow up through alternative means as needed.

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