



MICHAEL G. BELLOTTI

NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERIFF BELLOTTI SEEKS NEW SIGN-UPS FOR "ARE YOU OK?"

DEDHAM, MA, May 12, 2015 – Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti is urging Norfolk County residents to take advantage of his lifesaving "Are You OK?" program, which he runs in conjunction with Fallon Ambulance Service.

"This program is so beneficial, especially to older people who live by themselves. We check on their wellbeing every day, and in doing so, we provide those enrolled in the program with a sense of security and peace of mind," Sheriff Bellotti said.

Each day, 365 days a year, an officer from "Are You OK?" places a phone call to the homes of everyone enrolled in the program at an agreed-upon time. If a program enrollee does not answer or otherwise indicates he or she is not OK, the officer contacts the police to check on the wellbeing of that person.

Initiated in Norfolk County in 2001, the program, which is free of charge to the public, faced extinction in 2009 due to budget constraints until Fallon Ambulance offered to help keep "Are You OK?" up and running.

"Fallon Ambulance really stepped up to the plate when we needed them most," Sheriff Bellotti said. "They recognized the importance and value of the program and offered us office space in their building and assistance from their professional personnel when our staff is on vacation or days off. They never asked us for anything in return, and we continue to be grateful for their partnership in the program."

Sheriff Bellotti said "Are You OK?" has come to the aid of more than 100 area residents when they needed it most. "We've had a number of cases where people have fallen in their homes and not been able to get up and, more importantly, not been able to let anyone know they need help. That's where we come in," he said.

The program allows older people to maintain their independence while still feeling secure. It also provides a great measure of peace of mind to young people who are concerned about their elder relatives living alone.

For more information or to sign up for "Are You OK?" visit www.norfolksheriff.com and click on "Programs for the Community" or call the Norfolk Sheriff's Office at 1-866-900-7865.