



MICHAEL G. BELLOTTI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERIFF'S PROGRAM RESCUES 92-YEAR-OLD

DEDHAM, Nov. 23, 2015 – A 92-year-old woman who had fallen in her home was rescued by Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti's "Are You OK?" program, which summoned help for her after she was initially unable to reach her phone.

When emergency medical personnel arrived at the woman's Avon home on Nov. 19, they found her on the floor. Fortunately she did not break any bones, but she said she was grateful to have the Norfolk Sheriff's Office program working for her in her time of need.

"We are grateful this woman was not badly hurt," Sheriff Bellotti said. "And we are glad we could reassure her that help was on the way after our 'Are You OK?' officer contacted her.

"We are urging any Norfolk County resident who might benefit from this free-of-charge program to enroll with us," Sheriff Bellotti said. "This program works remarkably well, and we have the capacity to help so many more people."

Sheriff Bellotti introduced his "Are You OK?" program into Norfolk County in 2001. Since then, some 2,500 seniors have benefitted from it, with 120 of them receiving emergency medical help.

"Even if you don't need us to call an ambulance, the peace of mind that comes from knowing we are checking in with you each and every day is invaluable," Sheriff Bellotti said. "And that peace of mind is felt not only by the seniors enrolled in the program, but also their loved ones who are concerned for their well-being."

Every morning, 365 days a year, an officer from the Norfolk Sheriff's Office places a call to each person enrolled in the program at a mutually agreed upon time. If the enrollee does not answer the call or otherwise indicates they may be in trouble, the officer can summon help immediately.

"This allows our senior population to maintain their independence without sacrificing their security," Sheriff Bellotti said. "So the program pays dividends even if they never actually need emergency help."

Sheriff Bellotti runs the program in collaboration with Fallon Ambulance Service, which generously volunteered to host the program at its Quincy headquarters. Fallon also provides manpower to the program when the Norfolk Sheriff's Office personnel need a day off.

To sign up for "Are You OK?" call the Norfolk Sheriff's Office at 1-866-900-7685 (RUOK) or visit www.norfolksheriff.com and click on the Community Programs heading. It takes only five minutes to enroll.