

A Publication of the Moorhead Police Department to help promote and sustain citizen/police partnerships.

# Moorhead Beat

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It's that time of year again!



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## Minnesota's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 7

Night to Unite is an event that brings neighborhoods closer together. It's a chance for existing neighbors to reconnect and for newcomers to get to know their neighbors. There is no better defense against crime than a connected neighborhood keeping a watchful eye out for one another.

Register your neighborhood gathering at [www.moorheadpolice.com](http://www.moorheadpolice.com) (type "Night to Unite" in the search box) or call Leann at 218.299.5143 to have a registration form mailed to you. Registered neighborhoods will receive a gift bag of items to help with your party. These bags will contain 100 paper plates, napkins, forks, two Night to Unite t-shirts and some additional give away items. The bags can be picked up at the Law Enforcement Center on Friday, August 3, or Monday, August 6, from noon to 4:30 pm.

Be a part of this great night out in Moorhead and affirm your commitment to a safe, healthy community!

## Moorhead Police Department's Citizens Police Academy

The Moorhead Police Department will be offering a Citizens Police Academy this fall. We are excited to be hosting this year's academy in the new Joint Law Enforcement Center! This free program meets Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm for 10 weeks beginning September 20. If you are interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy, apply online at [www.moorheadpolice.com](http://www.moorheadpolice.com) or call Leann at 218.299.5143. **Don't delay in applying – this fall's class is filling up quickly!**



The Moorhead Police Department (MPD) will be relocating at the end of July into the new Joint Law Enforcement Center located at 911 11 St. N. MPD will share 40% of the new facility with the Clay County Sheriff's Office, adding to the fiscal efficiency of this public safety building. Join us for the ribbon cutting and tours on July 24 at 10 am.

### **We are happy to announce that at our new building we will have a Safe Exchange Location**

Do you buy or sell goods over the internet and need to meet to complete the transaction? Soon you will be able to do that safely outside the new Joint Law Enforcement Center. The Safe Exchange site is located on the east side of Joint Law Enforcement Center, 911 11 St. N. This location is monitored by 24 hour video surveillance and the building is staffed and open 24 hours a day. Officers will not be assisting with these exchanges nor become involved in civil matters resulting from disputes over payment, quality, etc. The Safe Exchange Location is for an added layer of safety for those involved in online commerce.



### **Help us get bikes back to their rightful owners**

Over 200 bicycles are currently being held in the Moorhead Police Department Impound Garage waiting to be claimed. On average, about 60 stolen bike reports are taken each year, however only about 15 are returned to their owners.

The best, and easiest, way to track found or stolen bikes is by their serial numbers. Knowing the serial number will drastically improve the chances that you'll be reunited with your bike if it is lost or stolen. Write down the serial number, make/model, color, and other unique features and keep them in a safe place at home or online.



The Moorhead Police Department does not currently offer a bike registry program however we suggest registering your bike at [www.project529.com/garage](http://www.project529.com/garage) or any other online registry you find credible.

### **Is Your House Number Clearly Visible from the Street?**

Seconds count in an emergency. Protect your family and your property by having large visible house numbers. Firefighters, law enforcement and paramedics will find you faster when your home is properly marked. Follow these simple tips:

- Use large visible numbers. Numbers need to be at least 3 inches in height and facing the street.
- Pick colors for the numbers that will contrast with the background of your house and place the numbers under lighting to make them visible at night.
- Post your house number on both sides of a mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.
- Be sure to keep the numbers visible by trimming trees and bushes.

### Get to Know Your BBB

When you mention Better Business Bureau, people often say, “Oh, the place that handles complaints.” It’s true: BBB does work to help resolve marketplace disputes. Our BBB processed just shy of 16,650 complaints in 2017, which is down from the previous year (however, the local BBB also processed nearly 10,600 customer reviews, a significant increase from 2016). But complaints are a small part of what we do. In fact, the bulk of our interactions with the public involve pre-purchase research. In 2017, more than 4.1 million BBB Business Profiles were accessed locally through our website!

A popular misconception is that we’re a government agency. However, we are not, nor do we receive tax dollars. We are a nonprofit organization supported by our nearly 7,300 BBB Accredited Businesses in Minnesota and North Dakota. To become BBB Accredited, a company must meet strict standards and agree to abide by the principles of BBB. The yearly investment from these companies helps us offer most of our services and programs to the public free of charge, including:

### Your Best Tools to Combat Scams

Con artists (and magicians) are not the only one to have tricks up their sleeves. All consumers have tools to help keep them (and friends and family) safe from scams and fraud:

- **TAKE YOUR TIME**

- Don’t let anyone pressure you into making a quick decision without doing any research

- **GUARD YOUR PRIVACY**

- Don’t give out personal information to anyone who approaches you (via mail, phone, door-to-door or email) about you or loved ones

- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**

- If it doesn’t feel right or sounds too good to be true, it probably is – trust your gut

- Don’t click on links from unsolicited email or text messages

- If you are unsure about a call or email that claims to be from your bank, utility company, etc., call the business from the number on your bill or the back of your credit card

- Never send money by wire transfer or via prepaid debit card to someone you don’t know or haven’t met in person

- Never send money for an “emergency situation” unless you’ve first verified the details

When in doubt, you can always contact your Better Business Bureau to report and check out suspicious offers at 800-646-6222 or BBB.org. We track marketplace trends, issue public scam alerts, work with law enforcement and the media to help stop scams and frauds, helping consumers make wise purchasing decisions.

### On a personal note . . . A departing message from Chief Ebinger

I really didn’t know what to expect when I drove my daughter’s car into Moorhead, MN on a cool June morning in 2006. I left a 28 year career with Little Rock PD that I knew would be very different than what I would experience here in Moorhead, just what those differences would be were yet to be determined. There were five people shot in Little Rock the week I retired from LRPD; almost four years would pass before the Moorhead Police Department would respond to similar violence, a homicide case involving the double murder/arson case in which Tracy Zornes was eventually found guilty. In the coming years I would find many less dramatic reasons to appreciate my new community, despite the occasional pangs of homesickness I would have for the South (usually between January and May).

Now, 12 years later I find myself packing up my office; not to move into our beautiful new Law Enforcement Center with the rest of the department, but to move into the next stage of my life, retirement. I have spent a lot of time lately contemplating my career, both the total forty years as a police

officer and the last twelve as the Chief of Police here in Moorhead. I would like to share some of my conclusions as I go out the door.

Looking back at the last forty years I feel a lot a gratitude for my career. I am grateful to all of the remarkable men and women in this profession who trained me, led me, had my back when things got tough, and who granted me the privilege of leading them. I have worked with peace officers from five different generations, men and women of various races and backgrounds, faiths and orientations. It was through working in this profession that I witnessed courage, compassion, humor and humanity that made coming to work every day both exciting and an honor.

As is the case with any police officer my experience with our public has been a mixed bag. Law enforcement officers, by the nature of our profession, meet the worst society has to offer. I have dealt with situations and people who were truly evil. I have buried five brother officers in Little Rock and one in Fargo whose lives were stolen from them in the line of duty. I leave this profession with the names of those fallen forever in my heart; I hope I also leave cherishing the fact that they lost their lives defending a public that is deserving of such sacrifice. Most of the people I have served, here and in Little Rock, were good, contributing people who only wished to live in peace and raise their families in safety. Protecting them from the few evil ones among us has been more of a privilege than a duty.

I am grateful for the last twelve years here in Moorhead. Despite the fact that we have seen the world crowd in on us in the form of increases in crime, call load, and challenges to law enforcement this is still one of the safest communities in America. In an era in which many departments are questioning the support of their citizens the agencies in this area, particularly Moorhead PD, have consistent support from the public. I believe that this results from not only a law abiding majority but an incredibly high level of skill, professionalism, and dedication from a value driven team of professionals who fill the ranks of the police departments and sheriff's offices in Clay and Cass Counties.

One of the things I am most grateful for is the support and comradery of my fellow Police Chiefs and Sheriffs in this community. Invariably I had remarkable partners like David Todd, Paul Laney, Heith Janke, and Bill Bergquist to support and guide me as we addressed the increasing challenges to our jurisdictions. This partnership allowed us to team our resources in a way that made us all greater than the sum of our parts and elevated the quality of service we can provide to our citizens. In times where the demand for services outstretched available resources our partnerships helped us meet the public safety needs of our citizens.

After forty years in this profession I know there is not a lot of tread left and it's time to do something else. That being said there are some things I will miss a great deal; foremost among them are the men and women of the Moorhead Police Department, both sworn and civilian. It has been my privilege to serve with them; I have tried to provide the kind of leadership that they deserve and leave knowing that a remarkable level of leadership is within our ranks so that the future of our department is secured. In an era where a debate is underway regarding whether police officers are "warriors" or "guardians" Moorhead officers know the real answer. Our citizens know we are their guardians so they trust us as their warriors. That trust is only given when earned and I see our officers earn it every day.

To the citizens of Moorhead thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief of Police. Lynne and I are sticking around Moorhead and I look forward to remaining a part of our community. So it's not good bye, it's more like see you around.

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