

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 11th Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 6

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 (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 (911 11 St. N.) on Friday, August 2, or Monday, August 5, from noon to 4:30 p.m.

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. This program meets Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m., for 10 weeks beginning September 12, 2019. If you are interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy, apply online at www.moorheadpolice.com (type "Citizens Police Academy" in the search box) or call Leann at 218-299-5143.

Here is what participants from last year's Citizens Police Academy had to say:

"I loved all of the presentations and everyone was very open to answering questions. Everyone was very informative, honest and open. Very educational and very fun course!"

"Had a great time and learned a lot. Will definitely tell other people is a must attend!"

"The breadth of officers' duties and expectations is stunning. I gained perspective and now realize how little the general public probably knows regarding what their PD does for them every minute of every day."

"That was a great experience and I would do it all over again! I have told about 100% of my friends and colleagues that they need to do this."

Don't delay in applying—this fall's class is filling up quickly!

Meet your new Police Chief, Shannon Monroe

Chief Monroe has served as Moorhead's Police Chief for one year now. No stranger to Moorhead Police Department, Monroe started his career with Moorhead back in 1994. He worked as a Deputy Sheriff in Mahnommen County before becoming a Patrol Officer in Moorhead. His experience within MPD is extensive having served in several internal positions including Defensive Tactics Instructor, Bicycle Patrol Instructor and Field Training Officer before being promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant supervising patrol, he became a member of the Red River Valley SWAT Team eventually becoming the Assistant Commander. He assumed command of the MPD Investigative Division and was promoted to Lieutenant where he attended the 229th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, completed the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Management Series, and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police CLEO Academy. He was appointed Deputy Chief in 2008 and oversaw daily operations. During this time he earned graduate degree credits at the University of Minnesota Leadership in Public Safety Cohort #1 Program and completed the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Program. He also has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of Mary. Chief Monroe believes strongly in the community policing philosophy and guides the department to work to



develop relationships and partnerships to reduce or eliminate neighborhood problems through the provision of community policing services. Chief Monroe is proud that Moorhead has over 40 block clubs and nearly 100 neighborhoods that participate in Night to Unite. In Chief Monroe's first year, he has reorganized the department by reducing a lieutenant position and instead adding two patrol officers to the street. The City is divided up into four beats and Chief Monroe has created beat teams with sergeants taking on leadership roles and patrol officers choosing the beats they want to work in. While call load doesn't always allow officers to stay within their perspective beats, the concept of beat teams give officers more opportunity for accountability to a designated area of the city allowing officers to create relationships and focus on problem solving. The Chief's vision for the future includes ensuring the department continues to grow along with the growth of the city, adding a crime analyst position to better allocate resources to be more impactful on neighborhood problems, and to continue to be progressive through the use of the latest technology. Chief Monroe encourages citizens to take an active role in ensuring the safety of their neighborhood and city whether it be by calling in suspicious activity to dispatch (701-451-7660), participating in our Citizens Police Academy, organizing a neighborhood block club or hosting a block party during Night to Unite. Working together we can continue to enjoy living in a safe community we are proud to call home!

Census 2020 – Do you know why it’s important to be counted?

Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of representatives, as well as districts for state government. An accurate census count is very important since Minnesota is at a risk of losing a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also guides federal spending allocation of almost \$600 billion to local communities every year. Every one person missed could mean a loss of \$15,000 over ten years in our local community. The founding fathers inscribed a full count of the population into the Constitution of the United States. Consequently, the Census Bureau has counted every resident in the U.S. every ten years, beginning in 1790.

In previous censuses, the majority of households returned their census forms by mail. Census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States counted the remaining households. The upcoming Census plans to add an online response form to use modern and cost-efficient methods to count everyone once and in the right place.

April 1, 2020, is Census Day. While that is still some time away, activities to prepare for the Census 2020 are already beginning. Full participation in the upcoming 2020 Census will provide our communities vital information about who we are and what we need. It will take all of us coming together to ensure every Minnesotan counts.

What you need to know about the Hands-Free Law

Effective August 1, Minnesota motorists will no longer be able to hold a cell phone while driving. That means no dialing, texting, scrolling or even typing in an address while using a phone as a GPS. Drivers can complete phone calls, send voice-activated text messages, listen to podcasts and use a phone to get directions, provided it’s all done without touching the phone. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, has launched a website, <http://handsfreemn.org> to answer many questions drivers have on the new law. Here are just a few highlights from that website.

What can I do under the new law?

The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone.

What can’t I do with my phone under the new law?

You may not hold your phone in your hand. Also, a driver may not use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos stored on the phone, using non-navigation apps, reading texts and scrolling or typing on the phone.

Can I pick up my phone to make a call while I’m at a stoplight?

No, you are still technically operating a motor vehicle even while you’re stopped in traffic or at a red light. (This would also include while stopped waiting for a train to pass.)

Can I ever hold my phone?

Yes, hand-held phone use is allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is an immediate threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle while performing official duties. (Although there is this exemption for emergency vehicles, MPD intends to go above and beyond by upgrading our squad cars with hands-free capabilities to try to minimize officers’ need to be holding their phones.)

Are there penalties?

Yes, the first ticket is \$50 plus court fees and the second and later tickets are \$275 plus court fees.

Go to this website to educate yourself on other important information including using GPS navigation, teen drivers with a permit or provisional driver’s license, holding a phone in a hijab or other type of headscarf or wrap, and learn about several ways to go hands-free.



In a crisis? Help is only a phone call away!

What are Mobile Crisis Mental Health Services? Mobile mental health services are short-term, on the phone or face-to-face services intended to restore a child's, adult's or family's functioning level to where it was before the crisis occurred. Mobile mental health crisis response services offers youth, adults, and families an opportunity to de-escalate a situation or problem in the least restrictive setting while also developing strategies to address any future safety concerns. These services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to those in Clay, Ottertail and Wilkin counties!

WHEN IS IT A CRISIS? • When an individual is struggling with a stressful situation or event and is having trouble coping independently • When an individual's behavior becomes threatening to self and/or others.

GOALS OF MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES: • Reduce unnecessary hospitalizations • Prevent a child, and/or adult from being removed from his/her home • Help individuals stay connected to their ongoing services • Connecting those to resources to help him/her get back to their regular level of functioning

WHAT HAPPENS IF A MOBILE CRISIS TEAM IS DISPATCHED? A team of two mental health crisis response staff members will travel to the site where the child, adult, or family is located and will provide one or more of the following services:

- Face-to-face supportive listening • Crisis assessment • Development of a crisis treatment plan • Stabilization services to help with person return to stable living • Skills training to minimize future crisis • Connection to ongoing support services and/or other community resources • Coordination with current service providers
- Short term, face-to-face individualized mental health services which may be provided up to 10 days following crisis intervention or a hospital discharge • Preventative measure designed to restore the client to their prior level of functioning.
- Reduce crises and hospitalizations. • Maintenance of functioning following a crisis dispatch or hospitalization • Connecting people with resources needed to help the return and maintenance of their regular level of functioning.

COST

FREE! (If you have insurance, this may be billed- however, there will be no out-of-pocket costs thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services).

HOW DO I ACCESS THESE SERVICES? Just call 1-800-223-4512 and we will get you connected to a trained Mental Health Professional who will help you! (Info also found on Facebook and mobilecrisisresponse.org)

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