

Moorhead Beat

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Don't miss out - register your party now!



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Minnesota's 14th Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 2

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 assist you with your registration. 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, July 29, or Monday, August 1, from noon to 4:30 pm.

Now more than ever we need our citizens to play an active role in keeping Moorhead safe. We need you to be extra eyes and ears in your neighborhood and be willing to call police when you see something suspicious. On that topic, I often get told someone is scared to call 911 or don't know if they should "bother the police or not." Let me assure you that you are never "bothering" the police when you call. We truly rely on you to call when you feel something is "off" or "not right." If danger is imminent always call 911. If you have a situation you'd like an officer to check on then you can call the Dispatch non-emergency number 701.451.7660. If ever in doubt, call 911! You can also choose to remain anonymous, so don't let that deter you from calling. It takes all of us to keep our community safe!

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 pm, for 10 weeks beginning September 15 and ending November 17. It's one thing for me to tell you what a great program this is, but why take my word for it? Here's how one 2021 participant expressed their experience:

"This experience far exceeded my expectations. I feel well armed with information about how the MPD works having viewed it from an inside look. I have always had a tremendous respect for law enforcement officers, but this up close and personal contact has elevated how I view officers. I will never again see just a uniform, but will always see the whole person – the highly trained, dedicated officer and the vulnerable human being. I will never take for granted the extremely valuable asset to our City in its police officers."

If you are interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy, apply online now at www.moorheadpolice.com (type "Citizens Police Academy" in the search box) or call Leann at 218.299.5143. **Don't delay, there are a limited amount of spots available!**

Cadet Program Update: One Year Later Proving to be a Success!

A year ago, in this newsletter, I introduced this new initiative implemented to improve diversity in the department and assist with recruiting new officers. To be eligible to apply to the Cadet Program applicants need to be currently enrolled in a law enforcement or criminal justice program and willing to commit, on a part-time basis, to at least six months with our department.

Moorhead Cadets respond to non-emergency calls for service that include: parking enforcement, animal concerns, found property, minor theft reports, vehicle unlocks, and traffic control at parades, marathons and other events.

MPD received eleven applicants of which four were selected to be in the initial Cadet class. The students chosen were Suham Ali, MSUM; Alli Garding, NDSU; Sam Mukanya Mukengeshayi, MState; and Nathan Wambach, MState. These Cadets did an excellent job and we quickly realized this was going to be a worthwhile program for both the Cadets and our department. I am pleased to report that job offers have been made to two of the Cadets, Alli and Nathan, and they will be starting with our department as new police officers in August. As with any new hire, they will go through a four-week New Officer Academy followed by a four-month extensive Field Training Program before being able to go out on solo patrol. Suham was selected to attend the Fargo Police Training Academy while Sam opted for full-time employment in another non-law enforcement related job he was also working part-time.

Three new students were selected and just started as Cadets in June. They are Isis Lopez, MState; Colin Conteh, Concordia; and Cole Winter, NDSU.



These new Cadets are off to a great start and we are confident our second class of Cadets will be equally successful as the first!

MPD to Implement Body-Worn Cameras

The Moorhead Police Department is currently in the process of selecting body-worn cameras (BWCs). The Moorhead Police Department's primary focus for obtaining BWCs was based on proven facts that they improve officer safety, increase evidence quality, reduce civilian complaints, and reduce agency liability. The Moorhead City Council has pledged support and financial resources to move forward with the BWC project. Our goal would be to have them ordered and possibly implemented by the end of the year.

First, with the City of Moorhead Information Technology (IT) Department's collaboration, which will oversee the technology, data retention and collection, and necessary redaction of captured footage, several hours of planning and communication have been invested in developing the list of product features that would be the best fit for both departments. Some key features include image point of view, pre-event capture, comfort and size, mounting options, durability and reliability, ease of use, data management, and resistance to weather conditions. The selection reduced our choices to three vendors.

We are currently in the process of testing the three products in the field. Currently, four officers are wear testing the devices. The testing provides "real-life" footage to compare and allows our IT Department a chance to analyze each product's back-end data management systems. We can also see the difference in capturing day and night video and audio quality.

Finally, the BWCs will be narrowed to two products. The financial costs, product quality, and available features will be compared. Once we order the devices, we will depend on availability and production times. Our IT Department will prepare the pre-arrival technical support and begin training during that time. There will also be a time for public input before deploying the devices. The policy regarding our BWC system is available to be viewed by visiting our website or contacting our department for a copy.

Once implemented, the BWCs will be worn by uniformed Patrol Officers and their Supervisors, Community Service Officers and Cadets during their shifts, Investigators during specific operations, and Administration during particular duties. An inventory of spares will also be available if a BWC requires repair and is out of service. The goal would be to have the product delivered and training completed for the BWCs to be utilized for duty by the end of 2022 or early 2023.

Shown below is one of the cameras being tested. The picture quality of body worn cameras have come a long way over the years. The clarity is impressive, especially in the dark.



Crime Alert: Bicycle Thefts

Tis the season for bike thefts. Do your part to protect your bike and prevent becoming a victim. In addition, document your bike's serial number, detailed description, distinguishing marks, and take a picture. Find a "Bicycle Information Checklist" as well as safety information, helmet, and riding tips at www.moorheadpolice.com (type "bicycle safety" in the search box).

To prevent theft:

- Keep your bike in a locked garage or locked shed when not using it, day and night.
- Lock up your bike in well lit areas, preferably with video surveillance.
- Using a "U-lock" (pictured) is best as cable locks can easily be cut through.
- Use more than one lock for added security.
- Lock your wheel and frame together.
- Secure your bike to a bike rack versus a sign pole.
- Take lights and other easily removed items with you.
- Add distinguishing marks to your bike/engrave name and phone number

To report your bike stolen: if valued over \$500 call Dispatch at 701.451.7660;

if under \$500 complete an online report found on the home page of www.moorheadpolice.com



River Corridor Trail Development

Following approval of the Moorhead River Corridor Plan by the Mayor and City Council in 2014, work began to implement the goals established by the community which included *Connectivity* along the River Corridor.

The paved River Corridor Trail currently runs from Original Homestead Park to Woodlawn Park and Gooseberry Mound Park to Bluestem Center for the Arts. The Midtown Trail, which will connect Woodlawn and Gooseberry Parks, is anticipated to be complete by summer of 2023. Midtown Trail is a combination of off road and on road trail segments that will connect to the existing River Corridor Trail. The construction of the River Corridor Trail was made possible by grants received from Greater MN Regional Parks and Trail Commission for the Legacy Grant Award and Transportation Alternative Program Grant.

While on the Trail, check out Moorhead's newest public art installation at Davy-Memorial Park – a bevy of larger-than-life sculpted beavers created by local artists Catie Miller and Emily Williams-Wheeler.



Red River Chronicles

Do you have a story about life on the Red River? Did you catch an amazing fish? Or fight the flood? Do you have a special place you like to go to relax? Or do you have a different connection that may seem common but is special to you?

Artist Su Legatt, in partnership with the Moorhead Parks Department, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, and RiverKeepers, is collecting community stories, poems, and thoughts about our relationship to the Red River for an upcoming River Corridor interpretive trail project.

Share your story and learn about projects and partnerships along the River at www.cityofmoorhead.com/river

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