

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

Moorhead Beat

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Don't miss out - register your party now!

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Minnesota's 15th Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 1st

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 28, or Monday, July 31, 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 Red River Regional Dispatch Center 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!

Crime Trends by Crime Analyst Cameron Johnson

As the department's Crime Analyst, one of my areas of responsibility is staying on top of crime trends happening throughout the city and greater metro area. One of the most prevalent, but preventable, crimes seen in our area and around the country is the theft of motor vehicles. While you might think this primarily happens during the winter when people leave their vehicles running to warm up, it also continues to be a problem during the summer months. A large majority of these instances are crimes of opportunity where the vehicle is left running and/or unlocked with the keys left inside. Not only is it unfortunate for the owner to have their vehicle taken, but this can also have a negative impact on others if it is used in the commission of additional crimes or flees from a traffic stop, creating risk of harm to the public.

As previously mentioned, this activity can be prevented in many cases. Here are some tips to protect yourself from having your vehicle stolen or broken into:

- ⇒ ALWAYS lock the doors of your vehicle AND remove the keys, even when leaving your vehicle for a short period of time
- ⇒ When possible, park inside a garage or in a busy, well-lit area
- ⇒ Completely close your windows and sunroof. Keeping them open leaves the vehicle more vulnerable to a break-in and can disable the pressure sensor in some car alarms
- ⇒ If you are unable to keep valuables and important documents at home or on your person, keep them well out of sight
- ⇒ Keep your vehicle tidy, and consider getting a cargo cover if you drive an SUV or vehicle with an exposed cargo area

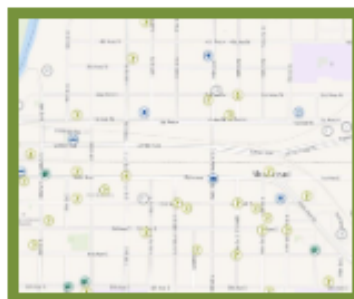
Community Crime Mapping

There are two new online programs the Moorhead Police Department has recently implemented which are available to members of the public. The first is the LexisNexis Community Crime Map which is a public mapping website displaying the department's call for service data. Found at www.CommunityCrimeMap.com, the site is updated once per day and can be filtered by date and crime type. You can find local incidents by typing "Moorhead, MN" in the search bar at the top of the page.

As a disclaimer, the map contains information based on calls the Moorhead Police Department has responded to but does not necessarily indicate a crime has occurred in every instance. To protect the privacy of victims, the address of each incident is rounded to the nearest block and the corresponding icon is randomly offset on the map. Additionally, certain sensitive call types will not be displayed.

Crime Mapping is easily found on the home page of our website:

www.moorheadpolice.com



Crime Mapping

See what's happening in your neighborhood and our city.



Ring Neighbors App

The other site the department is now using is the Ring Neighbors App. This platform, which does not require a Ring device to use, serves as a hub where community members can share important information, videos, and collaborate on matters related to neighborhood safety. The police department can use it to both provide information and request the assistance of users in a particular area to share video footage that may have captured valuable information related to a crime occurring nearby. Visit www.Ring.com/neighbors for more information about using this app.



FirstLink: 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Summer is a time of growth and transformation, and here at FirstLink we've had a lot of changes! In July 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline rebranded into the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Though the 800 number (800-273-8255) is still available, it is now more easily accessible

by simply calling or texting 9-8-8. You are also able to reach out online at 988line.org/chat to chat with a counselor. This is a great update to an important service that will make it easier for those in need to get the help they need and deserve! Feel free to simply dial 988 for listening and support, if you are thinking about suicide, or if you are worried that someone is thinking about suicide and FirstLink can help support you where you are at.

FirstLink also answers the 211 information and referral phone lines. FirstLink's database lists information on over 5,000 different programs that covers everything from government agencies, healthcare, support groups, and financial assistance for those in need. To reach this information dial 211, text your zip code to 898211, or conduct your own search on the FirstLink website at myfirstlink.org

No matter the need, FirstLink's Call Specialists are available 24/7/365.

Special thank you to Jennifer Illich, FirstLink's Executive Director, for providing this article.



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 14 and ending November 16. 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 some of the 2022 participants expressed their experience:

"I tell everyone about this amazing program! Transparency, community involvement, and good people. I am eager to stay connected to MPD!"

"Seriously – this was one of the best experiences! I have grown up with a huge respect for all first responders, but there was so much I didn't know. What a service you provide and by doing the Citizens Police Academy, it is just one more way that you all honorably serve this community with dedication!"

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!**



A program created by the



What is safeTY jacket?

The safeTY jacket program is a partnership with the North Dakota Autism Center, Inc., Cass and Clay County Sheriff's Offices, Fargo, West Fargo, Moorhead Police Departments, FM Sanford Ambulance and Red River Regional Dispatch Center to provide emergency information about individuals with autism to local first responders.

This is a free voluntary program for parents/guardians to provide information about their loved one in case of a possible emergency situation. It is designed to assist the first responders, such as police officers, paramedics, fire department, etc., during encounters with individuals with autism.

The program promotes communication and gives first responders access to critical information about the individual and their needs, during an emergency situation involving the individual. This program will provide first responders with emergency contact information, detailed physical descriptions, known routines, communication preferences, favorite attractions or other important information on the individual.

Interested in signing up for the safeTY jacket program?

The application and other information about safeTY jacket can be found at www.safetyjacket.org

Information for this article was found on the website for the North Dakota Autism Center, Inc., at www.ndautismcenter.org

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