

# Moorhead Beat

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**Night to Unite is back! Don't miss out - register your party now!**



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## Minnesota's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 3

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

After having to cancel last year due to the pandemic, let's make this year bigger and better than ever! 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

After not hosting the academy in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Moorhead Police Department is excited to announce we will be offering a Citizens Police Academy this fall. This program meets Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm, for 10 weeks beginning September 9, 2021. You may wonder why hosting this academy is so important to us as a department? Allow me to share our passion behind this program.

The Moorhead Police Department strongly encourages our community to be involved in crime deterrence and prevention. We believe a community that understands how our department operates is not only advantageous for the community, but also for our staff and community leaders. We strongly encourage our community to get involved and to assist with developing strategies that best serve our citizens. Our department continues to evolve in order to provide the most effective and efficient police services available. Our focus has been, and will always be, to provide protection and compassion to our citizens and guests in our community. Our staff takes pride in assisting others in a transparent and professional manner. They have built relationships naturally and meaningfully that will last for generations. We recognize we no longer live in a time where we have all the answers. We rely on community collaboration in order to have the right partners working to improve our environment and city. If you are interested in participating in the Citizens Police Academy, apply online at [www.moorheadpolice.com](http://www.moorheadpolice.com) (type "Citizens Police Academy" in the search box) or call Leann at 218.299.5143.

### **What's new at MPD? Crime Analyst**

"This position has been a goal of mine for the department since becoming chief as I believe intelligence lead policing is critical to utilizing our resources efficiently and effectively" Police Chief Shannon Monroe said about the hiring of MPD's first Crime Analyst.

Cameron Jenson is a 2020 graduate from Concordia College with degrees in Mathematics and Applied Physics. He has been working for the Moorhead Police Department as a Crime Analyst since March 2021. His duties involve providing reports, analysis, and investigative support for our administration, detectives, and patrol officers. He combines information gathered from regular briefings with data collected by the department to identify problems occurring in the community. He also uses mapping software to visualize where specific crimes are occurring throughout the city. "I perform this role with the purpose of supporting the Moorhead Police Department's mission of partnering with the community to solve problems" Jenson commented.



### **What's new at MPD? Cadet Internship Program**

In the spring of 2021, the Moorhead Police Department started a Cadet Internship Program in an effort to improve diversity in the department and assist with recruiting new officers. Police Chief Shannon Monroe says the cadets will be working with other officers in community service efforts such as patrolling city parks and trails, making stops at the city library, parking enforcement, responding to animal calls, handling lower-level traffic patrol cases and assisting with community events (parades, marathons, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, etc.). One of the program's goals is to give the cadets exposure to what it's like to be an officer.

To be eligible to apply to the Cadet Program applicants needed 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. The Police Department recently received eleven applications for the program. The applicants all attend MSUM, MState-Moorhead, or NDSU. Four individuals were selected to be in the initial cadet class.

Sergeant Chris Martin says that the cadets hopefully will bring different life experiences through their race, gender and/or language to the department. Because they already live and attend college in the Moorhead area, the hope is that they may also be more likely to join the Moorhead Police Department when they are done with the program and their studies.

## Meet K9 Team Kash and his handler, Officer Zach Johnson



I started my law enforcement career in 2014 with the Moorhead Police Department. I was born and raised here and was fortunate enough to be able to work in the city I grew up in. Prior to being selected as a K9 handler, I was a Field Training Officer for 3 years. A career goal of mine was to work with the K9's in our department and I began helping with the current handlers with training. I was selected to be a handler in July of 2019 and was able to select my current partner Kash. Kash is a three year old German Shepherd/ Belgian Malinois mix who was born on April 22, 2018. Kash is from Slovakia and we attended basic patrol and narcotics training in September of 2019. We have been working the streets together since November of 2019 and work each and every day together. Kash lives at home with my wife and son, as well as our other two dogs. Kash enjoys chasing rabbits and squirrels in the back yard as well as playing with his toys. Kash is certified in detecting narcotics such as

methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. He is also trained in tracking, building searches, area searches and article searches. Kash as well as his partner Zeke are a tremendous asset to the citizens of the Fargo-Moorhead area. Kash continues to show the tremendous talents of a police working dog each and every day!

## Meet K9 Team Zeke and his handler, Officer Brett Musich



I began my law enforcement career in 2016, in my hometown of International Falls, MN. I knew I wanted to work for a department with more career opportunities, which led me to Moorhead in 2017. Prior to becoming a K9 handler, I was a field training officer, part of the department's bike patrol team, and an E.V.O.C instructor. I began "decoying" for our K9 Unit, which led me to having a strong desire to become a handler. I was ultimately selected as a K9 handler and paired with K9 Zeke, who was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ. Zeke is a German Sheppard dog who turned two in April. In February of 2021, Zeke and I attended patrol and narcotics detection school in Phoenix, AZ. We graduated in April and have been paired together on the street since we returned home. Zeke is a dual purpose K9, which means he is trained in narcotics detection as well as patrol work. He is trained in tracking, area and building searches, article location, apprehension, and obedience. He is trained in the detection of methamphetamines, cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin. Zeke enjoys relaxing in the back yard at home on our days off. He loves playing outside in his mini pool, getting belly rubs, and playing tug or fetch. Zeke and I look forward to serving the citizens of Moorhead in the coming years!

## Crime Alert: Catalytic Converter Thefts

Since the beginning of the year, MPD has been working a significant amount of catalytic converter thefts. The trend shows vehicles in residential areas are usually hit during overnight hours while vehicles in commercial areas are usually hit over weekends. Thieves may target fleet vehicles, trucks or SUV's because their higher ground clearance allows for easier access under the vehicle and they may be parked in the same location or over weekends.

### To prevent theft:

- Park vehicles in a garage
- Park vehicles in well lit areas
- Park vehicles in areas with video surveillance
- If possible, enable vehicle alarms to detect vibration
- Mark your catalytic converter with paint and if possible engrave the vehicles license plate number on it
- Report suspicious activity and all catalytic converter thefts

MPD sincerely thanks the Moorhead businesses that are participating in our catalytic converter theft deterrent program. While supporting these businesses they will mark your catalytic converter at no charge.

## Let's plan our future, together, Moorhead!



### MOORHEAD POLICE CATALYTIC CONVERTER PAINT PROGRAM

Thank you to our Moorhead businesses for your participation!  
Paint donated by:



Participating Moorhead businesses:



We're planning for the future of  
**Moorhead!**  
Help shape *Onward Moorhead*, the city's comprehensive plan.

The City is asking for your help in planning for the future of Moorhead!  
**Onward Moorhead**, the City's Comprehensive Plan process, needs our very best ideas during Design Week. Bring your family on interactive walking tours, tell us your thoughts while doing a bean bag toss, or experience amenities along the river.

• **July 19** - Onward Moorhead Design Festival, 5-7pm at the Hjemkomst Center: Learn about the comprehensive plan process, tell us what you think about the draft vision for the city, and give your best ideas on enhancing focused areas of the city. Get treats, play games, and celebrate what Moorhead has to offer.

• **July 20** - Onward Moorhead Tours & Workshops: Immerse yourself in planning opportunities for improvement, growth, or transformation. Check out our website [www.cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead](http://www.cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead) for locations and times of tours and workshops.



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We want to hear from you!

