

# Moorhead Beat

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It's that time of year again!



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## Minnesota's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 1

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 Moorhead Police Department (915 9 Ave. N.) on Friday, July 28, or Monday, July 31, 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. This free program meets Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm for 10 weeks beginning September 21. 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!**



## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Concepts: Seeing is Believing!



Before



After

Last March, at a neighborhood block club meeting for newly formed Angela's Addition Neighborhood Block Club, I spoke about the many benefits of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Lighting and landscaping are two of the CPTED concepts I spoke on and one resident not only listened to what I was saying, but he sprung into action that very summer and implemented a large undertaking of trimming up his large Evergreen trees. As you can see from the "before" picture, these large, mature Evergreen trees really closed off the property and would provide perfect cover for a criminal looking to break into their house. Looking at the "after" picture you can clearly see through the yard thereby eliminating the ability for someone to be lurking around the house unnoticed. I visited with the man's wife about the project and while she admitted it took a little bit to get used to, now says she loves it and absolutely feels it added to the safety of her home. She said her neighbors really like it as well with one backyard neighbor expressing how nice it is to be able to see the bus stop now through their yard. She added she is also enjoying the added usable space it created in their yard pointing out the swing positioned under the trees.

He also installed security lighting in the back of his house that comes on at dusk and stays on all night. These improvements have greatly added to the safety and security of their property. If you would like to learn more about Crime Prevention Through Environment Design visit [www.crimewise.com/library/cpted.html](http://www.crimewise.com/library/cpted.html) or call me at 218.299.5143.



### Flamingo Front Yard Events

Angela's Addition Neighborhood Block Club has implemented an idea that they saw posted on Mayor Williams' Facebook. It is an idea that is spreading across the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area with great success of getting neighbors more connected. Block Club Captain Sharon shared that the key is to keep it simple and easy. Their block club is very large, so they have between 3 and 5 volunteer hosts spread out over the area who display the plastic pink flamingo yard stake indicating the gathering is there. The host is asked to set out a few chairs and a cooler to keep beverages cold. Some set out some yard games as well. The event is a casual, noninvasive gathering held in the front yard. They are holding theirs from 7-9 pm and are going to vary the nights they have them on. Sharon says it's just one more way of getting neighbors to gather together to visit, get to know each other better and build neighborhood support and a sense of security. Give it a try in your neighborhood!



## Moorhead PD Using Facebook and Nextdoor to Communicate with Residents

Like us and follow us on Facebook as a way to connect with our department! Not only will we post important information, but we will also post human interest pieces that will allow you to get to know us better as a department.



Moorhead PD is also using Nextdoor to push out important information city-wide or just to specific neighborhoods.

Nextdoor is a free private social network for your neighborhood. Nextdoor was created based on the idea that the neighborhood is one of the most important and useful communities in a person's life. Nextdoor's mission is to use technology to help neighbors build stronger and safer neighborhoods. Moorhead PD is using Nextdoor to share relevant updates with your neighborhood. For example, if there is a rash of car break-ins in an area, we will alert the neighborhood of the activity and remind residents to keep their vehicles locked and not leave things of value in their vehicles. Moorhead Police staff are not able to see any of the content on your neighborhood website, but you can reply to our messages and send us private messages. Register your account via their website at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) or download the free Nextdoor app. Keep in mind while this is a helpful communication tool, it is **not** the appropriate way to request emergency or police services or to report criminal activity. Call 911 in an emergency or the Red River Regional Dispatch Center for non-emergencies at 701.451.7660.

## ***FirstLink provides resources and hope for those in need***

*FirstLink's Executive Director, Cindy Miller, speaks about the non-profit she's led for 9 years.*

It can be hard to describe the organization to someone unfamiliar with it, but the name FirstLink really says it all. "Our mission is to link people with resources, 24 hours a day." As simple as the mission sounds, it's a huge undertaking.

FirstLink operates the suicide helpline, 1.800.273.8255 (TALK), for North Dakota and Clay County, Minn., part of a national network of suicide helpline call centers. "It's amazing how often people will de-escalate and feel better when they have been able to tell their story and have someone truly listen to them." Suicide awareness and education is a large priority for FirstLink staff, as well. Training courses all work to dispel myths, identify indicators, and better prepare attendees to recognize and help someone at risk of suicide.

FirstLink also handles calls to 211 for North Dakota and Clay County. 211 is the national helpline for resource assistance, helping to provide information to callers about local assistance for housing, utilities, food, health, and much more. FirstLink's call specialists handled 50,000 calls in 2016. (You can dial 211 to reach the helpline or the direct number is 701-235-7335.)

During disasters, FirstLink employees help coordinate volunteer efforts. Though they've gained plenty of first-hand experience with flood situations, FirstLink is involved in regular tabletop exercises with city emergency management officials to remain prepared for any disaster.

On top of all this, FirstLink also runs the annual Giving Tree of Hope, collecting gifts for disadvantaged children and adults with special needs who would not otherwise receive gifts during the holiday season. This multifaceted organization has become a staple of the community and the state as a whole. "We are so blessed to have a community that cares," Miller says.

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