



Sergeant Kerry Haynes retires after 11 years of serving the NOVA Community.

NOVA Public Safety Newsletter



Penelope's Advice

Do you know that more than 700 people are killed or injured every day in distracted driving cases according to the NHTSA? With the excitement of the approaching holiday season and more people on the roads, often traveling to unfamiliar places, the risk of accidents due to distraction increases.

Don't be a victim and help keep others safe on the roads, just as you want them to help keep your loved ones safe.

Remember: talking on a cell phone, even a hands free device, texting or programming an in-vehicle infotainment system, checking or sending emails, and reading or updating social media distract your attention and put you and fellow travelers at risk.

Penelope the NOVA Police Cat will be on patrol, looking for distracted drivers, whom she tickets cat-egorically.

LiveSafe Updated

Since 2014, NOVA has provided the LiveSafe mobile safety app at no charge to the NOVA community. Thousands of faculty, students, staff and their families and friends have downloaded this outstanding resource on their Android or i-phones / devices.

NOVA Police Chief Dan Dusseau, who helped develop the app, is understandably a big fan. "LiveSafe improves communications between the NOVA community and its police", he stated. "It allows instantaneous and, if desired, anonymous contact with the police to provide tips on suspicious, illegal, or emergency activities, and it allows the user to upload audio, video and photographs. This evidence greatly assists us in responding more effectively, with the ultimate benefit of making our campuses safer and more secure", Dusseau added.

December 2020

In this issue

- ❖ Penelope's Advice
- ❖ LiveSafe Updated
- ❖ Chief Dan Dusseau Honored
- ❖ Christmas Tree Safety
- ❖ No Shave November
- ❖ NOVA Police Training Announcements

Download the **FREE** LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

Police Dispatch
(703) 764-5000
Call Us 24/7/365

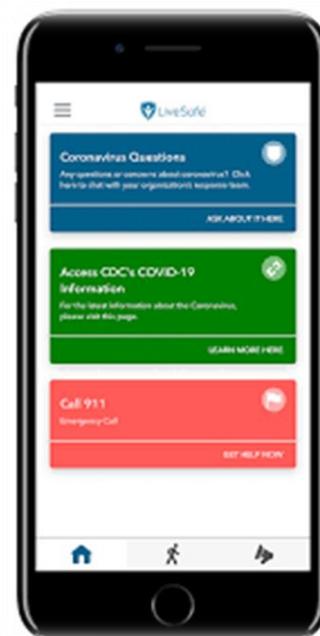
NOVApolice@nvcc.edu

LiveSafe Updated (cont'd)

LiveSafe has shown significant benefits in the last few years and its recent updating will make it even more valuable to the NOVA Community. Police dispatch has received several hundred tips, including information about vehicle accidents, assault, disorderly conduct, suspicious activity, and campus equipment/facilities in need of repair. Dispatch has also received emergency messages and facilitated hundreds of virtual escorts to NOVA community members requested via LiveSafe. The app can also be used to offer suggestions to or request services from the police, such as door unlocks. Finally, LiveSafe provides victim rights information and immediate emergency response information on what to do in the event of emergency situations, such as an active shooter, a bomb threat, severe weather, or a sexual assault. “Downloading the app is easy. Even a police lieutenant can do it!” said Lt. John Weinstein. “It takes about a minute. Just go to iTunes or Google Play, download LiveSafe and select NOVA as your school, and fill in the profile”. For more information about this powerful security enhancement, go to <https://www.nvcc.edu/police/livesafe.html>.

If you have any questions, stop by any campus police office, call Police dispatch (703-764-5000), or contact NOVA Police Community Outreach at novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu.

NOVA is one of the few colleges in Northern Virginia that offers this free personal safety app. Take a moment and do something that will empower you, keep you and your friends safe, provide peace of mind, and make NOVA's already safe campuses and centers even safer. If you would like a presentation, either in person or virtually, at a division or staff meeting or for a class, contact novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu.



Chief Dan Dusseau Honored

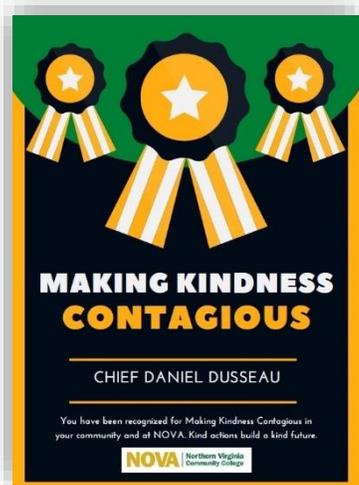
These are tough times. The continuing uncertainties and fears associated with the pandemic, the disruptions of campus life, and the pressures of the upcoming holidays have heightened stress levels not only here at NOVA but throughout our communities.

After hearing Chief of Police Dan Dusseau's story about his dog, Jack, and how he brought joy to thousands of people. NOVA Student Services, under the leadership of Vice President Frances Villigran-Glover, decided to present its first “Making Kindness Contagious” award to him. According to the Vice President, the purpose of the award is to “identify individuals who have demonstrated a caring attitude to campus and community friends and neighbors. We were looking for people who helped ease others' burdens and provided inspiration, and even a few smiles. Dan Dusseau's inspiring story was simply perfect!”

VP Villigran-Glover, in presenting the first award, noted “Your kindness and sensitivity to people have played an important role in keeping spirits up, especially during these difficult times. Sharing Jack brought a smile to so many, and we are honored to recognize your commitment to our community.” In receiving this award, Dusseau thanked her and NOVA Student Services for “this great honor, which I accept on behalf of Jack and all pets who bring comfort and joy to millions.”

It all started about 10 years ago when Dusseau rescued a young Lab. Jack was extremely social and a quick learner, and Dusseau taught him how to balance various objects on his head such as cookies and pizza. Because of his calm disposition, Jack also allowed himself to learn tricks and dress up with items such as Groucho glasses and hard hats. Several years ago, almost as a lark, Dusseau posted pictures on Facebook of Jack, captioning them with some funny quips and groaningly bad puns.

Chief Dan Dusseau Honored



At first, scores of people reacted positively and eventually thousands “tuned in” every day to learn about life “through the eyes of a black lab” and to see his sartorial splendor and latest antics. Jack’s World became a Facebook powerhouse, with 40,000-plus followers who began sending photos of their own pets to Dusseau and telling about how Jack gave them comfort and joy.

When Jack underwent surgery for a brain tumor, the outpouring of prayers and sympathy from around the world was astonishing. Jack recovered and his antics continued until his 3rd cancer diagnosis. Dusseau continued to entertain Jack’s legions of followers with upbeat postings that provided a poignant example on weathering adversity with grace and style.

Although Jack passed about two years ago, he still lives and provides continuing pleasure because Chief Dusseau still revisits old postings, sometimes with a new twist. Also, Jack’s fans donated funds and North Beach, Maryland erected a statue on the boardwalk of Jack, seated on a bench, and a water fountain for pets and their owners. People now have a Jack visit on their bucket list and take selfies with Jack as they look at the splendor of the Chesapeake Bay. As an insight into the Chief’s out of the box thinking and humor, a squirrel that regularly invaded Jack’s “compound” and was his sworn enemy sits underneath the bench.

So, what’s the future for Jack? There will be no feature full-length film, with Tom Cruise doing Jack’s voice; Queen Elizabeth will not make him a noble; and Jack is unlikely to be elevated to sainthood. However, Jack, along with his minion, Dan Dusseau, will continue to bring pleasure to thousands, who are better off for being able to say: “I know Jack!”

For more information about Jack, check out his antics:

https://vccs.zoom.us/rec/share/wNAxO78rvX718gfYXXkCzxO4xzjh_oulZTqvYKpWhNW_JwL0XuVrahuiJtkKlTRL.YWm8yFvTiAx9r1ad?startTime=1605211186000

Christmas Tree Safety

As you deck your halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a holiday tree or from a candle can spread very quickly. Consider these alarming facts:

- *More than one of every four home holiday tree fires is caused by electrical problems.*
- *Candles cause more than one-third of home decoration fires.*
- *A heat source too close to the tree causes one in four of the fires.*
- *Although holiday tree fires are relatively rare, they are usually serious. Check out this dramatic video:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZk4vIXCnc8&feature=emb_logo

Picking a tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2” from the base of the trunk.
- Keep the tree at least three feet from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily to keep the tree hydrated.

Christmas Tree Safety (cont'd)

Lighting the tree

- Use lights with a label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After the Holiday

- Discard the tree after the holiday or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger; do not leave them in the home or garage or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Candles and other electronics

- Keep candles at least 12 inches from things that burn.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- Place candles in a sturdy candleholder that can't tip over.
- Never leave a burning candle alone.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



For more information, visit:

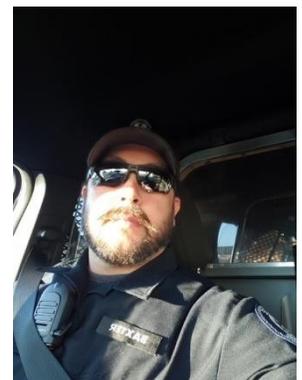
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html>
or www.nfpa.org/winter

“No Shave November” Results

This year NOVA Police Department participated in its second “No Shave November” event and it was a great success! This fundraising event was an effort to support the fight against cancer. NOVA PD partnered with ZERO, a prostate cancer awareness campaign and fundraiser located in Old Town Alexandria.



The NOVA Police Department, with over 50% participation, raised over \$1000 dollars to support the fight. As can be seen from the pictures, some officers' “No Shave” transformations were really great, but we don't want to split hairs.



2020 NOVA Police Training

NOVA Police conduct an active community outreach program. The following topics are available for presentation to faculty, students, clubs, staff, and community organizations via Zoom or in-person. If there are topics you would like presented or would like to request additional topics, please contact us at novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu.

Topics:

- Active Shooter Response
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Creating and Maintaining a Safe Classroom Environment
- Staying Safe on the Street/Self-Defense Considerations
- Alcohol/DUI Awareness
- Stop the Bleed Tourniquet Certification
- Recognizing/Reporting Suspicious Behavior
- CPR and AED Certification
- Staying Safe While Using Uber and Lyft
- Technology and Policing
- Empower Yourself to be Safe!
- Writing in the Workplace
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Police (But Were Afraid to Ask)
- Ticket Avoidance Strategies
- Crimes Against Women/Human Trafficking
- Gangs and Drugs
- Civilian – Police Interactions

Download the LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app is available for free to all NOVA faculty, students, staff and their friends. This powerful tool can empower you to stay safe, keep your campus safe, put potentially life-saving information at your fingertips, and facilitate timely interaction with NOVA Police and OEMS professionals in the event of an emergency or need for assistance. Download LiveSafe at iTunes or Google Play. It is easy and fast. Go to www.LiveSafeMobile.com to download this great app.



LiveSafe