



Penelope had a marvelous holiday and hopes you did too.

# NOVA Public Safety Newsletter



## January 2020

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### Penelope's Winter Weather Reminder

Penelope the NOVA Police Cat enjoys the occasional day off from school. In the event NOVA closes for inclement weather, buildings will remain locked. If the school closes during a school day, external doors will be locked one hour after the announced closing time. Please do not ask Penelope or other officers to open doors that have been locked for a school closing. Officers are not authorized to open doors due to staffing and safety considerations.

### Ticket Avoidance Strategies

*Note: NOVA Police will be discussing these strategies and other useful information at each campus during January. Check out the last page of this newsletter for times, dates and locations.*

You are driving along, not a care in the world, when you see blue flashing lights in your rearview mirror. You pull over, fearing a ticket. Your great day is suddenly ruined.

Is there anything you can do to avoid the unwanted "coupon"? Here are a few strategies that might help.

Your goal is to get a warning, and you may be successful if you do two things. First, you want to convince the officer you are a responsible adult and your offense is an aberration. Second, you do not want the officer to perceive you as a threat.



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[NOVApolice@nvcc.edu](mailto:NOVApolice@nvcc.edu)

## Ticket Avoidance Strategies (cont'd)



### I am a responsible adult.

Responsible adults take safety seriously. If your vehicle's safety inspection is overdue or your car has defective equipment, such as a broken tail light or windshield, you are more likely to get a ticket than a driver whose car is in good repair.

Whatever you do, don't ask the officer to hold your beer while you look for your license!

### I am not a threat.

More officers are killed or injured conducting traffic stops than any other activity. Understand that while you are embarrassed; upset about being delayed; and thinking about the inconvenience of having to go to court, pay a fine, and see your insurance rate increase, the officer is thinking about his or her safety and survival. Little things you do, even well-intentioned inadvertent gestures such as retrieving your registration from the glove box, may be viewed by an officer as threatening.

Here is how to put an officer at ease:

- Remove your sunglasses so the officer can see you as a person.
- When the officer approaches, ask if you have pulled over in an area that is safe for the officer and whether he or she would prefer for you to relocate. This shows you are concerned about the officer's safety and acknowledge the officer is in control.
- Stay in your car. You cannot run or fight in this position.
- Keep your hands on the wheel and make no sudden movements. One can't grab a weapon in this position.
- If the stop occurs at night, turn on the interior light and keep your hands on the wheel.
- If you have a concealed weapon, tell the officer where it is and then ask how he or she would like to proceed. You do not want the officer to be surprised (and worried) in the cruiser upon reviewing your record.
- Tell the officer where your license and registration are located and then *ask* for permission to retrieve them.
- Never argue with the officer on the side of the road, even if you think he or she made an error in stopping you.
- If you have passengers, have them remain in the car and not speak to the officer, unless asked a question.

### Final thoughts

If you get a warning, count your lucky stars and do not execute a celebratory burnout as you leave the scene. If you do receive a ticket and decide to contest it in court, dress for the occasion; no jeans and skull t-shirts! In the interim, consider taking the on-line court-recommended driver improvement class.

On your court date, meet with the prosecutor. Note you completed the driver improvement class and ask for a warning. If refused, ask if you might plead to a lesser charge. Prosecutors are busy and would rather accept a lesser plea than having to try your case on a busy docket that may include hundreds of cases.

## Winter Fire Safety Tips

The threat of winter fires is real! Annually, almost a thousand people die in winter home fires, with \$2 billion in property loss. The most common time for winter home fires is between 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

### Cooking is the leading cause of winter home fires.

- *Most cooking fires start when someone is frying food.* Fires also start when the heat is too high. If you see smoke or grease starting to boil, turn the burner off.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up.
- Make sure children and pets stay at least 3 feet from a hot stove.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Move things that can burn away from the stove.



### Heat sources are also a leading cause of winter home fires.

- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms monthly.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any buildings.
- Keep anything flammable items at least 3 feet from any heat source, like fireplaces, wood stoves, or space heaters.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (e.g., space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

Smoke alarms save lives! Put smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area AND on every level of your home. Test them monthly and replace them every 10 yrs.

For more information, go to <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>

## OEMS Welcomes NOVA's New Emergency Coordinator

The Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS) welcomes NOVA's newest Emergency Coordinator, David Bellew. David will be the Coordinator at the Annandale and Alexandria campuses, and have a significant focus on College planning and preparedness activities, including the NOVA Continuity of Operations Plan. David has over 20 years of Emergency Management experience at local through international levels. He has served in various emergency operations and disaster response capacities for the last 11 years in Prince William County Emergency Management.

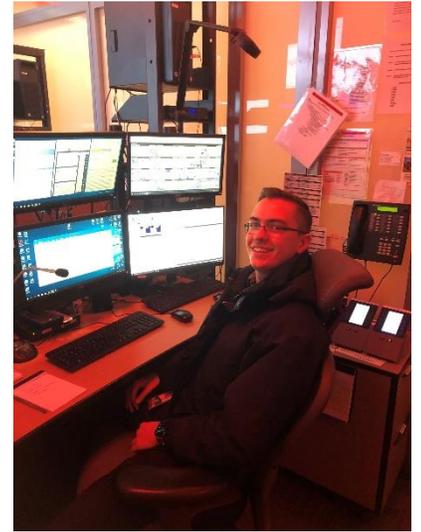
David has a Master's degree in Public Administration/Emergency Management and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration. Additionally, he has written on intergovernmental finance, the federal government's role in state and local preparedness, and the ongoing evolution of Emergency Management policies and programs.

David's knowledge of the intersection of policy, planning and operational necessities in the National Capital Region will enhance NOVA's overall preparedness and strengthen OEMS capabilities. Please welcome David to NOVA. You can contact him at [Dbellew@nvcc.edu](mailto:Dbellew@nvcc.edu).



## New Dispatcher Recognized at Regional Academy

NOVA Dispatcher Edward Facal graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy Law Enforcement Telecommunicator School on November 22. Facal, a former NOVA student whose studies concentrated on criminal justice, earned the Best Team Work Award while attending NVCJA. The Best Team Work Award is awarded to the team of two dispatchers whose overall performance at the academy ranked the highest. Facal, also a former EMT in Washington D.C., stated “it has been a lifelong dream to work in law enforcement”. If you see Dispatcher Facal congratulate him and give him a warm NOVA welcome.



## New Police Officer Joins NOVA Police



Chief Dan Dusseau congratulates Officer Mohsini upon his academy graduation

NOVA Police recently added a new officer to our rolls. Officer Mohammad Mohsini graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on December 16, along with over 100 other new police officers and Sheriffs’ deputies from across Northern Virginia. The rigorous five-month academy curriculum included training in Virginia’s legal code, emergency vehicle operations, active shooter response, firearms, HAZMAT, childbirth, dealing with mentally-challenged individuals, report writing, control tactics, and other critical topics.

For the next few months, Officer Mohsini will be undergoing individual training at various campuses under the watchful eyes of the department’s experienced Field Training Officers. These FTOs, who will observe his performance in various daily tasks and offer instruction to ensure his actions are efficient, effective, and safe. After this time with his FTOs, Officer Mohsini will become a fully certified police officer and be authorized to work by himself (i.e., “cut loose”), and assigned to a campus. If you see Officer Mohsini, please introduce yourself and welcome him to NOVA.

## NOVA Officers in the Community

Officer Mike Shallue and Sergeant Tony Ong provided first aid training to local Girl Scout Troop 768 at West Springfield Elementary. The girls are working toward their First Aid badge. The training was a great success and each attendee learned invaluable lifesaving skills. Well done to all involved.



Sergeant Jared Williams represented the NOVA Police Department at Career Day at Herbert J. Saunders Middle School in Prince William County. Eighth grade students who attended asked questions regarding police officers' responsibilities, career benefits, and job likes and dislikes. Approximately 45 professionals, to include multiple law enforcement agencies, lawyers, real estate agents, and pilots attended.

## Blocked Exitways

Before you move that desk or chair, consider if you might be blocking an emergency exit! Blocking and obstructing exit doors and routes is a serious danger to everyone inside the building. It can cause delay in escaping, injury, delayed entry by first responders, panic and confusion. State Fire Prevention and OSHA regulations require exit routes to remain unobstructed by materials, equipment, locked doors, or dead-end corridors. Do your part in keeping NOVA in compliance by not placing items in hallways or blocking egress to exterior doors. If you find a blocked exit, please move the obstructions or let the Office of Emergency Management and Safety know by emailing [oem@nvcc.edu](mailto:oem@nvcc.edu) or by speaking with your Facilities Manager.



## 2020 NOVA Police Training

NOVA Police will visit NOVA's six campuses January to conduct training on **Ticket Avoidance Strategies**. All faculty, students, and staff are welcome. To register, please contact Lt. John Weinstein at [jweinstein@nvcc.edu](mailto:jweinstein@nvcc.edu) or Community Outreach Officer Rob Corwin at [rcorwin@nvcc.edu](mailto:rcorwin@nvcc.edu)

### Ticket Avoidance Strategies

#### Date – Time – Location

January 21	12:30-1:30pm	Annandale	CA 317
January 22	2 – 3pm	Alexandria	AA 379
January 23	2 – 3pm	Woodbridge	WS 309
January 28	2 – 3pm	Loudon	HEC 221
January 29	2 – 3pm	MEC	254
January 30	2 – 3pm	Manassas	MP 232

NOVA Police conduct an active community outreach program. The following topics are available for presentation to faculty, students, clubs, staff, and community organizations. If there are additional topics you would like presented, please contact Lt. Weinstein or Community Outreach Officer Corwin

#### 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
- Recognizing/Reporting Suspicious Behavior
- Crimes Against Women/Human Trafficking
- Staying Safe While Using Uber and Lyft
- Identity Protection
- 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)
- Strategic Planning

### Download the LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app, available for free to all NOVA faculty, students, staff and their friends, is a powerful tool that 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](http://www.LiveSafeMobile.com) to download this great app.



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