



**NEWS RELEASE
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**PURCELLVILLE NAMED ONE OF TOP TEN SAFEST CITIES IN VIRGINIA;
INTRODUCES NEW BIKE PATROL UNIT**

PURCELLVILLE, Va. November 18, 2015 — The Town of Purcellville is proud to be named one of the top ten safest cities in Virginia. This ranking, conducted by SafeWise, recognizes the Town’s concerted effort to integrate community-based policing into everyday law enforcement and public safety activities.

The SafeWise Report released its 10 Safest Cities in Virginia Report on November 16, 2015. To compile this report, SafeWise analysts considered the most recent FBI crime data from 2013 to rank these cities, which all have a minimum population of 5,000 people. More information is available at: <http://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-virginia-2015/>

“I am proud to oversee a top-tier, fully-accredited police department, and this ranking represents the hard work of our entire police department, prior administrations, and the community,” said Chief Cynthia McAlister.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser commented, “In the latest Citizen Survey, residents expressed an overwhelming sense of safety and security in our Town, and I am happy to see this borne out with third-party recognition. Continued advancement in our community policing efforts coupled with a vigilant and engaged citizen and business community will ensure Purcellville remains a safe, inviting, and attractive place for individuals and businesses.”

The Police Department also is using this recognition to introduce the community to its new “Bike Patrol Unit,” in which officers will be spending time on bicycles developing community relationships and patrolling streets more directly. Initiated by Chief McAlister, the effort uses bicycles donated by Fairfax County, and three officers have already received certification from Bicycle Patrol School. The Town expects continued positive results as it integrates new policing efforts throughout the Town.

SafeWise

SafeWise is a community-focused safety organization committed to increasing home and community safety, education, awareness, and preparedness. The SafeWise brand has been recognized by many trusted publications for its efforts to award law enforcement, neighborhood watch, and civic leaders who go the extra mile to keep their neighborhoods safe.

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

Purcellville is an award-winning town of nearly 8,300 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 40 miles west of Washington, DC. It has been honored for its green initiatives, most recently with the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities. The Town has an elected Mayor and six Town Council members. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, Purcellville has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, entertainment, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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