

Durham Named Sixth Safest College Town in America

Fosters Newspaper
September 14, 2015



By Morgan Palmer
mpalmer@fosters.com

DURHAM — The town of Durham, home to the University of New Hampshire, has been named the 6th safest college town in America, according to home security company Safewise.com.

Safewise compiled a list of the top 50 of the safest college towns in America based on the most recent FBI crime statistics combined with its own research, safety-related programs and initiatives.

The security company praised Durham police for their efforts in community policing and for “reaching out to marginalized groups that have traditionally suffered from fraught relationships with law enforcement.”

“We’re obviously very pleased,” Durham Police Chief David Kurz said. “It’s to the hard work of the officers of the department and we couldn’t do it without our partners at UNH. It’s a collaborative effort.”

Safewise also recognized the University of New Hampshire’s Citizen Police Academy efforts to make police outreach a fun and productive activity for community members.

“I am very proud of the role the men and women of the UNH Police Department play each day to contribute to the safety of the UNH and Durham community,” UNH Police Chief Paul Dean said. “This distinction is proof that the collaborative approach Chief Kurz and I foster is making a difference.”

"In an environment of heated national discussion regarding policing in communities across America, it is very gratifying to see an outside organization like Safewise acknowledge the good work of the Durham and UNH police departments in meeting the needs of our particular community," Durham Town Administrator Todd Selig said. "Chief Kurz, Chief Dean, and their respective departments deserve a great deal of credit."

Only one other town in the Granite State made the list; Hanover, home to Dartmouth College, was named the 26th safest. Orono, Maine, home to the University of Maine, also made the cut at 30th place. Massachusetts saw several towns on the list, with Amherst, Waltham, Medford, and Westfield all making the list.