



For Immediate Release
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Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Harrisonburg, VA – As part of the Crime Prevention initiative of the Harrisonburg Police Department, monthly tips are provided to residents in an effort to reduce crime with a specific type of crime highlighted each month. This month HPD will focus on bicycle thefts, a crime that increases this time of year as summer is upon us. In November 2015, Harrisonburg was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists with a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community award! Just prior to this award, Harrisonburg was listed in the Top Ten Mountain Bike Towns in the country by National Geographic! Getting around the city by bicycle is generally free and easy yet the cloud of bike theft is always hanging overhead. Bicycles can be very easy to steal and while there is no way to make your bike completely theft proof, here are some tips to keep in mind when biking around the friendly city:

- Always lock your bicycle- Even if you're only going to be away for a few minutes, it only takes a few seconds for a bike to be picked up or peddled away.
- Write down the serial number- Keep this in a safe place. If your bike is stolen, police can identify your bike easier if recovered.
- Park in open areas- This may deter a thief from stealing your bike if there are other people around.
- If your bike is stored indoors lock them in- Whether you store your bike in a basement or garage, always lock these doors so that your bike is not stolen from within your home.
- Use a strong steel alloy lock when securing your bike outdoors- this way the lock is not easily broken. Remember to register your lock with the company, especially if a warranty is offered.
- If using a chain or cable- make sure it is at least 3/8 of an inch thick, with a lock of equal size, or thicker.

For additional information, or questions about securing your bicycle, please contact HPD's Community Resource Officer at (540) 437-2672.

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