

WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



COMMUNITY ALERT

Western Springs, IL - September 12, 2012

The Western Springs Police Department would like to inform residents about an apparent bicycle theft crime trend. Since April of 2012, this Department has generated active investigations resulting from nine (9) separate bicycle thefts which occurred at public bicycle racks at local retail establishments, schools, the train station, and residential garages.

All the reported crimes have taken place during the day and involved both unlocked and locked high-end bicycles.

We would like to share some preventative measures to avoid being a victim of a bicycle theft.

Don't be an easy target:

- When parking your bicycle for long periods of time, always lock your bicycle to something that is permanent and not easy for a thief to take (bicycle racks or a metal fence post).
- Secure your bicycle with a U-style lock. U-locks are stronger than other locks. Make sure you buy a strong steel-alloy lock.
- The thicker the padlock and chain the better. Chain links and lock clasps should be at least 3/8" of an inch thick. Look for locks and chains that are case-hardened as this process makes them hard to cut.
- Don't lock your bicycle to another bicycle or a small tree.
- If you keep your bicycle in a garage, basement, or on a porch - lock it.
- Whenever possible, leave your bicycle in an open area where many people pass by and your bicycle can be seen easily. Thieves usually don't like audiences.
- Leave your bicycle where you can get to it quickly. Thieves like to steal bicycles whose owners are far away.

If anyone needs or has any information regarding these bicycle thefts, please contact the Western Springs Police Department Investigations Division at 708-246-1800 ext. 159 or 160.