Bicycles Theft Prevention

It is estimated that approximately one million bicycles are stolen in the United States each year, with the least value of $200. Most bicycles are stolen from homes but in the past few years campus bicycles theft have been on the rise. Bicycles are normally stolen for one of four reasons.

- For the thief's personal use;
- Temporary means of transportation;
- So the thief can sell the bicycle or its parts as a source of money;
- For some personal reason to deny the owner of its use.

Although there is no bicycle lock or chain that cannot be defeated the “U” shape locks, have proven to be most reasonably effective.

✓ When unattended, bicycles should always be locked.
✓ Bicycles should be locked to a fixed, immovable (example: bike racks) object in a conspicuous, open, and well–lighted location.
✓ When using the U lock, position the frame and wheel so that much of the open space as possible within the U portion is filled or taken up.
✓ If using the U lock, position the crossbar with the keyway toward the ground, this makes it harder for the thief to access the lock.
✓ Accessories that can be easily removed, like quick release wheels and seats, should also be secured by a locking mechanism or removed.
✓ Never lock a bicycle to itself, this will make it very easy for a thief to carry away.

The Department of Public Safety has a FREE registration program called Operation I.D. This program will provide you with information available for the department or Police in the event of a theft. For more information contact the Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Unit at 860-768-7854.