

## June 2022 – Webpage Content

### Title: Lock It Or Lose It

This month, the Naperville Police Department turns its “A Safer Naper” education and prevention efforts towards helping you protect your property and discourage would-be thieves. While no one can stop someone who is absolutely determined to steal your property, many criminals can be deterred by simply using a lock. Whether it is on your house, vehicle, locker or bicycle. Here are a few tips to protect your property and discourage would-be thieves.

#### House

- Keep doors, windows and garage doors locked.
- Turn on outside lights at night.
- Never leave a house key in an obvious place such as in a mailbox or under plants or doormats.
- Do not post on any social networking sites that you are going out of town.
- While traveling, keep your home looking lived-in by having the grass cut, mail and newspapers picked up, and lights turned on and off with timers.
- Know who belongs in your neighborhood and be alert in protecting not only your home, but your neighbors' homes as well. Report any suspicious activity immediately to 9-1-1.



#### Vehicles

- Always lock your doors and close windows and sunroofs.
- At night, park in well-lit areas.
- Place any property in the trunk before you get to your destination.
- Don't leave your purse, wallet or other valuables in your vehicle.
- Don't hide possessions under the seats; it is the first-place burglars check for stored items.
- Also, don't cover items left on the seat or floorboard of your car; blankets and articles of clothing present a clue to thieves that items may be hidden underneath.



## Lockers

- Leave valuables at home.
- If you have to bring valuables with you, keep them safe by keeping them on your person, not in a locker.
- Avoid calling attention to your valuables and don't leave them unattended.
- Choose a locker in a visible area.
- Invest in a quality lock.
- Secure your locker at all times.



## Bicycle

- Invest in a good locking system that will secure both wheels and the frame. Although there is no bicycle lock or chain that cannot be defeated, the "U" shape locks have proven to be effective.
- A recommended bicycle locking device consists of a three-foot length of 1/4-inch hardened chain together with a keyed-type padlock of high quality having at least a 7/16-inch hardened alloy steel shackle. The word "hardened" should be stamped on the shackle.
- Each bicycle should be locked to an immovable object such as a lamp pole or bicycle rack in an open and well-lit area.
- Don't lock your bicycle to a small tree, an aluminum or wooden post, or a chain link fence. These can be easily cut or broken.

- Don't lock a bicycle to itself (front wheel locked to the frame). A thief can simply carry it away.

**Remember: You only have to lock up the things you want to keep!**