

# Press Release



January 15, 2015

## DO YOU HAVE A BICYCLE?

**Please take a few minutes to license your bicycle today!**

Did you know that Municipal Code in the City of Walla Walla and the City of College Place requires you to license your bicycle?

Last year there were 154 bicycles stolen (see map) in Walla Walla, 137 bicycles were recovered by WWPD but only 6 bicycles could be returned to their rightful owners. Thirteen bicycles were donated with the remainder going to auction. College Place had 26 bicycle thefts of which 14 were recovered and only 3 returned to their owners. The Sheriff's Office had 18 bicycles reported stolen. Our goal is to have all recovered bikes returned to their proper owners.

Most stolen bicycles that are recovered cannot be returned to their rightful owners because there is no way to match the bicycle to the proper owner. If your bicycle is stolen, the odds of it being returned to you drastically increase once it is licensed.

In Walla Walla it costs just \$5.00 to license your bicycle with that license in effect for as long as you own your bike. In College place you can purchase a bicycle license for just \$1.00/year or \$5.00 for a permanent license. There are currently no licensing requirements in the County but you can protect yourself by writing down the model number, serial number, make, color and speed of your bike and keeping it in a safe place. You can also mark/engrave your bike with a personal identifier (a driver's license number or a parent's driver's license number for example). You can do that where it isn't readily visible (like on the underside of the frame) again making it easier to return your bike to you. Be sure to take a photo of you *with* your bicycle.

**If your bicycle is stolen, report it.** Be sure to contact all three agencies (WWPD, CPPD and WWSO) and keep checking back with them.

To license your bicycle, contact the WWPD Records Office (in the lobby of the WWPD). In College Place, just drop by City Hall. You will need your model number, serial number, make, color and speed of your bicycle to license it.