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NEWS RELEASE

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BICYCLE REGISTRATION DRIVE

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Bicycle theft is a reality in our community. Between 2007 and 2009 nearly 200 bicycles were reported stolen in the Town of Bluffton. During this same period, officers were only able to return 9% of recovered bicycles to their owners. The remaining could not be returned in large part due to lack of identification. To combat this threat to our community, Bluffton Police Department is proud to announce its new Bicycle Registration Program.

Register your bicycle with the Bluffton Police Department. Your registration provides us with necessary information so that if your bike is ever stolen, we would have a record of the serial number when you call to make your report. It would enable us to then submit the information about your stolen bicycle into the law enforcement databases in a quick easy step.

On Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 9:00am till 1:00pm at H.E. McCracken Middle School, 250 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton, SC 29910 officers will be on hand to register your bicycle with the Bluffton Police Department. You will need to fill out a bicycle registration form and submit it to the officer. You will then receive a bicycle registration sticker with a tracking number that will be applied to your bicycle. The tracking number is exclusive to you and indicates your bike is registered with the Bluffton Police Department. In the near future you will be able to register your bicycles on-line by visiting www.blufftonpolice.com.

Serial numbers are a set of characters that uniquely identify an object and can be used for traceability and warrant purposes. Serial numbers, however, are especially important when reporting stolen items, such as bicycles. A serial number is a method to enter the bicycle in our state and nationwide computerized record system as stolen.

Input of your stolen bicycle into these databases increases your chances of having your bicycle returned, and makes it possible to file charges against the person in possession of the bike.

Report any stolen property immediately to your local law enforcement agency. If your bike was stolen in the Town of Bluffton, please call the Beaufort County non-emergency line at 843-524-2777 to make your report. Have your bicycle registration number ready and other identification information ready.

Don't forget to always wear a helmet, lock up your bicycle, and ride your bicycle safely.