



# NEWS RELEASE



**ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**DALE WISE, SHERIFF**  
**P.O.BOX 1210 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32602**  
**OFFICE (352) 367-4050 • FAX (352) 374-1816**  
**<http://www.alachuasheriff.org>**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date:** October 26, 2006  
**Prepared By:** Sergeant Stephen Maynard  
**Release #:** 2006-190  
**Case #:** N/A  
**Incident Date:** 8-16-06 through 10-17-06  
**Incident Time:** Various  
**Incident Location:** Alachua County

**Scooter Thefts:**

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office has received an unusually large number of scooter theft reports in the last two months. Fourteen scooters were reported stolen from various locations throughout the county, with most being recovered near where they were originally stolen from. No discernable pattern with regards to make or model stolen, time of day, or location has been developed. It is believed that most of the scooters have been taken by joy riders who steal the scooters for transportation and discard them a short time later. The popularity of the vehicles and the relative ease by which they can be stolen are believed to be contributing causes to the rise in theft numbers. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is currently working several operations aimed at identifying and apprehending those responsible for the thefts.

Deputies with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office are encouraging owners of scooters to be extra vigilant during this period and take measures to reduce the risk of having their scooters stolen. Scooters should be parked only in well lit areas and should be disabled by utilizing a factory designed locking mechanism similar to those used on motorcycles. Some new scooters can even be equipped with alarm systems.

Please report suspicious activity to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at 955-1818, or in the case of a crime actively occurring to 911.