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Published October 15th, 2008 Orinda Police Make Progress in Breaking Up Burglary Ring By Andrea A. Firth

Following 10 residential burglaries in Orinda during the month of September and another during the first week of October, Orinda Police have made progress in thwarting the thieves. Orinda Police joined forces with the Lafayette Police Department, and the County Sheriff's Department enabling them to employ more aggressive patrol tactics, which led to the arrest of four of the individuals they suspect perpetrated the crimes. "I feel very confident that we are going to find all the members of this group and take them to prosecution," states Chief French.

Chief French notes that all of the burglaries were conducted in a similar manner. The burglars target more isolated properties, knock at the front door to determine if anyone is home, then gain entry from the back where they can not be seen. "They definitely have a lookout system. There are probably two or three individuals involved. There may be two cars," states French. Items stolen have been jewelry, laptops, and electronics. "These are professional burglars. They sell stolen property quickly," says French. "We believe they have also been active in Lafayette, the Valley area and Alamo," he adds.

Chief French was pleased with the increased number of calls to the police with potential information related to the burglaries. However, he wants to dispel rumors circulating about the occurrence of robberies [crimes involving threats or violence] in the area. "They don't want any confrontation. They don't want to be seen. They don't use any violence," states French. "Orinda is a safe community, it is very unusual to have violent crimes," he adds.

If you need to report a crime or any suspicious activity, call police dispatch at (925) 284-5010.

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