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Rash of Neighborhood Car Burglaries

By Cathy Tyson

On the evening of September 30 - October 1 there were nine car burglaries in Moraga. The one thing they had in common? All of the cars were unlocked. Six of the thefts were on Calle La Montana and Calle La Mesa in the Campolindo neighborhood. Some of the items taken were cash, an iPod power cord and Samsung car charger, Tom Tom GPS and an expensive tennis racquet. At one home the unknown thief used the garage door opener to open the garage door then proceeded to steal a briefcase from the BMW in the garage. Perhaps the suspect ended his or her crime spree with the theft of a white 2008 BMW X3 from a Corliss drive resident. To make matters worse, the car owner's \$2,000 road bike was in the back of his car, along with his government credentials. Moraga Chief of Police Robert Priebe warns residents that these are crimes of opportunity, "Don't leave anything in your car worth taking. Above all do not leave your car unlocked. It's pretty common sense." (Editor's note: Orinda and Lafayette are not exempt from the car crime spree. Their police blotters have been heavily laden of late with "smash and grab" incidents -- windows broken and valuables removed from locked cars.)

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