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Civic News Orinda

On the Job with Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook

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"Is that a real gun?" Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook captured the attention of Orinda Daisy Girl Scout Troop members and their leaders during a tour of OPD headquarters at Orinda City Hall recently.

Photo courtesy OPD Chief Mark Nagel

For Orinda police officers, though, the lingering headache continues to be Orinda's waxing and waning problem with burglaries. "A lot of our job is being reactive instead of being proactive." She urges Orindans to think more about ways they can make life harder for criminals, and recommends two city programs that can help. During Home Security Audits, residents frequently end up finding and fixing residential security flaws. And thanks to drive by house

checks, still others find themselves breathing more easily at Tahoe knowing that police are keeping their Orinda homes safe.

"We like to help people; sometimes we just don't know if we do. Sometimes we don't hear back," she says. So the next time you see Cook, feel free to introduce yourself and say thanks.

Because, from time to time, even police officers need to hear that they're doing a good job.

Crime Fighting 101 with Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook

1. Write down the serial numbers of your laptops and other tech devices, and then keep that list in a safe place. When police are given serial numbers to enter into their tracking system, it not only gives the police and district attorney an edge when prosecuting the thieves, it makes it easier for you to get your stuff back.
2. Have jewelry appraised, and photograph those and other valuables. Then keep that documentation in a safe location as well. Never store your jewelry in your bedroom or bathroom – the first two places burglars search.
3. Store important documents (birth certificates, social security cards, etc.) in a fire safe – or, even better, off site in your safety deposit box at the bank.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Don't leave items sitting out on the seat of your car, and keep your car doors locked – even if you think you're parked in a safe area.
5. Never keep the title of your car or pink slip in your car. Ever. If your car is stolen, it gives thieves the power to claim the car is theirs – not yours.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:** letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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