GET INVOLVED

- Communicate with neighbors

- Regularly contact Bowie Police Dept. to update Officers on important information

- Get involved with an effective organization that will benefit the daily lives of others, including yourself

- Gather facts about crime in your neighborhood by:
  - Checking police reports
  - Participating in the Citizens’ Police Academy

- Sponsor cleanups, encourage neighbors, and ask them to turn on exterior lights at night

- Encourage Neighborhood Watches to host meetings to address major community issues:
  - Drug abuse
  - Isolation of elderly residents
  - Crime in or around schools

- Involve everyone! Teamwork is more profound than individual insight

BOWIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Phone
240-544-5700
TIP LINE: 240-544-5770

Website
www.cityofbowie.org/police

Email
COPS@cityofbowie.org

STARTING AN APARTMENT WATCH
Watch Groups are a foundation of community crime prevention and can be a stepping stone to community revitalization. These groups alert police of suspicious activity and collaborate with each other to make the community a safe place to live.
PHASE ONE

**Getting Started**
Committee, Meetings, Bowie PD Contact

- Form a small committee that will: Discuss needs, the level of interest, possible challenges, and the overall Watch concept.

- Invite a Bowie PD Officer to attend your first meeting
Contact 240-544-5792 or email COPS@cityofbowie.org

- Publicize your meeting at least **one week** in advance by:
  - Advertising door-to-door
  - Forming a partnership with property management
  - Choosing a meeting place that guarantees easy access to neighbors with disabilities

- Hold an initial meeting that will:
  Gauge interest, establish the purpose of the program, review a map of the area with neighbors

- Choose a Block Captain, volunteers whose duties will include:
  - Welcoming new neighbors
  - Being a source of information
  - Participating in community events
  - Keeping a log of problem properties (vacant homes, suspicious activity) to share with Bowie PD
  - Post notices of monthly meetings or other important community events

PHASE TWO

**Establishing Roles**
Block Captains, Log Keeping, Maps

- Block Captain volunteers will be responsible for:
  - Relaying information to neighbors regularly
  - Keeping up-to-date info on residents
  - Proposing specific efforts to involve senior neighbors, working parents, and youth

*Block Captains serve as liaisons between neighborhoods and correspond information about meetings and crime incidents to all residents and the Bowie PD Officer*

- Establish regular means of communication with neighbors:
  Monthly newsletters work well for communicating a round-up of information while emails can be a faster way to communicate issues or ideas that pop up.

- Prepare a neighborhood map containing names, addresses, and contact info (phone numbers/email) of participating households

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know one another & decide upon program strategies/activities.

- Consider getting involved with an existing organization in your community
- Canvas door-to-door to recruit members
- Involve everyone in the neighborhood!

Gain support from your local law enforcement agency, which are considered to be major sources of information on:

- Local crime patterns
- Home security
- Other crime prevention education
- Crime reporting