

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Website: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods

Phone: 812-349-3420

 [City of Bloomington, IN-Neighborhood Services](#)



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Please direct questions or concerns to:
Angela Van Rooy
Neighborhood Services Program Manager
Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)
City of Bloomington, Indiana
angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov

Rethinking autumn leaf management



An interdepartmental team of City of Bloomington staff have been exploring ways to rethink autumn leaf management. This fall, residents in Park Ridge and Spicewood neighborhoods will volunteer to participate in a pilot project to explore alternatives to vacuum leaf pick up. Determining what that pilot project will look like is a group effort, involving the City team and residents.

An initial public meeting was held to set the stage for this project. A second meeting to brainstorm ideas will be held on Tuesday, September 15 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you missed the first meeting, but are interested in participating in some way, please review the recording of the first meeting (available on the project page at bloomington.in.gov/innovate/2020-leaves/) and plan to join the meeting on the 15th. Creative leaf management strategies are welcome!

Don't miss these important election dates



- Voter registration ends on Monday, October 5th. Register to vote [here](#).
- Early voting in Monroe County begins Tuesday, October 6th. Find full details [here](#).
- Vote by mail requests must be received by the Monroe County Clerk's office by Thursday, October 22 at 11:59 p.m. Find details [here](#).
- General election is on Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Find your precinct [here](#).

CONA Corner: News from the Council of Neighborhood Associations



Council of Neighborhood Associations - Bloomington

During its last monthly meeting, CONA approved changes to its bylaws. The new bylaws more clearly state the voting procedures, election procedures, terms of offices, and creates a standing education committee.

The elections for four positions on the CONA Executive Committee will be held during its next meeting on October 13. Nominations can be made up until the election. If you are interested in serving neighborhoods as the chair, secretary, or an at large member of the Executive Committee, please contact me or attend the October 13 meeting.

The education session during the September CONA meeting focused on neighborhood covenants. Mike Parker, a local land use attorney, and Cynthia Bretheim, a longtime CONA participant discussed covenants and about 40 minutes was spent on questions and answers. A recording of the meeting will soon be available on the [CONA website](#).

If you would like a member of the CONA Executive Committee to join your neighborhood association meeting, please contact me. The Executive Committee is interested in hearing what neighborhood associations are doing and if CONA might support them.

-- John Kennedy, jmk22@outlook.com

Proposals sought for Bike/Ped Projects and Programming

The City of Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission (BPSC) is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations, locally owned businesses, and neighborhood associations that incorporate bicycle and pedestrian mobility into local events, programs, or other community activities. Local-Motion grants of up to \$2,000 per project will be awarded to proposals for initiatives that celebrate and promote Bloomington's walk-and bike-friendly culture and infrastructure, and advance active mobility accessibility. The BPSC will make their announcement of the Local-Motion Grant award near the beginning of November. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications sought for 2020 Recover Forward Grants for the Arts

The Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA) and the Bloomington Arts Commission (BAC) are seeking applications for a second round of funding to foster the arts and cultivate cultural experiences in Bloomington as part of Mayor John Hamilton's initiative to Recover Forward from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nonprofit organizations and businesses in the arts and cultural sector may apply for funds [here](#). Applications will be evaluated according to organizational capacity, community impact, equity and inclusion efforts, artistic quality, and programming needs. Completed applications are due Friday, October 2, at 5 p.m., with awards to be announced and distribution anticipated by late October.



Fresh Food Fridays

Hoosier Hills Food Bank's Fresh Food Friday distribution continues on September 18th, from 11:00am to 3:00pm at 2333 West Industrial Park Drive. Each box, available to anyone in need of food, includes fresh produce, dairy products, and frozen meat. No ID or proof of income is required.