The HAND Update



A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Website: <u>bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods</u>

Phone: 812-349-3420

City of Bloomington, IN-Neighborhood Services

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Neighborhood Services 2021 Calendar
- Sign up to receive The HAND Update
- Sign up to Adopt-A-Drain

CITY HOLIDAYS:

City Hall will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, December 25, 2020
- Friday, January 1, 2021

Report an issue to the City: uReport

Find civic information specific to your address: myBloomington

Explore the City's open databases: B-Clear Open Data

Volunteer your time and talent: Bloomington Volunteer Network

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

Fundraising for Neighborhood Associations SAVE the DATE!



On Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. HAND will host a virtual workshop for neighborhood associations to discuss programs that can assist neighborhoods in their fundraising efforts. The discussion will focus on:

- benefits of applying for non-profit status,
- benefits of petitioning the State of Indiana to designate your neighborhood as an Economic Improvement District (EID), and
- benefits of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits.

To register, please email angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov by Tuesday, January 19. 2021. and indicate your interest in attending the workshop. The Zoom link and meeting agenda will be emailed to you on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

HAND Homebuyer Club Dates Set for 2021

Five virtual sessions of the HAND Homebuyer Club will be offered in 2021. Attendance for each session is limited to 25 participants. Advance registration is required, and is open for each session approximately one month prior to that session. Registration must be completed online, and will be confirmed by email.



- HBC I: Saturdays, January 23rd and 30th.
 - Registration for HBC I is now open to the first 25 registrants or until January 15, 2021. Register here.
- HBC II: Saturdays, April 10th and April 17th.
- HBC III: Saturdays, July 10th and 17th.
- HBC IV: Saturdays, September 18th and 25th.
- HBC V: Saturdays, November 6th and 13th.

2021 Neighborhood Grant Applications Available January 4th

Applications for all HAND grants for neighborhoods will be available on the <u>neighborhood grants website</u> on January 4, 2021. HAND offers four grant programs:

- Neighborhood Improvement Grants
 - Funds provide for non-traditional capital projects with community-wide benefit.
- Neighborhood Cleanup Grants
 - A neighborhood organized, HAND facilitated cleanup day is a great way to build pride in your neighborhood by working together toward a common goal.
- Small and Simple Grants (General)
 - Small grants (\$500 or less) provide community-building opportunities.
- Small & Simple Grants for Control of Invasive Plant Species
 - NEW in 2021! A grant program dedicated to helping neighborhoods eradicate invasive plants and replace them with native plants.

Information about grant deadlines and all neighborhood programs and services for the coming year can be found on the <u>2021 Neighborhood Services Calendar</u>.



If your neighborhood is considering applying for a Neighborhood Improvement Grant, a *neighborhood representative must attend a virtual informational meeting*. HAND staff will explain the Neighborhood Improvement Grant application process, and will be available to answer questions. There are two such meetings scheduled. Neighborhoods need only attend one. Please register by emailing angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov. A Zoom link will be emailed to you.



- Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. or
- Monday, February 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Utilities department accepting proposals for 2021 Residential Stormwater Grants

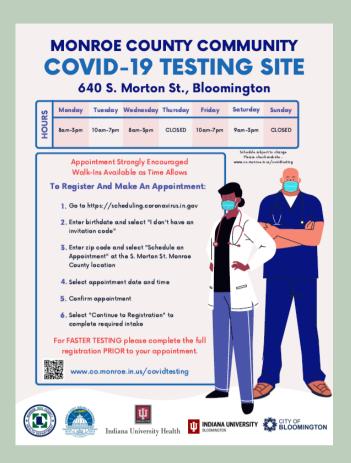
The City of Bloomington Utilities Department (CBU) invites homeowners to apply for funding through the third annual Residential Stormwater Grants Program. CBU has allocated \$70,000 for the 2021 program to assist owners of single-family residential property with environmentally-friendly drainage projects such as rain gardens, bioswales, and detention pond maintenance. CBU will host a public information meeting about the grant application process and project requirements via video conferencing on Tuesday, January 19, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This information will be recorded and available on the CBU grants webpage at https://bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater/grants. Questions? Contact Kriste Lindberg, Education Specialist, City of Bloomington Utilities, at stormwater@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3617.

Transparency in Local Government Survey

Everyone says they want a transparent government, but what does that really mean? A group of students from Indiana University School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering Human/Computer Interactions wants to know what you think! The survey takes no more than 15 min to complete. Results will be shared with the City of Bloomington Office of Innovation for consideration of future projects.

Take the survey here: https://cityofbloomington.research.net/r/IU-transparent-2020

Open through December 30, 2020.



Downtown COVID-19 Testing Site Open

The Monroe County community COVID-19 testing site, 640 South Morton Street, Bloomington, is now open six days per week, having recently added Saturday hours. Currently, test results are coming back in about three to four days.

Register and make an appointment at https://scheduling.coronavirus.in.gov.

Answering ALL questions on the registration portal is STRONGLY encouraged, and will reduce the amount of time you will need to spend inside the testing site: if you don't answer the questions online, you will be required to do so during your appointment.

For more information visit the Monroe County Health Department COVID-19 website or call 812-349-2543.

Help our parks by properly disposing of your yard waste

Please refrain from dumping yard waste (e.g. leaves, grass clippings) in natural areas of our neighborhood parks. While it may seem harmless, there are a number of problems with doing this, including the emergence of new invasive plant species on Parks properties, and the cost to taxpayers for clean up and disposal of the debris by Parks staff. Visit <u>myBloomington</u> and enter your home address to find your regular yard waste pick up schedule, and please practice proper yard waste disposal.

What's happening at the Monroe County Public Library?

The Main Library and Ellettsville Branch Library have returned to a curbside pickup by appointment model with inbuilding and drive-up window services discontinued through early 2021.

Current hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday; 11:00 a.m.- to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

More information can be found here: https://mcpl.info/virtual

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