

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Phone: 812-349-3420

Website: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods

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

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Apply for a [HAND neighborhood grant](#)
- [Neighborhood Services 2021 Calendar](#)
- Sign up to receive [The HAND Update](#)
- Sign up to [Adopt-A-Drain](#)

City Hall will be closed Monday, February 15, 2021 for the Presidents' Day holiday

Keep up with your local law makers:
[City Council](#)

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](#)

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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

Brrrr! The cold weather is here.

Avoid frozen pipes by keeping a slow drip running from your faucets. This will also protect your water meter and the service line running into your home. You can collect this water to use for your pets, plants, or other uses, so it doesn't go to waste.



Don't forget to keep your walkways free of snow and ice. According to the [Bloomington Municipal Code](#), you are responsible for clearing snow and ice from any sidewalk abutting your property. This must be completed within 24 hours after the snow or ice ceases to fall or accumulate.

Take control of the invasive plants on your land — borrow a tool kit today!



Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) has created 8 tool kits to loan to Monroe County residents for invasive plant control. To borrow a tool kit, find one of the eight on the [map](#) in a convenient area for you to pick up and return. You can make a difference by removing invasive plants and planting natives on your land, school, church, business and parks.

See <http://mc-iris.org/> for more resources. This effort is funded by Indiana University's Prepared for Environmental Change program.

Go green for Earth Day!

In celebration of Earth Day's 51st year, you can help to reduce waste, improve soil and water quality, and conserve water. The City of Bloomington and the Monroe County Solid Waste District are offering discounted compost bins and water barrels for sale. Visit gogreendistrictorders.com to order by the April 5th deadline.



Monitor your home water usage with the CBU Customer Portal



As a City of Bloomington Utilities customer, the water service to your home is measured by a "smart meter". This modernized metering system allows for automated readings and enhances CBU's ability to respond to infrastructure issues. In addition, you can access detailed water usage information, allowing you to make informed decisions on how to manage your water consumption and alert you to potential leaks.

The [Customer Portal](#) allows you to monitor your water usage, set alarms, and diagnose potential problems in your plumbing systems, by seeing the hour by hour data as measured by your smart meter. More information about smart meters can be found [here](#).

HAND Welcomes new Director

Mayor John Hamilton today announced the appointment of John Zody to the position of Director of the City's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND). Zody will begin April 5, 2021.

As HAND director, Zody will collaborate with other City departments and community stakeholders in the development of affordable housing, administer and distribute federal funds for social service agencies, oversee the City's residential rental inspection program, and direct neighborhood services, housing counseling, and historic preservation, among other responsibilities.

Click [here](#) for the full press release.

February is Black History Month

Events celebrating Black history and culture are happening all month long, culminating in the 17th Annual Black History Month Gala, "The Show Goes On", on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available from the [BCT box office](#). See the [2021 BHM Calendar](#) for a complete list of events.



Library set to reopen to the public

Monroe County Public Library Restart, February 22

Limited Reopening Services:

- In-Building Technology Use
- Holds Pickup
- Browsing the Shelves
- Continued Bookmobile Pickup
- Continued Virtual Services

Library Hours:

Monday–Thursday..... 11 AM–7 PM
Friday–Saturday..... 11 AM–6 PM
Sunday..... Noon–5 PM
High-Risk Hours..... The First Hour of Each Day

Call 812-349-3050
or visit mcpl.info/restart



Racial Equality Task Force

Residents are invited to apply for participation in a new resident-led task force being formed to help increase racial equity in Bloomington. City residents interested in applying for a seat on the Racial Equity Task Force may complete [this application](#) by Monday, February 15 at midnight. More information is available [here](#).