

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington 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 Small & Simple Grant](#)
- [Neighborhood Services 2021 Calendar](#)
- Sign up to receive [The HAND Update](#)
- Sign up to [Adopt-A-Drain](#)

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

Report an issue to the City:
[uReport](#)

Check for road closures:
[inRoads](#)

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

Citizens' Academy registration open

The City of Bloomington Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) invites residents to apply for the 2021 Citizens' Academy, to be held on ten consecutive Thursday evenings from August 26 to October 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. Sessions include presentations by City staff, as well as tours of City departments and facilities.

The City developed Citizens' Academy in 1999 to encourage civic engagement and to educate residents about City government. Participants will learn about the challenges faced by City government as it balances budget limitations with community goals and service needs. Sessions will also cover topics such as day-to-day operations, the structure and function of City departments, the role of City Council, resident involvement in boards and commissions, innovative approaches to problem solving, and goals for the future.

To participate, please [submit an application](#) for consideration by Monday, July 12, 2021. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program by Monday, August 2, 2021. Preference will be given to residents who live within the City of Bloomington corporate boundaries. To request a paper application, please call 812-349-3505.



Citizens' Academy participants get a ride in the bucket of the 100 Ft Aerial ladder truck at Bloomington Fire Department, HQ.



Citizens' Academy participants spend a gorgeous late-summer evening on a walking tour of Switch Yard Park

Bloomington Community Survey open to all

The City of Bloomington invites residents to participate in the [online 2021 Bloomington Community Survey](#) from April 21 - May 5. Residents who did not receive the survey in the mail are now invited to complete the same survey online. If you received a mailed survey, it is important that you complete that version rather than the online open participation survey, in order to keep the data sets distinct.

This survey, like two previous ones, conducted in 2017 and 2019, will gauge residents' perceptions of the quality and value of City services and current conditions in the community. Please [see the official press release](#) for additional information.

Create a neighborhood logo, receive a banner from HAND

Last year, the department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) held a logo contest for neighborhood associations. At that time, two neighborhoods entered the contest. Both logos were so good, and so thoughtfully representative of their neighborhoods, HAND decided to award them both with a banner featuring their new logo.

This year HAND once again challenges neighborhood associations to develop a logo that represents their little piece of Bloomington. Put your thinking caps on, get creative, and show us what you love about your neighborhood.



Covenanter neighbors hold a banner showing their neighborhood association logo.



Fritz Terrace neighbors got together to show off the banner with their neighborhood association logo.

This time around, we're not holding a contest. All neighborhood associations that submit a logo, following [HAND's official logo guidelines](#), will receive a banner featuring their logo. Questions? , please contact Angela Van Rooy at 812-349-3505 or angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

News from the Monroe County Public Library

The [Main Library](#) and [Ellettsville Branch](#) will return to (closer to) normal hours of operation on Monday, May 3. COVID restrictions will remain in place. New hours are as follows:

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM
Friday–Saturday: 10 AM–6 PM
Sunday: Noon–6 PM



Monroe County
Public Library
Read, Learn, Connect & Create

Restoring wildlife diversity



Restoring wildlife diversity in your own backyard is a positive way to make a difference. Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS), can conduct a survey of your yard to help you learn about invasive plants that reduce biodiversity and damage our forests and water quality. MC-IRIS is currently conducting surveys remotely, with the aid of a smartphone or laptop, or on-site, practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Visit <http://mc-iris.org/invasive-plant-surveys.html>.

Qualified vaccinators needed



More healthcare personnel are needed to administer COVID-19 vaccines. To address this need, the [Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act Declaration](#) expands the pool of qualified people who can become vaccinators. The definition of covered qualified persons authorized to give the vaccine has been expanded to include, among others, current and retired traditional and non-traditional healthcare professionals and students in healthcare programs. For more information, and to find out if you are eligible to volunteer, please see the [PREP Act Fact Sheet](#).