

# The HAND Update



A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Website: [bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods](http://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods)

Phone: 812-349-3420

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



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Please direct questions or concerns to:

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City of Bloomington, Indiana  
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## CONA Corner: News from the Council of Neighborhood Associations

*The agenda for the next CONA meeting on September 8 at 7 PM will have three important items. If you would like more information on these topics, please contact John Kennedy - [jmk22@outlook.com](mailto:jmk22@outlook.com).*

**Bylaws:** CONA has updated its bylaws to reflect its actual processes and procedures. The current bylaws were developed in 1997 (with subsequent amendments), and anticipated an ideal version of CONA. The reality has been much different. The revised bylaws clarify various issues such as start dates for the terms of Executive Committee members, election procedures, and membership voting. The CONA Executive Committee has been working on the revisions for the past six months and the changes will be discussed and adopted or rejected at the September monthly meeting. Changes to bylaws require approval by 2/3 vote at a monthly meeting. We hope you will carefully consider the [new bylaws](#) and be present at the September 8 Zoom meeting to vote on them.

**Executive Committee Election:** The CONA Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for four positions on the CONA Executive Committee: Chair, Secretary, and two committee members. Terms are for two years and will begin in January 2021. The duties of each office can be found in the current [bylaws](#). If you, or someone in your neighborhood association, would like to become a member, please send nominations to [jmk22@outlook.com](mailto:jmk22@outlook.com). We especially welcome younger, active neighborhood leaders. The Executive Committee needs new members with new ideas and energy. The Nominations Committee will present a slate at the September 8th meeting, but nominations can also be made during the meeting and until September 15. The election will be held during the October monthly meeting.

**Neighborhood Covenants:** As part of the September CONA meeting, a local land use attorney will give a short presentation on neighborhood covenants and restrictions. In addition, an active CONA member has researched a number of Bloomington neighborhood covenants and she will report her findings. We will have about 40 minutes for questions and answers. This topic is timely and should be interesting to neighborhood leaders and residents. More information about the meeting will be sent to the CONA email list.



Council of Neighborhood Associations - Bloomington

## Do you have a new neighbor?

HAND has a plethora of information, in both hard copy and digital formats, to welcome newcomers to Bloomington. Neighborhood Associations are encouraged to add a welcome letter with contact information, so that new neighbors know how to contact their organizations. Please contact Angela at HAND to arrange for pick-up or delivery of welcome items, which include brochures, magnets, and handy door-hanger bags to hold it all!



## State helps tenants avoid eviction through mediation

The Landlord and Tenant Settlement Conference Program is designed to help residential landlords and tenants talk about their situation with the help of a "facilitator", a neutral helper, to see if a settlement can be reached before an eviction case is filed or, if an eviction case has already been filed, to see if an agreement can be reached between the parties before the court makes a decision in the eviction case. There is **no cost** to participants for participating in this program. Both parties must agree to participate.

## Affordable home ownership and sidewalk enhancements

The following projects are part of Phase One of Mayor John Hamilton's Recover Forward initiative. Information about all Phase One projects can be found [here](#).

### Affordable Home Ownership: \$450K

The City's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) is launching two new programs to assist home buyers who have difficulty accessing the Bloomington home ownership market, and simultaneously establishing long-term affordability of some homes. HAND has developed the application for assistance and is finalizing the mortgage, promissory note, and other documents necessary to underwrite the loans. HAND staff will be sharing promotional materials about the homeownership programs to distribute to financial institutions and local realtors about both programs:

- **Downpayment Assistance: \$100K.** This program builds directly on an existing federally funded HAND program and offers homebuying-ready families up to \$10,000 to help with a down payment needed to purchase a home.
- **Shared Appreciation Home Ownership, 2nd Mortgage Assistance: \$350K.** This program provides larger purchase assistance to potential homebuyers -- up to \$50,000 and at least 20% of the purchase price -- to facilitate the purchase, in exchange for permanent affordability of the home through shared appreciation.

### Sidewalk and Path Enhancements: \$400K

This program will focus investments in low- and moderate-income areas to improve ADA curb ramps, bike lane and bike path pavement, and repair sidewalk damage caused by street trees. Public Works staff is preparing bid and quote packages for the following contracts, with specific locations under review:

- \$250,000 package of sidewalk replacement projects.
- \$50,000 of sidewalk grinding projects for trip hazard elimination
- \$50,000 for asphalt sealing and repair of multiuse sidepaths
- Two \$25,000 smaller sidewalk packages for panel repair damaged by tree roots from trees in city-owned tree plots.

