

The HAND Update



A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Website: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods

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 [neighborhood grants website](#) 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 [2021 Neighborhood Services Calendar](#).



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.

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COVID-19 TESTING SITE

640 S. Morton St., Bloomington

HOURS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	8am-3pm	10am-7pm	8am-3pm	CLOSED	10am-7pm	9am-3pm	CLOSED

Appointment Strongly Encouraged
Walk-Ins Available as Time Allows

To Register And Make An Appointment:

1. Go to <https://scheduling.coronavirus.in.gov>
2. Enter birthdate and select "I don't have an invitation code"
3. Enter zip code and select "Schedule an Appointment" at the S. Morton St. Monroe County location
4. Select appointment date and time
5. Confirm appointment
6. Select "Continue to Registration" to complete required intake

For FASTER TESTING please complete the full registration PRIOR to your appointment.



www.co.monroe.in.us/covidtesting

Schedule subject to change
Please check website
www.co.monroe.in.us/covidtesting



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](http://www.co.monroe.in.us/covidtesting) 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 myBloomington 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 in-building 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>

Return to Curbside Service: Monday, November 30

Monday–Thursday..... 11 AM–7 PM
Friday–Saturday..... 11 AM–6 PM
Sunday..... Noon–5 PM

Other Available Services

- Phone and Web Chat Assistance
- Printing Services by Appointment
- Friends of the Library Virtual Bookstore
- Bookmobile Pickup
- Virtual Programs and eLibrary Resources

Learn more at mcpl.info/virtual

