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

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

CLEANUP GRANT DEADLINE EXTENDED

Attention Bloomington neighborhoods! There is still time to submit an application for a HAND Neighborhood Cleanup Grant. Don't miss out on this opportunity to rid your household of unwanted items, while building community and instilling pride in your neighborhood.

The new deadline is Monday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m.
Grant guidelines and application form can be found here: https://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/clean-ups.

Help available for tenants and homeowners

The Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program is now acceping applications. A link to apply, along with a series of informational documents in English and Spanish can be found on the top banner of www.indianahousingnow.org.

The IERA program is designed to decrease evictions, increase housing stability, and prevent homelessness by helping renters, whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19, with rent and utility assistance. IERA can provide eligible renter households with up to 12 months of rental assistance.

Qualifying applicants may also receive utility assistance for past due utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash), home energy (fuel oil, wood, coal, pellets, and propane) expenses, and assistance with past due expenses for internet/broadband.

Additional resources:
- **Coronavirus Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Guide** – This guide provides questions to frequently asked questions and resources for Indiana households financially impacted by COVID-19 to help them avoid eviction or foreclosure: https://www.in.gov/ihcda/4464.htm
- **Mortgage Assistance** – Indiana homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments can apply for mortgage assistance through the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network (IFPN): 877gethope.org.
- **Utility Assistance** – The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps Hoosier homeowners and renters pay their heat and electric bills: eap.ihcda.in.gov

IndianaHousingNow.org

Contactless pick-up option at the main library

Green Business Virtual Series #5

How can we reduce utility bills year-round to offset increasing water rates? And how can we conserve water, and keep water uncontaminated? Two representatives from City of Bloomington Utilities will speak about water conservation and quality on March 24th from noon to 1:00 p.m. Reduce utility bills, conserve water, and keep our water clean. Email sustain@bloomington.in.gov for the Zoom link. Sponsored by the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District and the City Of Bloomington's Department of Economic and Sustainable Development

Celebrate Earth Day - April 22

Educational Opportunities in Southest Park - SAVE the DATE

Join local organizations at Southeast Park on Earth Day to celebrate! Take action to be the best steward you can be! Programming will be offered all day, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Learn about:

- Identifying and removing invasive plants
- How to plant a native plant and prevent deer browsing
- Planting and maintaining rain gardens
- Composting
- Benefits of using a rain barrel
- Protecting our watersheds
- Connecting Bloomington neighborhoods one native plant at a time
- City grants available to reduce invasives in your neighborhood

FREE native plant give away, while supplies last!

Details and how to sign up coming soon

Order your compost bin and rain barrel

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**.

Help with identifying invasive plants - Flowering Fiends Weed Lab

Join MC-IRIS (Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species) on Thursday, April 29 from noon to 2:00 p.m. for this seasonal Zoom series that focuses on invasive plants in bloom or otherwise noticeable at this time. You will learn how to identify and control garlic mustard, dame's rocket, multiflora rose, autumn olive, and Callery pear. Questions will also be taken on any other species attendees are trying to identify or control. To register for this program, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0of-mhrD0uG9P8UE7baqbgwijUFo4Jc_4Y