

# The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington residents



Phone: 812-349-3420

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

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

.....

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Apply for a [HAND Small & Simple Grant](#)
- [Apply for the Citizens' Academy](#)
- Subscribe to 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](#)

.....

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](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov)

## Neighborhood Improvement Grants Awarded

On Monday, May 17, 2021, the City of Bloomington Redevelopment Commission voted unanimously to award Neighborhood Improvement Grant funding to seven Bloomington neighborhoods. This year's grant recipients are:

- **Bloomington Housing Authority Resident Council**--Awarded \$5,019.16 to place additional trash cans, cigarette butt disposal cans, and pet waste stations throughout the three Bloomington Housing Authority properties (Rev. Butler, Crestmont, and Walnut Woods).
- **EverGreen Village Neighborhood**--Awarded \$1,107.60 to place a neighborhood entrance sign at the corner of Susie Street and RCA Park Drive.
- **Near West Side Neighborhood Association**--Awarded \$2,743.00 to paint murals on the five traffic calming circles within the neighborhood. The theme of the murals will celebrate the diverse history of the Near West Side.
- **Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association**--Awarded \$4,410.00 to place seven way finding signs in the Rose Hill Cemetery. This is the continuation of a grant request that was partially funded in 2020.
- **St. James Woods Neighborhood Association**--Awarded \$5,491.79 to revitalize the landscaping on a City-owned parcel at the entrance to their neighborhood, along E Moores Pike.
- **Village of Ridgefield Homeowners Association**--Awarded \$3,973.85 to place four ADA-compliant benches along the sidewalks within their neighborhood.
- **Woodlands-Winding Brook Homeowners Association**--Awarded \$4,254.60 to place new neighborhood signs on either side of their neighborhood entrance. Their previous signs were removed when the City constructed a new walking path in the area.

★CONGRATULATIONS★

**2021 Neighborhood Improvement Grant recipients!**

## Successful neighborhood cleanup in Mayfair

This spring the Mayfair neighborhood association was awarded a Neighborhood Cleanup Grant from HAND. On Saturday, May 15th, together with HAND staff, Mayfair volunteers rid their neighborhood of 3.87 tons of trash, 0.81 tons of scrap metal, 9 tires, 744 pounds of electronic waste plus 9 TV's, and A LOT of brush and limbs!

Thank you to Mayfair neighbors for an awesome cleanup!



## Nature Sounds: an educational presentation with acoustical music

**Nature Topic:** Cicada Brood X

**Musical guest:** Rex Miller, Congas and percussion



**Friday, June 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Willie Streeter Community Gardens**  
**at Winslow Woods Park**

Did a year of in-home isolation feel like an eternity? Try 17 years! Brood X cicadas spend nearly their entire lives holed up underground, without Netflix, to avoid predation before emerging for four to six weeks to a very full social calendar. After all this time underground they are ready to join the jamboree of summer sounds before their party gets shut down. Join us to learn more about these cacophonous insects! Admission to Nature Sounds concerts is free. Bring your own seating. The Nature Sounds series is presented by the Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department.

## 1,000 Households Who Mulch – Sign up now!

*A Note from the City of Bloomington Director of Innovation:*

In a “tree city” like Bloomington, if no one did anything with our leaves we would have trouble: streets and sidewalks would be slick and stained by leaves that blew and stuck there and storm sewers would be clogged causing flooding and mold. But do we really have to rake our lawns “clean” and do away with all the leaves? I used to think so – because that’s what my dad always did. In fact, I thought my first husband was just lazy when he mowed over the leaves to mulch them into the grass. But in the Fall of 2020, when 22 other households in Bloomington mulched and composted as many of their leaves as possible and only put out the excess for pickup by the City’s yard waste crew, I tried it, too. I found mow mulching whenever a new layer of leaves fell to be much easier than raking and transporting them, and my lawn looks quite healthy.



Do YOU have what it takes to mulch much? We are looking for 1,000 households to take the challenge to mulch and compost as much as possible and only put the excess in yard waste bags for the City’s collection. Are you already doing this? You can still participate in the challenge as part of your neighborhood and get your neighborhood on the leaderboard! Putting a sign in your yard will also encourage other households to sign up. Are you a master mulcher-composter? Great – we could use your help as a “Yard Leader” to give mulching and composting demonstrations for those who are just starting out.

Sign up here to participate in the challenge: <https://forms.gle/ssGELwqv1uAZ9Mw38>

Sign up here to be a Yard Leader: <https://forms.gle/HG5jmuB5U1CrWM587>

For questions or more information, see <https://bloomington.in.gov/innovate/2021-leaves> or contact Devta Kidd, Director of Innovation, at [kidd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:kidd@bloomington.in.gov).

## Summer Reading at the Monroe County Public Library

The MCPL has summer reading programs for all ages. Between June 1 and August 1, you can register on Beanstack and play online. As you read and try different activities, you'll become eligible to earn badges and prizes. Games are available for children, teens and adults. See the Beanstack FAQ for more details or visit <http://mcpl.info/summerreading>.

# Tails and Tales



Read for fun, complete activities, and earn points toward prizes!

**Categories for children, teens, and adults**  
**Beginning June 1**

[mcpl.info/summerreading](http://mcpl.info/summerreading)



## How can Monroe County Solid Waste Management better serve you?



Since 1993 the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District has served schools, community organizations, households and businesses. The District has five drop-off recycling centers, and related services that support a healthy community, and reduce climate change.

The Waste Management District, in partnership with Indiana University, would like to know more about your opinions and needs related to yard waste and food waste, and they invite you to share your input by completing a community survey. The survey results will be used to update the Monroe County Waste Management District's five year plan.

By participating in this survey you are eligible to enter a raffle for the chance to win a 3-month subscription to EarthKeepers Monroe County drop-off service. A raffle for three subscriptions will take place on May 30th.

## Do you need help accessing affordable internet service?

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit), or by calling 833-511-0311

