

JUNE 14, 2021

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](#)
- [Apply for the Residents 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](#)

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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

Apply today for the Residents Academy (formerly known as Citizens Academy)



Want a behind the scenes look at the breadth and depth of services provided by the City of Bloomington?

Apply for the Residents Academy

**RIDE IN THE
BUCKET OF A BFD
LADDER TRUCK!**

Thursdays 6:00 to 8:00pm
August 26 to October 28

**LEARN WHERE
YOUR DRINKING
WATER COMES
FROM!**

- Presentations by City staff,
- Tours of City departments and facilities.
- Day-to-day operations,
- Structure and function of City departments,
- Role of City Council,
- Resident involvement in boards and commissions,
- Innovative approaches to problem solving, and
- Goals for the future.

**TOUR A
CITY PARK!**

Application deadline is Monday, July 12, 2021. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance 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.

Blooming Neighborhoods is BACK!

HAND is pleased to announce that the annual Blooming Neighborhoods celebration is back! The event will take place from 10:00am to noon at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, September 25th.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!

1000 Households Who Mulch



Take the challenge! Volunteer to mulch your leaves this fall, rather than relying on vacuum leaf collection. For more information contact Devta Kidd, Director of Innovation, at kidd@bloomington.in.gov, or visit. <https://bloomington.in.gov/innovate/2021-leaves>.

Successful neighborhood cleanup in The Woodlands

This spring The Woodlands Winding Brook Neighborhood Association was awarded a Neighborhood Cleanup Grant from HAND. On Saturday, June 5th, together with HAND staff, The Woodlands volunteers rid their neighborhood of 0.82 tons of trash and 0.89 tons of scrap metal, as well as hazardous materials, electronics, and brush & limbs. On top of that, many gently used items, from furniture to baby gear, were donated.

Thank you to The Woodlands neighbors for a fantastic cleanup!



Blue Ridge neighbors successfully tackle invasive plants



This year HAND introduced the Small & Simple Grant to Control Invasive Plant Species (SSCIPS). The Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association was the first SSCIPS recipient, and this spring neighborhood volunteers dedicated much time and energy to removing Asian bush honeysuckle and purple wintercreeper.

The pictures speak for themselves. Overwhelming participation led to the removal of 200 yards of brush! It's impressive what can be accomplished when neighbors work together for a common good. ***Congratulations Blue Ridge!!***

To apply for a SSCIPS grant for your neighborhood, visit the [Small & Simple Grant website](#), or contact Angela Van Rooy at angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505.



Civic engagement opportunities

Membership on a City board or commission is an excellent way for residents to provide input on the policies that shape our government and our city, as these bodies advise the Mayor and City Council on a vast array of issues.

To learn more about each board and commission, including mission statements, membership requirements, current membership listings, and term lengths, go to the City's online system for board and commission information known as [OnBoard](#).

Two boards and commissions staffed by the HAND Department are currently seeking interested residents to fill vacancies. If you are interested in serving on the [Board of Housing Quality Appeals](#) or the [Historic Preservation Commission](#), please [complete an application](#) for consideration.

Bloomington Police Department Community Night



Join the Bloomington Police Department for

BPD Community Night: Data at Your Fingertips

Switchyard Park Police Substation

245 W Grimes Lane

Thursday, June 17, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

BPD Data Analyst, Brittani Evans, will demonstrate BPD's free, public, online crime mapping software.

She'll explain recently implemented features, teach you how to monitor the incidents that happen in your area, and explain how she uses the same data to identify trends and patterns that help investigators solve crimes.

You'll also meet the BPD Neighborhood Resource Specialists and Police Social Workers. These non-sworn responders work directly with citizens and neighborhood groups to resolve ongoing issues. You'll have a chance to chat with these community liaisons about any issues that might need attention.

This event is open to the public and will take place at the Police Substation located at the entrance to Switchyard Park off of Grimes Lane. Free parking is available. Light refreshments will be served.

News from the Monroe County Public Library

Get a sneak peek at the new MCPL Southwest Branch at the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Visit <https://mcpl.info/friends> to register for the Zoom link

REMINDER: The main library will return to full hours on June 21!

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

Zooming to the Future:



A First Look at the New Southwest Library Branch at the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting. Free. Please join us! Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, June 27 | 2-3 PM
Register for Zoom link

mcpl.info/friends



friends
of the
library



mcpl