

# 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](#)
- 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)

## Assistance for flood damaged homes & businesses

Have you been financially impacted by the flooding event on June 18 and June 19, 2021?

The Small Business Administration (SBA), along with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), will be available in Bloomington this week to talk to renters, homeowners, and business owners to discuss applying for a loan through the SBA. If you do not qualify for a loan, you may be eligible for assistance through the State Disaster Relief Fund administered by IDHS. If your home or business has been affected by the June floods, you are encouraged to take the opportunity to see if you qualify.

In order to complete an application at this event, please be prepared by bringing the follow documentation with you:

- **Photo ID** (Driver's License or State Issued);
- **Copy of Deed or Mortgage** (for homeowners);
- **Copy of lease agreement, utility bills and rent receipts** (for renters);
- **Copy of insurance policies** (homeowners/renters, automobile);
- **Bank information/voided check** (disaster relief funds are direct deposited into your bank account);
- **Detailed list of damages** (track all flood-related expenses and retain your receipts);
- **Preferred email address** (for communications from the IDRF).

Please refer to the county website for further information <https://www.co.monroe.in.us/>.



**Monroe County Convention Center**  
**302 S College Ave. Bloomington, IN 47403**  
**July 12th-16th, 2021 8:00am to 5:00pm**

## Consider donating to help your neighbors recover from flood damage

United Way in cooperation with the Community Organizations Active in Disaster for Monroe County (MoCOAD) has opened a Relief Fund and is seeking donations to support short and long-term recovery for these individuals and families. Please check out this link: <https://www.monroeunitedway.org/FloodRelief2021> to find out how you can help and how your donations can help rebuild someone's disaster.



United Way  
of Monroe County



## Rebates and loans for green home improvement

The Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program (BGHIP) provides \$1,000 rebates and low-interest loans to Bloomington homeowners who complete eligible energy efficiency upgrades to their homes.

Eligible BGHIP projects include:

- Solar photovoltaic system installation
- Geothermal heat pump systems
- Other green home improvements:
  - HVAC
  - Water heating
  - Lighting
  - Appliances
  - Energy analysis and monitoring
  - Building envelope
  - Electrical vehicle charger
- Find a full list of eligible green home improvements [here](#).



For more information about the program visit <https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/bghip>.



## Blooming Neighborhoods returns

Show your neighborhood pride! Join us for the annual celebration of neighborhoods.

Saturday, September 25th

10:00 a.m. to noon

Farmers Market at City Hall

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

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

I recently answered an email from a frustrated resident who lives at the bottom of a hill on a cul-de-sac. Because of the wind patterns, every year she ends up raking not just the leaves from her own trees, but also leaves blown from many of the other yards on her street. The situation felt unfair and she asked: "What can the City DO about this?!" It is a tricky situation - unlike snow, leaves don't stay where you put them... unless you process them in some way.

If you want to stop raking the leaves from all the trees in your neighborhood, ask your neighbors to sign up for the "1,000 Households Who Mulch" pilot project!

Instead of raking their leaves to the edge of their property where they can blow into the street, onto sidewalks, into storm drains, and into your yard, we'll give your neighbors all the information they need to try any number of mulching or composting options. Heck – we even have people who will come to their yard and help them!

Have you been mulching and composting for years? This pilot is also for YOU! We have partners like the IU Campus Farm, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department who can show you the research they have been doing to MAKE YOUR COMPOSTING EVEN BETTER!



To sign up now, go to: <https://forms.gle/ssGELwqv1uAZ9Mw38>

For more information on the project, go to:  
<https://bloomington.in.gov/innovate/2021-leaves>

## Please help keep the storm drains clear

Have you noticed that many trees have brown tufts of leaves at the ends of their branches?

The cicadas may be gone, but they've left a lot of dead tree "tufts" in their wake. The tufts are dropping off the trees and ending up in storm drains. The heavy rains recently experienced locally, remind us that blocked storm drains are particularly problematic at this time of year.



YOU can help by keeping a watchful eye on the storm drains near you to ensure they are not clogged. If you do come across an inlet that is clogged, please report it to the City via the [uReport](#) system. Better yet, if you are so inclined, you can clear out the storm drain yourself! While you're at it, be sure to check your gutters and downspouts as well.

Join our volunteer team at [Adopt-a-Drain](#).

## Sleeping behind a closed bedroom door could save you life in a fire

Do you close your bedroom doors before you go to sleep? If not, now is a great time to start! Check out these facts about the importance of closed doors in a house fire:



For more information about fire safety in our home, please visit:  
<https://closeyourdoor.org/>

- 50% of house fires happen between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Closing your doors before you sleep helps keep you safe.
- Because of the increased use of synthetic materials in furniture and construction, fire spreads faster than ever before. Closing doors helps stop the spread of fire.
- A closed door can mean reducing 1,000 degrees down to 100 degrees.
- During a fire, a closed door can keep carbon monoxide levels at 1,000 PPM, versus 10,000 PPM if the door is left open.
- A fire needs oxygen to burn. A closed door keeps more oxygen in the room and away from the fire. When you exit a fire, be sure to close your door behind you to slow down its growth.

## Don't have time to go to the library? Let the library come to you!

The Bookmobile is your Library on wheels! It offers ever-changing collections of high-demand materials for all ages including bestselling books, recent and classic movies on DVD, audiobooks, music CDs, magazines, and more. The Bookmobile also offers holds pickup, materials return, and staff information assistance. It has regular stops in the community to make accessing materials more convenient for you. Check out this [map with regular stop locations and times](#).

