

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington residents



PHONE: 812-349-3505

WEBSITE: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods

CALENDAR: [2022 HAND Neighborhood Services](#)

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

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

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Keep up with your local law makers:
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[Recollect](#)

Find civic information specific to your address:
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Explore the City's open databases:
[B-Clear Open Data](#)

Volunteer your time and talent:
[Bloomington Volunteer Network](#)

Need Help?
[Helping Bloomington Monroe](#)

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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

Neighborhood Improvement Grant informational meetings

Considering a neighborhood project? Thinking of applying for a grant from HAND? If so, please mark your calendar to attend one of these meetings to learn more about the [HAND Neighborhood Improvement \(NI\) Grant program](#). *A representative from each neighborhood intending to apply for an NI grant MUST attend one of these meetings.*

These two virtual meetings will cover the same information, so you need only attend one. We will discuss the application process, review the timeline and expectations, and address any questions.

- **Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**, virtual
 - <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/89480455037?pwd=SGVnYy93Vld1NDZIN0JwUWl4dmVjdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 894 8045 5037
 - Passcode: 544580
- **Monday, January 31, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**, virtual
 - <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84426710529?pwd=eUxGZStZVndQeFF4bi9UUVE5dXVIZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 844 2671 0529
 - Passcode: 426412

For more information, please contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager, at angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505.

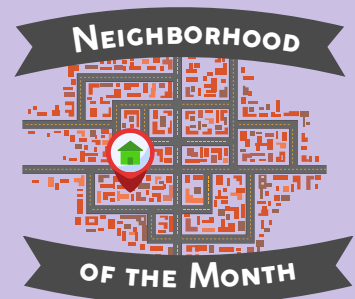
Nominations sought for a new feature in the HAND Update: "Neighborhood of the Month"

Help HAND celebrate Bloomington's neighborhoods all year long!

Nominate your neighborhood to be featured in the HAND Update by sending details, photos, your logo (if you have one), etc. to angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

Full details about the program, including a list of the types of information you may want to share can be found here:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/associations>



City invites residents to apply to serve on boards and commissions

The City of Bloomington's Office of the City Clerk and the Office of the Mayor are accepting applications from community members who would like to serve on one of the City's boards or commissions. Some of these bodies are anticipating vacancies as current terms expire in December 2021 and January 2022.

Applications are sought to fill spaces on:

- Parking Commission,
- Commission on Sustainability,
- Historic Preservation Commission,
- Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission,
- Redevelopment Commission, and others.

More information about each board and commission, including mission statements, membership requirements, current membership listings and term lengths, is available at bloomington.in.gov/boards. The application is available at bloomington.in.gov/onboard/applicants/apply. After applying, members must be appointed to each board or commission by the mayor, council, or another appointing body. Please note: city residency is required for membership on most but not all of the boards and commissions.

Water rates have increased as of January 1

New rates, as approved by the Utilities Service Board (USB), City Council, and Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission (IURC), will increase funding to the water main replacement program and other drinking water improvements. Customers will see this change on their February bills. For more information, please call 812-349-3650 or visit bloomington.in.gov/utilities/rate-case.



Student Legal Services Helps IU Students with Housing Issues



IU Students living off campus have access to a university program that educates and advocates for them regarding their rights and responsibilities as tenants. Student Legal Services ("SLS") opened in the 1970s and is staffed by licensed attorneys who help students understand their leases, resolve disputes with landlords, and deal with other tenant issues. The service is free to IU Bloomington students and can help them save money and avoid headaches and frustration.

Information about SLS is available through their website at getlegal.indiana.edu, including tips for avoiding common problems associated with renting off campus. Their winterizing tips are definitely worth a look as temperatures dip this time of year. Neighbors of students are encouraged to tell them about the service, and students with a current problem can schedule an appointment through the website to discuss their situation and get help.

CONA Corner: News from the Council of Neighborhood Associations



You are invited to the January meeting of the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA).

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual (please email granbois@indiana.edu to request the Zoom link.)

Tomorrow's agenda includes: election of Chair, and a presentation by John Zody, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) department on planning for re-use of the Kohr Building (an historic building on the former Bloomington hospital site).

Register for updates about the former hospital site



If you wish to receive periodic updates about progress at the former Bloomington hospital site, please register with your email address at <https://bton.in/5bot2>.

The Friends of Monroe County Public Library Presents An Evening with Jacqueline Woodson

Hear from the internationally acclaimed and award-winning author, who gives voice to African American life through more than 30 books, ranging from children's picture books to young adult literature to adult novels.

Free
Saturday, February 5 | 7-8:15 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)
Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington
This event is most appropriate for ages middle school to adult.

Author Book Signing by Jacqueline Woodson

Enjoy premium reserved seating to the free Power of Words talk, then meet Woodson. Enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres created by Chef Lee Rosser while taking in the Our Voice exhibit. Reception tickets are \$55.

Saturday, February 5 | 8:30-10 PM
Atrium, Downtown Library | All ages

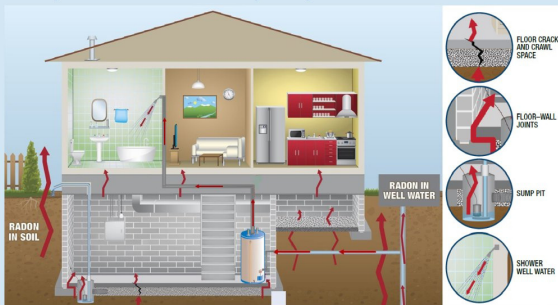
mcpl.info/pow



January is National Radon Action Month: Test your home to protect yourself and your family

Radon can enter your home in many ways:

- Cracks in solid floors
- Construction joints
- Cracks in walls
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Gaps around service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- The water supply



www.epa.gov/radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It occurs in the ground naturally, but sometimes it gets into homes through cracks in floors and walls. **Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.**

Having your home tested is the only effective way to determine whether you and your family are exposed to high levels of radon. Test your home today.

For more information visit the Environmental Protection Agency's radon website.

Upcoming Events



CONA Monthly Meeting
• Tuesday, January 11, 7:00p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: City Hall Closed
• Monday, January 17th

[2022 HAND Neighborhood Services calendar](#)

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Informational Meetings (virtual).
• Monday, January 25, 6:00 p.m.
• Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

The "GREEN CHAT"
A series of 30 minute, informal Zoom chats

Chat #4 SATURDAY, January 22, NOON
Community member Molly Gearin
"Greenwashing and Identifying Sustainable Companies"

Chats address ways we can take better care of ourselves, our community, and our world, in order to reduce waste, climate crisis and associated environmental pollution. Email Elisa for the link: epokral@mcswmd.org or call 812-349-2866.