

# The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington residents



PHONE: 812-349-3505

WEBSITE: [bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods](http://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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[Recollect](#)

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Explore the City's open databases:  
[B-Clear Open Data](#)

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[Bloomington Volunteer Network](#)

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

## 1st Neighborhood Improvement Grant informational meeting Tuesday, January 25

A representative from each neighborhood intending to apply for a HAND [Neighborhood Improvement \(NI\) Grant](#) 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](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov) or 812-349-3505.

## Is speeding an issue in your neighborhood?

The Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission (BPSC) invites resident-led projects for the Traffic Calming and Greenways program (TCGP). The TCGP provides a process for residents to work with the City to manage motor vehicle speeds on residential streets. Devices considered for this program are speed cushions and speed humps.



The City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department will consider all requests, and will evaluate and prioritize each project area based on the objective data approved by the BPSC in November 2021. A total of \$50,000 has been allocated for this year's Resident-Led Traffic Calming program.

For more information please visit [bloomington.in.gov/tcgp](http://bloomington.in.gov/tcgp) or contact Mallory Rickbeil, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator at [rickbeilm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:rickbeilm@bloomington.in.gov) or 812-349-3529.

## Submissions sought for Black History Month Essay Contest

The City of Bloomington Black History Month Committee is seeking submissions from area students for the 2022 Black History Month Essay Contest. The theme for the 2022 Black History Month celebration, "Black Health and Wellness", takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each of three categories: elementary (grades 4-6), middle (grades 7-8) and high school (grades 9-12). Homeschooled students are eligible to participate as well. For more information please visit [sites.google.com/bloomington.in.gov/cobbbhm/essay-contest](https://sites.google.com/bloomington.in.gov/cobbbhm/essay-contest)

## CONA Corner: News from the Council of Neighborhood Associations



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

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual (please email [granbois@indiana.edu](mailto:granbois@indiana.edu) to request the Zoom link.)

The featured speaker will be Angela Van Rooy, from the City of Bloomington HAND Department. Angela will be sharing information on a number of neighborhood grants administered by HAND. She will be joined by Cynthia Ramlo, who will share how last year's Small & Simple Grant to Control Invasive Plant Species (SSCIPS) helped to "grow" the Arden Place neighborhood, and Matt Rewerts of St. James Woods, who will speak about the Neighborhood Improvement Grant he recently administered on behalf of his neighborhood.

Join the CONA Forum at: [groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/conabloomington](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/conabloomington)

## Free tax preparation for income-eligible Hoosiers

United Way of Monroe County, along with other community partners, is pleased to provide the Free Community Tax Service during the upcoming tax season. Beginning January 31, IRS-certified volunteers will be working at six in-person and two virtual sites in Monroe and Brown counties where they will help Hoosiers who make less than \$58,000 annually file their federal and state tax returns for free.

Tax preparation is provided free of charge and volunteers work one-on-one with community members to ensure they receive 100% of their refund, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) if eligible. Residents will receive their tax returns quickly – usually in about 21 days.

To learn more about the Free Community Tax Service, free tax preparation sites dates and times, a tax preparation checklist, the EITC, and to see if you qualify, please visit [MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes](https://MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes).

## Upcoming Events



Neighborhood Improvement Grant Informational Meetings (virtual).

- Monday, January 25, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Letters of Intent deadline

- Monday, February 7, 4:00 p.m.

2022 HAND  
Neighborhood  
Services  
calendar

CONA Monthly Meeting

- Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Cleanup Grant application deadline

- Monday, March 7, 4:00 p.m.



2020 Neighborhood Cleanup in Blue Ridge

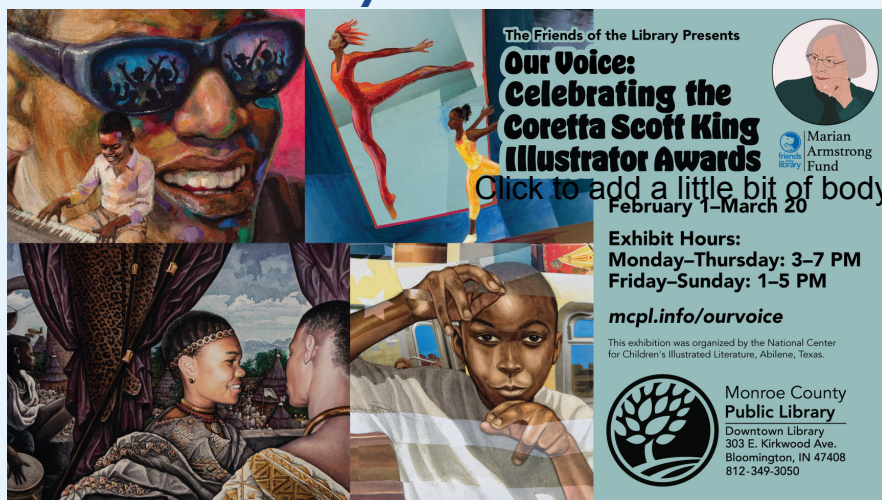
## Start a neighborhood litter patrol

Join the Pick It Up program to start a neighborhood litter patrol. HAND will provide special blue trash bags, and City Sanitation will pick them up for free.

For more information please visit the program website at [bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/pick-it-up](http://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/pick-it-up)



## Events at the Library



The Friends of the Library and Monroe County Public Library proudly present Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards. This exhibit, curated by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, features 34 prints of illustrations from the award winners since 1973. These award-winning illustrations and children's books highlight stories and figures from Black history, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout time. They also evoke the

beautiful facets integral to the culture and fabric of our nation such as music, rhythm, and folktales. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented annually by the American Library Association to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. The exhibit runs February 1-March 20 at the Downtown Library. Learn more and view the exhibit's hours at [mcpl.info/ourvoice](http://mcpl.info/ourvoice).

The Monroe County Public Library and Friends of the Library present The Power of Words: An Evening with Jacqueline Woodson on Saturday, February 5 from 7-8:15 PM at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater! Hear from internationally acclaimed and award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson, 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. Woodson's compelling stories focus on race, gender, and sexuality with characters who face challenges in

powerful tales that are laced with hope. This event is free and most appropriate for ages middle school to adult. Doors open at 6:30 PM and tickets are not required. Please note the Buskirk-Chumley Theater requires proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19 test. The event will be followed by a ticketed reception at the Downtown Library from 8:30-10 PM. Learn more at [mcpl.info/pow](http://mcpl.info/pow).

