



THE HAND UPDATE

BLOOMINGTON'S NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

January, 2025



2025 grant applications now available

Applications for all HAND grants for neighborhoods are now available on the [neighborhood grants website](#). HAND offers four grant programs. Applications must demonstrate neighborhood-wide benefit.

- **Neighborhood Improvement Grants**
 - Larger grants to fund capital projects, capacity-building initiatives, or leadership training. *See below for info about required meetings for applicant neighborhoods.*
- **Neighborhood Cleanup Grants**
 - A neighborhood organized, HAND facilitated cleanup day.
- **Small and Simple Grants (General)**
 - Small grants of no more than \$500 to provide community-building opportunities.

- **Small & Simple Grants for Control of Invasive Plant Species**
 - Up to \$500 to help neighborhoods eradicate invasive plants and replace them with native plants.

Required Meetings for Neighborhood Improvement Grant Applicants

If your neighborhood is considering applying for a Neighborhood Improvement Grant, a *neighborhood representative must attend a virtual informational meeting*. HAND staff will explain the Neighborhood Improvement Grant application process, and will be available to answer questions. There are two such meetings scheduled. Neighborhoods need only attend one. Please register by emailing angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov. A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

- Thursday, January 30, 2025, 6-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7-8 p.m.

[Neighborhood grants website](#)



Register for HAND Homebuyers Club

Are you considering buying a home?

Registration for the next session of the HAND Homebuyers Club (HBC) is now open! The HBC will meet on Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 9 am to 3 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington.

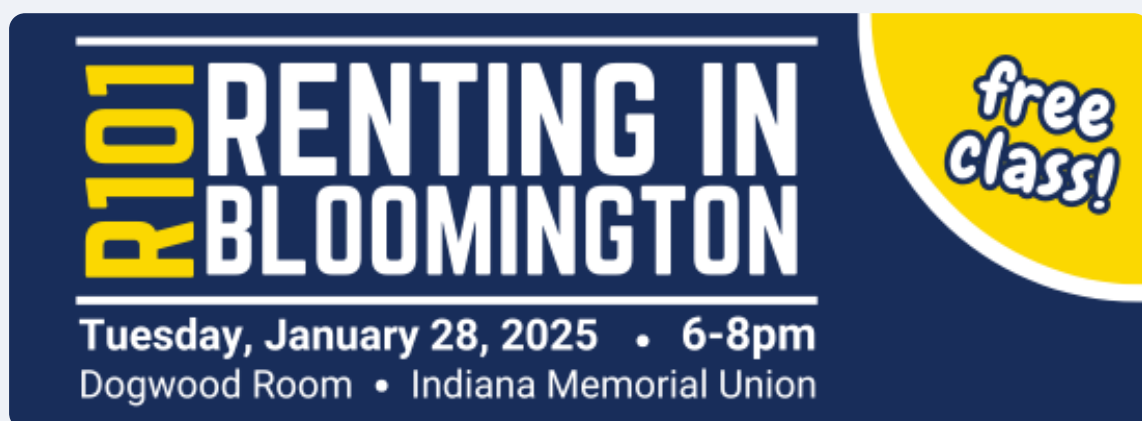
- *explore the possibility of affordable home ownership*
- *overcome the obstacles involved in purchasing your first home*
- *learn what to expect after buying a home*

There is no cost to participate. Attendance for each session is limited to 30 participants. [Advance registration is required and must be completed online.](#)

If you can't make it in January, the HBC will be offered four more times this year on the following dates. Registration typically opens one month before the start of class.

- HBC II: Saturdays, April 19 & 26
- HBC III: Saturdays, July 12 & 19
- HBC IV: Saturdays, September 20 & 27
- HBC V: Saturdays, November 8 & 15

[HAND Homebuyers Club website](#)



Free class for Bloomington renters

R101: Renting in Bloomington will take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at the Indiana Memorial Union, 900 E 7th St. This free class is open to all Bloomington renters and is co-sponsored by HAND, [IU Student Legal Services](#), and [IU MoneySmarts](#).

Registration is encouraged.

- Understand Leases and Tenant & Landlord Rights and Responsibilities
- Learn about Managing your Finances and the True Costs of Renting
- Learn about City Rules, Good Neighboring and Housekeeping skills, Staying safe

To register, learn about additional class details, and view a list of rental property management companies offering discounts to program graduates, please visit the R101: Renting in Bloomington website at:

[R101 website](#)



Natural holiday tree & wreath recycling

Residents who have City trash and recycling service may place natural holiday trees and wreaths at the roadside for pick up now through the end of January. The Sanitation department will pick up natural greenery for recycling on your regularly scheduled pick up day. Trees and wreaths must be free of lights, wires, ornaments, etc.



Please keep sidewalks safe and passable

This is a friendly reminder that the community needs your help to keep sidewalks safe for pedestrians. City ordinance states that property owners are responsible for sidewalks adjacent to their property, and that sidewalks must be clear of snow and ice within twenty-four hours after snow or ice has ceased to fall or in any way accumulate.

If you have a neighbor you think could use some help, please offer it. Thanks for being a good neighbor!



How prepared are you for a power outage?

The Monroe County Health Department seeks to improve our community's resilience to power outages in 2025. In an effort to attain this goal, they are collecting data on the current state of preparedness within the community. You can help by completing the survey linked below. Thank you!

[Power Outage Resilience Survey](#)

Helpful Links

- [Grants and programs for neighborhoods](#)
- [Register your bike\(s\) with Bike Index](#)
- [City government calendar](#): a listing of all public meetings.
- [uReport](#): let City staff know about an issue in need of attention.

HAND Board/Commission Meetings

[Bloomington Redevelopment Commission](#) meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 5pm in City Hall, McCloskey Conference Room (#135).

- Monday, January 6
- Monday, January 20

[Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission](#) meets on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 5pm in City Hall, McCloskey Conference Room (#135).

- Thursday, January 9
- Thursday, January 23

[Board of Housing Quality Appeals](#) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 4pm in City Hall, Allison Conference Room (#225).

- Tuesday, January 15

Mark Your Calendar

- Saturdays, January 18 & 25, **Homebuyers Club**
- Monday, January 20, **City hall closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- Tuesday, January 28, 6-8 p.m. **R101: Renting in Bloomington**
- Thursday, January 30, 6-7 p.m. **Neighborhood Improvement Grant Informational meeting #1**
- Tuesday, February 4, 7-8 p.m. **Neighborhood Improvement Grant Informational meeting #2**

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City of Bloomington, HAND Department

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