

BLOOMINGTON IMPROVES INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE (ISO) SCORE FOR FIRE PROTECTION (AND IT COULD LOWER OUR INSURANCE RATES!)

Fire Chief Jason Moore (below right) has announced that the Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) now holds the highest Public Protection Classification from Insurance Service Office, Inc. (ISO). **The Department has been awarded the coveted ISO Class 1/1x rating.**



This is the second improvement in the BFD's rating since the start of 2016, and Bloomington is now one of only FOUR cities (out of the 1593 communities protected by a fire department in Indiana) with a Class 1 rating. That puts us among the top 0.2% of communities in the state and the top 0.5% in the nation. (So this is a big deal!)

What This Means For You:

The new rating may result in a decrease of annual insurance premiums for property owners within the City of Bloomington service area, and so we encourage residential and commercial property owners in Bloomington to contact your insurance providers to ask if your premiums will be impacted by the improved classification rating.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/news/2021/09/16/4965



B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: LIFESAVING AND FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS

"B-Clear" is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from parking to potholes to bike paths.

Continuing with the public safety theme this month, I'm spotlighting the *Public Education Activity Summary* for the Bloomington Fire Department.



How many station tours have been provided annually in recent years? How many people have been trained in CPR? How many people follow the Fire Department on Twitter and Instagram? It's all here!

FIND OUT MORE:

data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/public-education-activity-summary



SOME GREAT RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

What should I have in my "Go Bag" if I need to leave my home during an emergency? What should I keep in my "Stay Bag" in case I get snowed in this winter? What are the most important elements of an emergency plan for me and my family? Where can I find resources to help me teach my kids more about preparedness?

Ready



This summer's storms and flooding were a good reminder that we can all take steps to be more prepared for emergencies.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.ready.gov



NEED HELP PAYING UTILITY BILLS? ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

Hoosiers can apply for a one-time benefit assistance payment to help with utilities, and you don't need to have fallen behind on your heating or electric bills to qualify! These benefits are paid directly to the utility vendor to help cover your heating and electric costs during the winter months. This program is available to both homeowners and renters. (If your utilities are included in your rent, you may still qualify. See below for more info.)



- **Indiana's Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** a new, temporary emergency program that will help low-income households and families afford water and wastewater services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program does not require proof of COVID-19 hardship to apply. Funding is available for use through September 2023 or until funds are exhausted.
- **The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a one-time annual benefit that can assist low-income residents with the high cost of home energy, and can help those who are about to get disconnected.

FIND OUT MORE AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION:

www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/

KEEP IN TOUCH! →

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NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: TIME TO START PLANNING FOR 2022!

What kind of project could enhance your neighborhood? How about a playground or fitness trail? Maybe a public art installation or street sign toppers? Or how about a community garden?

Nothing builds community like a neighborhood project! It's a chance to collaborate and cooperate with neighbors, and the City of Bloomington can help! **Neighborhood Improvement Grants** are intended for capital projects with a minimum budget of \$1,100 and a 10% match.

The electronic application form will be available after January 1, and are due by March 21, 2022. It's never too early to begin the planning process, so use the fall and winter months to organize, gather lots of input, and settle on a project that your neighborhood is excited to undertake.

FIND OUT MORE:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/improvement>

WHERE DOES SUE FIND OUT ALL THIS STUFF?? CAN EVERYONE GET IN ON THAT?

Yes, you can! It's true that I find out a lot through meetings and planning sessions (plus a ton of reading), but I'm also subscribed to Bloomington's *City News* and its departmental newsletters ... and you can be too.



Interested in cultural events? Volunteer opportunities? Planned road closings? Sustainability efforts? Public works projects? The City of Bloomington offers e-newsletters and GoogleGroups that help you stay on top of what's happening. (And you can cherry-pick the topics of greatest interest to you, so you won't have to sift through bunches of less relevant stuff.)

FIND OUT MORE AND SUBSCRIBE:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/subscribe>