

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: BLOOMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD MAPS

“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.

This month I’m spotlighting our *Neighborhood Maps* – a gallery of individual Neighborhood Associations and Organizations – from Arlington Valley to Northwood Estates to Waterman – that are registered with the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND).

FIND OUT MORE:

data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/individual-neighborhood-maps



UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

See a sidewalk that’s blocked by overgrown vegetation? A street light that’s not working? A pothole that needs to be patched? Have a compliment for a city staff member? **Use UReport!**

This online portal is a quick, easy way to communicate with the city about non-emergency issues like those above. The site is easy to navigate with drop-down menus, open fields to record your comments, and even a place to upload your photos of whatever needs attention. When you submit your reports or comment to the City it will be sent to the appropriate department and you’ll hear back from the staff who are working on the issue (generally within a day or two). You may also send an e-mail to info@bloomington.in.gov or call the City at 812.349.3400, (but I’ve found UReport to be a lot faster!)

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about



2022 ELECTION PREVIEW: YOUR VOICE MATTERS (AND NOT JUST IN NOVEMBER!)

Friday, February 4th was the last day to file a declaration of candidacy and petition for placement on the primary election ballot in Indiana, and by the end of this year, we will have elected more than a dozen individuals who will represent our interests at the federal, state and local level. For City of Bloomington *District 2 residents*, those contests start with the primary election in May for the following offices:

US Representative – 9th District*
State Representative – District 61
County Assessor
County Circuit Clerk
County Prosecuting Attorney
County Recorder
County Sherriff
Circuit Judge – Division 6 | Seat 1
Circuit Judge – Division 5 | Seat 4
Circuit Judge – Division 7 | Seat 7
County Council – District 1
County Council – District 4
Bloomington Township Trustee*



(**BOLD*** = The current incumbent is not running for reelection so we’ll be choosing a new person for these offices.)

KEY DATES

Monday, April 4th

VOTER REGISTRATION ENDS

Tuesday, April 5th

EARLY/ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS

Thursday, April 21st

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

The circuit court clerk must receive by 11:59 pm all absentee ballot applications from any applicant requesting delivery of an absentee ballot by mail. Applications may be submitted to the circuit court clerk in person or by mail, fax, email, or online through the Indiana Voter Portal at indianavoters.com.

Tuesday, May 3rd

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

FIND OUT MORE:

indianavoters.in.gov



GET INVOLVED: BOARD AND COMMISSIONS



Before I was elected to Council, I served on the City's Redevelopment Commission for five years, and it taught me a lot. Most of all, it taught me that very ordinary people (that would be me in a nutshell) can have a lot of influence on how decisions are made, how money is spent, which projects go forward (and which don't), and when. There are currently more than 30 boards and commissions that advise the Mayor and City Council on a wide range of issues. From the Animal Control Commission to the Parks Commissioners to the Historic Preservation Commission to the Environmental Resources Advisory Council, scores of citizens work to influence policy and spending for the City of Bloomington. Check and see if there's a role for you!

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY TO SERVE:

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



I HAVE SOME IDEAS TO SHARE ... ARE THERE PEOPLE ON CITY COUNCIL (IN ADDITION TO SUE) THAT REPRESENT ME?

Yes! In fact, every Bloomington resident has FOUR representatives on Council. I am one of six district representatives and it's my role to represent District 2 residents. In addition, Council has three Members At-Large whose role it is to represent all residents of Bloomington. Have some thoughts about city-wide issues? Please share it with them!

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ANOTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITY: DO SOME SERIOUS SPRING CLEANING WITH A HAND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP GRANT

A cleanup can be one of the most satisfying ways to build community in your neighborhood. Neighbors come together on a Saturday morning to rid their homes and properties of trash, scrap metal, hazardous materials, tires, and brush/limbs. There is also a "picker pile" for gently used items, because one person's trash just might be another's treasure. The City's Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) provides the means of disposal, and the neighborhood provides the volunteers.

Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. Groups need not be City-registered neighborhood associations to apply.



HAND awards two Cleanup Grants per year on a competitive basis. These Cleanup Days take place in the spring on a Saturday in April, May or June. 2022 application forms are now available, and the application deadline is **March 7, 2022**. A successful neighborhood cleanup requires advanced coordination among neighbors, so start planning now!

For more information visit the cleanup grant webpage, and contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager with questions at (812) 349-3505 or angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/clean-ups



KEEP IN TOUCH! →

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