Annual Meeting Highlights

The Ironwood Homeowners Association’s Annual Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14th, at the Ironwood Golf Course clubhouse. No business could be conducted, except for the election of Board members, because a quorum of 197 residents present (either by proxy or in person) was not reached.

However, a discussion was held with several Town of Normal representatives who were present.

Gene Brown, Director of Engineering, talked about the Northtown Road project which will be completed this summer with work starting again sometime in April. In response to a question, Gene also discussed the condition of Towanda Avenue in Ironwood and the different methods of resurfacing streets.

Office Amanda Street of the Normal Police Department indicated that it was generally a quiet year for the Ironwood subdivision. The police department continues to monitor speeding in the subdivision. In response to a question about snowmobiles on Town streets, she indicated that they are not licensed to be on streets, how-

(continued on Page 5)
Neighbors Association of Normal

by Jim Schmidt

The Neighbors Association of Normal (NAN) met at 10 a.m. on February 8, 2014, at the Community Activity Center, One Normal Plaza. Neighborhood reports were given by representatives commenting on concerns or upcoming activities.

Sally Heffernan, Assistant to the City Manager, announced a new program that the town of Normal and the McLean County Planning Commission plan to launch in the near future. It is an online website called “Next Door” to assist individuals within a neighborhood to better communicate with others with updates, alerts, surveys and more. She shared upcoming events and activities and noted some special events will recognize the 25th Anniversary for the Constitution Trail on May 10, 2014.

Carrie Steinbach, from the ISU Student and Community Outreach Program, welcomed those in attendance to share information about the “Bring It Back to Normal” program where ISU students provide community service and volunteer hours to assist residents in the community. The students provide assistance to residents that need help around their homes, like washing windows, raking leaves, moving furniture, cleaning and sweeping, trimming bushes, etc. Over 300 ISU students have volunteered their time this spring to assist Normal residents with this program. A “Job Request Form” must be completed and returned by March 7th. The work will be performed on April 5th.

Dr Gary Niehaus, District Superintendent of Unit 5 Schools was guest speaker and discussed a variety of issues and concerns. He shared how the school calendar

(continued on Page 3)

Winter Car Safety Tips

by Harvey Thomas

I want to first speak to driving conditions that can cause damage to the undercarriage of a vehicle. While driving on a roadway covered with snow, the undercarriage of your car may land on a speed bump. There may be no visual notification to warn of a speed bump since it may be concealed by the snow. You get a loud bang, but don't think there was any damage to the undercarriage of the car. You should have this checked out the next time you have your car serviced.

Another situation may be after you have shoveled the driveway, and after the municipal plow comes through and blocks up the driveway entrance. Since you can no longer see the edges of the driveway, you may hit the edge of the curb, causing damage to the undercarriage. Again, this should be checked out the next time you have your car serviced.

Another winter driving problem may occur while making a left turn onto another street. Even with care and caution, it is a situation in which a light layer of snow may cover black ice. This is bad, because the surface of the street is banked or sloped to promote surface drainage. The car may slide into the curve and the right front wheel will take the impact. There may be obvious damage to the wheel, but even if there is not, this should be checked out at your next car servicing.

(continued on Page 6)
waiver of holidays and snow days were determined. He reviewed the proposed County School Facility Tax. He discussed that the revenue would be spent on facilities, renovations, ongoing maintenance, increased energy efficiencies, security, etc. Revenues would not be used for salaries and benefits, text books, buses, furniture or fixtures. He informed the group of how important Community Partnerships were in assisting with the numerous needs of students and how the community so generously gives to assist those in need.

The next NAN Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, at the Community Activity Center. All Ironwood residents are welcome to attend.

President’s Message continued

Most of the board members have served many years, rotating through various positions, continually serving Ironwood. Some bring their much needed talents from work to the board so that we can stay financially solvent and strong. Others contribute significant time to keep us all informed with newsletters, website updates and correspondence. Some board members are instrumental in keeping the green areas green, the trees growing, and getting the Christmas lights up, and then down. Their experience and effort makes it a pleasure to serve on our board.

I take this opportunity to encourage anyone that may be interested in being a part of their community, to attend the board meetings, and get involved. Your own neighborhood is a great place to start. Whether you want to be a member of the board, or just contribute to projects and efforts of the board, we welcome your participation. If you have more specific questions about what we do and where to start, please feel free to contact me.

Also, I invite all of us to welcome the new home owners and families in Ironwood. There have been many newcomers this year. I hope you all find this neighborhood to be as inviting and enjoyable as my family has found it to be. As the snow melts and the green grass emerges take a moment to meet your new neighbor in the yard and welcome them.

IHOA Financial Report

11/12/13 - 2/11/14

Balance on 11/12/13 ............ $5,099.91
+ Income ....................... $23,732.81
- Expenses .................... $1,855.75

= Balance on 1/14/14 ........... $26,976.97

Neighbors Association of Normal continued
## Financial Report for 2013

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<th>Variance</th>
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Beginning Cash Balance (12/31/12)  $2,431.55

Net Income (Loss)  $1,038.27

Ending Cash Balance (12/31/13)  $3,469.82

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### IHOA Board of Directors Elections

At the IHOA Annual meeting in January, one new person was elected to the IHOA Board of Directors and three current members of the Board were re-elected. The new person elected to the Board was David Brown. He is a former Board member and a past present of the Association. Walt Clark, Linda Rheeling and Karen Timmerman were re-elected to the Board.

At the January Board meeting, Karl Bauchmoyer was elected to serve as president of the Association for 2014 and Linda Rheeling was elected to serve as vice-president. Eric DeCos-sas will serve as the new secretary for the Board, while JoEllen Bahnsen will continue as the Association’s treasurer for 2014.
Annual Meeting Highlights (continued)

ever, during one snow storm, the rescue squad had to use a snowmobile in Ironwood to get to a call for help.

Doug Wiggs, Asst Director of Parks & Recreation talked about the plans to do bank stabilization on the three ponds located on the golf course. This will be scheduled for the least impact on golfers. Doug also indicated that they will be completing the cart paths on the back nine, starting in April.

Tyler Bain, golf course maintenance supervisor, talked about the ash tree situation on the course. Other projects he hopes to work on this year are the spraying of tall grasses for weeds and improving the bunkers on the golf course.

Craig Onsrud, golf course director, indicated that the Town Council has approved fee increases for 2014. He also talked about the new electric golf carts and some of the events that the golf course will host this year. Craig also thanked residents for reporting any suspicious activity they see on the golf course.

Mark Peterson, City Manager, in response to questions by homeowners, mentioned that, if residents did not know who to contact regarding a problem, they should call 211. The service can provide them with the appropriate number to call. He also talked about the need for residents to observe the parking bans during snowfalls. Mark indicated that the police were going to start ticketing cars in violation of the bans.

Spring Reminders by Karen Timmerman

With spring approaching, residents will be getting outside and starting various projects. Here are a couple of covenant reminders.

Waste collection - Per the Ordinances of the Town of Normal (Sec. 21.1-3a): "No later than 5:00 a.m. of the day of collection and not earlier than 5:00 P.M. of the day preceding collection" shall trash and recycle bins, brush and bulky waste be placed "on the curb line". "Receptacles shall be returned to the premises within 12 hours after having been emptied."

Frequent questions that come before the Board regarding Article V (Use Restrictions) of the IHOA Covenants are:

Section 7: No rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste material shall be kept or permitted on any lot or on the common area except in sanitary containers located in appropriate areas concealed from public view.

Section 8: (as amended 12/8/99) No fence, hedge, wall or other dividing instrumentality shall be constructed, grown or maintained on any lot without the written approval of the IHOA Board of Directors and the written approval of all homeowners whose property adjoins that of the homeowner making the request.

Section 17: No truck, travel trailer, recreational type vehicle, mobile home, boat, trailer, motor bike, motorcycle, all terrain vehicle, pickup truck, wagon, yard equipment, golf cart, tractor, motor home or snow mobile shall be kept on the lot or in the subdivision except entirely within an enclosed structure.
Winter Car Safety Tips
(continued)

Finally, just a word about winterizing your car for the bitter cold. Automotive batteries, lubricant and hydraulic systems will readily fail when temperatures drop well below the freezing point of 32°F. There was a good article in the Chicago Tribune on tips for car care during the bitter cold that we have experienced this winter: “http://www.chicagotribune.com/classified/automotive/chi-subzero-car-care,0,4020069.story?page=2”

Another good resource on car winterization: “http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/eeh/SAL-02021.pdf”

Ironwood Golf Course News
by Tyler Bain

My name is Tyler Bain, and I am the Golf Course Superintendent here at Ironwood. I have been able to get to know a few of the home owners around the golf course over the last two years and I look forward to meeting the rest of you in the near future. I would like to take this time to let the association know of a few things we have been doing, and will be doing in the future.

As all of you know we have a large quantity of native grass areas around the course. We try to mow those areas twice a year to help keep the weed populations down. We also try to spray those areas with herbicide 1-2 times per year. This coming year we will try and do the same. I anticipate us cutting the native grass around June or July depending on the amount of growth we get and the time we are able to dedicate to this process. We will also cut the native grass in the late fall as well.

We also have 3 ponds that are in play on the golf course. We are seeing some erosion problems along the shorelines of those ponds and we will be addressing those issues in the Spring of 2014. Applied Ecological Services is set to come as soon as the weather will allow. They are eager to start the work, but with the massive amounts of snow we have been given this winter, they have had a rough time getting started. The anticipated start dates are between mid March to the beginning of April. This obviously depends on when the snow melts and if any more comes before then. This project will strictly be a bank stabilization project and will not involve any dredging of the ponds. The plan will involve grading of the shoreline in most areas and, in a few more severe areas, actually creating ‘soil lifts’ or a terraced look. Along with the grading, the company will plant many different species of native plants to help stop the erosion. The current plant life that is around the ponds has short, unstable root systems. The new native species that will be planted have a substantially bigger and longer root system, which will help keep the soil from eroding. While the plants are being established, Applied Ecological Services will be placing an erosion control blanket down to help keep the slopes stable. All three ponds will have work done to them in varying degrees. In all, 3900 feet of eroding shoreline will be re-graded and new plant life will be added.

As most of you know, the cart paths on the back nine of the course are not continuous. This causes interference in play on days that the course is saturated from rain and we cannot allow golfers to take carts on the back nine. At some time in 2014, we will be adding to the cart paths so that there is one continuous path on the back nine. It is still unknown as to who will perform the work and when that work will be gin. Those issues will be worked out in
Ironwood Golf Course News
(continued)

the near future and I will be happy to get that information to the homeowner’s association whenever it is available.

As I have talked about in the past, we have a large number of ash trees on the course. Most of them border the homes along the property lines. As most of you know they are being attacked by the Emerald Ash Borer, and this is killing most of those trees. The ash trees that are affected by the ‘EAB’ will need to be removed, as they can be a hazard. This will likely be a long process because of the amount of ash trees that we have on our property. As we take down trees we will be replacing them with maples, oaks, and elms, among others. We do not anticipate planting a new tree for every ash tree that is removed. Most of the ash trees that are around the property lines were planted too close together and the trees that replace them will be planted with the proper spacing. The process of removal and planting will undoubtedly take years to do because we will not want to remove all of the trees from the landscape and then plant new, young trees at the same time. We will be planting between 60 and 80 trees per year for the next 4-5 years to help with minimal impact to the landscape.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me via email, stopping in to the maintenance shop, or contacting the IHOA president. I will be happy to talk with you about your concerns. Again, I look forward to meeting the rest of you and I hope the golf course can continue to have a great relationship with the Ironwood Homeowners Association.

Thanks and have a great day.

Calendar of Events

March 2014

3 Casimir Pulaski Day
3 Unit 5 - ISAT Testing (3/3-3/14)
9 Daylight Saving Time starts
11 . . . . . . IHOA Board of Directors Meeting
14 Unit 5 - End of 3rd Grading Period
15 St. Patrick’s Day Parade - Uptown
17 St. Patrick’s Day
18 Unit 5 - Kindergarten Registration
18 Primary Election Day
19 Unit 5 - Late Start
24 Unit 5 - Start of Spring Break
31 Unit 5 - School resumes

April 2014

8 . . . . . . IHOA Board of Directors Meeting
9 Unit 5 - Late Start
17 Unit 5 - No school
18 Unit 5 - No school
20 Easter Sunday
30 Unit 5 - Late Start

May 2014

11 Mothers' Day
13 . . . . . . IHOA Board of Directors Meeting
14 Unit 5 - Late Start
24 Unit 5 - Graduation Day
26 Memorial Day

Spring Break
Northtown Road Update

The construction on Northtown Road is progressing as planned. Starting in mid-April, Northtown will again be closed between Towanda Avenue and Linden Streets. At that time, they will begin reconstruction on Northtown from the 500 block to Linden.

During this time, they will also be installing a sidewalk from Towanda to Linden along the south side of the road and an extension of Constitution Trail on the north side that will run from Towanda to the main trail just west of Linden.

When completed in August, Northtown and Linden will be a four-way stop with left turn lanes in each direction.