

Quarterly Newsletter



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President's Message

By David Brown

I would like to thank Floyd Aper for his service to the Ironwood community by serving on the IHOA Board for the past two years. I would also like to congratulate Ali Preston on her election to the IHOA Board of Directors. She will be serving as the communications chair this year. We had one of the largest crowds in recent history at the Annual meeting this past January. Thank you to all the residents who took time to become involved in the community. Sadly, we did not have enough present in person and by proxy to reach a quorum and thus the consideration of the proposed by-law changes could not be held.

One item that came out of the Annual meeting was a suggestion that the Board create a special committee to review the current by-laws and suggest changes for up-dating and making them easier to understand. If you would like to be a part of that committee look for the article elsewhere in this newsletter on how to submit an application.

I have read through the comments that were made by residents on their dues form. One question that seems to come up frequently is why the Board will not allow sheds or fences that are not around swimming pools. The Board tries to reflect the feelings of the majority of residents in Ironwood which appears to be that they enjoy the openness and unobstructed views. The Board's lawyer frequently reminds the Board that we need to remain consistent in the enforcement of the covenants. Once the Board allows a shed or a fence that is not around a swimming pool, then the Board can no longer refuse any shed or fence request. Pretty soon we would look like our neighbors across Northtown Road. On the opposite side of this issue is that the covenants were last revised in the late 90's, twenty years ago. The Board realizes that pickup trucks are no longer used only for farming and construction work. Therefore, the Board has elected to not enforce the covenant banning pickup trucks from being parked in driveways. If you have opinions on any of the covenants and the way the Board has chosen to enforce them, please feel free to attend any monthly meeting (second Tuesday of the month) and speak to your Board members.

Over the next three months the weather will be getting warmer, school kids will have spring break and schools will be getting out. Please make sure you watch your speed as you drive through the subdivision and be alert for pedestrians. I would also encourage residents to catch those pesky dandelions early and get that weed treatment on the lawn so it will not turn a bright yellow.

In closing, let me wish all of you a happy St. Patrick's Day, Easter and Memorial Day. Almost time to start getting out the grills.

David Brown, president
 IHOA Board of Directors



Covenant Reminders

By Susan Parrent

1

Snow Removal

Thank you to the homeowners who clear the walks and bus stop areas for students and residents during snowy weather. The safety and ease of walking is appreciated. Many would like to say it won't need to be done again this season but we know that might not be on the calendar of Mother Nature!

2

Signs – political, business & organizations

The covenants for Ironwood specify signs on a lot or in the subdivision common areas should not be more than ten (10) square feet in size (slightly larger than a 3'x3' square). **Article 4, Section 4 states:** "No sign of any kind shall be displayed to public view on a lot or the common area without the prior written consent of the Association, except customary name and address signs and lawn signs of not more than ten (10) square feet in size advertising a property for sale or rent." Please consider before agreeing to allow a sign on your property.

Covenants vs. By-Laws

By Susan Parrent

Ironwood is governed by both covenants and by-laws and each category has specific purposes.

The basic purpose of the **covenants** is to describe the rights, obligations, and limitations of each property owner. The covenants goal is to preserve, protect, and also to enhance the property values of our subdivision. Examples are property use restrictions, maintenance obligations, and property rights.

By-laws are the governing section of the association or the "how" the association is to operate. By-laws include frequency of meetings and elections, how board members are elected along with length of term, committees, and quorum requirements.

Both categories are available on the association website, www.ihoa.org.

By-Laws Committee

During the IHOA Annual meeting in January, there were several questions raised regarding the current by-laws of the Association. At the February Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to create a committee of residents, and at least one Board member (as required in the by-laws), to review the by-laws and to suggest possible updates, clarifications, deletions or changes to those by-laws. Once the committee reports their results to the Board, the Board will meet with their lawyer to fine tune the proposed changes and then present the changes to the residents for their approval.

This committee is expected to meet 5 or 6 times in the evening over the months of April, May and June to complete their work. If you would like to be considered for this committee, please send an email to David Brown (dbrown@ihoa.org) to let the Board know of your interest. Please include your name, phone number, how long you have lived in Ironwood and a brief statement of why you would like to be on the committee. Be specific with experiences you have had that would contribute to the committee's work.

The committee will be formed at the March 10th Board meeting so **your application email must be received by Monday, March 9th**, to be considered for the committee. All residents applying for the committee will be notified of who is on the committee by Tuesday, March 17th.



Ironwood Prune Juice Golf League

You are invited to join a great bunch of guys who play a scramble (best position) game on 18 Mondays and 2 Wednesdays from May 4 to September 28 at Ironwood Golf Course. We use the forward (red) tee areas.

In 2018 we had 84 regular players plus 26 substitutes on our roster. Using each player's average score or handicap, a player is placed into one of 4 flights: "A", "B", "C", or "D". Each week different "A", "B", "C" and "D" players are teamed up so that every golfer gets to play with all the other golfers in the league at least once per season. This provides you with the opportunity to get acquainted with other players.

Substitutes are used weekly to take the place of absent regular players. We use a shotgun start at 8:00 am. Free coffee and donuts are provided while teams are getting checked in at 7:15 am. Each week 3 team prizes and 6 skill prizes are awarded. On two dates there will be a free catered lunch for all regular and substitute players.

Annual dues of \$25 for regular members, and \$15 for substitutes provide the funds for printing, mailing, prizes, and lunches.

If interested in joining the Prune Juice League, contact Charlie Struble (847) 727-3729 or David Brown (309) 451-5829.



Comments from Homeowners

The Board appreciates everyone who makes comments when returning annual dues along with phone calls and messages received throughout the year. All comments are read and shared. Your diligence in keeping your property in a pleasing and eye appealing condition is observed by others and allows Ironwood to be a desirable subdivision to live. The Board thanks you. Below are a few comments received with dues in January.

Keep up the good work in your efforts to keep the subdivision beautiful. We appreciate it.

Love everything about Ironwood except for the interstate noise.

We moved to Ironwood over 25 years ago because of the openness, lack of sheds and lack of fences. Please keep it that way! Several neighbors have inground fences for their dogs which seem to work well. Additionally, it's great to see kids flow freely in the backyards to play with their neighborhood friends.

*Dog walkers – cut through corner yards – deep into yards. Also poop bags are being dropped in candy bar disposals. Golfers get to enjoy the smell of dog pooh when using disposals for wrappers. Please have some respect for homeowners and golfers. **Yes, please dispose of your dog bags at home, not in public. The Board and golf course thanks you.***

Thank you to current Board members for your service. Please thank the Town of Normal for their work to "hopefully" resolve the issue of standing water/ice on the sidewalk and street in our block (900 Ironwood block) by installing a new swale drain in November.

...no one ever mentions how many mailboxes are rusted, posts leaning, duct taped and barely hanging.

Course Update | by Tyler Bain



An update from our course superintendent

My name is Tyler Bain, and I am the Golf Course Superintendent here at Ironwood. I would like to take the time to update you on a few things.

I know it doesn't seem like it, but spring is around the corner. Our golf and maintenance staff are looking forward to some nicer weather so we can get out onto the golf course. We have some projects planned this year and I will be outlining them in a little more detail in this newsletter. Some of the projects include new golf carts, added benches, drainage work, and pond aeration to name a few. If there are any questions about these projects or anything else, feel free to reach out to me anytime. My office phone is 309-454-9568 and my email is tbain@normal.org.

Our plan is to replace our fleet of golf carts this season. The current fleet is 8 years old and showing their age, so new golf carts would be a wonderful upgrade to the golf course. This request will be sent to the Normal town council in the coming weeks, if approved, the golf carts will be ordered

and here likely by the end of May. There were several homeowners who expressed concern with the golf cart crossings through the subdivision. Recently we have installed stop signs for golf carts at the crossing, but we will also be painting new crosswalk lines in those areas to bring more awareness. We also have some projects planned for our driving range area. We will be installing some new benches to accommodate patrons on the driving range. We also plan to host a Drive, Chip, and Putt event during the year, and we would like to add a few things to our driving range to help enhance that experience. We will be mowing a 'fairway' in the landing area and possibly adding some targets on the range for the contest.

We are going to be addressing some of the drainage issues on the course as well this year. One of the projects for this year is to replace the stormwater culverts that are located on our 17th hole. The current culverts have lasted 30+ years but are rusting to the

point of failure. We also plan to have a contractor come in and evaluate our drainage ditches and help us formulate a plan moving forward.

Lastly, we are looking at aerating the lake that we had a fish kill on this past year. We are still looking at options from companies and what can best help our problem on that lake. We expect to have a solution soon, with implementation this coming spring.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me via phone or email or stop in to the maintenance shop, and I will be happy to talk with you about them. I look forward to meeting you and I hope the golf course can continue to have a great relationship with the Ironwood HOA.



Contact Tyler Bain

By Phone
(309) 454-9568

By Email
tbain@normal.org

As spring approaches, please watch for neighbors enjoying the warm weather. Follow the marked speed limit.



IHOA 2020 Budget

	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
Income:			
Dues Income	28,865.46	30,030.74	29,200.00
Other Income - Corn Belt Capital Credit	-	14.64	-
Total Income	28,865.46	30,045.38	29,200.00
Operating Expenses:			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,499.04	16,499.04	16,499.00
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other Maint.	2,683.85	7,589.10	6,900.00
Legal Fees	1,215.00	1,456.00	2,000.00
Postage	1,090.00	500.00	600.00
Insurance	1,647.00	1,647.00	1,647.00
Printing	242.45	467.56	300.00
Utilities - Corn Belt	332.34	333.29	350.00
Internet Hosting Fee/Domain Registration	119.40	452.31	320.00
Miscellaneous - Stationery,Labels,Envelopes	166.51	27.23	200.00
Newcomer's Committee	-	-	100.00
Rent - PO Box	120.00	134.00	140.00
Property Tax	33.50	34.72	35.00
NAN Dues	-	20.00	20.00
Recording Fee - State of Illinois	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bank Charge - monthly charge, checks	153.00	154.00	79.00
Total Operating Expenses	24,312.09	29,324.25	29,200.00
Net Income (Loss)	4,553.37	721.13	
Beginning Cash Balance - January 1	1,973.34	6,526.71	
Ending Cash Balance - December 31	6,526.71	7,247.84	



2019 Ironwood Home Sales

- 🌿 24 Single family detached homes sold in 2019
- 🌿 22 were 1.5 and 2 story homes with 2 ranch homes
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$322,500 – low was \$177,500 – with the average of \$252,605
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 202 – low was 1 day – with the average of 49
- 🌿 3 Single family attached homes sold in 2019
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$178,500 – low was \$166,000 – with the average of \$170,833
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 176 – low was 44 – with the average of 107

Information provided by the Bloomington-Normal Association of Realtors.
 Provided by Floyd Aper, Real Estate Broker with Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group.



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IHOA Board of Directors

President: David Brown.....(309) 451-5829
Vice President: Linda Rheeling.....(309) 454-2941
Secretary: Kristi Gibbons.....(309) 287-7548
Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen.....(309) 454-3053
Beautification Chair: Walt Clark.....(309) 862-4350
Covenants Chair: Susan Parrent.....(309) 452-1934
Communications Chair: Ali Preston...(309) 714-1771

Important Numbers

ECIA Agency on Aging.....(800) 888-4456
Ironwood Golf Course..... 454-9620
Normal City Manager.....454-9503
Normal Fire Department.....454-9610
Normal Inspections Department.454-9581
Normal Parks & Recreation.....454-9540
Normal Police Department.....888-5030
Normal Public Works.....454-9571
Normal Water Department.....454-9563
Town of Normal.....454-2444

