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President's Message

Fall will be, hopefully, arriving soon. I have noticed a lot of landscaping work being done during the past few months which has definitely improved the appearance of the subdivision. Probably in October, the Town will begin their curbside leaf collection, and I would remind residents that they should rake their leaves to the edge of their yard next to the curb. Do not rake leaves into the gutter as this causes problems with the drainage of the street.

I would like to recognize the members of the By-Laws Review Committee who have been meeting two hours every other week to identify parts of the by-laws that need modification or clarification. The members are Floyd Aper, Mel Brown, Mary-Margaret McHugh, Richard O'Brien, and Bruce Reynolds. They have now completed their task, and the IHOA Board will be holding a study session in September to review their recommendations.

The Board has received a couple of complaints about residents not picking up after their pets when they take them for a walk. We would ask that everyone clean up after their pets. Residents should also remember that we do have some wild animals (foxes and coyotes) that may leave waste in their yard. It will usually be very dark, usually black, so you can tell the difference between it and domestic animal waste.

For those of you who own boats or campers, we understand that you may need to park them in your driveway for up to a week to clean and get ready for storage over the winter. However, they should not be left parked in the driveway for more than a week before they are moved out of the subdivision.

As usual, there will be several Board seats up for election for two-year terms starting in 2021. If you are interested in running for the IHOA Board of Directors, please contact a Board member in the next couple of months. We hope to publish information about any candidates in the December newsletter and we also will need to get the ballots printed in December, so it is important that we have your name by mid-November at the latest.

Finally, with election season rapidly approaching, I would remind residents that Article V, Section 4, of the covenants requires that any signage placed in yards be less than 10 square feet in size - that would be approximately 2 1/2 feet by 4 feet in size.

David Brown, president
IHOA Board of Directors



Covenants and Town Ordinances

During the past several months, the Town and IHOA Board have been gracious to homeowners regarding subdivision covenants and/or Town ordinances. Everyone understands how our lives have been disrupted and the necessity to allow time for homeowners to adjust to different patterns of life on a temporary basis. We now need to get specific tasks completed in a timely manner. The Board is appreciative of all the contacts and questions related to the covenants of the subdivision.

Outside parking of boats, enclosed or flatbed trailers, campers, motor homes, and yard equipment is not permitted in the subdivision. If parked in the subdivision, they must be stored in an enclosed structure (garage). See Covenant Article V, Section 17. Parking them in the driveway for the week or weekend is not acceptable. The Board appreciates notifications from homeowners who have parked their recreational vehicles in driveways while completing "temporary repair/seasonal work".

Bins of all kinds are to be placed in appropriate areas concealed from public view. Those properties boarding the golf course likely need to place them in the garage. Placing them in the landscaping between bushes or behind trees is not acceptable. Covenant Article V, Section 7.

Ironwood covenants also address the repair of residences plus the maintenance of the yard. Now is the time to take a good look at your property and analyze the condition of the structure and the property. Take a look at the yard and the house – grass condition, tall weeds, unused recreational equipment (trampolines, climbing forts), dead trees or tree trimming needs, moss/mold growing on the sides, window and screen condition, chipped or peeling siding.... Fall is the time to complete some of these tasks. Thank you for doing your part in keeping Ironwood a visually appealing place to live!

Questions or concerns about any covenants can be directed to any Board member through phone or email. All contact information is listed in the newsletter and on the website.



A Note of Thanks

Hi all,

Just want to thank everyone who have dropped off food for the food pantry. For all our new residents we have a drop off box at the Ironwood golf course clubhouse right inside the front door between the men's and women's bathroom for food drop off which we then take to the Mid-West food bank. They are always very grateful to the Ironwood residents so thanks again and keep up the great work.

Linda Rheeling



Preparing for Fall and Winter

Leaves and other landscape waste (organic yard or garden waste) are collected curbside on collection day usually between April and December. The waste must be in open paper leaf bags, open cans, or in a Town issued landscape waste cart. Filled plastic/garbage bags will **not** be picked up. Items not accepted as landscape waste are:

- Sticks. (Those should be placed in a loose pile behind the curb with other brush.)
- Dirt and sod.
- Grass clippings.
- Non-organic or woody materials.

It won't be long when the rakes are out to gather the leaves and prepare the lawns for the cooler months. Vacuum leaf collection starts mid to late October and continues for about 7 to 8 weeks. Be reminded:

- Leaves are **not** to be placed in the street. Leaves left in the street block storm water inlets and can cause flooding.
- Remove sticks and other items from the leaf pile.
- Collection will typically occur 3 to 5 times during the fall collection season and the time between collections may be as long as 3 weeks during heavy leaf fall. Be patient.
- Open burning in the Town of Normal is prohibited.

Grass clippings. As you continue to mow in these last warmer months, you are reminded grass clippings should **not** be blown into the street because of the Town sewer inlets. Debris in the sewer system can cause flooding. If you mow your clippings into the street, sweep them up and dispose at the Town Landscape Waste Drop Site on Warriner Street in Normal. It is open 24/7. Dirt, sod, and grass clippings are accepted along with vegetation.

Any questions about waste collection, recycling, sewers, and snowplowing can be answered by the Public Works Services department at www.normal.org/publicworks or (309) 454 - 9571.



Important Safety Reminder

With local school districts holding virtual lessons and many families working from home, there may be more outdoor activity during the day while the weather remains nice. Remember to follow the speed limit and keep an eye out for those walking, jogging or riding their bikes.



Ironwood Golf Course Update

Ironwood Homeowners-

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.

At the beginning of the year, I updated you on several projects we intended to do this year on the course. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some of the projects were pushed back because of these circumstances.

Aeration to the East lake of Ironwood was a project that was delayed, but we have recently been in contact with vendors to work out a plan. Currently, we plan to restock the lake with triploid carp or grass carp. This will help with some of the algae issues as well as some of the grass weed issues in the lake. We also plan to install aerators into the lake as well, this will help put oxygen back into the lake to prevent further fish kills. If you have further questions about this, please reach out to me anytime.

Ironwood did purchase new golf carts this year. They arrived in early July and they have been a great addition to the golf course. The new carts replaced 8-year-old carts that needed to be replaced. The patrons were excited to get to use the new carts and they have been a big hit with everyone.

We began mowing tall grass areas in early August and planned to wrap-up the week of August 17. Once we have completed mowing, our staff will evaluate some areas of high weed pressure and spray later this month to help with this problem.

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, and I will be happy to talk with you about them. Thank you for your time and I hope the golf course can continue to have a great relationship with the Ironwood HOA.

Tyler Bain
Phone: (309) 454-9568
Email: tbain@normal.org



An Ironwood View

In 1990, my husband and I began our search for a new home. That search ended as soon as we walked into an open house in Ironwood. Built on a cul de sac with only three other homes, it was just what we were looking for. Towanda Avenue went straight through the neighborhood at that time. There were no houses or trees to obstruct our view from an upstairs bedroom to the first tee at the golf course. No need to call over to the course; we knew whether or not we could get on the first tee.

Within a year our street filled with houses. Towanda Avenue was reconfigured to include curves and medians with trees. We could look to the west out the back deck and watch sunsets. That is no longer the case since all the trees that we and our neighbors have added obstructs any view. What a difference thirty years makes.

Ironwood Golf Course has matured in thirty years. Once called "Ironwind" in jest, no longer is it a desolate and open course. Large trees line the fairways, from tee to green the fairways are in excellent condition, and the new signage at each tee adds to the beauty.

Where else can we live where our HOA fee is only \$50? For that fee, we have a Board that watches over our neighborhood and keeps it beautiful. I am so proud to call Ironwood home. Thanks to the Board and all who live here for making that so.

Mike and Kathy Hatch



Ironwood Home Sales the Last Six Months

- 🌿 15 Single family detached homes sold in 1st quarter of 2020
 14 were 1.5 and 2 story homes with 1 ranch home
 Sold price: high was \$409,000 – low was \$219,500 – with the average of \$277,830
 Days on market: high was 269 – low was 2 day – with the average of 43
- 🌿 8 Single family detached homes are under contract
 8 are 1.5 and 2 story homes
 List price: high was \$289,000 – low was \$309,000 – with the average of \$253,912
 Days on market: high was 271 – low was 12 – with the average of 42
- 🌿 2 Single family attached homes sold in last 6 months.
 Sold price: high was \$192,000 – low was \$189,900 – with the average of \$190,950
 Days on market: high was 38 – low was 14 – with the average of 21
- 🌿 1 Single family attached home under contract
 List price was \$169,000
 Days on Market: 25
- 🌿 Single family homes for sale as of August 2020
 1 homes for sale – 2 story
 List price: high was \$290,000 | Days on market: high was 98

*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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Sept./Oct./Nov. 2020

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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
Comm. 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

