

Quarterly Newsletter

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Dec. 2020 - Feb. 2021

President's Message

Hopefully this newsletter finds all of the residents of Ironwood safe and healthy as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 virus. Although it seems a little early, I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

There are several items that I need to bring to your attention. First, I mentioned in the September newsletter that the By-Laws Review Committee had completed their task and passed their recommendations on to the IHOA Board. In September the Board reviewed the recommendations from the committee and made some additional modifications. Early in November the Board met with the Board's attorney and he is now in the process of reviewing the proposed new by-laws for any legal corrections that need to be made. The proposed new IHOA by-laws will be ready to present to the full membership and voted on in the coming months.

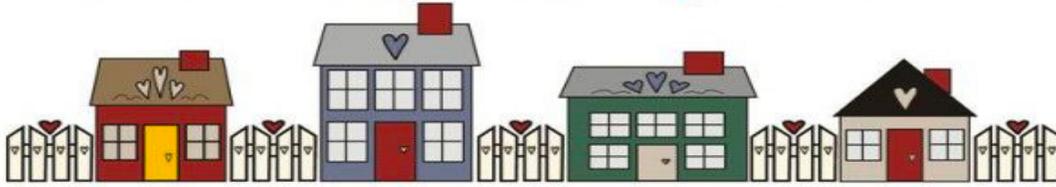
As a result of the restrictions placed on the Ironwood Golf Course clubhouse, the Board has been looking at how this may affect the holding of the annual membership meeting in January. At this time those restrictions limit the number of people allowed in the clubhouse to 25. The Board has so far decided not to have the usual panel of representatives from the Town of Normal at the meeting. Between them and the Board members that would only leave room for about 10 residents. The Board is still considering several options such as having the meeting with limited access to residents, trying to set up a virtual general membership meeting or postponing the meeting until a later date. As soon as decisions are made at the next Board meeting, on December 8th, they will be posted to the "Current News" section of the ihoa.org website and also on Nextdoor.

We currently have several people running for the three Board seats that are up for election to fill two year terms starting in 2021. No matter what the Board decides to do about the general membership meeting, the ballot for the election of Board members will be sent out in mid-December along with your dues notice. Make sure you return your ballot, along with your dues, so they can be counted on January 12th. You can find brief bios elsewhere in this newsletter for the candidates who are running for the Board.

Continued on page 2...

Welcome to Ironwood

Welcome to the Neighborhood!



To all our new neighbors, WELCOME to Ironwood!!!

As the weather starts to turn, hope everyone is staying safe and remembering to wear a mask and wash your hands often. It doesn't seem that things are getting better anytime soon, but we can all do our part in keeping our families and friends safe.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a very joyful holiday season even if things are different than in the past and we can't be with family and friends. We are lucky that we have other ways to reach out, (Facetime, Zoom, telephone, etc.).

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated food to the food pantry this year. There is a drop box at the Ironwood Club house right inside the front doors between the men's and women's bathroom. Please keep up the good work. MidWest Food bank is very grateful to the Ironwood residents.

Merry Christmas and hopefully a better year!!!

Linda Rheeling, vice president
IHOA Board of Directors

President's Message Continued...

With the winter season coming on, I would ask residents to make sure to shovel their sidewalks and keep them clear so those residents who like to walk or jog will not have to survive slippery conditions. As a neighborly thing to do, I would suggest if you live on the side of the street with no sidewalk, that once or twice during the winter season you help your neighbor across the street by helping them shovel the walk. Also, remember that if the Town declares a snow emergency there is no parking on either side of the street in the Ironwood subdivision.

David Brown, president
IHOA Board of Directors

Covenants Update

By Susan Parrent

Winter weather is soon to be here. Below are reminders from the Town of Normal.



Snow Parking Ban

During a snow event, you may park vehicles on Town streets if there is:

- Less than 2" of snow accumulation.
- More than 2" of snow accumulation and no parking ban in effect.

Often times when 2" or more of snow has accumulated, the Public Works Department will issue a snow parking ban. When a parking ban is activated:

- No parked cars are permitted on any streets.
- Cars must be moved to a driveway, garage, or parking lot.
- Normal Police may ticket cars for not complying.

If you do not have a driveway or garage, you may park for free in the parking lots of the Town's parks, including but not limited to:

- Anderson, Fairview, Maxwell, Rosa Parks Commons, Shepard, Underwood

Note: A snow parking ban is activated to allow snow plow crews to clear the entire street including parking areas. When a ban is in effect, information is distributed to the local media. Additionally, information is posted on the Town of Normal website (www.normal.org), Facebook page, and Twitter account.



Shoveling of Sidewalks

The Town does not require the shoveling of sidewalks. However, consider being neighborly with safety in mind, especially for students as they walk the sidewalks and wait at school bus stops, and shovel your walks for them.

Another consideration is to recognize the number of walkers/joggers we have in the subdivision. Due to the current environment we are living in, walking outside in all kinds of elements may become more popular this year based on what is/might be closed.

Let's assist and protect the walkers and joggers and school bus riders (providing schools are open) so they do not have to share the streets with the vehicles.



Covenant News

Boating and camping season is over. The Board is appreciative of the homeowners who notify us about a boat or camper in the driveway for a short time period due to maintenance. Article V, Section 17 is specific in relation to the storage of recreational type vehicles and trailers.

Copies of IHOA Covenants and By-Laws can be found at IHOA.org.



Ironwood Golf Course Update

Ironwood Homeowners,

As this golf season is winding down, I am hoping this article is finding you safe and healthy. I will take this time to update you on a few items concerning the golf course.

The nicer days during November have meant more golfers on the course than in previous years. It is certainly a welcome sight to see the golf course busy during these months. We have scheduled our annual Turkey Trot, big cup scramble for Saturday, November 21, 2020. If you have never played in the event, it is a wonderful time, and the proceeds go to the Baby Fold.

With the weather changing, and temperatures getting colder and colder, our staff will prepare our irrigation system for winter. Starting the week of November 9, we will shut off the irrigation for the season and begin draining the system. This may mean you will see water coming from the course or standing in locations that look odd. This is a normal occurrence for this time of year. Beginning the week of November 16, we will use compressed air to remove all the water from the irrigation system. This will prevent the irrigation system from freezing and causing issues when we resume in the spring.

As I wrote about in previous newsletters, our staff was working on a solution to oxygen issues in the lake on the East side of the subdivision. In speaking with the Department of Natural Resources and our contractor who cares for the lake we came up with a plan. We purchased aerators for the lake that will help mix and oxygenate the water. Over the winter our staff will prepare the aerators for installation in the spring. We also purchased grass carp and other fish from our local Soil and Water Conservation District and then released them in the water at the beginning of October. The grass carp will help eat the aquatic weeds in the water. This multi-pronged approach should help improve the water quality in the lake moving forward.

I am hoping everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me anytime. My office phone and email are listed below. Thank you and I look forward to continuing the great relationship between the Ironwood HOA and the golf course staff.

Tyler Bain

Phone: 309-454-9568

Email: tbain@normal.org



Ironwood Year to Date Sales

- 🌿 24 Single family homes sold year to date
- 🌿 22 were 1.5 and 2 story homes with 2 ranch homes
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$419,900 – low was \$209,000 – with the average of \$270,767
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 269 – low was 1 day – with the average of 42

- 🌿 5 Single family detached homes are under contract
- 🌿 5 are 1.5 and 2 story homes
- 🌿 List Price: high was \$489,900 – low was \$279,900 – with the average of \$333,000
- 🌿 Days on Market: High was 179 – low was 17 – with the average of 50

- 🌿 Single family home For Sale as of November 10, 2020
- 🌿 2 homes for sale – 2 story and 1.5 story
- 🌿 List Price: high was \$269,900 – Low was \$234,900 – Average \$252,400
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 98

- 🌿 2 Single family attached homes sold Year To Date
- 🌿 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
- 🌿 0 Attached home was For Sale – Priced at \$ with Days on Market of
- 🌿 0 Single family attached home under contract

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



WASH
YOUR HANDS.



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE.



WEAR
A FACE COVERING.

community-confident.com | [#maskupNormal](https://twitter.com/maskupNormal)

Candidates for the IHOA Board of Directors

Although specifics of the IHOA Annual Meeting have not been finalized, the ballot for the election of IHOA Board members will be sent out in mid-December along with your dues notice. Make sure you return your ballot, along with your dues, so they can be counted on January 12th.

Below are the biographies of the residents running for two-year terms on the IHOA Board of Directors beginning Jan. 2021. Three residents will be elected.

Amy Mortensen

I'm Amy Mortensen and I am excited at the possibility of joining the IHOA Board of Directors. We moved into the neighborhood in April of 2020 in the height of the pandemic, which made for an interesting move, as everyone was in strict quarantine at the time. My family (husband, Tyler; 7-year-old stepson, Ethan; and our two dogs) were very excited to join this neighborhood. My husband has lived in this area since attending college at ISU where he now works in IT. I moved to Bloomington-Normal in 2014 when I received a job opportunity with my company Heartland Bank. Prior, I spent my life in the West and South suburbs of the Chicagoland area. During my time there I was a part of two other HOA's for a total of 16 years. I understand what a key role the HOA plays in the homeowners' lives. I am a big believer that the board should represent the desires of the neighborhood as a whole, help support the neighborhood while offering the ability for the homeowners to maintain their individuality, all while maintaining the highest property values we can achieve. Our homes are our largest investment and where we spend the majority of our lives – especially now! I'm looking forward to participating in the IHOA and getting to know all of our new neighbors.

Floyd Aper

My wife, Gail, and I have been residents of Ironwood for over 20 years. I previously served on the IHOA Board of Directors for 10 years in the late 90's and early 2000's. I was then appointed to the board again in 2018. This year, I served on the By-laws Review Committee. My intention is to continue to be a voice for all residents and push for consistency and transparency of board action.

Jimmy Collins

I was born and raised in Normal and grew up in Ironwood. When my wife, Abby, and I were looking for our forever home and a place to raise a family, I knew Ironwood would be a great place to live. We moved back into the subdivision in April 2017 and have added two kids (Michael and Mackenzie) to our family. We also have two dogs, Bubba and Rocky. I am running for the IHOA Board of Directors because I would like a voice on issues and covenants that directly impact my family as well as all residents here. I think homeowners who meet the fence guidelines in the by-laws should be approved, and hope to protect homeowners' rights while keeping Ironwood a nice neighborhood.

JoEllen Bahnsen

My husband and I have been Ironwood residents for 29 years. We enjoy the neighborhood and daily walks with our dog, Cote. Before retiring 2 years ago, I was the Senior Associate Comptroller at Illinois State University. I enjoy applying and utilizing my accounting skills in my current position as Treasurer of the Homeowners Association. I am also active with the Town of Normal's Adopt a Street cleanup program. My husband and I frequently pick-up trash on Northtown Road, the Association's adopted street. Additionally, in the spirit of giving back to the community, I recently became a volunteer at the Carle BroMenn Resale Boutique.

Katy Gesell

I was born and raised in Normal and have been here for over 30 years. I have always admired Ironwood and the beautiful, welcoming neighborhood it is, which made it an easy decision for my husband and I to buy our forever home on Haverhill in March 2020. We have two boys: Gavin (2) and Henry (6 months), and one dog, Harley the lab (7). I work as a Strategic Business Advisor for a local technology company: Integrity Technology Solutions. I would like to serve on the IHOA Board of Directors because my children will grow up in this neighborhood and my husband and I will be here for a very long time, and I would like to support Ironwood in any way I can. I think I can best do that by investing my time and energy in keeping it one of the most welcoming and reputable neighborhoods in Bloomington-Normal.

Susan Parrent

My family and I have been residents of Ironwood for 20 years. When we were looking to relocate in Normal, we were drawn to the openness of the development, lot sizes, location, and an active homeowner's association. Over the years, our family has learned to embrace the subdivision and appreciate the intent of the subdivision developer. It was satisfying to watch the Town transition into management of the golf course and now as they continue with the upkeep of the course, lakes, and community programs. I am appreciative of the excellent relationship and communication between the Town and the Board. I am willing to volunteer my time on the Board and thankful for the calls from current homeowners, real estate agents, and potential homeowners with questions about the development. My personal and volunteer priority is to assist the Board and homeowners in making decisions that will maintain property values while being consistent with subdivision guidelines. Serving with the other Board members these past two years has been an excellent experience. I have been an involved McLean County 4-H volunteer for many years and a children's ministry teacher at our local church, relying on my educational background as I serve. I also am involved in various community service programs. I look forward to serving Ironwood these next two years.

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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

