

Quarterly Newsletter

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March - May 2022



President's Message

In preparing to write my message for the March newsletter, I decided that since there were only about a dozen residents who heard my end of the year remarks at the annual membership meeting that I would use those remarks for this newsletter.

“Your Board of Directors has been busy this year with several different activities. The most time consuming was trying to finalize the proposed revisions to the bylaws and fence guidelines. In additions to time spent at the regular board meetings discussing possible changes, the board also met two additional times with the proposed changes to the bylaws and fence guidelines as the only item on the agenda and one additional meeting with the board’s attorney to insure any necessary legal language was included.

“Susan Parrent, as covenants chair, spent considerable time trying to keep trash containers out of sight and trailers from being parked in the subdivision, as complaints from residents came in to the board.

“Walt Clark, as beautification chair, had the board approve the replacement of the badly rotting wooden signs at the east and west end of the Northtown berm. He also worked with LKM to clean up the Northtown berm after the ice storm last January and to remove one tree and plant three new trees on the berm.

“Ali Preston, as communications chair, collected articles and published the association’s quarterly newsletter during the year. The vast majority of the newsletters are now being emailed since the association is only missing email addresses for approximately 50 residents who still have to have the newsletter mailed to them.

“In closing, I would like to address a couple of opinions that have appeared on the Nextdoor bulletin board. The first is that the IHOA Board of Directors is not representing the wishes of the majority of Ironwood homeowners. It seems that if this was the case, then current Board members would have trouble getting reelected to the board. However, in reviewing the election of Board members from 2011 to 2021, I found that every Board member seeking reelection has been reelected.

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Snow Removal Thanks

Thank you to the homeowners who clear the walks and bus stop areas for residents and students during snowy weather. *Is it a Town ordinance? No. A subdivision covenant? No. Just a nice thing to do.* The safety and ease of walking is appreciated. Many have continued to exercise outside on the walks during these winter days. If you live near a street drain, consider removing snow from the drain when there is quick thaw, reducing the possibility of additional flooding.

Snow Parking Ban Reminder



Hopefully the days of snow are behind us when you receive this, but remember the Town of Normal snow bans' policy.

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

President's Message Continued...

"The second opinion is that the board did not listen to residents as they revised the bylaws and fence guidelines. The revision process started with a panel of 11 residents in 2020. As the board reviewed the possible changes over the past year, these changes were published in the minutes of the Board meetings on the association's website. The entire process was very transparent to anyone who wished to follow it. However, there were only two or three residents who appeared at a board meeting, where the first item on the agenda is always to listen to residents concerns, who expressed concern or made suggestions of the changes being considered.

"Finally, there are several references to the fence survey that was conducted in January 2021. The board decided, before the survey was published, that they would not consider it a valid survey unless at least 50% of residents responded to it. It was responded to by only 233 residents or 40% of the subdivision. Of the respondents, 153 felt the Board should change its policy and approve all fence request that met the fence guidelines. These 153 residents only represent 26% of residents. It would not be appropriate to change a standing policy for 26% of the subdivision."

David Brown,
IHOA president

2022 Annual Meeting Results

There were 263 members present, either in-person or by proxy, at the annual membership meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

The results of the election of board members were as follows (the top four will serve on the board for a two-year term):

David Brown: 196 votes
Ali Presston: 184 votes
Keith Palmgren: 181 votes
Linda Rheeling: 168 votes
Katherine Gesell: 121 votes



The results of the ballot questions were as follows:

Proposed bylaws: 201 for approval, 50 opposed to approval
Proposed fence guidelines: 162 for approval, 92 opposed to approval

Copies of the updated bylaws and fence guidelines have been posted at ihoa.org.

Board Help Needed



The current chair of the Newcomers Committee, Chris Knight, is looking for a resident who would like to assist her in delivering welcome packets to the new residents in the subdivision. If you think you might be interested in helping out and getting to meet new residents in Ironwood, please contact Chris for additional information at 309-531-0717 or contact any member of the IHOA Board of Directors.

Vice President's Message

I just want to thank those that voted for me this year and I hope that I will continue to do the job that you voted for me to do. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions regarding Ironwood and I will try to answer them or find an answer for you.

Welcome to all our new residents that are making Ironwood their new home. We hope that you enjoy our wonderful neighborhood. We have lived here for almost 30 years and still love it and all our wonderful neighbors.

Stay warm and remember Spring is right around the corner.

Linda Rheeling
vice president

Preparing for Spring



Landscape Waste and Mulch

Landscape waste is organic yard or garden waste. The collection season is coming – April 1 through December 23, weather permitting. This waste must be placed in open paper bags (leaf bags) or open cans or in a Town-issued landscape waste cart. Waste *cannot* be placed in plastic garbage bags.

Non-acceptable items include sticks, dirt, sod, grass clippings and non-organic or woody materials. Landscape waste is picked up on the regular trash day.

Landscape waste decals for containers are available free of charge at the Library, City Hall reception desk on 2nd floor, the Police Department or Public Works on Warriner Street. The decal is required on carts purchased from the Town. If a non-Town container is used, decals can be used but are not required IF the lid is open.

Free mulch is available from the Town. They will even load it into a truck or on a trailer on a first come first served basis. Or, you can load it yourself - remember your shovel. Call Public Works to check on availability and hours.

Bulky Waste Collection by Town

Bulky waste is identified as large items that cannot fit into your Town of Normal garbage cart. It is collected every week like regular garbage.

Here are some things to know about bulky waste pick-up:

- Large cardboard boxes must be flattened, placed along the curb and not placed between carts (ease of truck pick up).
- All items should be placed loose at the curb. Do not put in a box or non-Town carts/cans.
- Stack and organize into one pile to reduce the chance of wind blowing the items and also to assist pick-up.
- Total weight should not be over 500 pounds.

Items that will be picked up by the Town include:

- Refrigerators and freezers. Doors must be removed and set next to appliance.
- Furniture
- Dehumidifiers
- Removed carpet and carpet pads. Place rolled pieces parallel to the curb.
- Mattresses
- Boards with nails removed or turned downward

Items that will not be picked up as bulky waste include electronics, landscape waste such as leaves and plant clippings, tree branches, and brush.

Questions? Contact Public Works at (309) 454-957 visit
www.normal.org/208/Public-Works.

The Public Works Dept. is located at 1301 Warriner Street, Normal.





Need a Garbage Cart or Recycling Cart?

Because the Town operates an automated program for the collection of household waste and recyclables, you must utilize a Town issued wheeled cart to have items picked up. Carts are offered in two sizes - 65 gallon and 95 gallon and the cost is \$60 for either.

Landscape waste carts are also available to order. However, the use of a Town cart is not required for landscape waste collection.

Town of Normal Electronic Recycling

The Town of Normal offers free electronic recycling to McLean County residents at the building after the Public Works Facility (1301 Warriner St. - follow the yellow signs). For a list of acceptable items and hours of operation, visit <https://www.normal.org/484/Electronics-Recycling>.

Neighborhood Group Garage Sales

Ironwood does not plan an annual garage sale weekend based on the size of the development, parking allowed only on one side of the street, traffic pattern and safety complications. If hosting a garage sale, be watchful of parking. Safety is critical on our streets.



A Reminder from the Town of Normal

Trailers are prohibited from being parked on any public street unless in the process of loading/unloading. They also cannot be parked in the driveway for any period of time.

Cleanup Efforts

The IHOA has two areas that have been officially designated as part of the Town of Normal's Adopt-A-Street Program. One includes Northtown Road from Pipeline to the bike path west of Linden. The other is the Adopt-A-Trail for the bike path from Northtown Road to Boulder Street. Anyone is welcome to assist in the effort. Please report your participation by sending the date, location and hours spent on the litter pickup to JoEllen Bahnsen.

Signs: Political, Business & Organizations

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.



Be Alert

Bicyclists, walkers and joggers will soon be out exercising in and around the neighborhood. We ask you be mindful of your driving and speed, especially when warmer days are coming. We all look forward to sunny days ahead.

2022 IHOA Budget

Ironwood Homeowners Association

Financial Report for Year Ending December 31, 2021 with Approved Budget for 2022

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022</u>
Income:			
Dues Income	29,200	29,880	29,200
Other Income	-	-	-
Total Income	<u>29,200</u>	<u>29,880</u>	<u>29,200</u>
Operating Expenses:			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,499	16,499	16,499
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other	7,100	13,093	7,000
Legal Fees	2,000	3,635	2,000
Postage	600	1,100	350
Insurance	1,647	1,878	1,878
Printing	300	370	365
Utilities - Corn Belt	340	387	400
Internet Hosting Fee	120	119	120
Miscellaneous - Stationery, Labels, Envs	138	51	140
Newcomer's Committee	200	-	200
Rent - PO Box	150	188	200
Property Tax	36	36	38
Recording Fee - State of Illinois	10	10	10
Bank Charge - monthly charge, checks	60	35	-
Total Operating Expenses	<u>29,200</u>	<u>37,401</u>	<u>29,200</u>
Net Income (Loss)	-	(7,521)	-
Beginning Cash Balance - January 1, 2021		<u>13,676</u>	
Ending Cash Balance - December 31, 2021		6,155	

Ironwood Home Sales

Ironwood home sales the last 12 months as of February 1, 2022

- 🌿 24 Single family detached homes
- 🌿 22 were 1.5 and 2 story homes with 2 ranch homes
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$564,000, low was \$230,000 with average \$307,504
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 307, low was 0 with average of 55

- 🌿 4 Single family attached homes
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$252,000, low was \$220,000 with average of \$234,128
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 23, low was 3 with average of 8

- 🌿 1 Single family attached home under contract
- 🌿 List price \$225,000 – Days on market 7

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



A Future Park in Normal?

The Town of Normal Parks and Recreation department has taken preliminary steps in planning for a future park in north Normal. The 17-acre property is north of Ironwood on Town property, along Ziebarth Road, connecting to the North Bridge, Heather Ridge, North Field subdivisions. The Town is working with Wight & Company to create a master plan for the park. Currently the park has no timeline or budget. The master plan will be utilized to identify funding and grant opportunities in the future. The Town held an information-gathering meeting Feb. 8 at the Ironwood Clubhouse to introduce the concept and gather input from residents. Approximately 35 were in attendance. Commonly mentioned requests included walking and bike paths and accessible play areas. If you have any questions, please email Normal Parks & Rec Director Doug Damery at ddamery@normal.org.

Quarterly Newsletter



March - May 2022

IHOA Board of Directors

President: David Brown.....(309) 451-5829
Vice President: Linda Rheeling...(309) 454-2941
Secretary: Amy Mortensen.....(815) 325-3800
Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen.....(309) 454-3053
Beautification: Keith Palmgren.. (309) 531-9605
Covenants: Susan Parrent.....(309)452-1934
Communications: 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

