

# ForeWord

**Ironwood Homeowners Association PO Box 656, Normal, IL 61761**

## President's Message

by David Brown, president

With March here, hopefully spring cannot be far behind. I have decided to repeat a few of my remarks that I made at the Annual Membership Meeting since only a few residents were present.

Last January the membership passed a new set of guidelines for fences in Ironwood. This past year the Board has approve the installation of 3 new fences and 1 replacement fence which meet those guidelines.

The Board has been working to maintain the landscaping at the south entrance and on the berm along Northtown Road. There has been a problem with the three evergreens at the south entrance dying, and Keith is working with LKM to resolve that issue. Keith and Bob Bahnsen have removed 3 dead trees on the Northtown berm, saving the association thousands of dollars. Those trees will be replaced this spring. We are currently in discussions with the Town to

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## Three Elected to IHOA Board

Two current Board members and one current resident were elected to serve two year terms on the IHOA Board of Directors at the Annual Membership meeting.

**JoEllen Bahnsen** was re-elected to a twelfth term on the Board and will continue to serve as the Board's treasurer in 2023.

**Susan Parrent** was re-elected to a third term on the Board and will continue to serve as the covenants chair in the coming year.

**Jeff Woodall** was elected to the Board for the first time, replacing Amy Mortensen. Jeff has lived in Ironwood since 1998 and will serve as the Board's secretary in 2023.

Also receiving votes in this years election were Tyler Mortensen and Matt Bursack.

### IHOA Financial Report

12/13/22 - 2/14/23

Balance on 12/13/22	\$6,027.87
+	
Income	\$24,412.25
-	
Expenses	\$1,233.11
=	
Balance on 1/14/20	\$29,197.01

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## Spring Related Covenants

by Susan Parrent

**Yard Maintenance:** Article X discusses the maintenance of the yard and landscaping of a member’s lot. Should a property owner fail to maintain their property in a reasonable manner, the Association will inform the property owner of actions that should be taken. Maintenance includes reasonable and generally accepted garden and lawn management practices necessary to promote a healthy, weed free environment for optimum plant growth and life within the subdivision. Regular mowing, grass clipping clean-up, tree and bush pruning/trimming, and weed/dandelion control are all expected.

**Recreational Vehicles:** It will soon be camper and boating time. Homeowners who own boats and travel homes/RVs/campers are reminded these vehicles cannot be parked in the driveway or on the street. Ironwood covenants require them to be in an enclosed structure. If they cannot fit in the garage, they must be stored off-site. Parking them temporarily for a short period of time (2-3 days) for “seasonal maintenance” before or after the season is acceptable. Parking them in the drive a few days each week or every other week is not acceptable. All property owners who own any of the listed vehicles are requested to abide by the covenants of the subdivision and be aware of the Town of Normal ordinances. Stated from the Covenants: Article V, Section 17 states: “No truck, travel trailer, recreational type vehicle, mobile home, boat, trailer,.....shall be kept on the lot or in the subdivision except entirely within an enclosed structure. All automobiles kept or stored on said premises not enclosed in a permanent structure or building shall be in a workable and running condition... .” If you have questions, contact any Board member.

**Trash Cans and Recycle Cans:** The Board reminds all homeowners in the subdivision that

## IHOA Board of Directors

President: David Brown . . . . . 309-451-5829  
Vice-President: Linda Rheeling . 309-454-2941  
Secretary: Jeff Woodall . . . . . 309-706-2249  
Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen. . . . 309-454-3053  
Board Member: Mel Brown. . . . . 309-451-5601  
Board Member: Keith Palmgren. 309-531-9605  
Board Member: Susan Parrent. . 309-452-1934

## Calendar of Events

### March 2023

1 . . . . . Unit 5 - Kindergarten Registration  
6 . . . . . Casimir Pulaski Day  
12. . . . . Daylight Savings Time Begins  
13 . . . . . Half Day - Unit 5  
14 . . . . . IHOA Board Meeting  
17 . . . . . St. Patrick’s Day  
20 . . . . . March Equinox - Spring begins  
25. . . . . Spring Break Starts - Unit 5

### April 2023

2 . . . . . Palm Sunday  
3 . . . . . Spring Break Ends - Unit 5  
7. . . . . Good Friday  
7 . . . . . Half Day - Unit 5  
9 . . . . . Easter  
10 . . . Teacher Institute Day - No School - Unit 5  
11. . . . . IHOA Board Meeting  
22. . . . . Ramadan Starts

### May 2023

1 . . . . . Loyalty Day  
3 . . . . . Half Day - Unit 5  
5 . . . . . Cinco de Mayo Day  
9 . . . . . IHOA Board Meeting  
14. . . . . Mother’s Day  
24. . . . . Last Full Day of School - Unit 5  
25. . . . . Half Day - Unit 5  
27 . . . . . Normal West Graduation - 6:00 PM  
29 . . . . . Memorial Day

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## Ironwood Homeowners Association 2023 Budget

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
Dues Income (584*50)	29,880.08	29,092.00	29,200.00
Other Income	0.00	10.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,880.08</b>	<b>29,102.00</b>	<b>29,200.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,499.04	16,499.00	16,499.00
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other	13,093.00	8,121.00	6,500.00
Legal Fees	3,635.00	1,688.00	2,500.00
Postage	1,100.00	614.00	360.00
Insurance	1,878.00	1,878.00	1,878.00
Printing	370.19	337.00	300.00
Utilities - Cornbelt	386.61	410.00	500.00
Internet Hosting Fee	119.40	119.00	120.00
Miscellaneous - Stationary/Envelopes	50.97	54.00	150.00
Newcomer's Committee	0.00	0.00	120.00
Rent - PO Box	188.00	112.00	225.00
Property Tax	36.32	37.00	38.00
Recording Fees - State of Illinois	10.00	11.00	10.00
Bank Charge - monthly charge/checks	35.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>37,401.53</b>	<b>29,980.00</b>	<b>29,200.00</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(7,521.54)</b>	<b>(878.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### President' Message

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cleanup the trees on Town property along the lakes on Northtown Road.

The Board spends considerable time

working to resolve issues in the subdivision reported by residents to the Board. The most common complaints from residents are trash bins in front of houses, campers and trailers parked in driveways and landscaping not being maintained. The Board appreciate residents calling these issues to our attention.

#### Important Telephone Numbers

ECIA Agency on Aging	800-888-4456
Ironwood Golf Course	309-454-9620
Normal City Manager	309-454-9503
Normal Fire Department	309-454-9610
Normal Inspections Department	309-454-9581
Normal Parks & Recreation	309-454-9540
Normal Police Department	309-888-5030
Normal Public Works	309-454-9571
Normal Water Department	309-454-9563
Town of Normal	309-454-2444

I would encourage any residents who want to know what the Board is working on to make use of the association's website, ihoa.org, where they can view the Board's monthly meeting minutes.

A big thank you to Ali Preston who served on the Board for three years as communications chair. Her resignation was accepted at the January Board meeting. Congradulation to Mel Brown who was apointed to fill the final year of Ali's term at the February Board meeting. Thanks to Suzann Reid and Mike Weiland who also applied for the vacancy on the Board.

## Town and Subdivision Information

**Landscape Waste and Mulch:** The Town of Normal defines landscape waste as organic yard or garden waste. The collection season will soon be here, usually April 1 through December 23, weather permitting. This waste must be placed in open paper bags (leaf bags) or open cans/carts, or in a Town issued landscape waste cart at the curb on regular trash day. Waste cannot be placed in plastic garbage bags. Non-acceptable items include: sticks, dirt, sod, grass clippings, woody materials.

**Brush Collection:** Brush includes items such as sticks, branches, rose bush cuttings, and shrubbery trimmings. These items are to be placed loosely behind the curb. Not in the street! The pile should be 3 or more feet from any obstructions such as trees, fences, fire hydrants, wires, postal boxes, etc. Just like trash bins, items can be placed between 6 p.m. the day before collection and 6 a.m. on Friday, regular trash day.

**Recycling Cardboard vs Bulky Waste:** The Town Bulky Waste program picks up large items that cannot fit into your garbage carts. They will pick up large cardboard boxes that are flattened and placed along the curb where trucks can pick them up. However, recycling these flattened cardboard boxes can be done at the local recycling sites. The closest locations to Ironwood are located at Walmart, 300 Greenbriar Drive and Heartland Community College, the NW corner of the campus. Consider recycling those flattened cardboard boxes. NOTE: These recycling sites do not accept styrofoam from your boxes. That will still need to go in bulky waste.

**In Need of a Garbage or Recycling Cart?:** The Town operates an automated system for the collection of household waste and recyclables. You must utilize a Town issued wheeled cart to have items picked up at your

property. Carts are offered in two sizes – 65 gallon and 95 gallon. The cost is \$60 for either size. Landscape waste does not require a Town issued cart but they are available to order. Decals (free) and colored lids are available from the Town of Normal/Public Works.

**Garage Sales in Ironwood:** 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 patterns, and safety/emergency complications. That doesn't mean you cannot have a garage sale! If you host a sale, be watchful of parking on only the proper side of the street. Safety is critical on our streets.

**Speed Limit in the Subdivision:** All drivers are asked to follow the 30 mph speed limit. That includes Towanda Avenue. Northtown Road is 45 mph and Towanda Ave, south of the interstate bridge, is 40 mph. Safety for our neighbors is of extreme importance. The Town will put up digital reminders at various times.



### Spring Related Covenants

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trash and recycle bins must be out of public view. Based on Article V, Section 7 of the Ironwood covenants, "No rubbish, trash, garbage, or other waste material shall be kept or permitted on any lot or on common area except in sanitary containers located in appropriate areas concealed from public view." The Board encourages inside storage. Some homeowners are trying to conceal the containers in bushes and/or landscaping, behind locking temporary fence sections, or next to the garage. If you can see your containers when you drive by your residence, kindly move them out of public view. Thank you to the homeowners who continue to keep and maintain Ironwood a visually pleasing neighborhood.

### Liquid Detergent Bottles Needed

Midwest Food Bank on Northtown Road, west of Linden Street, is in need of your empty detergent containers. Rather than tossing your jugs and bottles into recycle, consider giving them another use. The Food Bank received nearly 9000 gallons of detergent, using up approximately half of the liquid at this point in time, so they continue to need a variety of sizes of used bottles so the detergent can be distributed. The jugs/bottles must be a detergent container (no kitty litter, milk, etc.), rinsed and clean, with attached lids. Place your jugs in the large black container by the front door (facing east), available at all times. Thank you for considering. Also, if you or a group are looking to volunteer, consider contacting the Food Bank. Midwest Food Bank. 2031 Warehouse Rd, Normal, IL 61761.

project. The community garden, in Ironwood Park, will be open for registration on March 7<sup>th</sup>. A question was asked about thinning out the weeds and overgrown vegetation around lakes facing Northtown. They intend to work on that in phases.

Craig Onsrud responded to a question about invasive weeds regarding homes backing up to the course. He indicated that it takes 3-4 years to work on removal of these weeds. Craig also indicated they are working on replacing trees on the property line between course and homes. Homeowners should contact course to discuss if they want trees, and what type of trees, along their back property line. Improvements were made to the bathrooms and sidewalk at the clubhouse to become more ADA compatible. The next update is scheduled to the flooring in the next 1-2 years. A larger putting green has been approved for the 2024 fiscal year. This will triple the size of the current putting green.

### Information from Annual Meeting

At the Annual Membership Meeting we had three representatives from the Town of Normal: Brad Park, from the Normal Police Department, Gene Kotlinski, Normal Asst. Director of Parks and Recreation and Craig Onsrud, Ironwood Golf Course Manager.

Brad Park indicated that Ironwood is the safest subdivision in Normal. He also indicate that in 2023 the department would be conducting some speed control programs in Ironwood.

Gene Kotlinski discussed initiatives on the golf course. Reconstructing the culvert between holes 17 and 18 as well as other drainage issues. The Town is also working with the Urban Butterfly Initiative to work with native grass areas and conservation, there may need to be some grass burning for this



