

# ForeWord

Ironwood Homeowners Association PO Box 656, Normal, IL 61761

## From Board President David Brown

Welcome to summer in Ironwood. I hope all of you have been able to get out and enjoy the spring weather. Here are some important items that I want to make you aware of during the June through August time frame of this newsletter.

For any residents who have a wooden fence, a reminder that paragraph “d)” of the fence guidelines that were approved in 2022 states that these fences must be painted, stained or sealed and a maintenance coat must be applied at least every three years. If the fence is not maintained to present an attractive appearance, then the fence will be removed at the owner’s expense.

A couple of months ago, residents received an email regarding the maintaining of at least four hardwood trees in their yard. This was based on the requirement in the covenants (Article V, Sec.13) that, as each house was built, the owner must plant four hardwood trees on the lot. In the thirty years Ironwood has existed, some trees have died, some have been blown down or so damaged that they needed to be removed. To maintain the character of Ironwood, it is suggested that, if you have less than four hardwood trees in your yard, you plant a replacement tree.

With spring and summer here we need to all be aware of the maintenance of our yards. The covenants require that owners keep the appearance of their property comparable to that of their neighbors. If a property is not maintained, then the association can contract to have the maintenance done at the owner’s expense.

The Board is currently working to develop a clearer definition of what “shed” means. The covenants (Article V, Sec. 20) require that, before a resident constructs any building or storage shed, they get approval from the Board. So far the Board has defined this to mean any enclosed structure that is not attached to the house or any enclosed structure that is used for storage of materials or lawn items. If in doubt, it is best to check with a Board member prior to erecting any structure in your yard as to whether permission needs to be acquired.

I would like to thank residents who have brought concerns about covenant violations or the general appearance of the subdivision to the attention of the Board. Some issues take longer than others to resolve, but I assure you the Board works very hard to resolve your concerns as quickly as possible.

Finally, if you are going to be doing some entertaining during the summer barbecue months, please advise your guests of the proper side of the street to park on. We do not want anyone getting a parking ticket while visiting Ironwood and, as always, we need to make sure streets are open for the flow of two way traffic.

### **From Board Vice President Linda Rheeling**

A big welcome to all of our new residents. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to any IHOA board member. You can find our contact information on our website at [www.IHOA.org](http://www.IHOA.org).

By the time you read this, spring will almost be over and summer will be here before you know it. I love this time of the year when everything looks so bright and new, fresh and green. This is the time that we are all out freshening up our houses and yards.

School will be out by the time you read this so please be aware of our children and SLOW DOWN while driving in the neighborhood!!!

I'm still looking for someone who would like to help Chris Knight and myself with the Newcomer's Committee. If you are interested in helping us please call me or email me for more information.

Once again, THANKS to all who have dropped off food donations at the club house for the Midwest Food Bank. If you are new to the neighborhood there is a donation box inside the club house between the restrooms.

Congratulations to all our recent graduates!!! I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer.

### **From the Ironwood Golf Course Staff**

The golf season is off running, and the golf staff has been working diligently to keep the course in great condition for the golfing public. A few projects have been underway, and I would like to take this time to update you on those.

Ironwood Golf Course will be hosting the Drive, Chip, and Putt challenge for the 3rd time in July, and we are preparing the driving range to host the event. Children 15 and under will compete for the chance to go to Augusta, Georgia and compete in the challenge at The Masters. It should be a wonderful event and we are happy to host.

As many of you are aware, several years ago all the ash trees were removed from the golf course due to Emerald Ash Borer. We planted some trees back in those areas and we are willing to do so again. However, due to the large number of requests, we will be planting in phases so that we can adequately care for the trees. If you would like trees planted at the rear of your home, on golf course property, please reach out to me at the email address below.

Our staff has been spraying the native grass areas for weeds and we should be completed this week. We will be going around spot spraying in areas we could not get with our large sprayer.

I would also like to thank the homeowners for their efforts in keeping vandalism in check. We receive many phone calls about improper behavior on the course, and that certainly helps curtail the issues. Our staff cannot be everywhere and see everything, so your help in these matters is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about any projects or anything about the course, I would be happy to help. My email and phone number are below if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the golf course and our staff. We appreciate our wonderful relationship between the course and the Ironwood Homeowners Association.

Tyler Bain

Ph. – 309 454 9568

Email – [tbain@normal.org](mailto:tbain@normal.org)

***Covenant Reminders - from Susan Parrent, Covenant Chair:***

**Yard/Lawn Maintenance and Grass Clippings:**

As you mow your lawns, it is requested you do not blow or rake your clippings into the street or curb and then leave them. Sweep up the clippings/debris and take it to the Town waste site. If you have a mulching mower, this should not be an issue. Otherwise, when mowing, blow the clippings back into your yard.

Why? Lawn waste is not sewer friendly. It also becomes slick and dangerous for those riding bicycles and motorcycles.

Lawn clippings, leftover or unused dirt, and sod must be taken to the Town waste site at 1301 Warriner Street in Normal. It is open 24 hours a day. Have questions? Call Public Works at 309.454.9571.

Speaking of lawns, regular lawn maintenance is expected in Ironwood. This includes regular mowing and trimming, taking care of clippings that are not mulched, and weed control. It also involves caring for any lawn waste on the sidewalks. You are asked to maintain the sidewalks, keeping them free of waste for the many walkers, joggers, strollers, and families who use the walks in the subdivision.

The Town of Normal lawncare maintenance ordinance states it is unlawful for a property owner to permit any growth of noxious weeds or the growth of turf grass to a height exceeding eight (8) inches. Growth of these is seen as being detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the area and would be known as a nuisance. (MC 21.3-8C)

**Dead trees:**

If you have a dead tree or one that is headed there, it is time to take it down and replant. There are many businesses who specialize in tree removal and planting to assist you. See the related information on page 1 about hardwood trees on your property in Ironwood.

**Trimming of Bushes and Tree Limbs along the Sidewalks:**

If you are a property owner along a sidewalk, please trim the low limbs on the trees and/or the bushes that hang over the walk. If a tree limb falls below 6' over the sidewalk, it's time to trim. Walkers have commented they must walk single file in areas where bushes hang over the walk. Please trim the bushes so two can walk comfortably side by side. We have many walkers and bike riders and the numbers will likely increase over the summer.

## ***Covenant Reminders (cont.):***

### **Boats and Summer:**

Homeowners who own boats are reminded a boat cannot be parked in the driveway or on the street in the Ironwood subdivision. Ironwood covenants require them to be in an enclosed structure – the garage. If the boat cannot fit in the garage, it must be stored off-site. Parking them temporarily (less than one week) to clean and prepare for the season is acceptable. Parking them daily and/or after the weekends is not acceptable. The same goes for any type of trailer.

Stated from the Covenants: Article V, Section 17: “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....” All property owners who own any of the above are asked to abide by the covenants of the subdivision.

### ***Subdivision and Town Information:***

#### **Clean-up of the Rough Behind Your Property:**

If you are a resident who backs up to the golf course and you might use the prairie grass area to walk your dog, go for walks, play games, or hunt for golf balls, please pick up after yourselves and do not leave anything behind. Maybe you are an active family and game items, specifically balls of all sizes, get overthrown or hit and land on the golf course property. You are asked to take the time to pick up your personal belongings. The golf course maintenance crew sprays weeds and mows the grass periodically and shouldn't have to pick up or drive over these items. Be a courteous homeowner and clean up after your fun.

#### **Moss/Mold Growing on Houses:**

Many houses in the area are now sporting a new color – that greenish moss. If you have the moss and/or mold growing on one or more sides of your house, it is the right time to get that cleaned in preparation for summer. If you are uncertain how to remove it yourself, make some calls and do some research. There are also businesses who specialize in cleaning your siding.

#### **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 flattened extra-large cardboard boxes that are placed along the curb where trucks can pick them up. The flattened cardboard boxes can also be recycled at several Town recycling sites. The closest locations to Ironwood are near Walmart, 300 Greenbriar Drive and Heartland Community College, the NW corner of the campus. There is also one on the north side of Chiddix Junior High School. NOTE: These Town recycling sites do not accept styrofoam from your boxes or plastic bags. Styrofoam will still need to go in bulky waste and plastic bags can be recycled at many local grocery stores.

***Subdivision and Town Information (cont.):***

**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 one 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 within the subdivision. That includes Towanda Avenue. Northtown Road on the north and Towanda Ave, south of the interstate overpass, increase slightly. Safety for our neighbors is of extreme importance. The Town will put up digital reminders at various times.

***Community Information:***

**Need for Liquid Detergent Bottles Continues:**

Midwest Food Bank on Northtown Road, west of Linden Street, continues to need your empty clothing detergent/softener bottles and jugs. They must be thoroughly rinsed and cleaned with the lid attached. Place your jugs in the large black container by the front door (facing east), available at all times. The Food Bank received nearly 9000 gallons of detergent so they continue to need the plastic containers so the detergent can be distributed.

Also, if you or a group are looking to volunteer, consider contacting the Food Bank. Midwest Food Bank. 2031 Warehouse Rd, Normal, IL 61761.

**Notify Normal - Emergency and Community Notifications:**

Be notified in the event of emergency situations and receive information about community events and services. [NormalComms@normalil.gov](mailto:NormalComms@normalil.gov) Phone 309-454-9777

You can create a managed account to choose the types of notices received. Select from Emergency or General, and these additional types: Events, Parks, Services, Streets.

[Normalil.gov/NotifyNormal](http://Normalil.gov/NotifyNormal)

**Street Light Outages:**

If you notice a street light has gone out, please notify Corn Belt Energy, at 1-800-879-0339.

## **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

## **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

**IRONWOOD**  
COUNTRY CLUB  
Homeowner's Association  
P. O. Box 656  
Normal, IL 61761

