



## Quarterly Newsletter June 2024 – August 2024

### Messages From the Board:

From Board President Jeff Woodall:

Where does the time go!! It is already June and summer has arrived early. Below are highlights from the Board. Have a great summer!

We want to thank everyone for contacting the Board about replacing, updating or adding a fence on your property. Fence guidelines were approved in 2022, and state that existing wooden fences must be painted, stained or sealed and a maintenance coat must be applied at least every three years. If a fence is not maintained to present an attractive appearance, then the fence will be removed at the owner's expense.

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.

We would like to thank residents for contacting the Board to understand the covenants and for bringing concerns or questions to 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.

## Messages From the Board (cont.):

### From Board Vice President Linda Rheeling:

A big congratulations to all the recent graduates from grade, middle, high school and college. Good luck to you all as you continue on to the next chapter of your life. WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME to all our new residents. We are so happy that you have chosen Ironwood as your new home. If you have any questions about the neighborhood, please feel free to contact any IHOA board member and we will try to answer your questions. We are still collecting canned goods for the food pantry. The drop off box is at the Ironwood clubhouse between the two restrooms. Any and all food is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who have donated. With school out and summer here please watch out for kids playing outside and SLOW DOWN!!! I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer and enjoys the beauty of our neighborhood.

### From Beautifications Chair Keith Palmgren:

Homeowners, here are some of the improvements you might have seen in and around the subdivision. We recently installed some solar lights at the south entrance to help illuminate that entrance. A big thank you to Tom Parrent for helping with this project.

We also had the three entrance stones cleaned and they look much better. Additionally, we have recently trimmed some branches off trees that were overhanging on the sidewalk on the east end of Northtown Road. It will be much better to walk and ride your bikes now. A big thank you to Bob Bahnsen for helping me with this project.

### From Covenants Chair Susan Parrent:

#### **Spring and Summer Preparation Notes:**

- *Be Alert*

Bicyclists, walkers, and joggers of all ages will soon be out exercising in and around the neighborhood. Children will be riding bikes and playing in the driveways and yards. You are asked to be mindful of your driving and speed when warmer days are arriving. We look forward to a great summer in Ironwood!

- *A Note on Bulky Waste Collection by the Town*

Bulky waste is described as large items that cannot fit into your Town of Normal garbage cart. The Town will pick up large household items on Fridays. As a reminder, if refrigerators or freezers are set at the curb for pickup, doors must be removed and set next to the appliance. Other items that will be picked up include mattresses, boards with nails removed or turned downward, and carpet and carpet pads rolled and set parallel to the curb.

Questions? Visit <https://www.normalil.gov/115/Engineering-Public-Works> or call 309.454.9571.

## Messages From the Board (cont.):

- *Parking in the Ironwood Subdivision*

In most areas of the subdivision, parking is allowed on only one side of the street. Please inform your guests and/or garage sale patrons of this important safety matter.

- *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.

### Covenant Notes:

- *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.

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)

Let's continue to work together as we keep Ironwood a well-maintained subdivision, and an appealing place to live.

- *Fences in Ironwood to be Inspected*

Members of the IHOA Board will be reviewing, checking, and inspecting all fences in the subdivision late this summer and into fall. We will be verifying the fences with the Board approved list. As stated in the Covenants (Article V, Section 8), no fence, hedge, wall or other dividing instrumentality shall be constructed, grown, or maintained on any lot without the written permission of the Association. Fence Guidelines are on the front page of the subdivision website, [www.ihoa.org](http://www.ihoa.org). For any wooden fence, a maintenance coat is to be applied at least every three years. Thank you in advance as we work through the neighborhood.

If you have a fence on your property and you are choosing to revise, replace, or change the fence, approval is required by the IHOA Board.

## Messages From the Board (cont.):

- *Boats of All Kinds*

Whether it's a sailboat, canoe, fishing boat, houseboat, pontoon boat, speed boat, jet boat, or any other type of water device, homeowners who own any type of boat are reminded it cannot be parked in the driveway, on the street, or next to the garage. 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 to clean them is acceptable. Parking them daily and weekly is against the Ironwood covenants. Please plan accordingly.

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..." All property owners who own any of the above are asked to abide by the covenants of the subdivision.

- *"Green Growing" Houses*

Many houses in the area are now sporting a new color - that greenish moss/algae/mildew/mold, usually on the east side. If you have this growing on one or more sides of your house, it is the right time of year 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.

## Golf Course News:

The golf season is off and running, and the golf staff has been working diligently to keep the course in great condition for the golfing public. A few projects have or will be underway soon. Below is a brief description of those projects.

The Town of Normal council has approved two capital projects at Ironwood Golf Course. The first being the removal and reinstallation of culverts on our 17<sup>th</sup> hole. The council approved the contract on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and we look to have that project started in the months of June or July. They will remove the old, rusted culverts with the same size culverts. They will also grade that area and fix all the erosion that has happened over time.

The second project that was approved by council on May 20<sup>th</sup> is the expansion of our putting green as well as installation of a new chipping green. Our putting green will double in size and provide a better practice experience for all golfers and teams that practice here. We have seen an increase in play over the past 2-4 years and that has increased the wear and tear on our putting green. The

## **Golf Course News (cont.):**

expansion will help alleviate that wear and tear while improving the overall practice facility. The other portion of that project will include installing a new chipping green that will be in our current short course area. The chipping green will be a huge improvement to the practice facility as well as helping reduce the wear and tear on the putting green. The chipping green will cause us to move the short course holes around, but we will still offer that amenity.

The putting green and chipping green will tentatively start the last week of June. Construction will continue through July with the goal to seed the greens in August of this year. The current putting green will remain open during this time. The goal is to have the putting and chipping green ready for play beginning May 2025.

Lastly, 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. 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, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Ph. 309-454-9568  
Email [tbain@normal.org](mailto:tbain@normal.org)

## **Comments from Ironwood Homeowners:**

The following comments/suggestions were received from homeowners when they submitted their dues/proxies this year. The Board appreciates all input and works hard to address resident concerns and ideas.

- No fences! Perhaps people should read the HOA covenants before purchasing their home.
- Let's strive to maintain Ironwood as a beautiful and desirable place to live! Keep our residences neat, well-kept and appealing in appearance.
- The berms at the Northtown entrance need attention. They should be as attractive as the south entrance.
- Please remind neighbors NOT to shoot off fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Very annoying.
- Would like to see all dogs leashed... not running free.
- Bylaws regarding planting of trees is not followed up! Garbage cans in plain sight on driveways. Please enforce all bylaws!
- Can we please consider electronic payments (Venmo?) or online dues payments? Or a drop box at the clubhouse. Seems silly to have to pay for postage.
- Thank you to the Board for all you do to preserve the beauty and integrity of Ironwood.

**Dates to remember:**

- June 3 - Real estate tax #1 due
- June 7 - National Donut Day
- June 11 - IHOA Board Meeting
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 16 - Father's Day
- July 1 - National Postal Workers Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 9 - IHOA Board Meeting
- July 28 - Parents' Day
- Aug. 4 - Sisters' Day
- Aug. 13 - IHOA Board Meeting
- Aug. 21 - Senior Citizens Day
- Sept. 2 - Labor Day
- Sept. 3 - Real estate tax #2 due

<b>IRONWOOD HOME SALES</b> (source: Homes by Marco)						
	2024 (to-date)		2023		2022	
	Single family	Zero lot line	Single family	Zero lot line	Single family	Zero lot line
# Sold	5	3	14	3	20	4
High price	\$393,000	\$265,000	\$550,000	\$250,900	\$450,000	\$263,000
Low price	\$238,000	\$250,000	\$284,900	\$239,800	\$269,900	\$220,000

IHOA Board of Directors:			
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