

# Quarterly Newsletter

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### March - May 2021



## *President's Message*

Welcome to 2021. Yes, I have been elected to be president of the board for another year. I would like to thank Kristi Gibbons, who decided to not run for reelection, for her service to the residents of Ironwood. I would likewise like to welcome Amy Mortensen as the newest member of your board of directors and I look forward to working with her.

We were disappointed that due to the COVID restrictions in place in January, we were not able to have the usual panel of representatives from the Town of Normal at our annual meeting. However, several representatives from the Town did submit brief statements regarding upcoming projects which may affect the Ironwood subdivision this coming year. These comments may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your board continues to work on finalizing the proposed new by-laws so they can be presented to the members of the IHOA to vote on. As I write this message in mid-February, we have just received the proposed new by-laws back from the board's attorney. The board will be setting up a time in the near future to meet again with our attorney and review the changes he has proposed. I am still hoping that the Board will be able to share the proposed new by-laws with the general membership sometime this summer, and they can be voted on no later than the 2022 annual membership meeting in January.

The board was disappointed that we could not get at least a 50% return rate on the Fence Survey which was sent in December. The results of the survey are posted on the ihoa.org website under the "Current News" section if you have not seen them yet. It is hard to draw conclusions from them when they do not represent a majority of the residents of Ironwood. However, as a result of the board reviewing the results and the comments that were made, the board is reviewing the proposed fence guidelines from 2020 which were not voted on because there was not a quorum present at the 2020 annual membership meeting. It is the board's plan to resubmit these to the membership for consideration at the 2022 annual membership meeting.

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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.



### **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 board has also decided to continue to use Zoom to allow residents to listen in at the monthly board meetings. We will continue to do this until the COVID restrictions on the clubhouse are lifted to the point that residents can attend the meetings in person. Watch for the announcements of upcoming board meetings either in the "Current News" section of [ihoa.org](http://ihoa.org) or Nextdoor for information on how to join the Zoom coverage of the board meeting.

Hopefully we will be seeing warmer weather in the near future. As spring does arrive, I would encourage residents to help maintain the wonderful appearance of our subdivision by properly maintaining their yards and landscaping.

David Brown, president  
IHOA Board of Directors

## 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.

Contact the Public Works department with questions:  
309.454.9571 or go to [www.normal.org/publicworks](http://www.normal.org/publicworks).

### 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.



The first day of spring is Saturday, March 20!



## *Town of Normal Updates*

### **PRIVATE PROPERTY REMINDERS**

- 🌿 **Garage sales** are limited to three events per calendar year and should not exceed 12 days in total across the events.
- 🌿 **Contemplating a pool?** Please contact the Town of Normal Inspections Office (309-454-9580) for particulars. Be mindful of subdivision covenants regarding the type of pool and fencing requirements ... these are more restrictive than Town code.
- 🌿 **Town garbage and recycle carts** are required to be stored behind the face of a building, per code. A courtesy reminder can be issued upon request.

Questions? Contact **Greg Troemel** with questions related to “Anything Private Property” at 309-454-9580 or [gtroemel@normal.org](mailto:gtroemel@normal.org)

### **NORMAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

In 2020, the Normal Police Department (NPD) began the “Ring Neighbors Public Safety Service” program. This web-based and app interface allows NPD to connect, communicate and share local updates with our community. Community members can post crime and safety alerts and share this information with NPD and others in their area. The service also allows NPD to request video in specified areas to assist in investigations. This service allows NPD to continue its commitment to ensuring the safest community possible and continuing its core values of Honor, Service Innovation and Collaboration.

Find this service by visiting <https://ring.com/neighbors-public-safety-service> or by logging into your Ring-branded devices.

NPD will provide the 2020 crime statistics for the Ironwood area when they become available.

Questions? Contact **Officer Brad Park** at 309-433-3440 or [bpark@normal.org](mailto:bpark@normal.org)

## **NORMAL PARKS & RECREATIONS IRONWOOD GOLF COURSE**

### **2020 Highlights**

- 🌿 Despite closure in late March through April, play increased year over year.
- 🌿 No rate changes.
- 🌿 New golf carts.
- 🌿 Maintenance completed:
  - Renovated women's restroom
  - Reduced tee surfaces
  - Installed stop signs at all road crossings
  - Painted crosswalks
  - Purchased aerators for the east pond on Northtown Road
  - Seeded prairie grasses and flowers in area south of maintenance barn
  - Purchased grass carp and stocked in all of the golf course and Northtown Road ponds to help combat weed issues
  - Stocked bass, bluegill and catfish in the east pond on Northtown Road

### **Looking to 2021**

Planning for:

- Additional cosmetic improvements for the clubhouse
- Installation of aerators on Northtown Lake
- Continued drainage work throughout the year
- Removal of culverts on Hole 17 to reshape area for better drainage
- Continued improvements to the driving range

Questions? Contact **Doug Damery** at 309-454-9544 or [ddamery@normal.org](mailto:ddamery@normal.org)

## ***IHOA Covenants***

### ***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.**

You can read a copy of the covenants on [ihoa.org](http://ihoa.org).

## Course Update

As this winter season continues and the cold temperatures persist, 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 golf course suffered some significant tree damage with the January 1st ice storm. Our staff has been out removing many of the downed limbs as they are able to do so, but with snow cover currently it limits our abilities to remove everything. Once our staff can get out onto the course and remove ice storm damage we will do so.

We have also received a few calls and concerns about wildlife in the Ironwood Subdivision. Geese, coyote, and some fox have been topics of concern. Geese have been in large numbers around the ponds and the lakes in the Ironwood area. Recently, there were open areas of water that the geese were certainly attracted to, but once the water froze over completely the geese have been in far fewer numbers. Our staff is taking action to try to deter the geese as much as possible. Some homeowners have mentioned that small rope line, or string at the rear of their properties have been helpful to keep the geese off their property. This may be something to consider in the future as we continue to try to reduce the large population of geese. If you have specific questions regarding this, please feel free to reach out, my office number is below.

Regarding coyotes and fox, many residents have expressed concern with the growing population in the area. There are some great articles on this topic you can visit the Wildlife in Illinois website.

<https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/sightings/coyote-in-my-neighborhood-or-yard/>

With coyotes or fox, it is important that you do not leave your small animal unattended and leaving food for animals outside will also attract them as well. Typically, coyote and fox are skittish so being loud, clapping, yelling will often scare them off.

If you do see a coyote or fox, alert any neighbors that may have small animals outside or post on the Nextdoor App to alert residents.

With it being so frigid right now it is hard to think about spring and the golfing season, but hopefully in just a short time we can be on the golf course again. We look forward to another great golf 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](mailto:tbain@normal.org)



## 2020 Ironwood Home Sales

- 🌿 30 Single family detached homes sold in 2020
- 🌿 28 were 1.5 and 2 story homes with 2 ranch homes
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$475,000 – low was \$209,000 – with the average of \$274,333
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 597 – low was 1 day – with the average of 61
  
- 🌿 4 Single family attached homes sold in 2020
- 🌿 Sold Price: high was \$192,000 – low was \$172,000 – with the average of \$185,972
- 🌿 Days on Market: high was 38 – low was 2 – with the average of 19

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

## Fence Survey Results

The results of the IHOA Fence Survey were announced at the IHOA Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Of the 584 households in Ironwood, 233 households responded for a 40% participation rate. The Board discussed the implications of the survey results and decided that, before changing the Board's current policy of only allowing fences required by Town of Normal ordinance around swimming pools, the Board needs to review the current references to fences in the covenants and the fence guidelines that are listed at the end of the by-laws. The results of the survey were:

### 1. Do you think the IHOA Board should approve all fence requests from homeowners that meet the requirement in the Fence Guidelines?

- Yes - 153 (66% of respondents, 26% of households)
- No - 80 (34% of respondents, 14% of households)

### 2. If the IHOA Board approved all fence requests meeting the above guidelines, how likely would your household be to seek approval for a fence?

- Very likely - 28 (12% of respondents, 5% of households)
- Likely - 18 (8% of respondents, 3% of households)
- Neither likely nor unlikely - 49 (21% of respondents, 8% of households)
- Unlikely - 41 (18% of respondents, 7% of households)
- Very unlikely - 97 (42% of respondents, 17% of households)

### 3. If an adjoining neighbor was making a fence request for their property, would you provide written approval to your neighbor?

- Yes - 149 - (64% of respondents, 26% of households)
- No - 84 - (36% of respondents, 14% of households)

*To read comments of households who responded, visit the Current News section on [ihoa.org](http://ihoa.org).*

*\*No identifiable information is shared.*

## 2021 Budget

### Financial Report for Year Ending December 31, 2020 with Annual Budget for 2020 and Adopted 2021 budget

	<u>Budget 2020</u>	<u>Actual 2020</u>	<u>Budget 2021</u>
Income:			
Dues Income (584*50)	29,200	29,092	29,200
Other Income - Corn Belt Capital Credit	-	13	-
Total Income	<u>29,200</u>	<u>29,105</u>	<u>29,200</u>
Operating Expenses:			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,499	16,499	16,499
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other Maint/Mowing	6,900	2,454	7,100
Legal Fees	2,000	639	2,000
Postage	600	-	600
Insurance	1,647	1,647	1,647
Printing	300	292	300
Utilities - Corn Belt	350	345	340
Internet Hosting Fee/Domain Registration	320	119	120
Miscellaneous - Stationery, Labels, Envelopes	200	220	138
Newcomer's Committee	100	211	200
Rent - PO Box	140	148	150
Property Tax	35	35	36
NAN Dues	20	-	-
Recording Fee - State of Illinois	10	10	10
Bank Charge - monthly charge, checks	79	55	60
Total Operating Expenses	<u>29,200</u>	<u>22,674</u>	<u>29,200</u>
Net Income (Loss)	-	6,431	-
Beginning Cash Balance - January 1, 2020		<u>7,248</u>	
Ending Cash Balance - December 31, 2020		13,679	





## Comments from Homeowners

The board appreciates everyone who shares comments when returning annual dues. All comments are read and shared. Your diligence in keeping your property in a pleasing and eye appealing condition is observed by others and allows Ironwood to be a desirable subdivision to live. Thank you for being part of Ironwood! Below are a few comments received with dues in January.

*Love everything about Ironwood except the noise from the Interstate. More trees or a type of barrier to absorb some of the traffic noise would be most welcomed. Thanks for all you do for the neighborhood.*

*It would be honorable to address the issue of "hardwood trees" per our covenants. We have some homes without any after 25+ years. Many losses are visible as the trees age, too.*

*Let's strive to keep Ironwood an attractive and desirable place to live... neat appearance to our homes and a friendly atmosphere.*

*You all are doing a great job. Love living here!*

*We are looking forward to being a part of this HOA!*

*Thank you for all you do to make Ironwood a great place live! You are all appreciated!*

*Thank you for mailing this to my winter address.*

*Thank you*

## Join the Board Meetings on Zoom

Monthly IHOA Board meetings will be streamed using Zoom while COVID restrictions impact the number of residents able to meet in the clubhouse.

Residents can share comments or pose questions at the beginning of every meeting. Residents can also contact any board member prior to the meeting to share comments or concerns, and the board can bring that to the meeting.

Monthly Zoom information will be posted on ihoa.org under the Current News section. Announcements will also be made on Nextdoor.

### Quarterly Newsletter



March - May 2021

#### 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 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

