



Quarterly Newsletter September – November 2024

Messages From the Board:

From Board President Jeff Woodall:

Fall is fast approaching. Where did summer go!!

As school has started, please be watchful of the students waiting for the school bus. As a reminder, please do not go around the school bus when it's displaying flashing red lights.

Landscaping Waste. The Town of Normal will pick up your landscaping waste in large paper bags and properly labeled open containers. No grass clippings will be accepted. They are picked up on Friday's - our regular collection day. Leaves may be raked and placed on the lawn next on the curb. Please remember to keep the street drains free of waste.

Fences. The Board would like to thank all owners for being proactive to discuss your fence options. Please be aware you are not allowed to have a fence on the golf course, unless you have an inground pool.

Garbage Bins. Thanks to everyone who maintains their yards and landscaping. Keep in mind to store garbage bins out of sight, preferably in the garage. There have been a lot of bins on the side of the garage and in the front of the house. The Board appreciates your help with this matter.

Town of Normal. Numerous projects have been underway to improve our streets. The golf course is also getting updates to the putting green and chipping area - Check it out!! Discussions are underway to get a walkway to Ironwood Park - today you must walk on the grass - stay tuned!!

Holiday Decorations. This year the IHOA will be having a contest for the best decorated homes in the association for the holidays. Please be looking for more details for this special event.

Messages From the Board (cont.):

From Board Vice President Linda Rheeling:

It's hard to believe school has started and that Fall is right around the corner. Please be aware of the kids walking to and from the bus stop because they don't always look both ways.

Welcome to all the new families who have moved into Ironwood. If you haven't received a visit from the Newcomers Committee, please give me a call or email me. Sorry if we missed you.

I just want to share with you all how lucky we are to live in a community with so much talent. Recently we attended a performance of Mary Poppins at the Community Players Theater which was amazing. We have been to many plays there in the past and enjoyed them all, but this one was special. A big congratulations to Gabe Montgomery who played Michael Banks and did an outstanding job, as did the entire cast. Gabe is an Ironwood resident. Of course we have many other entertainment options in town. Check them out and you will be surprised at the talent.

We are still collecting donations for the Midwest Food Bank. The collection box is in the Ironwood clubhouse between the restrooms. The box has been pretty empty lately. All donations are greatly appreciated!!! A big thanks to all who have donated.

Wishing everyone a Happy Fall, Happy Halloween and a wonderful Thanksgiving!!!

From Beautification Chair Keith Palmgren:

Back in January at our annual IHOA Board meeting, representation from the Town of Normal's Parks & Recreation Department was asked about possibly putting in a sidewalk to connect the golf cart path off Hole 3 with Ironwood Park. On July 10th, Gene Kotlinski, from Parks & Rec., notified the Board that this project had been approved and should be completed either late summer or early fall.

From Communications Chair Mel Brown:

If you haven't checked out the Ironwood Homeowners Association website (ihoa.org) lately, take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the wealth of information it offers, including bylaws, covenants, fence guidelines, newsletter archives, Board minutes, maps/directions, FAQ's, dues forms, Board member phone/emails, etc. We are continually looking at ways to make the website more useful, so if you have ideas or comments, please feel free to pass them along to me, at mbrown@ihoa.org

The quarterly newsletter is also part of my responsibility. If you have feedback or suggestions for information or articles that would be valuable to you as an Ironwood homeowner, we would love to hear from you.

Messages From the Board (cont.):

From Covenants Chair Susan Parrent:

Trash Cans/Recycle Bins.... Again

Keeping cans and bins out of view from the public is an Ironwood covenant. This covenant sets our subdivision apart from other areas of town. As a reminder, cans and bins are not to be stored in bushes, landscaping, or on the side of the garage/side garage door. The proper location to store containers is where they are concealed from public view. If someone can drive or walk past your property and see bins, they are in public view. The IHOA challenges all homeowners to show pride in the subdivision and abide by the covenants. Thank you to the residents who respect this covenant of Ironwood.

It is stated in the Ironwood covenants, Article V, Section 7:

“No rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste material shall be kept or permitted on any lot or on the common area except in sanitary containers located in appropriate areas concealed from public view.”

When “Going Green” Is Not a Good Idea

Many houses in the area are now sporting a new color – that greenish moss/algae/mildew/mold, usually on the north or east side. The north side of the home usually gets less sunlight than the other sides. The green growth also forms more easily in darker conditions with more moisture such as where bushes and/or trees are close to the house. It is definitely an eyesore.

If you have this growing on one or more sides of your house, it is time to get it cleaned. Power washing is the most common method to clean the growth off the siding. For the safety of the siding, it is important to use a soft wash method. If you leave the growth on the siding, it can possibly leave a stain which is difficult and sometimes impossible to remove.

If you are uncertain how to remove it yourself, do some research and make some calls to professionals who specialize in this type of cleaning. There are businesses who specialize in cleaning siding on buildings.



Have a Safe Halloween

Halloween is a kid's delight. It's a blast to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties and, most of all, eat candy. At the same time, Halloween can be scary for parents. Costumes can be dangerous, too much candy can make you sick, and walking around at night can be risky. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips (in anagram form) to make sure your little ghouls and goblins have a safe Halloween:

S – Swords, knives and similar costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

A – Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Children should walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

F – Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see trick-or-treaters.

E – Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before they're eaten.

H – Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help see and help others see you.

A – Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it when done to avoid skin irritation.

L – Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

L – Lower the risk for serious eye injury by avoiding decorative contact lenses.

O – Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

W – Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.

E – Eat only factory-wrapped candy. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook.

E – Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult.

N – Never walk near lit candles or other open flames. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

If you're hosting a party or expecting trick-or-treaters:

- Provide healthy treats, such as individual packs of raisins, trail mix or pretzels. Offer fruits, vegetables and cheeses to party guests.
- Use party games and trick-or-treating as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could cause falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o-lanterns and other open flames away from doorsteps, walkways, landings and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of reach of pets and small children and never leave them unattended.
- Drive safely and watch out for trick-or-treaters.

Winter Preparation for Lawn & Landscape

Why prepare your Lawn & Landscape?

As the temperatures begin to drop, the need for you to prepare your lawn and landscape for the winter becomes important. This is necessary to ensure your turf and plants can easily survive the winter. Central Illinois can experience severe cold temperatures and many inches of snow. Other areas of the country might not have the same weather, but the same preparation tips can be universally used.

Aeration & Overseeding

Over the course of a year, from mowing or traffic in general, your turf can be put through much stress. Compaction of soil, thatch buildup, and thin/bare turf areas are all possible outcomes at the end of the season. To prepare your turf for the winter and enhance spring growth, aeration and overseeding are two services we highly recommend being performed annually or bi-annually.

Aerating your lawn with a core aerator promotes vigorous root growth, helps alleviate the buildup of thatch, relieves soil compaction, allows your lawn to absorb more oxygen, and retains 50% more water and fertilizer. Aeration should be performed in the fall (September / October).

After aerating the turf, when cores of turf have been pulled up, seed can reach the soil below. Overseeding is the introduction of new seed into your turf to help fill in thin areas. It improves the turf's health by thickening and preventing weeds to grow in thin areas. Greener color and increased disease resistance are also great benefits to overseeding.

Leaf Clean-Up

After the leaves change color and fall to the ground, it creates a thick blanket on your lawn and landscape. Fall leaves and especially leaf piles are always fun entertainment for kids. However, if the thick blanket of leaves is left on the lawn and landscape all year, this can cause damage and disease to your turf and plants. With leaves covering the turf, they suffocate the growing grass below. Additionally, leaves can compact the soil below which hinders new spring growth the following year. We highly recommend removing the leaves covering your lawn and landscape before the snow lays its own blanket on the ground

Winterizing Your Landscape:

Irrigation:

For homeowners with irrigation systems set to water their lawn or even landscape dripline irrigation systems, winterizing becomes very important. We recommend giving all of your plants and lawn one last deep watering before winterizing. Central Illinois and surrounding areas all experience freezing temperatures during the winter. If not properly winterized, the freezing temperatures can cause major damage to your irrigation systems and lead to costly and stressful situations. Winterizing irrigation systems is not overly complicated, however there is room for error for those who do not have plumbing knowledge. We recommend hiring a licensed professional to properly set your irrigations systems up for the winter.

Mulching:

Mulch is a very universal tool for any landscape. During the year, mulch brings a very beautiful, finished look to one's landscape. Additionally, mulch is a weed barrier for your landscape beds. In the winter months, mulch can be used as a 'warming blanket' for your plants and trees. Mulch helps insulate roots during the negative temperatures. We recommend installing mulch around trees, shrubs and young plants before the winter months. By preparing your lawn and landscape for the winter months, you will have a gorgeous healthy lawn and landscape come spring.

(Thanks to Josh Kaminski at LKM for providing this valuable advice.)

Golf Course News:

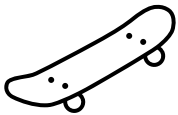
The new putting and chipping greens are doing well. The grass has come up and everything is looking good. They will likely not be open for play until May of 2025 however, barring any setbacks.

Beginning August 26, and lasting about two weeks, the golf course's tall grass will be mowed.

A safety reminder for Ironwood residents: Walking, biking, jogging, and fishing on the golf course is strongly discouraged during golf season. Golfers are known to hit errant shots, and we would hate for someone to be injured.

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@normalil.gov



SAFETY REMINDER:

With the rise in popularity of electric motorized scooters and skateboards, it is critical for everyone to practice good safety habits. Please ensure your children are old enough and trained to understand the safety implications of riding on one of these devices. They must respect pedestrians' right of way, watch for cars backing out of driveways, and, preferably, stay off the streets where vehicles may not see them. It is always a good idea to wear protective gear, like helmets and elbow/knee pads.

Dates to remember:

- Sept. 2 - Labor Day
- Sept. 3 - Real estate tax #2 due
- Sept. 6 - National Read a Book Day
- Sept. 8 - Grandparents Day
- Sept. 11 - Patriot Day
- Sept. 17 - IHOA Board Meeting (rescheduled from Sept. 10)
- Sept. 27-29 ISU Homecoming Weekend
- Oct. 4-6 - IWU Homecoming Weekend
- Oct. 5-6 - Sugar Creek Arts Festival
- Oct. 8 - IHOA Board Meeting
- Oct. 31 - Halloween
- Nov. 3 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 5 - Election Day
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov. 12 - IHOA Board Meeting
- Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving

IRONWOOD HOME SALES (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	10	4	14	3	20	4
High price	\$393,000	\$287,500	\$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:			
President	Jeff Woodall	309-706-2249	jwoodall@ihoa.org
Vice President	Linda Rheeling	309-454-2941	lrheeling@ihoa.org
Secretary	Merritt Burns	309-530-5233	mburns@ihoa.org
Treasurer	JoEllen Bahnsen	309-454-3053	jbahnsen@ihoa.org
Communications Chair	Mel Brown	309-451-5601	mbrown@ihoa.org
Beautification Chair	Keith Palmgren	309-531-9605	kpalmgren@ihoa.org
Covenants Chair	Susan Parrent	309-452-1934	sparrent@ihoa.org

