



## Quarterly Newsletter March 2025 – May 2025

### President's Message

Town of Normal staff members attended the 2025 annual meeting to discuss fire department projects, Ironwood Golf Course updates, community safety and future initiatives. A question-and-answer forum with IHOA residents addressed the following topics - Ironwood parking rules, resident-owned golf carts, new fire station, Carden Springs and pop-up parties. The IHOA Board is very appreciative of the partnership and support by the Town of Normal.

We had many accomplishments and improvements in 2024: repaired lighting on the north/south Towanda entrances, developed a prototype for a new IHOA website, created quarterly newsletters, hired a new HOA attorney, renewed landscaping contract with LKM, and updated median landscaping in Northridge Estates.

In 2025, we plan to address: implementation of a new IHOA website, IHOA covenant updates and records retention policies, berm updates in Northridge, and IHOA digital payment options.

Thank you to those who voted to fill three open Board seats. JoEllen Bahnsen, Suzann Reid and Jeff Woodall were elected to serve two years on the Board.

We want to thank Susan Parrent (Covenants Chair) for her dedication and service to the Board. Her wealth of covenant knowledge helped establish the process of working with residents to understand the covenants and keeping the Board on track. Susan, your presence will be greatly missed!!

## President's Message (cont.)

Here is your 2025 IHOA Board: President: Jeff Woodall, Vice-President: Linda Rheeling, Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen, Secretary: Suzann Reid. Committee chairs: Beautification - Keith Palmgren, Communications - Mel Brown, Covenants - Merritt Burns, Newcomers - Linda Rheeling (assisted by Chris Knight).

The Board would like to thank those homeowners who contacted us to ensure their property changes would be following community covenants.

Welcome to all our new Ironwood residents. We hope you are enjoying your new home and neighborhood.

Wishing everyone a Happy Spring!!

Jeff Woodall, President

## Vice President's Message

Here's hoping the groundhog is right and we have an early spring. We've been lucky that this winter has been another mild one, except for a week or so in mid-February.

Just a reminder to those who live on the sidewalk side of the street to please shovel the snow for all the kids going to the bus stops and the walkers. It's way too dangerous to walk in the street since some residents and visitors go way too fast. Which is another reminder to please, please SLOW DOWN!!!

Please also remind your guests that there is only parking on one side of the street so emergency vehicles can get through.

I want to thank Susan Parrent for all the years that she served on the Ironwood board. She was a great asset to the board and will be missed. A big welcome to our newest board member Suzann Reid. I look forward to working with Suzann.

Please remember that we are still collecting for the Mid West Food Bank at the clubhouse. A donation container is located between the restrooms as you enter the clubhouse. Thanks to everyone who has donated this last year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful spring and happy Easter.

Linda Rheeling, V.P.

<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>
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**Ironwood Homeowners Association**

**Financial Report for Years Ending 12/31/23 and 12/31/24 with Approved Budget for 2025**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<u><b>2023</b></u>	<u><b>2024</b></u>	<u><b>2025</b></u>
Income:			
Dues Income	29,420	29,422	29,200
Other Income (Interest)	<u>175</u>	<u>687</u>	<u>700</u>
Total Income	29,595	30,109	29,900
 Operating Expenses:			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,799	16,499	16,499
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other	1,905	6,258	6,000
Legal Fees	1,528	570	2,500
Postage	300	408	600
Insurance	1,878	2,465	2,465
Printing	290	307	300
Utilities - Corn Belt	509	446	550
Internet Hosting Fee	119	119	120
Miscellaneous	249	1,129	1,228
Newcomer's Committee	0	0	120
Rent - PO Box	226	232	240
Property Tax	38	40	42
Recording Fee - State of Illinois	11	16	11
Income Tax	<u>0</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>225</u>
 Total Operating Expenses	23,852	28,517	30,900
 Net Income (Loss)	5,743	1,592	(1,000)

# A Coyote in My Neighborhood or Yard

Coyotes are found throughout Illinois—in rural, suburban and highly urban areas. So if you see a coyote resting in or crossing a backyard, golf course, park or field—that is normal coyote behavior. It is also common to see coyotes out during the day. As long as they are given their space, coyotes do not typically pose a threat to people or pets.

For more information about coyotes in urban areas check out the [Urban Coyote Project](#).

Here are some steps to prevent human–coyote conflicts:

- Do not run if a coyote approaches you. Safety procedures for dealing with coyotes are different than those for dealing with an unknown dog. Yell, stand up straight, and wave your arms (the goal is to make yourself appear larger), or throw something at the coyote to make it move away (the goal is to scare it away, not to injure it).
- Teach your kids what to do if they see a coyote. Have them throw their arms up in the air and yell “like a monster” to scare the coyote away.
- Do not leave small pets unattended when they are outside, especially at night. Consider the use of fencing or kennel runs to protect small pets.
- Do not feed coyotes. Property owners should limit the availability of unintentional food sources, such as bird food, pet food, ripe fruit, or trash.
- Comply with local ordinances that require oversight/restraint of pets. Coyotes that are protecting their den or young will vigorously defend the area. Simply walking your dog in another area keeps everyone safe.
- Target the responsible coyote(s) when a pattern of “undesirable” behavior develops. Usually it will be easier to change human and domestic animal use of an area than to capture the coyote(s). Recognize that coyote population reduction (removing some or all of the coyotes in an area) is usually unrealistic and always temporary. Removal of coyotes also requires time, effort, and funding.
- Alert residents of the neighborhood and the local municipality (e.g., police, public safety officer) if, and as soon as, a problem develops with a coyote.
- If removal of a coyote is deemed necessary, hire a [nuisance wildlife control operator](#) who is licensed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Coyote removals approved by the IDNR usually involve the use of cage (live) traps or padded foot-hold traps. These animals are humanely euthanized, not relocated.



## **GOLF COURSE NEWS:**

The golf season is gearing up with more and more golfers playing in late winter and early spring. It seems as though the golfing season is approaching us early this year. In this newsletter, I will touch on a few things to note for the upcoming year and projects planned. Last year, several emails/calls came in about walking/running/biking/fishing on the golf course. We do not allow any of these activities on the course due to concerns for safety from errant shots. We have signs at the entrance of all cart paths that indicate only golfers are allowed on the course. Those golfers should also always check in at the pro shop before starting their round.

Another question is regarding the use of personal riding golf carts on the course and if they are allowed. We do allow personal golf carts on the course, but you must have an Ultimate Pass (purchased in the pro shop) to be able to use it on the golf course. All other uses are prohibited. The same cart rules apply to personal golf carts that apply to carts rented from the golf course. No driving in the tall grass or in peoples' yards. Cart path restrictions apply as well during inclement conditions.

Many questions have been asked about what some people refer to as the 'common area'. This refers to an imaginary area approximately 5-10 feet behind the property lines. The Town agreed that homeowners could mow the tall grass in these areas as a buffer between the golf course tall grass and the homeowner's yards. This was never meant to be an area for homeowners to build permanent or semi-permanent structures on. Please keep this in mind when planning new features in your backyard. If there are questions, please call the golf course and we will be happy to discuss it with you further.

As for projects this year, we will be finishing up some things planned for last season. We will be adding driving range mats to the back of the range to help with wear and tear on our range tee. We will also be opening our putting green and chipping green later this spring. We also have plans to install a porta-pot on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole near the tee this spring. Lastly, we will be converting our old putting green to a new variety of grass later in the season.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for being a great neighbor to the golf course. Occasionally, we will have golfers vandalize the course and/or golf carts and many of you call in to the clubhouse to let us know. As you know, our staff can't be everywhere on the property, so your help with this is much appreciated. Thank you for another great year and we look forward to 2025.

Tyler Bain, Park Maintenance Supervisor

**IHOA WEBSITE:**

The IHOA website (ihoa.org) contains a wealth of information for homeowners. Included on the website are covenants, by-laws, fence guidelines, board information, meeting minutes, newsletters, and useful links. The *Current News* section provides notices of matters that may need your attention. Please take time to explore this handy resource.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

If your email address changes, please remember to let us know so newsletters and other IHOA notifications continue to reach your inbox. If you have not provided an email address to us, please consider doing so to make our communications process more timely and less expensive. Rest assured, your email address will be secured and used exclusively for Homeowners Association communications. Email updates can be sent to mbrown@ihoa.org.

IHOA Board of Directors:			
President	Jeff Woodall	309-706-2249	jwoodall@ihoa.org
Vice President	Linda Rheeling	309-454-2941	lrheeling@ihoa.org
Secretary	Suzann Reid	309-830-2168	suzannreid@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	Merritt Burns	309-530-5233	mburns@ihoa.org

**Dates to remember:**

- March 9 – Daylight Savings Time starts
- March 11 – **IHOA Board meeting has been cancelled this month**
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 24-28 – Unit 5 Spring Break
- April 8 – IHOA Board meeting (6:30 Ironwood Clubhouse)
- April 15 – Tax Day
- April 20 – Easter Sunday
- May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
- May 9 – Last day of classes ISU
- May 11 – Mother’s Day
- May 13 – IHOA Board meeting (6:30 Ironwood Clubhouse)
- May 21 – Last day of school Unit 5
- May 24 – Graduation day Unit 5
- May 26 – Memorial Day

