



Quarterly Newsletter March 2026 – May 2026

President's Message:

Town of Normal staff members attended the 2026 annual meeting to discuss Fire Stations in Normal, Electric Scooters, Noise from I55, Speed Limit / Motorcycles on Northtown Road, Golf Carts, Parking Enforcement, Department Projects, Ironwood Golf Course updates, and future initiatives. The IHOA Board is very appreciative of the partnership and support by the Town.

The Ironwood Homeowners Association Board is asking each property owner for assistance in understanding what is important to you as a homeowner living in the Ironwood subdivision. Please click on the survey link below and rank the items in order of importance to you. The topics were selected from discussions with the Town of Normal at the annual meeting in January 2026. Only one ranking per address will be accepted. *The [survey](#) must be completed by April 1, 2026.*

Accomplishments / Improvements in 2025 - Implemented a new and improved IHOA website, continued quarterly newsletters, and updated the landscaping at the north entrance.

In 2026, we plan to discuss/review: Records retention and additional IHOA dues payment options.

Thank you to those who voted to fill four open Board seats. Mike Weiland, Keith Palmgren, Susan Parrent, and Mel Brown were elected to serve two years on the Board.

This was Merritt Burns' final year on the Board. We would like to thank Merritt for his service on the Board.

Here is your 2026 IHOA Board: President: Jeff Woodall, Vice-President: Susan Parrent, Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen, Secretary: Suzann Reid, Committee Chairs: Beautification - Keith Palmgren, Communications - Mel Brown, Covenants - Mike Weiland, Newcomers - Sara Palmgren.

The Board would like to thank those homeowners who contacted the Board so their property changes would be in compliance with community covenants.

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

Wishing everyone a Happy Spring!!

Treasurers Report:

Ironwood Homeowners Association

Financial Report for Years Ending December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2025 with Budget for 2026

	Actual <u>2024</u>	Actual <u>2025</u>	Budget <u>2026</u>
Income:			
Dues Income	29,422	29,139	29,200
Other Income (Interest)	<u>687</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>550</u>
Total Income	30,109	29,689	29,750
Operating Expenses:			
Mowing & Trimming (annual contract)	16,499	16,499	16,499
Landscaping/Tree Replacement/Other Maint.	6,258	3,130	6,000
Legal Fees	570	1,110	1,500
Postage	408	438	600
Insurance	2,465	2,465	2,465
Printing	307	168	150
Utilities - Corn Belt	446	536	550
Internet Hosting Fee	119	119	120
Record Retention/Document Archiving	-	-	1,500
Miscellaneous	1,129	296	1,210
Newcomer's Committee	-	186	150
Rent - PO Box	232	244	250
Property Tax	40	42	45
Recording Fee - State of Illinois	16	11	11
Income Tax	<u>28</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Operating Expenses	28,517	25,476	31,250
Net Income (Loss)	1,592	4,213	(1,500)



Reminders:

Battery Recycling:

As of January 1, 2026, the Illinois Portable and Medium-Format Battery Stewardship Act ([PA 103-1033](#)) prohibits disposing of most portable and medium-format batteries in regular trash or curbside recycling in Normal and throughout Illinois. Residents must use approved, free local drop-off locations for batteries, including AA, AAA, button cells, and lithium-ion, to prevent fire hazards and environmental contamination.

Key Battery Recycling Requirements:

- **Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.
- **Affected Batteries:** All portable and medium-format batteries (4.4 to 25 pounds), including lithium-ion, rechargeable, and single-use alkaline batteries.
- **Prohibition:** Cannot be placed in regular trash or household recycling containers.
- **Drop-off Locations:** Free, convenient drop-off sites are required, with many retail locations (e.g., The Home Depot) participating in Call2Recycle programs.
- **Battery Safety:** It is recommended to tape the terminals of lithium-ion and rechargeable batteries before recycling.

For specific locations in Normal, IL, check [The Battery Network](#) or local waste management providers.

Electronics Recycling:

Self-service electronics recycling is available for McLean County residents from 8 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of the month. These hours are in addition to the regular drop-off hours 7 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday at Normal Public Works, 1301 Warriner Street. Visit normalil.gov/electrecycle for a full list of accepted items.

School Spring Break Dates:

- Unit 5 - March 23 - March 27, classes resume March 30
- Dist. 87 - March 23 - March 27, classes resume March 30
- ISU - March 7 - March 15, classes resume March 16
- IWU - March 13 (5 pm) - March 20, classes resume March 23

Normal Police Department News

Golf Carts and Electric Scooters:

The Normal Police Department would like to share a reminder about electric scooters and golf carts in our community.

Electric scooters are not permitted on roadways or sidewalks within the Town of Normal. While we understand their convenience and popularity, we ask residents to keep safety and local regulations in mind.

Gas and/or electric powered golf carts are not allowed on public roadways unless they have been properly titled and registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. When a golf cart is registered with the state, a license plate would be displayed. All golf carts must be insured. Golf carts cannot be on roads that are designated as 35 mph or more, on sidewalks, or on Constitution Trail. Any vehicle to be deemed roadworthy has to have seatbelts, head and brake lights, and blinkers in working order. All drivers must be a licensed driver (16 years of age and over).

Our goal is to support a safe and enjoyable community for everyone. We appreciate your cooperation and ask that all residents continue to make thoughtful, safe decisions while traveling through our neighborhoods.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Normal Police Department at 309.454.9535 and ask for Officer Park.



Helpful Resources:

IHOA Website:

The IHOA website (iho.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. Please take time to explore this handy resource.

Normal Residents Guide link: <https://www.normalil.gov/31/Residents>

Rules of the trail – Town of Normal:

We recognize the importance of sustainable modes of transportation on the Constitution Trail and Town streets.

Safety comes first and riders may use certain recreation and transportation devices but are responsible for doing so in a controlled manner, at a safe speed and must dismount when and where necessary for safety given the circumstances such as density of pedestrians, terrain and conditions (e.g., weather, construction, events, etc.). Failure to follow the Rules of the Trail can result in the issuance of an ordinance violation and/or a person being excluded from using the Trail for up to one year.

Trail Rules and Regulations:

Open daily from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Safety first: keep your speed down so not to endanger yourself and others.

Motor vehicles* prohibited.

Stay on the right side of the Trail and obey all warning and regulation signs.

Keep pets leashed and under control. Ensure that pets and their leashes do not cross to the opposite side of the Trail or otherwise block or interfere with oncoming or passing foot/bike traffic.

Clean up after leashed pets.

Give audible warning signals when passing other users. (e.g., "On your left!")

Always be courteous, respectful and aware of your surroundings.

*This policy does not prohibit the use of mobility assistance devices and other approved accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Public safety and Town vehicles used for authorized purposes are excepted from this policy.

Allowed on the trail: bicycles, e-bikes, push scooters and e-skateboards

Prohibited on the trail: One-wheels and e-scooters



Purple Martin Landlords:

Have you seen little white houses mounted on tall poles across the landscape and wondered what they are? They are purple martin houses! These houses are critical for purple martin survival as they are almost entirely dependent on human-provided nesting structures and have declined as a species by more than 25% since 1966. Locally, the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance (the local National Audubon Society chapter) is helping save this special bird species by managing purple martin houses across Normal-Bloomington. The Bird Alliance currently has 12 purple martin houses located at 7 sites. In 2025, 16 volunteer landlords took care of these houses by removing house sparrow nests and counting the eggs and nestlings. 112 pairs of nesting martins were recorded! The Bird Alliance has 20 more potential landlords lined up for the 2026 season to cover 5 new houses. As part of the Town’s commitment as a designated “Bird City Illinois,” the Normal Parks and Recreation Department helps support the purple martin program by installing the houses when located on Town property.

Ironwood Subdivision used to have at least one purple martin house, but it was removed years ago. Because martins like to live near lakes – where they Hoover up insects by the thousands – Ironwood is a perfect location for future purple martin houses. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at a current purple martin house or a potential future purple martin house at Ironwood, please contact the Bird Alliance at grandprairiebirdalliance@gmail.com.

Market Trends (source: Homes by Marco)

In 2025, the Ironwood subdivision in Normal, IL, experienced a competitive, high-value real estate market, with homes often selling near asking price.

2022	2023	2024	2025
26	17	23	24
# of sales per year			
\$321,250	\$340,000	\$340,000	\$367,500
median sale price per year			

Ironwood Board of Directors:

Title	Name	Email
President	Jeff Woodall	president@ihoa.org
Vice President	Susan Parrent	vpresident@ihoa.org
Secretary	Suzann Reid	secretary@ihoa.org
Treasurer	JoEllen Bahnsen	treasurer@ihoa.org
Beautifications Chair	Keith Palmgren	beautifications@ihoa.org
Covenants Chair	Mike Weiland	covenants@ihoa.org
Communications Chair	Mel Brown	communications@ihoa.org

Key Emergency & Safety Phone Numbers:

Emergency	911
Police (non-emergency/records)	(309) 454-9535
Fire Department (non-emergency)	(309) 454-9615
Anonymous Crime Tips	Text "NormalPD" and your message to 847411
Town Hall (general information)	(309) 454-2444
Public Works (water/streets)	(309) 454-9571
Parks & Recreation	(309) 454-9540
McLean County Sheriff (non-emergency)	(309) 888-5034
Illinois Poison Center	1-800-222-1222

Need your input:

Comments or suggestions for future newsletters? We would welcome your input. Please send to communications@ihoa.org