



Quarterly Newsletter September 2026 – November 2026

President's Message

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

Thank you to the residents for contacting the Board to better understand the covenants by sending questions/concerns to the Board. If you "See something...say something."

The number one concern for Ironwood residents, based on the previous poll, was the Town of Normal plans for the Fire Department. Chief Humer from the Town of Normal and Local Firefighters Union #2242 attended Board meetings to discuss the information with the residents of Ironwood. The following links contain summaries of those discussions:

[Chief Humer meeting](#)

[Firefighters Union meeting](#)

Latest Fire Department Update:

There has been quite a bit of discussion regarding Fire and EMS services. The Town has established 5 subcommittees, composed of fire administration, firefighter personnel, and town staff, to review various aspects of fire operations. One of these committees is considering the possible relocation of Fire Station #3 (the Prairieland fire station). We understand some of this work is currently on hold until the groups can come to agreement on the performance objectives/response time standards to be met.

Below is a brief list of items the Board has discussed this quarter:

- Electronic motorcycles/scooters/bikes. They have been reported on the golf course and roads. The Town of Normal is researching the incidents.
- Fences. No fences on the golf course or on the big lakes. All requests need Board approval.
- Loud music. Please be considerate when entertaining.
- Walking dogs on the golf course is prohibited.
- Strategic vision for the next 5 Years from the Town of Normal.
- Lawn maintenance. Many residents contacted the Board about the appearance of overgrown weeds/grass on some homeowners' property.
- Grass clippings blown into the street result in safety concerns for joggers and bikers.

Golf Course Update

Thank you to the IHOA Board for allowing me to add some information from the golf course to their quarterly newsletter. My name is Tyler Bain and I am a Park Supervisor for the Town of Normal. I manage the Ironwood Golf Course maintenance staff as one of my duties. I have a few updates and reminders that pertain to all IHOA members.

First and foremost, let me thank you all for being great neighbors to the golf course. Many of you help keep vandalism and unwanted activities on the course to a very minimum, and that is greatly appreciated. Please stay diligent with keeping an eye on the course as we have had some recent vandalism on our 14th and 15th holes. Again, thanks for all you do.

With that in mind, please know that this is a golf course and that golf is the only activity allowed on the course. There are signs posted at every entrance to the course noting that only golf is permitted on the property. For safety reasons, we do not allow walkers, bicyclists, scooters, or any other off-road vehicles on the premises. Fishing is also not permitted on the ponds at the course. Again, safety is our number one concern with these restrictions.

As many of you are aware, many residents of Ironwood have personal golf carts. Those individuals must pay for that cart to use it for golfing purposes on the course. For those of you that have personal carts, please know that golf cart restrictions on the day you are golfing still apply to your personal cart. Please check with the pro shop before your round and note any cart restrictions and adhere to them as you play.

I would also like to note that if you live next to the golf course, our property typically extends to the power/communication boxes at the rear of your homes. We do allow a 'buffer' from our native grass, but that is meant for mowing purposes only. We do not allow permanent or semi-permanent structures in that 'buffer' area. Please understand that if we need access to those areas with equipment, we will ask you to remove those structures.

Recently, one of our irrigation pumps failed and it will need to be replaced. Our pump house is located on the large lake that is on the East side of the subdivision. The Town of Normal owns property approximately 35-45 feet from the water's edge. Due to pump replacement, our staff will need access to the Town of Normal property with trucks to service the pump station and replace the pump. I will be in contact with homeowners soon that have encroached into that space and may need to move objects from our path, so we may access our pump station.

Regarding the two lakes that are along Northtown road, the Town has received several questions about them and what they are used for. The lakes serve as stormwater runoff for the Ironwood subdivision as well as irrigation for the Ironwood Golf Course and are both owned by the Town. The property boundary is located between 35 and 45 feet from water's edge. The Town does not have any rules against fishing in these lakes. However, we do not advertise that this is public property as we do not want to encourage people to utilize the property directly behind private residences adjacent to the lake. But as long as an individual does not walk through private property and stays close to the lake, they would not be trespassing and are allowed to fish. Public access is available off Northtown Rd. or permission from another resident to cross private property.

If you have questions about any of this information I have provided, you can email me at any time or call my office. I will leave that contact information below. Thanks again to the IHOA Board for allowing me to send out this communication and thank you all for being great neighbors.

Tyler Bain

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tbain@normal.il.gov

HOA's and Ironwood

There have been discussions about homeowner's associations on news outlets and in social media. There are definitely differing opinions based on one's experiences, expectations, and understanding. The Ironwood Board is dedicated to working with our homeowners and the local realtor's association to uphold the covenants and bylaws established by the developer. The desire of the IHOA Board has always been to encourage potential homeowners who are considering the Ironwood subdivision to drive through the neighborhood, observe, review the covenants and bylaws, and contact any Board member with questions. Choosing where one lives is an individual choice based on many factors and one of those choices is if an HOA exists and what the expectations are for each homeowner.

The Ironwood subdivision has covenants and they are available on the website (www.ihoa.org). Covenants are looked at as a promise or agreement concerning the use of a property. The purchaser agrees to abide by certain restrictions associated with the use of the property. Basically, property covenants are promises made by a buyer as a condition of purchasing the property. Most planned developments use covenants for the benefit of all residential owners and their neighbors. Neighborhoods with properly drafted and enforced covenants or architectural standards have been shown to retain property value better than those with poorly enforced covenants or no standards at all. Neighborhoods that follow their covenants and standards tend to be safer, look better, maintain better relationships with local governments, and retain or increase the investments that homeowners have made in their properties.

(Various sources)

Because of these benefits, the Ironwood Board and our homeowners strive to encourage and enforce the covenants for our subdivision. We desire to maintain the standards of all properties and the appearances of our neighborhood through our established covenants.

Update on Covenants in Ironwood

Thank you to the neighbors and property owners who have attended the Board meetings and/or notified a Board member, sharing thoughts and concerns about the appearance of the subdivision and how specific subdivision covenants and Town ordinances are not/are being followed and enforced. It is the responsibility and obligation of each homeowner to follow and support the covenants established for the subdivision. The Board relies on you, the homeowners, to inform us about properties that are not in adherence with the covenants of Ironwood or with the Town ordinances. Property owners have lately shared concerns about (not in any priority):

- ♦ walking your dog/s on the golf course, especially without a leash (leashes are a Town ordinance)
- ♦ trailers (flat and enclosed) and boats parked for longer than a week at a time or consistently throughout the weekdays in drives, on the street, or next to the garage
- ♦ garbage cans stored in the landscape or behind temporary structures
- ♦ lack of yard and landscape maintenance
- ♦ being considerate while entertaining with music in backyards and not disturbing the neighbors
- ♦ parking on the incorrect side of the street and/or in the wrong direction
- ♦ fences
- ♦ landscape and bulky waste at the street prior to Friday pickup
- ♦ parked campers

All the above apply to Ironwood covenants or Town ordinances and are good neighbor considerations.

Town Specifics and Ironwood Covenants

The Town of Normal pickup policy for **trash, bulky waste, landscape materials, etc.** is to place the material at the curb after 6:00 pm the day prior to collection or before 6:00 am on your regular collection day -- Friday for Ironwood.

Ironwood covenants are very direct in relation to **trailers, boats, campers, and golf cart storage.** *Article V, Section 17* in the IHOA covenants 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 choose to own these types of equipment are asked to abide by the covenants of the subdivision for the betterment of Ironwood.

Ironwood covenants are also very straightforward about **garbage cans or other waste material.** *Article V, Section 7* states: “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.”

The Board and your neighbors ask you to comply with these covenants, keeping our neighborhood attractive and continuing the high standard established by the covenants of Ironwood. Thank you to those who continue to strive to keep our property values stable by maintaining your property within the covenant guidelines and Town ordinances while keeping it attractive, updated, and visually pleasing. It is appreciated by your neighbors and visitors.

An Outsider's Perspective on Ironwood

The State Farm Youth Golf Classic for 12-13-year-old boys and girls was held at Ironwood Golf Course. Practice rounds were on Sunday, June 28, with the tournament rounds on Monday, June 29 and Tuesday, June 30. I was a volunteer working the tournament each day, to assist transporting the golfers from the eighth green to the ninth tee box.

I was fortunate enough to talk to most of the parents, grandparents and friends of the players. Both days, besides the compliments on the golf course, there were many glowing and wonderful compliments on how nice the houses are around the golf course, along with beautifully maintained yards and landscaping. All were very impressed and said you can easily see the residents of Ironwood are very proud of their neighborhood. A number of these parents go to many tournaments in Illinois and around the Midwest. Ironwood left an outstanding impression with these visitors on the care, dedication, and attention to detail by the homeowners of just a beautiful neighborhood.

Crabgrass — Why It's Been Such a Big Problem This Season

Our lawns, public spaces, and the golf course have seen an abundance of crabgrass this year. LKM, the association's contracted lawn maintenance company, responded to this situation.

I'm Trevor Dennewitz with LKM Mowing & Landscaping, and this season we've seen a much larger amount of crabgrass in customers' and business lawns than typical.

Crabgrass is primarily controlled with a pre-emergent herbicide applied in early spring. These products work by preventing crabgrass seed from germinating and emerging. Under normal conditions, a pre-emergent application can provide effective control for roughly 90 days. Once that window starts to expire, targeted treatments can be used to control the crabgrass that begins to emerge.

But 2026 has been a little different.

We've had an extremely wet spring and summer, which has kept lawns green, healthy, and growing. In fact, turf conditions have been some of the best we've seen this late in the season.

Unfortunately, all that moisture has also created ideal conditions for crabgrass.

The excessive rainfall can cause pre-emergent products to break down, move through the soil, or become less effective sooner than they normally would. Once that protection wears off, crabgrass has an opportunity to take advantage of the moisture and favorable growing conditions.

We're seeing this especially on slopes, along driveways and sidewalks, and near hard edges, where maintaining consistent pre-emergent coverage can already be more difficult.

At this point in the season, the best approach is targeted control. Actively growing crabgrass can be treated with products specifically designed to control it while minimizing damage to the surrounding turf.

That's one reason we incorporate targeted crabgrass control into our fertilizer and lawn care program. It allows us to adjust our approach throughout the growing season rather than relying solely on an early-spring application.

If you've noticed more crabgrass than usual this year, you're not imagining it. The weather has created some unusual conditions and the results can be seen in lawns throughout the area.

Please note: It is recognized there are possible natural methods to eliminate crabgrass. The method mentioned above is the method this company utilizes.

Ironwood Property Maintenance

The Ironwood Homeowners Association Board has received a number of complaints regarding residential upkeep. The complaints relate to a relatively small number of properties. However, we are all responsible for complying with the covenants. The covenants are designed to keep Ironwood visually appealing to residents, visitors, potential home buyers, and our golfing guests. If covenants are followed, they help maintain and increase property values for each of our 584 residents. We appreciate everyone who shows respect to their neighbors by maintaining their property. Your actions will continue keeping Ironwood one of the most sought-after neighborhoods in Normal.

Each resident is responsible for maintaining their property in compliance with our covenants:

- Home exterior
- Painting
- Trim repair
- Repairing roof, gutters, windows, driveways, garage doors and mailboxes
- Lawn maintenance
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Weed removal and maintenance
- Timely grass mowing

Read your Ironwood Homeowners Association covenants at www.ihoa.org to make sure you understand all the requirements for maintaining your property.

As a reminder, from the Ironwood Covenants:

Article X – Maintenance of the Yard and the Landscaping of a Member's Lot

The Declarant hereby authorizes the Association to maintain the yard and landscaping of a member lot in the event that a member fails to reasonably do so. The Association shall be entitled to a lien on the maintained property for such maintenance, until such time as the member reimburses the Association.



Reminders:

Important Dates:

Sept. 7	Labor Day (Town offices closed, no school)
Sept. 10	Real Estate Taxes #2 due
Sept. 13	Grandparents Day
Sept. 15	IHOA Board Meeting 6:00 pm (moved from Sept. 8)
Sept. 18	National Cheeseburger Day
Oct. 2	Institute Day – no school Unit 5
Oct. 3	IWU Homecoming
Oct. 3-4	Sugar Creek Arts Festival
Oct. 12	Indigenous People Day – no school
Oct. 13	IHOA Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Oct. 24	ISU Homecoming
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends – turn back clocks 1 hour
Nov. 3	Election Day
Nov. 6	Progress conferences – no school Unit 5
Nov. 10	IHOA Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving (no school Nov. 25, 26, 27 Unit 5)



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>

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

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 communications@ihoa.org