

IRONWOOD ASSOCIATION XII NEW YEAR'S NEWSLETTER
January 2009

It's a New Year, filled with promise and hope for a better world, a more prosperous desert community, and a more attractive and less water-hungry Ironwood.

For those of you who are in residence or planning to be, here's the most important news: Our **Association XII Annual Meeting** will be on **FEBRUARY 20** at 2:00 pm at the Clubhouse - Valley View Room. It is very important to be there to hear about the ICA renewal plan for all Ironwood (a fabulous beautification plan for our major intersections that will not involve extra dues), and to see the possibilities for the redevelopment of the areas around our entrance and lake. RGA Landscape Architects will be on hand to show us digital photographs of possibilities. We are forming a small Lake Committee (about 5 members or so, we have 3 at the moment) to help steer the lake's future. Please let me know if you'd like to participate.

More about our Association: Self-nomination forms for the upcoming annual election were previously sent to you with your 2009 Budget packet. There will be two seats coming up for election. If you wish to run for the Board of Directors please send in your nomination form as soon as possible to get on the ballot. The Annual meeting information and ballot will be sent to you a month before the Annual meeting is held.

Our landscaping in the common area is glorious! If you've checked out other association landscaping, I hope you'll agree that ours is unique and vibrant. The color balance of the geraniums and pansies is spectacular and the Purple Knights (deep purple foliage and tiny white flowers at the end of spikes) make our flower beds memorable. For this you may thank Eloise Carson, member of the Landscape Committee, who devised this arrangement.

Lake and Fountain Maintenance: as of January 1, 2009, the lake and fountain maintenance will be performed by Southwest Aquatics. Southwest Aquatics is a local company and is also capable of many of the repairs necessary for the working of the lake and fountain.

What you should know: in December of 2007 the federal government passed a new law called the Virginia Graeme Baker Safety Act. This law is mandatory and provides for further anti-suction safety precautions for pools and spas. As the community pools in the Association are open for all members of Ironwood Owners Association XII they are considered "public" pools and fall under the new "VGBS Act" law. This means that the drains in the pools and spas must

become “unblockable”. In order for this to be achieved the main drains in the pools/spas must be split into two drains so that there will be no suction at either drain strong enough to hold a person, a new regulation unblockable drain cover must be installed over both new drains, and an emergency shut-off switch must be installed at the spas. The Board of Directors has awarded the contract for this work to the Leak Detectors. Please watch for this work being done in your area. When it is, you will need to use one of the other association pools and/or spas.

The deadline for compliance with this federally mandated law was December 19, 2008. However, due to the late notice to associations in the Coachella Valley and the number of valley pools that must be brought into compliance the Ironwood Owners Association XII pools and spas will not be brought into compliance until the end of May, early June. Notice was sent out to all members on December 18, 2008, regarding this information. Notice has also been posted at all pools.

As a community, there are things we should be cooperative about, for everyone’s enjoyment. Dogs should be on leashes, dog droppings should be picked up promptly. We should all be on the alert for unusual happenings, suspicious activities and vehicles that don’t seem to belong here. We’ve had no security issues lately in Ironwood; however, we must be conscious of our surroundings. Lock doors and follow parking rules. Please report any concerns to Nancy Parkinson or Jan Baker at DRM.

We’ll be holding an all-association party in the next few months to encourage communication about lake and grounds planning and to get to know one another. If you are interested in joining me in the planning, please let me know.

Meanwhile - I hope you’re having a wonderful time here in Palm Desert, whether you’re here for months (yes, I’ve seen recent photos of Oregon and Minnesota) and thrilled with the sun or whether you’re a year-rounder. On January 3rd Dale Echols will be sending out a flyer to members and non-members on how to enjoy the club facilities more completely. Please give it your attention.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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