



April 2009



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT MEETINGS UPDATE

ICA completed nine Resident Forum sessions in late January designed to solicit homeowners' comments regarding ICA's plans to upgrade Ironwood's boulevards and medians. Of the 120 residents who signed up for and attended these sessions, fully 117 felt comfortable with the general direction of the project described. In late January, the ICA board approved improvements to the intersection of Mariposa and Irontree that are planned to begin in the summer of 2009 (see concept below). The ICA board wishes to thank residents who attended these sessions and provided important verbal and written feedback. The presentation given in these sessions is available for viewing on the ICA website - www.ironwoodcommunity.com -- under the link entitled Community Enhancement.

Ironwood Community Enhancement Plan  MAIN INTERSECTIONS

The complex block contains several architectural drawings and a map. At the top left is a vertical planter box drawing. To its right is a planter box with flowers and a note: "8 FT. WIDE x 2 FT. HIGH PLANTER WITH 3 FT. ROUND BOWL, FILL WITH REGULAR COLLECTIBLE AND NEW ORP. BRUSHES, IDEAL FOR STREET CONSERVATION." Below these is a "TYPICAL CORNER PLANTING CONCEPT" diagram showing a street intersection with various plantings and a note: "RECOMMEND 20 FT. WIDE PLANTER WITH 3 FT. ROUND BOWL, FILL WITH REGULAR COLLECTIBLE AND NEW ORP. BRUSHES, IDEAL FOR STREET CONSERVATION." To the right is a "KEY MAP" showing the layout of the community with red squares indicating main intersections.

IRONWOOD COMMUNITY NEWS





IRONWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This Council meets three times a year to share HOA and community information, address common issues and problems, and otherwise work together to improve the livability of Ironwood. Members are the 16 local HOA presidents, an Ironwood County Club representative, two DRM managers, and the ICA board. Guest speakers this season have included Marilyn and Bob Ford who spoke to the group on the current Ironwood real estate market, and Melissa Layton and Sean Mills of DRM who noted process and service improvements initiated to improve service levels to Ironwood. Guest speakers last year included members of the Palm Desert City Council and Planning Commission.

The Council recently went through an exercise designed to achieve consensus on the most important community strengths, stakeholder issues, and recommended potential actions to be taken to improve Ironwood's governance, enhance our sense of community, and make Ironwood more competitive to similar communities in the Coachella Valley. "Stakeholders" as used here means those most involved with our community: residents, the Ironwood Country Club, the 16 local HOAs and ICA. It turned out to be a spirited exercise with many diverse and interesting points of view being expressed. Results were summarized and provided to attendees for their information and use. ICA is using this information to impact its Strategic Plan and help prioritize its efforts on behalf of the community. The ICA Strategic Plan is available on line at www.ironwoodcommunity.com and will be updated soon.

2009 PAVERS & HEATING/AC PROGRAMS

ICA is again sponsoring programs that offer preferential pricing for driveway pavers and heating/AC systems through local distributors and contractors. These programs were fully explained on page 2 the ICA January 2009 newsletter which can be viewed on the ICA website. 30 residents took advantage of the paver program in 2008. If you have an interest in either the 2009 Paver or 2009 Heating/AC program, please contact Jodi Gaylord at DRM via email (preferred) at jgaylord@drmineternet.com or by phone at 760.346.1161, ext 142.

GOLF CART SAFETY



With lots of visitors in Ironwood, this is the appropriate time for an important safety reminder. Golf carts are a great way to get around inside the community. But, for everyone's safety and protection, children are not permitted to drive carts on Association streets as set by State law. Carts can be just as dangerous as cars in the wrong hands, especially this time of year when there are many cars, trucks, landscape vehicles, and pedestrians on the roads. Help us keep the streets as safe as possible by permitting licensed drivers only to use golf carts.



GOVERNANCE: UNDERSTANDING IRONWOOD

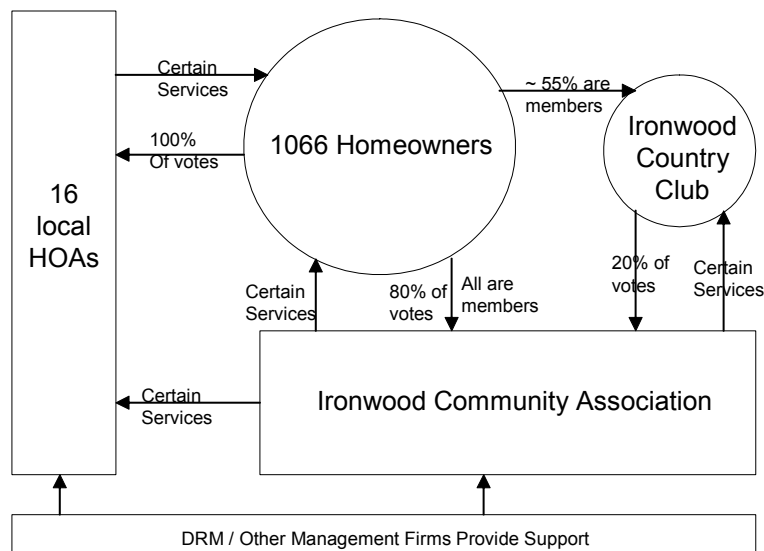
Our Ironwood Community has a governance structure that is more complex than most other communities, a legacy of sequential development that began in the 1970s. Many homeowners do not realize they are members of two homeowner associations:

- The Ironwood Community Association (ICA) whose membership is made up of the 1066 lot owners in Ironwood and the Ironwood Country Club (“Club”) as a distinct entity. ICA is responsible for central operations such as Security, gates, common area landscaping, streets, etc and also supports the community by facilitating communications and solutions to common issues.
- Their local HOA. Ironwood has 16 local HOAs that range in size from 14 to 150 homes and provide local member services such as landscaping, architectural guidelines, insurances, pool and spa care, etc. Your 2009 monthly local HOA dues include the ICA dues of \$159, \$29 of which is cable TV.

Desert Resort Management (DRM) is a community management firm that supports 13 of the 16 local HOAs and ICA. DRM maintains a service desk for maintenance requests and a 24/7 answering service for emergencies. It also assists HOAs with identifying CC&R issues, maintaining records, board and annual meeting support, and provides financial services such as dues collection, bill paying and general accounting.

The graphic below depicts the relationships between and among ICA, the local HOAs, the Club and DRM / other management firms.

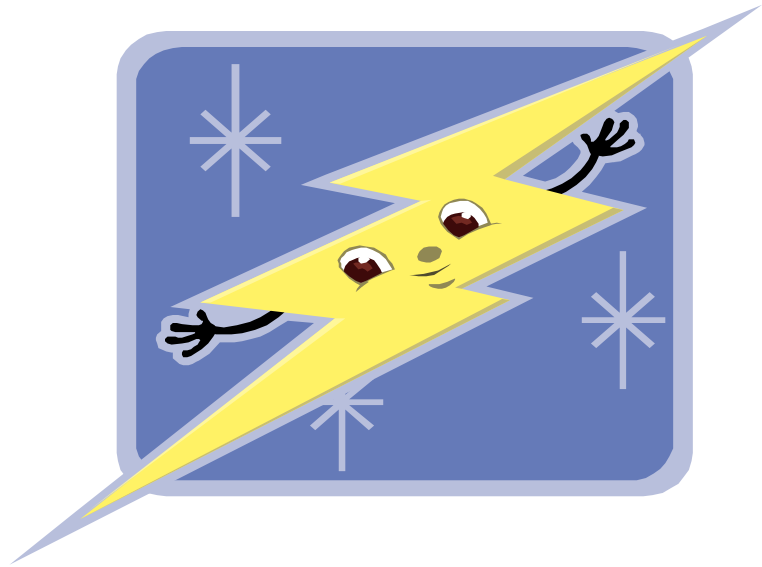
IRONWOOD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE 2009





SET TO SAVE

The City of Palm Desert is committed to going green in a big way and has entered into a partnership with the Gas Company, Southern California Edison and the Energy Coalition to help achieve high goals of energy efficiency and conservation. The Set To Save program is intended to help homeowners and local businesses reduce their energy consumption by offering free energy surveys as well as attractive rebates and incentives.



The Set To Save program can help homeowners reduce their energy consumption and utility bills by up to 30%.

It will also help your local homeowners association. Your HOA will receive a \$10 check from the Set To Save people with your participation in this groundbreaking program.

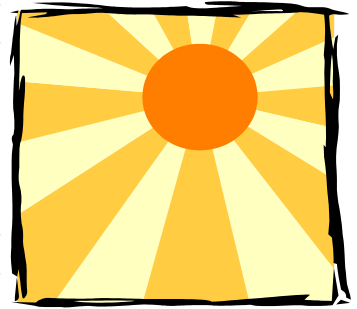
Included in the free in-home survey currently being offered is a personal visit with a friendly and courteous energy surveyor who will complete your home survey while there, answer questions, and inform you of rebates and incentives for many items. Rebates are being offered on A/C units, A/C zoning, duct testing and sealing, energy saving window film, variable speed pool pumps, pool heaters, water heaters, tankless water heaters, refrigerators and furnaces. For example, a new refrigerator can save you up to 40% of the power it takes to run a refrigerator purchased as recently as 2000.

The printed survey will summarize your current energy use and how much you could save by implementing their energy saving recommendations. You could save as much as \$100 per month by installing a new, energy-efficient pool pump. Replacing your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent can give you the same amount of light for a mere 25% of the electricity. You could also be qualified for free energy saving equipment such as low-flow shower heads, a free A/C tune up, faucet aerators, compact fluorescent bulbs, LED night lights and more.

Call Set to Save at 760-837-0287 or visit their website at www.settosave.com for your in-home free energy survey. The home survey will take about an hour and you will learn a lot about how you can conserve energy. You are not obligated in any way to purchase any equipment or services. When you call, be sure to tell them which HOA you live in so that it can receive a \$10 incentive. This is a fun, practical and efficient way to do your part to help Palm Desert meet its goal of reducing its energy consumption by 30% between now and 2011.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE TIPS

Summer is the time of year when we pay for the beautiful winter weather. Here are some important home and vehicle maintenance tips for you as you're preparing to leave the desert for cooler summer climates.



· **GOLF CARTS.** From time to time we hear reports of golf cart fires. The cause is usually a malfunctioning solenoid. Many cart fires could be prevented by parking the cart in neutral with the key at the OFF position. For long absences, it is best to leave your cart batteries and cart charger disconnected.

· **POOLS AND PATIOS.** If you have a private pool and leave for long periods, please make sure your pool maintenance company is scheduled to service your pool/spa regularly during your absence. It is important for the long term health of your pool and the overall beauty of the Ironwood community that pools be properly maintained year round. In addition, in consideration of your neighbors and homeowners who reside in the desert year round, please don't stack or leave patio furniture covered for extended periods; rather, store it in the garage or courtyard.

· **WINDOWS.** Please note that windows may not be covered with foil, cardboard, reflective coatings or any other materials that are not in general use as window treatments in Ironwood.

CITRUS LEAFMINER MOTH



For the past two summers, Ironwood citrus trees have been under attack from the Citrus Leafminer moth. This pest entered California from Mexico in 2000 and was first noticed at Ironwood in 2007. After a lot of research and professional advice, it was decided to let natural predators such as parasitic wasps

control the moths, rather than spraying infested trees. The moths are active during late spring and throughout the summer. They attack the new leaf growth on citrus trees. For that reason, ICA and homeowners with citrus trees are strongly urged not to trim citrus trees in the Spring since that generates new leaf growth that attracts the pests, but to wait until the Fall. When night-time temperatures dip below 60 degrees F, the moths go into dormancy for the rest of the winter and then it is safe to trim citrus trees. Natural predators and changed tree trimming patterns have kept the leafminer moth population down. ICA has contracted with an entomologist to set and monitor bait stations in citrus trees throughout Ironwood. As long as damage from leafminer moths can be kept to a minimum naturally, he does not recommend spraying, since that would kill the predators, too, as well as honeybees and other environmentally friendly insects.

Citrus leafminer larvae feed on citrus trees by creating shallow tunnels, referred to as mines, on young leaves. The larvae mine the lower or upper surface of the leaves, causing them to curl and look distorted. Mature citrus trees generally tolerate leaf damage without any effect on tree growth or fruit yield. One bit of good news about the leafminer moth is that it only damages the foliage, the quality of the fruit and fruit yield are not affected.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Do you know what you would do if a strong earthquake happened today? Natural disasters are a fact of life wherever you live, but earthquake preparedness is essential, especially here in the Coachella Valley. Emergency responders tell us that we may be without outside help for more than 72 hours in the event of a powerful earthquake in southern California.

With that in mind, here is a list of what you should have on hand in your disaster preparedness kit. Your survival kit should include a week's supply of the following essential items:

- ◆ Cash, including lots of small bills (ATMs might be down)
- ◆ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ◆ Visqueen or shade cloth and duct tape to tape over broken windows
- ◆ Portable radio with extra batteries, or better yet, a solar or crank radio
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ A couple of changes of clothes
- ◆ Sturdy shoes and socks
- ◆ Flashlight & batteries
- ◆ Canned and dried food (and don't forget the old-fashioned can opener)
- ◆ Bottled water
- ◆ Food & water for pets
- ◆ Basic toiletries
- ◆ Wrenches for shutting gas and water valves, if necessary. (Don't shut off your gas line unless you smell gas or suspect a leak).
- ◆ Medications
- ◆ Spare set of eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ◆ List of important phone numbers, cell phone, and a prepaid telephone calling card
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Disposable plates, cups and utensils
- ◆ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ◆ Charcoal or propane grill (natural gas may be shut off)
- ◆ Work gloves

These items should fit in a sturdy plastic garbage can with a tight fitting lid. Refresh your kit annually. Keep a smaller version of this kit in a duffel bag in the trunk of your car in case the Big One hits while you're on the road.



ICA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MEMBERS



In volunteer organizations such as your local HOA and ICA, committee members are the backbone of most all accomplishments. Current ICA Committees are listed below, along with the names of members who have given so much time this past year. ICA board members chair each committee whose members come from local HOA boards, the community at large and DRM. The ICA board wishes to thank committee members for their unselfish efforts on behalf of the Ironwood community. As of March 2009, the following 10 committees were in place:

Architecture

Chair: Mitch Grossman. Members: Al Pickus, Gunnar Haase, Jerry Gibson, Sharron Badham

Compliance

Chair: Janet Plat. Members: Roger Comerford, Curt Holmquist, Sharron Badham, Nancy Parkinson

Community Enhancement

Chair: Larry Sutter. Members: Larry Abbott, Chuck Henderson, Rick Carlson

Emergency Preparedness

Chair: Mitch Grossman. Members: Janet Plat, Larry Sutter, Bill Creagan, Roger Comerford, Don Carlin, Fred McLean, Sharron Badham

Finance

Chair: Alison Delf. Members: Chuck Henderson, Norm Kaelber, Cliff Scarbo, Doug Bohlke, Sharron Badham

Ironwood Community Council

Chair: Larry Sutter. Members: 16 local HOA presidents, Club Rep, ICA board, Sharron Badham, Nancy Parkinson

Landscape

Chair: Larry Abbott. Members: Bill Seal, Paul Blume, Judy Metz, Ruthe Schatz, Tom Robertson, Ron Hammond, Pat Mahler, Pamela Smallwood, Carole Nelson, Sharron Badham

Streets

Chair: Chuck Henderson. Members: Sharron Badham, Alison Delf

Security

Chair: Janet Plat. Members: Roger Comerford, Gern Nagler, Gary Schulze, Fred McLean, Sharron Badham, Nancy Parkinson

Planning

Chair: Ron Doll. Members: Janet Plat, Bill Blue, Larry Sutter, Sharron Badham, Larry Abbott (advisory)

ICA ANNUAL MEETING

The Ironwood Community Association held its 35th Annual Meeting of Members on March 16, 2009. Directors Larry Sutter and Alison Delf were both elected to serve three year terms. The 2009/2010 ICA Board Members are:



Larry Sutter, President
Larry Abbott, Vice President
Ron Doll, Secretary
Alison Delf, Treasurer
Mitch Grossman, Director
Chuck Henderson, Director
Janet Plat, Director



The ICA board continues with an active agenda. The street replacement program is about fifty percent completed, the most significant effort of this type since Ironwood began. The Enhancement Committee is finalizing plans for intersection and median improvements that will take place this summer. A uniform set of governing documents has been developed that can be used as a template by local Ironwood HOAs. The Landscape Committee is developing information regarding water conservation and conversion from traditional landscape to lush desert landscape. The Security and Compliance committees have been actively working toward keeping Ironwood secure with new gate cameras and a newly reset transponder system and program. The Architectural Committee is working with local HOAs on such programs as garage door replacements and paint colors, as well as developing special purchasing programs for Ironwood homeowners, including new air conditioners and furnaces, and replacing old concrete driveways with pavers.



IRONWOOD COMMUNITY NEWS

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Board of Directors

President: Larry Sutter
Vice President: Larry Abbott
Secretary: Ron Doll
Treasurer: Alison Delf
Director: Chuck Henderson
Director: Janet Plat
Director: Mitch Grossman

UPDATE YOUR SUMMER ADDRESS

Please remember to notify the ICA and, if appropriate, the Ironwood Country Club if you want your mailing address changed to a summer address. The Club and ICA maintain separate mailing lists, so please let us know when to update your ICA mailing address in writing or by emailing: sbadham@drminternet.com

REMEMBER: DESERT RESORT MANAGEMENT AT NEW LOCATION

DRM has moved its corporate office. The new address is 42635 Melanie Place, Suite 103, Palm Desert, CA 92211. The mailing address for correspondence is: P.O. Box 14387, Palm Desert, CA 92255-14387. Telephone numbers remain the same: (760) 346-1161; (760) 346-9918 FAX.

CHANNEL 98

Do not forget to check cable Channel 98 for both community and Ironwood Country Club news. We are striving to make better use of this communications tool. Please stop by and see what is new!