

Village of Steward Newsletter

VILLAGE BOARD

Village Hall phone

(815)396-2846

www.stewardil.com

President

Hugh McKiski

(815)970-2017

Trustees:

Chris Barber

Les Bonnell

Zach Burkhardt

Emily Lund

Bonnie Macklin

Kristen Pavlak

Clerk

Chrissy Smardo

Treasurer

Matt Hayes

VillageofStewardIL@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Karen Bonnell

Guest columnist, Les Bonnell

June 1, 2021

**Pay Your Steward IL
Water Bills Online!**

CLICK TO PAY NOW



Visit the village website and look for the above picture
Along the left side of the page and in the center

StewardIL.com/#pay

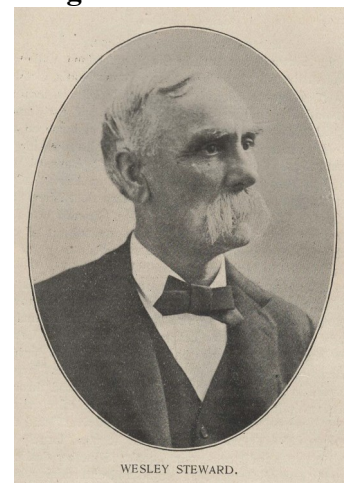
2019 Water Report (CCR) is out
and can be found on our web-
site, www.stewardil.com.



Electronic Recycling It has
come to the Village's attention
that many residents have un-
wanted old TVs, which are not
disposable through our weekly
pick up. Please call or text Ka-
ren Bonnell (815)975-5900 if
you would like the Village's as-
sistance with disposing of old
electronics so we can set up a
pick up date. Look up Lee
County Electronic Recycling or
see file:///C:/Users/Owner/
Downloads/Lee%20County%
20Electronics%20Recycling%
20Program%20(PDF).pdf for
what is accepted. There is also
a list in the Post Office.



Looking Back



Wesley Steward grew up on a
farm near Plano. He was a hard
working person. During his time
at Steward, Mr Steward was a
farmer, entrepreneur, and philan-
thropist. In 1873, Wesley built
Steward's first elevator. He dealt
in the grain, lumber, coal, and
implement business. In 1881,
Wesley Steward owned 2100
acres of land in Alto Township
and vicinity. One year he raised
840 acres of wheat. (This was
before big tractors and com-
bines.) Next issue will tell of
Wesley Steward's generosity..

Les Bonnell

References:

1. *The History of Steward IL*
60553
2. *A History of the Town of*
Steward

2021



Congratulations, Graduates!

Steward Eagles who are headed into high school are:

Javian Berrios-Reyes

Logan Frye

Elyzabyth Jensen

Will Miller

Kenny Overton

Jack Pavlak

Lucas Smardo

Jack Tarvestad

Valedictorian was Lucas Smardo. There was a tie for Salutatorian: Jack Tarvestad and Logan Frye. Logan also received the VFW Citizenship Award, and the Terry Miles Sportsmanship Award. The Wilber Thompson music award went to Lucas Smardo and the Bertha Bresson Citizenship Award went to Will Miller.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments K-8, both recognized and unrecognized, and we look forward to hearing of your success at RTHS!

Many thanks go to 2 people who recently served as Village Trustees. They did not seek re-election but their work endures. When you see them, please express your gratitude for their efforts on behalf of the community.

Kim Lancaste did a great deal of research as she worked. She found updated building code books and brought them to the board for adoption. She worked with Lee County Sheriff's department coordinating removal of vehicles in non-compliance. She was the point person for the depot window and roof update. She was reliable with carrying out her duties with water testing. Kim researched and encouraged action by the board for a more easily updating web page.

Les Kinne contributed to the Village with his unique skill set and tools. As a welder, he fixed the park merry-go-round. He has been helping plant trees, adding fun to the group as hard work was accomplished. Through his volunteerism, we found laughter builds teams and gives pleasure. Les helped build new sidewalks, he painted the park pavilion and restroom.



Two new trustees were sworn in on the Village of Steward Board at the May 10, 2021 meeting. Please welcome **Zachery Burkhart (L) and Emily Lund (R).** They have already jumped in functioning as board members. They join re-elected Village President Hugh McKiski, Clerk Chrissy Smardo, and Trustees Chris Barber and Les Bonnell, along with Kristen Pavlak and Bonnie Macklin, whose terms had not expired.



Looking for a volunteer?

There are RTHS students looking to earn Silver Cord Hours. What a great opportunity for both parties!

Arbor Day Celebration

Sunday May 2, 2021



What One Person Can Start

On Arbor Day in Steward IL, an oak tree donated by former Steward resident Connie (Mace) and her husband Richard Dowling was planted in memory of Emmett Barnes, who passed away last February. One of Emmett's contributions was the big upgrade to Wesley Steward Memorial Park in the 1970s. While on vacation, his family enjoyed parks in small

towns along the way and saw no reason why Steward couldn't add to their swing set and open space. He drafted and raised money then saw the project through. Connie, Marilyn Barnes, Pauline Barnes Cultra, and Mil Danekas are shown helping plant the Scarlet Oak.

J Sterling Morton is another individual who began something big. He is the founder of Arbor Day, which began 149 years ago in Nebraska, and is now an international event!



Sympathy goes to the family of seven year old

Nathaniel Alan Lewis Burton

Our hearts are broken.



Steward is recognized as a Tree City USA for the 17th year by qualifying in 2020. Being part of this Arbor Day Foundation program has helped educate and supply funds.



Many thanks to our spring 2021 tree planting team. Tom Brown trucked the

new trees from the nursery and helped Tom Ellis put two BIG rootballs in the ground at the cemetery! Troop 64 Boy Scouts Logan Frye, Caleb Johnson, and Nolan Johnson, along with Kim Arne dug the hole for the Arbor Day tree and one other. We couldn't do it without these volunteers!