

# Village of Steward Newsletter

June 1, 2022

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



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

**StewardIL.com/#pay**

**Free  
Offer**

**That's right! Pay your water bill on time, and get zero late charges! Pay by the year and get 5% off!**

We will soon be starting a water improvement project and the Village will have payments to make, so we need you to pay your bill on time. Thank you!

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**2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on water is out and can be found on our website, [www.stewardil.com](http://www.stewardil.com).**  
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**Join VIPS!** Volunteers Improving and Preserving Steward. Sign up sheet at the Post Office!



Be sure to post your permit in your front window.

(See Hugh McKiski for permits if you're planning a project.)



Contact Laura Emke Salazar (815) 786-4327 so you can be on the map!



**Needed!** Volunteer firefighters. Apply Monday nights at the Fire Station.

## VILLAGE BOARD

**Village Hall phone**  
(815)396-2846  
[www.stewardil.com](http://www.stewardil.com)

### President

Hugh McKiski  
(815)970-2017

### Trustees:

Chris Barber

Rylee Bates

Zach Burkhardt

Erik Maertz

Kristen Pavlak

James Tyler

### Clerk

Chrissy Smardo

### Treasurer

Matt Hayes

[VillageofStewardIL60553@gmail.com](mailto:VillageofStewardIL60553@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Bonnell

Guest columnist, Rob Pinnick

## Steward History

### The Mound

by Robert Pinnick



If you walk to the patch of woods north of Steward, you will find a pond amongst the trees. The pond was site of the village quarry where gravel was taken for use in the village. On the south-west portion of the woods is what we kids called the "small hole". It actually, was the original hole dug for the foundation to Wesley Steward's first house. It really wasn't even started. Wesley wanted his house to be on that hill because the railroad had originally planned to run the tracks a half mile north of where they are now. Wesley's wife wanted to be able to walk to the depot to take the train to Chicago. Then, the railroad changed its plan, and so did the Stewards. The foundation hole was abandoned and their home was built at the north-west corner of Tyler and Steward. The "Mound" was made a quarry, and the small hole used as a landfill for village waste. Many of the kids, myself included, spent A LOT of time up there playing war, making BMX trails, and camping. In the winter, sledding down into the big hole onto the ice was FUN! Be advised, it is private property and you should get permission from the owner to hike there.

## Steward Graduates



Congratulations go to our new Steward Graduates! This class of three girls attended Steward all K-8 years together! They have gone from being new to tying shoes to being poised and ready to take on RTHS, whether they feel it or not! Congratulations on all your achievements! We hope you have wonderful experiences and good lessons in your next endeavors.

**Tilly Gonser  
Samantha Overton  
Alayna Smardo**



Congratulations to Steward students who are graduating from high school this year!

**Rochelle Township High School:**

**Mauri Erickson  
Jason Riddell**

**Homeschool:  
Bridget Burriell**

**Please welcome two new Village Trustees:**

**James Tyler  
Erik Maertz**



## Steward Arbor Day Celebration April 29, 2022

Steward Elementary students and staff walked across the street to Steward United Methodist Church, which, with its screen, projector, and sound system, hosted the 2022 Arbor Day Celebration. This year marks the 150th year of Arbor Day, started in Nebraska by J Sterling Morton. "Without trees, life on earth would be impossible." Matthew Sleeth, MD



The biggest turnout ever showed up for community fun on a beautiful

April morning for the **Easter Egg Hunt**. What a sense of community was demonstrated as the girl who won first prize chose not to return it for a more age appropriate item, but instead gave it to her little sister. Gratitude also goes to Chrissy Smardo and her team as well as the sponsors:

Steward Fire Department  
Kenny's  
Several who wish to remain anonymous