

# Village of Steward Newsletter

March 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 website, [www.stewardil.com](http://www.stewardil.com).

Be watching for a possible Easter Egg Hunt if State allows.

## Sewer survey

Included in your water bill this month is some information about a possible sewer opportunity. Please consider the information and indicate whether you want to pursue this or not.

The decision affects all. **Return the survey with your water payment.**



## Looking Back

Among other things in 2020 was the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Steward. In 1855 at the age of 18, Wesley Steward moved to this area from Plano IL. Wesley Steward was born in Pennsylvania on October 27, 1837 and moved with his family to Plano in 1838. Wesley was 33 years old when he founded Steward in 1870. Wesley Steward was an exceptional individual who was hard working with vision and determination.

Next issue will explain in more detail the characteristics of Wesley Steward.

Photo, standing, their maid. Seated is Kate (Mrs Steward), Bertha (Wesley's daughter), and Wesley.

## VILLAGE BOARD

### Village Hall phone

(815)396-2846

[www.stewardil.com](http://www.stewardil.com)

### President

Hugh McKiski

(815)970-2017

### Trustees:

Chris Barber

Les Bonnell

Les Kinne

Kim Lancaste

Bonnie Macklin

Kristen Pavlak

### Clerk

Chrissy Smardo

### Treasurer

Matt Hayes

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

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Bonnell

Guest columnist, Les Bonnell



For Village President:

**Hugh McKiski**

My goal has been and will be to save the Village money and find more revenue sources by using my networking, mechanical, and practical abilities by

- Obtaining volunteers (including myself) and community service personnel
- Providing lower concrete costs for sidewalk improvements
- Initiating an intergovernmental agreement with the Alto Township, which has allowed for the use of their combination backhoe
- Arranging for virtually free mowing of the park and well house areas with the use of my personal garden tractor
- Pressing for commitment for possible revenue from a future solar farm income

I am involved with the community

- Through assisting the township
- Involvement with the Tree City USA program
- Involvement with Outstanding Citizen program
- Becoming acquainted with members of the community
- Providing a tree refuse burn area and black dirt



**Consolidated Election**

**April 6, 2021**

For Village Clerk:

**Christina Smardo**

I, Christina Smardo, am running again to be the Village Clerk for Steward for many different reasons. Mostly I enjoy and like being part of the team that helps make Steward a memorable place to live. I enjoy being involved whether it be taking minutes at the meetings or working on projects and/or events for the Village. Some past projects I have worked on have included Easter Egg hunt, outstanding Citizen, watering flowers and the Little Free Library in the post office. I look forward to being part of many more upcoming projects for the Village whether it be as a citizen or the Village Clerk. Thank you for your consideration of a vote in the upcoming election.

For Village Trustee, 2 year term

**Chris Barber**

To serve our community as a member of the village board has been my greatest privilege. In my time spent on the board I have been involved with community projects such as the abandoned vehicle removal, building inspector proposal, and the solar farm project. With my re-election to the board, you can be assured of my continued support for our community and in our progress towards the future.

For Village Trustee—4 year term

**Emily Lund**

What do I have to bring to steward?

I have a new view, for a small town I enjoy living in. I am a NIU Alum, I work for UPS and I moved to Steward in August of 2019. I enjoy meeting all the friendly people in town and would love to be more involved and meet more of the community as your Trustee!

**Zachery Burkhart**

As a community member born and raised I intend to be a life-long resident with the best long-term interests of village. I'm at the age and have the ability to continue to assist in physical labor projects to beautify and preserve our local community. I'll be a neutral trustee that will listen to all sides of our issues and come up with the best possible solutions. I will lead by example and make Steward great again!

**Les Bonnell**

I am running for trustee because it is my desire to serve this community. I enjoy being a part of a group that is making infrastructure improvements (ie sidewalks, streets, trees, water lines).

It is my wish that Steward be unique and not just another small town on the map. I visualize Steward being a community where

—neighbor knows neighbor

—neighbor helps neighbor.





Steward has lost several of its own in the past few months. Sympathy goes to the families of

**Betty Sanders**

**Doris Gittleson**

**Charles Bodmer**

**Donna Knetsch Gittleson**

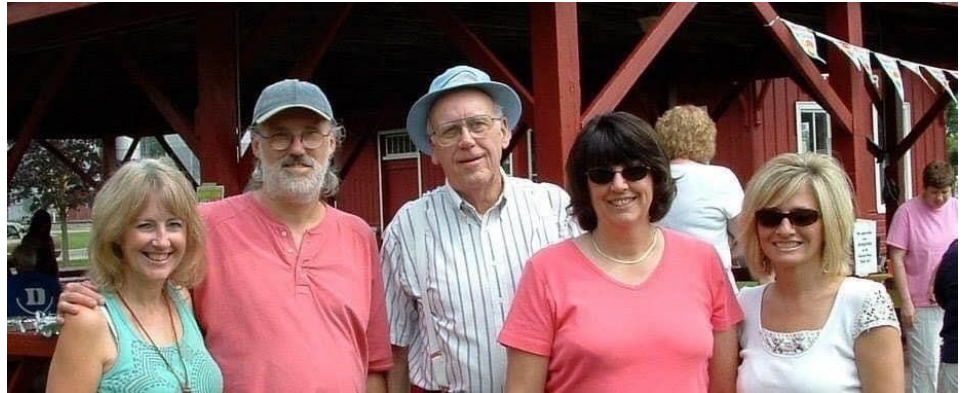
**Bernice (Burny) Espe (former Alto Twp Supervisor)**

**Duane Ackland**

**Emmett Barnes**

They will be missed.

Heartfelt sympathy also goes out to all Steward families who have lost loved ones recently.



Pictured in center, Emmett Barnes, former Village President of Steward, surrounded by his children Nora, Brian, Pam, and Nola at Steward Park by the pavilion that Emmett inspired and raised money to build.

**In Memory of Emmett Barnes, 06/24/31 to 02/05/21**

Steward recently lost one of its former Village Presidents who made a large and lasting impact on the town. We are grateful that he was not content to let the world go by, but noticed the playground sorely needed an update (it only had an old swing set) He drafted his vision and started a large event called "Farmer's Market Days." There was a big parade and many creative fund raising booths in the park, including a stand of garden-fresh produce for sale. The Barnes', being a musical family, organized a talent show where even a "Canadian Mountie" (tenor Bob Hart, rode onto the stage mounted on a horse led by Galen Cardott!) performed. The money that was raised purchased new playground equipment plus the pavilion. The Steward kids were ecstatic! Most of the equipment is still in use and the pavilion has been the venue for numerous celebrations, money raising events, community "Garage Sale Days," church, scouts, and a place to gather in the shade and out of the rain.

Emmett is an inspiration.

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

