

# Village of Steward Newsletter



March 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**

## VILLAGE BOARD

**Village Hall phone**  
(815)396-2846  
**www.stewardil.com**  
**President**

Hugh McKiski  
(815)970-2017

**Trustees:**

Chris Barber  
Rylee Bates  
Zach Burkhardt  
Kristen Pavlak  
Position available

**Clerk**

Chrissy Smardo

**Treasurer**

Matt Hayes

VillageofStewardIL60553@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Karen Bonnell

Guest columnist, Rob Pinnick

Proofreader: left the building

**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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2021 Water Report (CCR) 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. Watch for sign up sheets at the Post Office!



Do you have a home improvement project going on? Be

sure to post your permit in your front window. (See Hugh McKiski for permits if you're planning a project.)



## **Easter Egg Hunt!**

**Saturday, April 16**

**at 9:00 AM**

**Wesley Steward**

**Memorial Park**

(That's the day before Easter)

**Prizes! Donuts! Fun!**



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

## Steward History

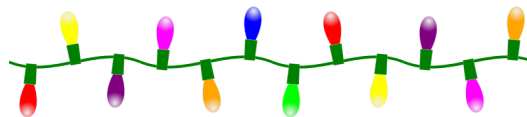


### The Steward Train Depot, what a story...

The one that's in the park is the third depot the village had. One was between the double sets of rails. One set of rails was removed in the mid-seventies. That depot burned down. Another railroad had a depot on the north-west side of the village. It was moved to the north-west corner of Main and Fuller and changed into a house. It was torn down in the eighties, The railroad built another one at the Main and Tyler corner. It sat on the north side of the tracks. If you go to the park today and look at the depot, you'll see on the north side of the middle of the building a bump out. That was actually the clerk's office and it actually faced the south, toward the tracks. The railroad gave the depot to the village with the stipulation that it be moved off railroad property. A slab of concrete was poured on park property and the depot was lifted and rotated 180 degrees and set on the slab. I don't really know why it was rotated, maybe just because it was easier?? The depot has three rooms. A luggage room, clerk's office, and a waiting room. Someone, installed a large door on the east wall (the

luggage room) of the depot to park a truck in. not much is known about that. The door was removed and filled in. The clerk's office was also the post office for the village of Steward and the nearby village of Plum Thicket. Plum Thicket is thought to have been south-east of town near the creek. The fire extinguisher on wheels, on display in the depot, was used to fight a fire in a cabin in Plum Thicket. The depot has a small museum in the waiting room that displays many artifacts from Steward. To visit the depot museum, contact a village board member or email me [steward0005@yahoo.com](mailto:steward0005@yahoo.com).

*Editor's note: Rob is well versed in the history of Steward and will be a guest columnist. Thanks, Rob! Check this out: [https://youtu.be/K5\\_duwahbvE?t=407](https://youtu.be/K5_duwahbvE?t=407)*



## Congratulations to the winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest!

**Thank you to ALL who gave Christmas cheer with their decorations!** Some were simple elegance, some made us giddy as a kid waiting for Christmas, some classic, some worthy of commercial display, and all brightened the darkness (figuratively and literally). The two prizes at \$75 each went to 607 Miller ST and 419 Main ST. Honorable mention prizes went to 414 Main ST, 402 John ST, 506 John ST, 410 Main ST, and 307 Clark Ave. Thank you for the fun!

## Livin' Large.

What images does that evoke? Yachts? Dream homes? Donna Ulisse, bluegrass singer/songwriter, tells of Livin' Large in a Little Town in a song by that name.

She starts by telling about foibles of the town's leaders, but also tells of how "Everybody knows who you are...waving at everybody you meet..we all shine, have the biggest time when a neighbor helps a neighbor out." THAT's Livin' Large. It's investing in community.

**THAT's what Steward has going for it!** One person who lived very large was Les Bonnell. He was often seen volunteering at helping build new sidewalks, laying gravel in the easements in front of people's homes, repainting the street signs, picking up sticks, flushing hydrants, installing new water valves, running his laser to figure out how to divert standing water, etc. Les passed away last December after a brief encounter with sarcoma. He lived LARGE and now his reputation lives on. He leaves many opportunities to live large. So go ahead!

## Live Large!

