

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
Les Kinne
Kim Lancaste
Kristen Pavlak
Bonnie Macklin

Clerk

Chrissy Smardo

Treasurer

Matt Hayes

The 2019 CCR is out and

VillageofStewardIL@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor
Karen Bonnell

September 1, 2020

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Water Bills Online!**

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Along the left side of the page and in the center

StewardIL.com/#pay



What would it be like to look through blackened out goggles with dime-sized holes in them? The Village Trustees got to try that out at their July meeting. They saw very little and didn't have any peripheral vision. Kelly Wakefield had come to demonstrate and speak about her 10 year old son's congenital vision condition. To see him playing, it's hard to tell that he is legally blind. He plays like any 10 year old boy. He's unstoppable. Except maybe by a vehicle he didn't see. When the sign says "Caution Visually Impaired child," that would be him. So, slow down.



2020 Outstanding Citizen

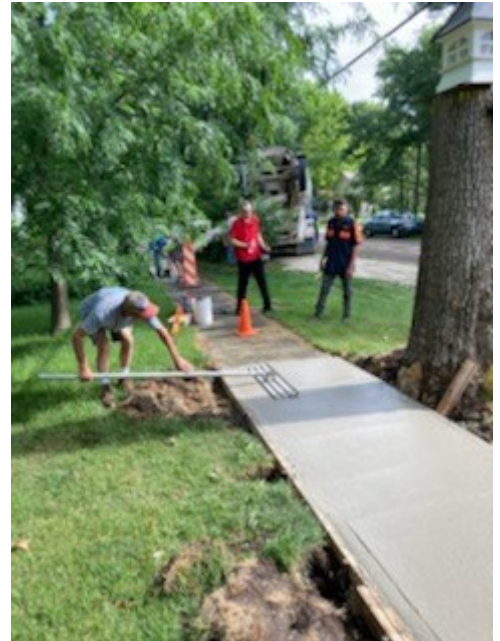
During Stay-at-Home orders in the last quarter of school last spring, one student decided his PE class would be picking up trash along the creek. For his spontaneous public service, he was chosen to be Steward's 2020 Outstanding Citizen. Next time you see Gavin Altepeter, congratulate him and thank him for his civic mindedness.



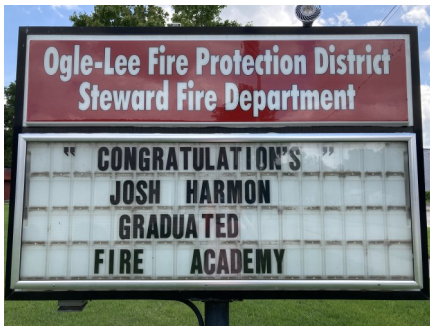


Depot Improvements

New steel roof and windows. Check it out! Thanks go to Kim Lancaste for her coordinating this project.



A sidewalk received an update. Old buckled sidewalk was removed and new sidewalk poured. Thanks to Hugh McKiski for lining up the able crew. Hugh and Colton did the forming, Mark and Nick Jensen and Matthew Moore assisted with the pour. Jamie Finnestad did the concrete finishing.



Congratulations, Josh Harmon! And thank you for serving!

Tree Removal:

3 Chinese elm along the 300 block of Tyler Avenue, 1 on the 200 block of Clark, and 1 corkscrew willow on Steward St.

Kelly Wakefield demonstrated what her visually impaired child sees by supplying vision limiting goggles to board members at the July meeting.



She finally made it! Yu Ying had been in China caring for her mother when COVID-19 struck and the world shut down. After a 3 1/2 month delay, she was able to return home. And now, after a 2 week quarantine, she's able to leave the house! Welcome home, Yu Ying! See you at McDonalds!

Wasilewski Resigns

Barber Appointed

Bill Wasilewski turned in his resignation August 8, 2020. Bill's main accomplishments were mowing the park free of charge, helping repair water services, and heading up sidewalk replacement projects. Thank you for your service.

At the next board meeting, Monday August 10, Hugh McKiski appointed Village resident Chris Barber as trustee. When Chris was house hunting five years ago, he kept coming back to Steward. He loves small towns, having grown up in one, and says the residents that he has met are amazing. Chris has made extensive improvements in his home. Chris works at Target Warehouse in DeKalb and recently earned a degree in robotics.



McKiski Presses for Benefits



Hugh McKiski was invited to an informal meeting with a solar farm representative. Several local farm owners have signed on to leasing land to Hexagon Energy. Should this project come to fruition, Alto Township, Steward Elementary, Rochelle Township High School, Kishwaukee College, and Ogle-Lee Fire Department stand to receive tax dollars. McKiski repeatedly pressured the representative so Steward could have a "piece of the pie," the project being in their mile and a half proximity. At the next Village Board meeting Hexagon Energy representative announced that once energy is being produced, they will give Steward \$25,000 annually, which is nearly two thirds of the budgeted income for the General Account this year..

Thank You, Hugh!

Board Action Starts Water Main Replacement Project

At the August meeting, the Village Trustees voted to pursue replacing some 4" water main with 6" PVC pipe located in the northwest quadrant of town. Kristen Pavlak has been in contact with Jill Pepin, community planner for Community Funding and Planning Services, arranging for the financing.

Abandoned Vehicles



Board action was taken to move forward toward enforcement of the ordinance on abandoned vehicles starting October 1. See an ordinance committee member if you have questions..

Park Leach Field



Les Bonnell has been in contact with Dave Williams of Rochelle Vault and the board has voted to install a leach field for the park rest room.



Trees Forever is a grassroots group of citizen volunteers who are determined to make a difference in our neighborhoods, communities and state. They make sure our world is a greener, healthier, more vibrant place.

Currently they are offering a grant to “Recover, Replant, Restore!” Steward Tree Advisory Board is currently working on the grant application. We have received a grant from them in the past and planted several trees.

From their website, I saw this portion of the following blog:

How a Tree a Day Helps Keep the Doctor Away

Can trees and green space be good for our health? Turns out, the answer is yes.

Most people enjoy a walk along a tree-lined street or through a wooded area. Most employees would rather have a window seat than a closed-in environment. And on a hot day, children and adults alike seek the cool shade that trees provide. It's

almost instinctual to people to seek out the trees and green space around them. What people may not know is that our bodies respond physically and mentally to the green growing around us.

According to research from the University of Washington, employees with workstation views that included green elements were more satisfied at work, had more patience, less frustration, increased enthusiasm for work, and fewer health problems. Not having nature views is associated with higher levels of tension and anxiety in office workers. An article in *Scientific America* found that all other things being equal, patients with bedside windows looking out on leafy trees healed, on average, a day faster, needed significantly less pain medication, and had fewer postsurgical complications. The American Institutes for Research found that students who had connection to nature had 27% increase in mastery of science concepts, enhanced

cooperation and conflict resolution skills, and better problem solving skills.

The evidence is there; trees and natural areas have a quantifiable benefit to our well-being.



Wondering where to get rid of your old broken household appliances? It turns out, for a small fee, Zimmerman Recycling at 301 Industrial Drive in DeKalb IL (815)756-8600, just off Rt 38 on the east side of town, can help you out! Give them a call! See the handout in the Post Office for more information.

