

# newsletter



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

## 54 SNOW STREET, SUGAR GROVE, IL

Mailing address is:

P.O. Box 465 Sugar Grove, IL 60554

**Business Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

**Township Board Meeting Dates:** on the 1st Tuesday/month at 6:00pm

**Township:** 630-466-4283

**Assessor:** 630-466-5255

**Road District** 630-466-4274

**Township website:** [www.townshipofsugargrove.com](http://www.townshipofsugargrove.com)

**Assessor website:** [www.sugargrovetownship.com](http://www.sugargrovetownship.com)

**Supervisor** - Tom Rowe ([trowe@sgtownship.com](mailto:trowe@sgtownship.com))

**Township Clerk** - Marion Bond ([mbond@sgtownship.com](mailto:mbond@sgtownship.com))

**Assessor** - Curt Karas ([assessor@sugargrovetownship.com](mailto:assessor@sugargrovetownship.com))

**Highway Commissioner** - Doug Musser ([dmusser@sgtownship.com](mailto:dmusser@sgtownship.com))

**Trustees** - Phil Silagi, Jerry Elliott, Jon Bobbe, Lewis Medina

*The Township of Sugar Grove is one of 16 townships in Kane County and one of 1,433 townships in Illinois. Sugar Grove Township is over 35 square miles with a population of over 20,000 residents. Approximate boundaries include Orchard Road*

*to the east, Route 30 to the south, I-88 to the north, and Duggan Road to the west. All residents are eligible for township programs even though they may also be residents of Aurora, North Aurora, Montgomery, and the Village of Sugar Grove. Sugar Grove Township remains in excellent financial shape and has sufficient reserves to support our current township activities and fund other approved projects for next year. Because of our strong finances and reserves, the township and road district tax levies will not increase this year, and the township board has not increased its tax levies for the past ten years.*

## DID YOU KNOW...

**Free Senior Lunch** – for resident seniors ages 65 & up on the last Tuesday of each month. Pre-registration is required by calling Senior Coordinator Julie Walker at (630) 999-4000

**Free Senior Snacks & Games** – for resident seniors ages 65 & up on the 1st Monday of each month. Contact Julie Walker at (630) 999-4000 for more information.

**Senior/Disabled Transportation Program** – for residents 65 & up or disabled 55 & up who cannot drive. The ride cost is \$5 for each one-way trip for doctor appointments, employment, or shopping Monday-Friday between 7:30 am-5:30 pm.

**Free Senior Lawn Mowing** – for seniors ages 65 & up who own their own Sugar Grove home. Applications must be pre-approved, and the number of households served is limited.

**Free Senior Snow Removal** – for seniors 65 & up who own and reside in their own homes in Sugar Grove Township. Applications will be available this fall, and the number of households and frequency of service may be limited.

**General Assistance (GA)** - is a locally administered welfare program that provides monthly financial assistance to persons who do not have adequate income or resources to provide for their own basic needs. To qualify, the individual must meet certain financial and residential criteria and not be eligible for any other state or federal assistance programs.

**Emergency Assistance (EA)** - Applicants who do not qualify for General Assistance may still qualify for Emergency Assistance (EA). To qualify, the applicant must be 30 days or more behind in their rent or utilities, have received a 5-day notice from their landlord or utility company, and meet specific financial criteria based on household size.

**Groovin' in the Grove** – Sugar Grove Township is a co-sponsor of the Groovin' in the Grove summer concert series. Free outdoor concerts are scheduled on June 14th, July 13th, and Aug. 10th at 7 pm at the Sugar Grove Library parking lot. Residents are encouraged to bring their own chairs and favorite beverage with food trucks on-site to purchase food.

**Ice Rink Coop** – This past winter, the Sugar Grove Township, Community Building, Park District, Fire Protection District, and Village of Sugar Grove partnered to bring back an outdoor ice rink in Snow Park. The five taxing bodies combined resources to install and maintain the rink from December through February. Although Mother Nature did not fully cooperate, the ice rink was enjoyed by many Sugar Grove residents, and plans are underway to bring back the ice rink next winter.

**Blackberry Creek Pedestrian/Bike Bridge** - The Sugar Grove Township, Sugar Grove Park District, Village of Sugar Grove, and Kane County Forest Preserve approved an intergovernmental project and easement agreement to build a Pedestrian Bridge over Blackberry Creek connecting the VL Gilman Trail to Park Avenue. An \$800,000 grant was awarded by the State for Phase 3 construction of this million-dollar project, with the remaining \$200,000 funded equally between the Township, Village, Park District, and KC Forest Preserve. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

**CONLEY OUTREACH  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

For those who may not already know us, please let us share a little about our agency. Conley Outreach Community Services is a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization devoted to “Caring for the Heart of Community” and funded by a generous grant from the INC Mental Health Board and private donations. Our mission is to



provide and coordinate community mental health and human service programs in rural Western Kane County by understanding community needs, creating systems of support, and collaborating with other community and faith-based partners. We uphold this mission by serving the community in a variety of ways, including managing the West Towns Program, networking, advocacy, referral of services, managing our Serenity Falls memorial, providing grief support, our Good Grief Day Camp for children, our monthly meals program, and the Clothing Exchange Clothing Closet.

Our start to this past fiscal year began with a new partnership between Conley Outreach and the Sugar Grove Township. On April 1, 2022, our agency and the Township entered into an agreement to administer the General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Programs on the Sugar Grove Township's behalf. We were able to secure our first General Assistance Case by September 2022, which we felt was a success. We are very pleased to be continuing our partnership in the coming year.

Finally, as we round out the year, we have continued to serve our community members as best we can by connecting them with resources, gap assistance through our benevolence program, grief supports, providing help with clothing from our Clothes Closet, and sometimes just a friendly ear. If you or anyone you know may need assistance, please contact us at 630-365-2880. If, for some reason, we cannot help you directly, we will find who can!

**INC MENTAL  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE**



*The INC Board is a funding alliance that includes Sugar Grove and six other Kane County Townships, committed to supporting mental, intellectual, and developmental health and well-being for its residents by providing services to any resident with mental health concerns, developmental/intellectual disabilities, and/or substance abuse disorders. Visit the website [www.incmha.org](http://www.incmha.org) or call (630) 892-5456 for more information.*

**HIGHWAY  
COMMISSIONER  
DOUG MUSSER**



Spring and Summer are here following a very mild winter. Be aware of road construction and workers on the roads in the coming months. This year we will be replacing a culvert on

Prairie St. and Mighell Rd. before we overlay West Prairie St. from Rt. 47 to Dugan Rd. with Blacktop. Along with that, we will be mowing, paint stripping, garbage pickup, and shouldering. We plan on finishing the tree trimming in Prestbury on Winthrop New Rd. We will also be replacing the guardrail on Hankes Rd. to State standards. Remember that texting or using a cell phone while driving is illegal, and fines double in construction zones. Have a great summer and drive safe!



Generally, the property tax cycle is a two-year cycle. During the first year, the property is assigned a value that reflects its value as of January 1 of that year by the assessment officials. At the same time, taxing districts vote on budgets and levies for their expected taxes. During the second year, the tax bills are calculated and mailed, and payments are distributed to local taxing districts.

This two-year cycle can be divided into six steps: (*taken from "The Illinois Property Tax System" published by Illinois Department of Revenue*).

**Assessment** ~ All property is discovered, listed, and appraised so that values for property tax purposes can be determined. Local assessing officials determine most property values; the local county board of review and the Illinois Department of Revenue also has some assessment responsibilities. The chief county assessment officer ensures that assessment levels are uniform and at the legal assessment level by applying a uniform percentage increase or decrease to all assessments in the jurisdiction.

**Review of assessment decisions** ~ County boards of review determine whether local assessing officials have calculated assessed values correctly, equalize assessments within the county, assess any property that was omitted, decide if homestead exemptions should be granted, and review non-homestead exemption applications.



Property owners may appeal unfair assessments to their local township assessor and county boards of review, and, if the owner is dissatisfied with the board's decision, the State Property Tax Appeal Board or circuit court.

**State equalization** ~ The Illinois Department of Revenue equalizes assessments among counties and issues a state equalization factor for each county and apportionment percentages if needed.

**Levy** ~ Taxing districts determine the amount of revenues that they need to raise from property taxes, hold any required public Truth-in-Taxation hearings, and certify levies to the county clerk.

**Extension** ~ The county clerk applies the state equalization factor, calculates the tax rate needed to produce the amount of revenues each taxing district may levy legally, and spreads the levy among the properties in a taxing district according to their equalized assessed values so that tax bills can be computed, abates taxes as directed by taxing districts, and prepares books for the county collector.

**Collection and distribution** ~ The county collector (treasurer) prepares tax bills, receives property tax payments from property owners, distributes taxes to the local government taxing districts who levied them, and administers sales of liens on real estate parcels due to nonpayment of taxes.

*(For farm property, a certification and review procedure is initiated more than nine months before the assessment begins.)*

**PROPERTY OWNERS CAN REDUCE THEIR PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY IF THEY QUALIFY FOR THE FOLLOWING HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS:**

- THE GENERAL HOMESTEAD
- THE SENIOR CITIZEN HOMESTEAD
- THE SENIOR CITIZEN ASSESSMENT FREEZE
- HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT
- PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- RETURNING VETERANS
- VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE EXEMPTIONS, CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 630 466-5255 OR THE COUNTY OFFICE AT 630-208-3818.**



**TOWNSHIP  
ASSESSOR  
CURT KARAS**

# COMMUNITY BUILDING

## WE HAVE BEEN BUSY!

Yes! We have been busy at the Sugar Grove Community Building! The Kiwanis Club of Sugar Grove Township brought back Holiday in the Grove! We hosted that along with the annual tree-lighting cookies and cocoa event. Other events we host here are the monthly senior lunch program, the monthly game day, and the community clothes closet. We also support a variety of other monthly meetings along with gym rentals and party rentals. For those who may not have heard, the Ice Rink returned this year after a long hiatus! We look forward to hosting the ice rink again this winter with our partners, the Sugar Grove Park District, the Village of Sugar Grove, the Township of Sugar Grove, and the Sugar Grove Fire Department.

### New Drop Box

Starting in 2023 we now have our rental forms and rates available on our website. Once you have scheduled your event you can download and complete the paperwork, and then drop it off with your payment to our new drop box located in our front entrance.

### 2022 Updates

We replaced two 25-year-old AC units this year that cool the dining room. It is our most rented room in the building so we want to keep it ready for use! We also updated our parking lot lights to LED, along with adding a light to Snow Park which will allow the ice rink to stay open beyond the early winter sunsets.



WWW.TOWNSHIPOFSUGARGROVE.COM/COMMUNITY-BUILDING

### Local Postal Customer

We are excited to announce we will be hosting a Turkey Bingo this November to fill the food pantry for Thanksgiving. To participate we ask that you bring two items from the Food Pantries Thanksgiving Request list. We will post the list and date on our Website and Facebook page when the date is near. Come win some great prizes while supporting our neighbors!

We are looking forward to the 2023 Corn Boil. The Community Building will host a "Passport to Fun" event on Thursday, July 20th from 6-8 pm. Kids 10 and under can swing through the Community Building to play some cute games and participate in an old-school scooter race. Kids will win a prize at each game! It will be a fun event for the smaller kids who appreciate the easy games and little prizes.



PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

### Remaining 2023 Meeting Dates

- June 20, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- July 18, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- August 15, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- September 19, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- October 17, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- November 14, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
- December 12, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

### Staff Members

Building Administrator, Debbie DeBoer  
Building Liaison, Sarah Kowalczyk  
Office phone: 630-466-4539  
Building Scheduler at: 630-777-7961.  
Email: cbinfo@sgtownship.com