



Community News



Non Profit Spotlight: Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove



The Village of Sugar Grove is committed to supporting the local organizations that strengthen our community. As part of this effort, Village leadership is visiting nonprofits that serve our residents to learn more about their impact, challenges, and how we can support their mission.

Village President Jennifer Konen and Village Administrator Scott Koepfel met with [Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove](#) Executive Director Shari Frieders to discuss how the pantry is helping Sugar Grove residents and what the community can do to contribute to their efforts.

Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove started in 2008 as a family project. During Christmas break, the Taylor family of Sugar Grove launched a “Fill Your Doorstep” campaign, encouraging residents and businesses to place food donations on their doorsteps to help those struggling in the economic recession. The overwhelming response led to the creation of a permanent, community-driven pantry.

With support from Engineering Enterprises Inc. (EEI) and its founders Pete Wallers, Dave Burroughs, and Jim Michels, the pantry found a home. In February 2025, it moved into a

larger facility at 143 S. Main St., Sugar Grove, IL 60554, allowing it to serve even more residents.

Today, Between Friends Food Pantry provides weekly grocery assistance, household supplies, and personal hygiene products to residents facing food insecurity in Sugar Grove and surrounding communities. They aim to break the barriers that prevent individuals from seeking help, fostering a safe space where every person feels valued and supported. Their mission is to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry while empowering people to remain self-sufficient during tough economic times.

The pantry currently has 210 families registered for assistance. Each week, it serves 30 to 50 families, with 98% of those receiving help living in Sugar Grove. It also provides deliveries to elderly and homebound residents, including those in senior housing. Children and seniors make up 75% of those served, highlighting the vital role the pantry plays in the community.

Between Friends Food Pantry operates almost entirely on volunteer support. The Executive Director and all other staff members are volunteers, with just one paid employee helping coordinate operations.

Addressing Food Insecurity & Expanding Awareness

During their meeting, Village officials and pantry leadership discussed strategies to raise residents' awareness about the pantry as well as encourage them to feel comfortable using it when needed. Many families experience food insecurity but may hesitate to seek assistance due to stigma or simply not knowing it exists.

The reality is that many people are just one unexpected bill away from needing help. Every meal provided by the pantry allows a household to focus on paying rent, medical bills, and other essential expenses without worrying about food.

If you or someone you know could use assistance, you can register for help here: [Register for Help](#).

How the Pantry Meets Demand

Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove relies on strong community partnerships and generous donations to meet local needs. Through the Direct Connect food rescue program—coordinated by the Northern Illinois Food Bank—the pantry receives fresh food donations from local Jewel-Osco and Aldi stores. Between Friends also benefits from food drives organized by local classrooms, scout troops, and other civic organizations that help keep shelves stocked throughout the year.

While specific offerings can vary, they typically provide the following types of items:

- Canned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, soups, and other shelf-stable foods.
- Fresh produce
- Dairy products
- Proteins
- Bread and bakery products
- Hygiene and personal care items.
- Low-sodium, gluten-free, or diabetic-friendly products when available.
- Diapers and other items for young children.
- Cleaning supplies and laundry detergent.

In addition to weekly food assistance, they also deliver to homebound seniors, produce emergency food boxes, prepare holiday meal boxes, and offer school supplies.

Ways to Support Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove

Residents and businesses can support Between Friends in several ways:

- **Donate.** Every \$1 donated provides \$8 in food for local families.
- **Volunteer.** Help stock shelves, assist visitors, or organize food drives. Sign up online: [Volunteer Here](#).

- **Spread the Word.** Let friends, neighbors, and coworkers know this resource is available.

If you or someone you know would like to support Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove, you can learn more here: [Give Help](#).

Sugar Grove Food Pantry Between Friends
Location & Hours
143 S. Main St, Sugar Grove, IL 60554
Thursdays 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

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A Tree Has Been Planted at the Sugar Grove Community Center to Celebrate Arbor Day 🌳

On April 25, 2025, we celebrated Arbor Day with a significant addition to our community by planting a beautiful [Swamp White Oak](#) tree at the Sugar Grove Community Center! This majestic tree will provide essential shade and serve as a vital habitat for wildlife, enhancing the beauty of our surroundings for generations to come.

Thank you to Trustee Heidi Lendi and the dedicated Public Works Team for highlighting the importance of trees and our commitment to a greener future.



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Local Community Members Celebrated with Special Honorary Street Signs!

Celebrating the Legacy of Joe Wolf

We are excited to announce the celebration of a cherished figure in our community, Joe Wolf. As a community member, Joe was an unwavering advocate for the betterment of our village.

In honor of his contributions, an honorary street sign has been placed at the intersection of Cross and Main Streets, a fitting tribute to Joe's tireless commitment to making Sugar Grove a better place for everyone.

Joe's dedication to our town was evident through his service on the Kaneland Board of Education, the Sugar Grove Village Board, and various local committees. His efforts will be remembered for years to come.

On Friday, April 25, 2025, Joe's family and village staff gathered to witness the installation of the street sign. The occasion was marked by heartfelt remembrances, including reading the original proclamation written in Joe's honor.

[View the Proclamation
for Joe Wolf](#)



Honoring Beloved Community Member Janet Wallace

A special honor has been bestowed upon a beloved member of our community.

On April 9, 2025, family and friends gathered to watch as an honorary street sign was placed at the intersection of Cross and Main Streets, near John Shields Elementary, in tribute to Janet Wallace. President Konen was present and read Janet's proclamation to commemorate the occasion.

Janet's legacy of love, generosity, and unwavering dedication to those around her has left a permanent mark on our hearts. She gave selflessly, inspired endlessly, and made this community stronger just by being part of it. Now, her name will stand as a daily reminder to all who pass by of kindness, compassion, and the power of giving.

Janet's spirit lives on in the lives she touched and will never be forgotten.

[View the Proclamation
for Janet Wallace](#)





The 11th Annual Safest Cities Report by Safewise includes the Village of Sugar Grove

Sugar Grove has recently been recognized in Safewise's 11th Annual Safest Cities Report, earning a spot among Illinois's top 20 safest cities. This ranking highlights the dedication of both the Village and its residents to fostering a strong sense of community and prioritizing safety.



Sugar Grove is Among the 20 Safest Cities in Illinois in 2025

- 1. Campton Hills
- 2. Pingree Grove
- 3. Hawthorn Woods
- 4. Brookfield
- 5. Gilberts
- 6. Western Springs
- 7. Homer Glen
- 8. La Salle
- 9. Hampshire
- 10. Hinsdale
- 11. Lake in the Hills
- 12. Manhattan
- 13. Winfield
- 14. Mascoutah
- 15. Island Lake
- 16. Inverness
- 17. Wauconda
- 18. Shorewood
- 19. Deerfield
- 20. Sugar Grove**



[View Report from Safewise](#)

Welcome, Cilantro Taco Grill!

On April 3, the Village of Sugar Grove was proud to join the Sugar Grove Chamber of Commerce in celebrating the ribbon cutting for Cilantro Taco Grill, located at 519 Sugar Grove Parkway, Suite F.

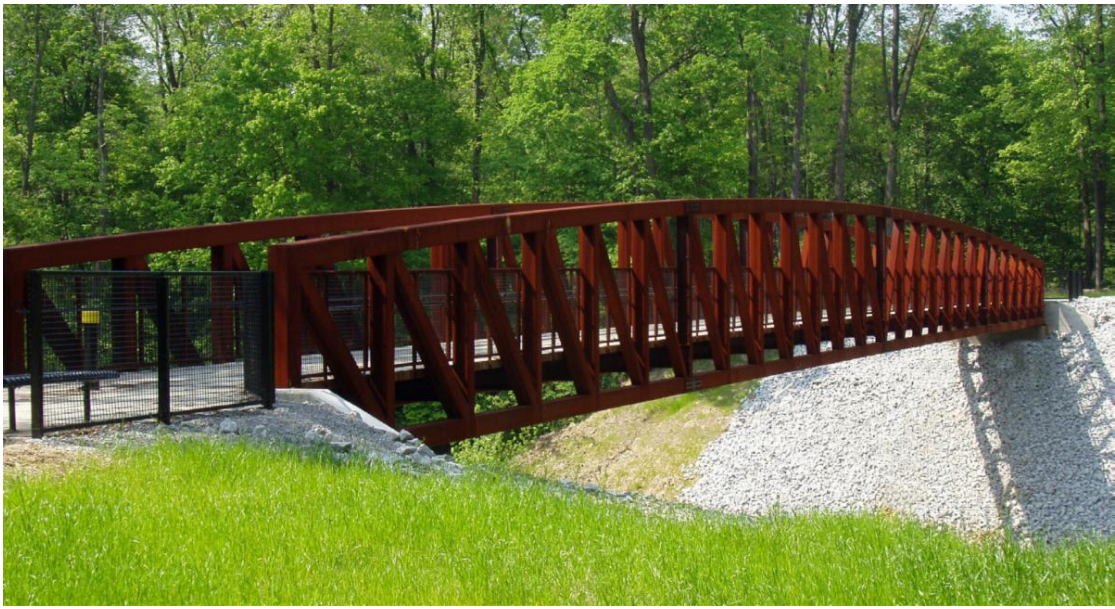
Village President Jen Konen spoke at the ceremony, officially welcoming Jay Patel, Zeel Patel, and Dr. Hemant Patel to our business community.

We're excited to see Cilantro Taco Grill bring their passion for authentic Mexican food to Sugar Grove. Be sure to stop by and check out their newest location!



Virgil Gilman Trail Bridge Opening Soon

Exciting progress is underway on the new pedestrian bridge near the Virgil Gilman Trail. Once completed, the bridge will connect different parts of our community, enhance safety, and open up new areas for everyone to explore and enjoy. More information will be coming soon.



Welcoming New Neighbors in Sugar Grove

Settlers Ridge

Ryan Homes' recently approved application includes approximately 135 new homes. Construction is set to begin in spring 2025, and earthwork is already underway near existing homes.

Lennar Development

A new project at the Galena Blvd. and Illinois Route 56 intersection, expected to come before the Plan Commission soon, would bring 332 homes and townhomes to Sugar Grove.

[Learn more about current development projects](#)



Employment Opportunities



We're Hiring



New Officers or Lateral Officers

- Great Starting Salary
- Benefits Including:
 - Vacation Time
 - Sick Time
 - Medical, Dental & Life Insurance
 - Retirement Health Savings Account

For full details and to download an application visit:

www.sugargrovel.gov/employment
or call 630-391-7256

PROTECT ★ SERVE ★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Village of Sugar Grove Police Department is looking for New and Lateral Police Officers to join our team!

Whether you're just starting your career or bringing years of experience, we want to hear from you!

- Great starting salary
- Outstanding benefits
- Community-focused department
- Opportunities for growth

Apply today and be part of something meaningful!

Equal Opportunity Employer.

Call 630-391-7230 or click below for more info.

[Learn More About Our Employment Opportunities](#)



Upcoming Village Board Meetings

Village Board Room, Village Police Station, 10 S. Municipal Dr., at 6:00 p.m.

- May 6, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 3, 2025
- June 17, 2025
- July 1, 2025
- July 15, 2025

[View the Village Meeting Schedule](#)

How Can We Help?

Village Department Directory

Village Hall: 630-391-7200, vclerk@sugargroveil.gov

Administration: 630-391-7200, info@sugargroveil.gov

Community Development: 630-391-7220, permits@sugargroveil.gov

Public Works: 630-391-7230, publicworks@sugargroveil.gov

Finance Department: 630-391-7200, genlog@sugargroveil.gov

Police Department (Non-Emergency): 630-391-7250, police@sugargroveil.gov

Utility Billing: 630-391-7200, genlog@sugargroveil.gov

Trash Pickup (Lakeshore Recycling Systems): 844-633-3577

Economic Development: 630-391-7240, mcassa@sugargroveil.gov



Get In Touch



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Sugar Grove, IL 60554

www.sugargroveil.gov

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