

Sugar Grove Receive 2009 Governor's Home Town Award

The Village of Sugar Grove is proud to announce the receipt of the 2009 Governor's Hometown Award – Youth Involvement. The award was received for the Kaneland *Alive At 25* program. The Kaneland *Alive at 25* course is modeled after the National Safety Council's *Alive At 25* program. The National Safety Council *Alive at 25* Drivers Education Course, is mandatory for all young drivers when they request court supervision for a vehicle infraction.

The Village Board felt that offering *Alive at 25* could help reduce the number of incidents involving young drivers in the community. The Board then contacted Waubensee Community College, Kane County, and Kaneland Community School District to inquire if they would be interested in partnering with the Village of Sugar Grove. The concept behind offering the Kaneland *Alive at 25* was to be proactive with young drivers and provide them with the opportunity to attend the course without being involved in a crash or receiving a citation.

President P. Sean Michels stated, "The Village Board and I are proud that Sugar Grove is a recipient of the prestigious Governor's Home Town Award. Our future lies in the hands of our children, and we are an advocate of educating our young people on the hidden hazards that come with the much sought after privilege of a driver's license. We felt it was necessary to provide additional education on those hazards. We are grateful to all the entities that helped us in our endeavor to offer *Alive at 25* to young drivers. Many thanks go to Waubensee Community College and to the Kane County DUI Task Force because without their cooperation the program would not have been possible."

Trustee Mari Johnson stated, "This award is given to projects that come about as a result of a volunteer effort. While true volunteers did not participate, the Sugar Grove volunteering spirit was alive. The Village of Sugar Grove, Waubensee Community College and Kane County worked together to insure that *Alive At 25* was, and is, available to all Kaneland students. Funding is always an issue for any project. The Village, determined that this effort should continue, worked with the Kane County Board and the DUI task force, who both committed funding to continue to provide *Alive At 25* for 2009-2010 school year".

Sugar Grove Police Chief Brad Sauer stated that, "Over 300 Kaneland High School students have participated in the program on a voluntary basis. Sugar Grove Investigator John Sizer is the instructor of the course and is a strong advocate of the course. Investigator Sizer firmly believes that the course material enlightens and gives them additional knowledge on the hazards of driving. *Alive at 25* will help our young people to achieve long and productive lives. I am honored to have Investigator Sizer as a member of my department. I am further honored to work for a proactive Village Board that supports the endeavors of the department".

The Kane County Sheriff is considering implementing the program in all schools in unincorporated Kane County, the Plano School District has begun *Alive At 25*, and Triton College and the Joshua Foundation are researching how to begin the program. Additionally, The National Safety Council has expressed interest in highlighting the Kaneland *Alive At 25* Program.

The award will be presented on Thursday, October 29th by Governor Quinn at an award ceremony which honors all recipients. Awards are presented for the following categories: Clean Up/Beautification, Parks & Recreation, Senior Citizen Involvement, Veterans Involvement, Youth Involvement and General Service Projects. Sugar Grove is proud to be the first community to undertake championing this course and proud to be able to display a Governors Home Town Award Sign which will remind all that see it, that driving is a privilege and not a right.