

## Sugar Grove Begins Furlough Days

Municipal budgets have been a topic of discussion and in the news for several months now. The Village of Sugar Grove has in fact, at several meetings, and most recently on November 3, 2009, discussed the status of the Village budget. At that meeting, the Board gave direction to institute furlough days, for non-sworn personnel. As a result, all Village offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 and Monday, January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King Day.

Administrator Brent Eichelberger stated, "Furlough days will also be used during the week between Christmas and New Years (December 28 through December 31, 2009). Employees will be given the opportunity to use some vacation days during this period. Customer service is important to the Village Board and there will be a staff person assigned to each facility to answer the phone for emergency responses only. Typically, the Village does not have a high demand for services during that week this closing will not greatly impact our residents. It is regrettable that this decision had to be made, however, it is in the best interest of the Village at this time."

The Village has been proactive throughout the year and has taken steps to reduce the budget including the layoff of four (4) full-time and one (1) part-time employees, elimination of three (3) additional positions through attrition, implementation of a hiring freeze across all departments, increased the employee portion of healthcare premiums, and reduced a number of other budget line items (i.e. certain programs and supplies). Knowing that the economic future is uncertain, at this time the Village Board has targeted a \$100,000 maximum deficit for fiscal year 2009 – 2010. With the implementation of the furlough days, the deficit is projected at \$98,674.

Finance Director VanVooren said, "It should be noted that the projected deficit can change at any time. A change in state shared revenues, reductions in utility taxes, or a bad winter are examples of items beyond the Village's control that could have a major impact on the budget. Staff will continue to monitor the budget and keep the Board informed".