

## **Press Clippings 06/10/2019**

**---Daily Herald---06/10/2019**

### **ECC Project Backpack seeks school supply donations for local students**

**Submitted by: Elgin Community College**



Help kids in need get a new backpack full of supplies by participating in the 10th annual Project Backpack, a community-based initiative.



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Elgin Community College and its partners are preparing for the 10th anniversary of Project Backpack, a community-based initiative to benefit area students in need.

Donations of school supplies will be accepted through Friday, July 12, at several locations.

The school supply giveaway event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, in the Building J Spartan Events Center, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

Students who provide proof of residency or fall 2019 enrollment in Elgin Area School District U-46, Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300, Burlington Central Unit District 301, St. Charles Unit District 303, Hanover Park-based Keeneyville District 20 or at ECC are eligible to receive free backpacks.

During the event, backpacks pre-filled with school supplies are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one backpack per student. A range of community agencies and services will also be available at the event to share information and help residents.

"It's incredibly moving to see the impact this event has on so many families in our community," said Megan Highland, Student Life coordinator and the Project Backpack lead. "Thousands of smiling students have left the event wearing their new backpack full of supplies and excited to start the upcoming school year. Seeing students receive the supplies they need to learn is a wonderful experience, and it's all made possible by the many generous donors and volunteers."

Approximately 15,000 students have been served since the initiative began in 2010.

Donations of the following supplies are needed:

- Backpacks
- Two-pocket, three-prong folders
- Spiral notebooks (one subject, wide ruled and college ruled)
- Composition notebooks
- Filler paper (150-200 count, wide ruled and college ruled)
- Three-ring binders and index dividers
- Pencils (10 count, standard No. 2, yellow wood)
- Black, blue, and red pens
- Highlighters
- Crayons (24-pack Crayola)
- Markers (10-pack Crayola, washable preferred)
- Colored pencils (12-pack Crayola)
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Rulers

- Glue sticks (0.21 oz.)

School supply donations can be dropped off from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday at Elgin Community College, Student Life Office, Building B, Room B173, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

Donations also may be dropped off at various community locations prior to July 12: Community Crisis Center, 37 S. Geneva St. in Elgin; **District U-46** Educational Services Center, 2nd Floor Reception Area, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin; Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce, 31 S. Gove Ave., Elgin; Kane County Regional Office of Education, 28 N. First St., Geneva; and Kane County Teachers Credit Union, 111 S. Hawthorne St., Elgin.

Monetary donations are also welcome and can be made online at [project-backpack.org](http://project-backpack.org) or by mailing a check to ECC Foundation, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123. Please write "Project Backpack" in memo line.

Individuals interested in volunteering for a shift during the Tuesday, July 30, or Thursday, Aug. 1, backpack packing days or during the event on Saturday, Aug. 3, can register online at [project-backpack.org](http://project-backpack.org).

Project Backpack is sponsored by Elgin Community College, Elgin Community College Faculty Association, Community Crisis Center, Elgin Community College Pension Plan Participants, Kane County Regional Office of Education, Kane County Teachers Credit Union, **School District U-46** and United Way of Elgin.

For information, visit [project-backpack.org](http://project-backpack.org) or contact the ECC Student Life Office at (847) 214-7370.

For information in Spanish, call (847) 888-5000, ext. 4211 (Para información en Español, llame (847) 888-5000, ext. 4211.)

Visit [www.facebook.com/ECCProjectBackpack/](http://www.facebook.com/ECCProjectBackpack/).

**---Daily Herald---06/09/2019**

## **Hanover Township honors local leaders at reception**

**Submitted by: Hanover Township**



Hanover Township Supervisor Brian McGuire addresses attendees of the Committee on Youth Leadership Awards Banquet.



Hanover Township Committee on Youth member Dilpreet Kaur announces an award winner during the reception.



Hanover Township Supervisor Brian McGuire, left, with Ana Easter, recipient of the Hanover Township High School Leader Award.

The Hanover Township Committee on Youth held its annual Celebration of Leadership Awards Banquet Tuesday, May 21, at the Township Senior Center, honoring individuals and their families.

The committee presented awards in five different categories:

- Julia Pachuta of Bartlett Elementary School, Rising Star Award winner.
- Maria Mendez of Tefft Middle School, Junior Leader Award winner.
- Ana Easter of Streamwood High School, High School Leader Award winner.
- Ellen Smith, Teacher at Glenbrook Elementary School, Community Adult Leader of Youth Award winner.
- Ana "Lizza" Arroyo of Parkwood Elementary School, Principal of the Year Award winner.

"The quality, and quantity, of nominations for this year's awards made it especially challenging for the committee in selecting the winners," said Gino Martinez, Hanover Township trustee and committee liaison. "Each individual stands out in their own way for their contributions in not only improving themselves, but also those around them."



Rising Star Award winner Julia Pachuta was honored for her work in mentoring students and instilling a sense of pride and self-motivation in those she works with.

The committee recognized Junior Leader Award winner Maria Mendez for her leadership with the Tefft Student Ambassadors, a group that welcomes new students and provides an in-depth orientation to the school. Menendez is also in the school's honors program.

High School Leader Award winner Ana Easter is enrolled in the high school's Leadership in Action class and is a youth leader in Sabre Smash, which is a youth led Streamwood High School freshman engagement event. Her ability to connect with younger students, especially those with disabilities, stood out to the committee.

Community Adult Leader of Youth Award winner Ellen Smith was recognized for her dedication in applying 21st century learning skills in the classroom and her efforts in the after school programs she coordinates.

Principal of the Year Award winner Ana "Lizza" Arroyo was selected for her visionary leadership at Parkwood Elementary School. Principal Arroyo is credited for creating a student-centered climate that utilizes restorative practices to positively improve student behavior.

The Committee on Youth is a township advisory committee comprised of youth and adult volunteers that meet once a month. The mission of the Committee on Youth is to be a catalyst for promoting well-being among township youth and families through family education, outreach and the fostering of community connections with an emphasis on positive youth development.

To learn more about the Hanover Township Committee on Youth or its events, visit [www.hanover-township.org](http://www.hanover-township.org) or call (630) 483-5799.

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## **Chef demos, weekly themes featured at this year's Elgin Farmers Market**

**By: Elena Ferrarin**



People peruse the tents as Elgin Farmers Market opened for 2019 on Friday afternoon along South Grove Avenue.

This year's expanded [Farmers Market](#) in downtown Elgin will feature chef demos and weekly themes centered around dogs, arts and crafts, biking, yoga, books and more.

The market organized by the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin started Friday and will offer a variety of products throughout the season, including fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, fish, meat, honey handmade crafts, pet products and body care items. It will take place 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays, rain or shine, through Oct. 4 along South Grove Avenue, between DuPage Court and Fulton Street, and along DuPage Court.

About 50 vendors have signed up so far, market manager Christina Gonzales said. About 30 came Friday and more will show up as produce grows, she said.

"I was amazed by the variety of vendors. There were lots and lots of people there," resident Danise Habun said. "It was just a nice, relaxing, beautiful afternoon."

There are several new vendors this year, including Surpassing Suburbia, a local farmer offering mushrooms and ready-to-grow plants, and Bida Baking, which sold churros at last month's Cinco de Mayo festivities, Gonzales said. "We're also hoping to bring some flower vendors," she said. "Our application is ongoing, so they can join us whenever they want."

The weekly themes starting next Friday are designed to be fun and educational, Gonzales said. The first will be "Pollinator Day," when a local beekeeper will bring a live hive so people can learn what beekeeping is all about.

The chef demos are offered by Your Neighborhood, a new Elgin-based organization that will give out recipe cards with budget-friendly ingredient alternatives, Gonzales said.

The goal of the market is to increase access to fresh, local foods. People covered by the state's supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP, can get an additional \$20 at the market when they use their Illinois EBT Link card, Gonzales said. This program is sponsored by the Elgin branch of BMO Harris Bank.

The city's sustainability commission will promote things like recycling and solar energy, and the Gail Borden Public Library will bring its book wagon so people can check out books and sign up for library cards. [Elgin Area School District U-46](#) will be there sometime in August to promote "Project Backpack," which provides school supplies to children in need, Gonzales said.

The market averaged 30 to 35 vendors per day last year, when it moved to its current location and attracted about 5,000 people, an increase of at least 25 percent compared to 2017, DNA officials said.