

# News Briefs

## COVID vaccines offered for families, children, individuals

COVID vaccines for residents, District 153 school families and kids are being offered from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7, at James Hart School, 18220 Morgan Ave. in Homewood.

Vaccines are safe, effective and free for all regardless of insurance and immigration status, according to school officials. Children as young as age 5 are now eligible for the vaccine.

This program will provide first and second doses of the COVID-19 shots, booster shots and pediatric doses. A parent must be present for children ages 5 to 17 to receive the shot.

## IJP students collect 1,000 items for needy

Students at Infant Jesus of Prague School in Flossmoor have generously donated cash and more than 1,000 items to four local organizations.



Provided photo

Students at Infant Jesus of Prague School in Flossmoor collected items for four charities, including baby needs for Aid for Women.

Students met in four groups to build a sense of community and develop 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, social skills and global awareness. They also heard from guest speakers representing Aid for Women, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Public Action to Deliver Shelter and Franciscan Health Foundation.

After the presentations, the students designed projects to benefit each organization.

"Infant Jesus of Prague students exemplified their respect for life and gratitude by paying their blessings forward," said IJP Principal Charlotte Kelly. "Students also learned a valuable lesson that children can make a monumental difference in their community and their world."

## Organizations benefit from Franciscan Health Foundation

The Franciscan Health Foundation, the fundraising affiliate of Franciscan Health, recently awarded more than \$450,000 in community health improvement grants through its Social Impact Partnership Program (SIPP).

Grant recipients in the South Suburbs are among the 57 organizations selected for \$10,000 awards. Recipients are: Crisis Center for South Suburbia, Jones Memorial Community Center, Respond Now, Anew (formerly South Suburban Family Shelter), South Suburban PADS, St. Coletta's of Illinois and the Cancer Support Center.

Caitlin Leahy, senior vice president for Franciscan Health Foundation and Community Health Improvement, said, "These non-profits have demonstrated great creativity and determination in addressing pressing community health and wellness issues in their areas. We're confident their efforts will generate some great results."

## Two named to Flossmoor commissions

Mayor Michelle Nelson appointed Mary Owen-Thomas to the Green Commission and Calvin Young to the Community Relations Commission.

Nelson lauded Owen-Thomas as an expert in communications and digital content production who volunteers with the Peace Corps.

Young, executive director of the National Guard Association of Illinois, who has a background in engineering, and works with teens and young adults on STEM programs and job readiness.

## Flossmoor trustee helps with winter apparel give-away

Flossmoor Trustee Joni Bradley-Scott joined with members of Chamber 57, the Rich Township Chamber of Commerce, in giving away 500 coats, gloves and hats on Nov. 30 as part of the nation's Giving Tuesday events to help nonprofits and other organizations assist those in need.

## D161 and D153 school staffs honored

The Homewood District 153 school board presented the Jerry Morin Educational Excellence Award for 2019-20 to Lisa Hansen, a technology specialist at James Hart School; and Michele Davis, a 25-year staff member now at Churchill School. The awards presentation was delayed due to the pandemic.

Alyssa Zajack, a teacher at Parker Junior High School, was recognized as December's second quarter #AboveAndBeyond honoree. The award recognizes teachers for their hard work and dedication to District 161.

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