The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER • MARCH 2025

COMMUNITY CRIER CALENDAR

Park District

First Wednesday 6:00 pm @ Park Office

Drainage Comm and Drainage Dist #1

First Tuesday 5:30 & 6:30 pm @ Town Hall

Fire District

2nd Monday 10:00 am @ Firehouse

Village Board

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 7:00 pm @ Park Office November to January no fourth Tuesday meetings

Township Board

2nd Thursday 7:00 pm @ Town Hall All meetings subject to changes by each agency

Save the Date

15th Annual



Classic Car, Truck, Tractor & Motorcycle Show

June 1, 2025

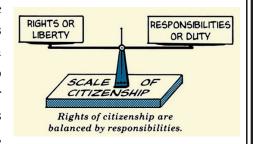
The 15th annual Big Rock Classic Car Show will be held at Plowman's Park on June 1st from 8:00AM-4:00PM. Classic cars, trucks, tractors, and motorcycles that are 25 years or older will be on display. This year we are celebrating "All Things 1955" so our special feature will be 1955 vehicles. This is a free event for everyone. Visit our website at www.bigrockcarshow.org for more information or to register your vehicle.



THE DOWNSIDE OF A SLOOOOOOOOOW ELECTION

On April 1st, Big Rock (and Kane county and the state of Illinois) will have our only election for 2025. We will be electing members to the Village Board, the Township board (including a new Supervisor), the Park board, the Hinckley-Big Rock School board (plus regional boards), and voting on at least one referendum. With all that, and with such direct impact on our taxes and communities, this will be another riveting election day like last November, right?

Probably not. There are no uncontested elections this time around. Even two positions with no one running at all. Other than Kane County's sales tax referendum question,



seeking to impose a more than 10% permanent increase, there isn't much that isn't already decided. Although there could be write-in candidates just to spice things up. Sure, Big Rock will vote more than the rest of the county. We always do. Just seems unlikely to reach the turnout from last year.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are in dire need of new election judges, especially Democrats. The county is legally required to balance the number of judges as best they can, but for many years we've been very low on one party. One vital step in the election process is the two-party verification of registration, and for that requirement it is vital we have more Democrats on election day. Without more local judges, people who would know the community, the county will be forced to send in outside judges to maintain their legally required levels by party.

Yes, it is a long day, and while it is paid, the money isn't a huge amount. But having free and fair elections requires work and commitment from more than just the elected officials. Plus, we do have some great meals and snacks throughout the day!

And, yes, some high school students CAN serve as election judges. If interested, please check with your school administrators for options and requirements.





BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP

From the Supervisor's Desk

JOIN BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP ON FACEBOOK

facebook

It is the best way for me to get information out to you quickly!

2025 Township Elections

Just a reminder that local elections for open board positions in Big Rock Township, Village of Big Rock, Big Rock Park District, and the HBR School Board will take place on Tuesday April 1. While these local races are mostly uncontested, elections are an opportunity to show local support for all of your neighbors who are running for office. Local elected officials dedicate

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Winter has been pretty mild. Hope you enjoyed being outside for the "last" spell of cold and ice.. Now a nice warm spell. Hoping for an early Spring for Easter break and can't wait for Summer.

Thanks! Wade Big Rock Township Road District

P) 630-556-4331

F) 630-556-4332

considerable time and effort to serve our community, to represent residents, and to help shape our community's future. We look forward to seeing you at our polling location (Park District Building) on April 1.

Kane County Tax Referendum

April 1 is also your opportunity to vote on a county-wide referendum on the ballot. The referendum asks whether to establish an additional 0.75% sales tax within Kane County. The proposed county-wide tax would add 75 cents per \$100 spent on all applicable retail sales, with exemptions for certain essential items such as groceries and prescription medications.

Kane County currently does not levy a sales tax. Current sales taxes paid are for the State of Illinois (6.25%), the Regional Transportation Authority (0.75%), and most municipalities (rates from 0-4.75%). For example, the Village of Big Rock does not levy any sales tax, while the City of Geneva adds 1.0%.

The county revenue from this new sales tax would be dedicated exclusively to funding essential public safety services. This includes the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney, Public Defender, Coroner, Circuit Clerk, Kane Comm 911, Public Health, and the Office of Emergency Management.

A Yes vote on the referendum indicates your support for the new tax; a No vote opposes the tax. Your vote is important.

<u>Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday April 8</u>

All township residents are invited to the Annual Town Meeting for Big Rock Township, which will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The agenda includes the township's Annual Financial Report, Supervisor's "State of the Township" report, and a summary of the Big Rock Road District activities during the past year.

The meeting will be followed by a reception to meet with your newly elected township officials who take office on May 15, and to recognize those stepping down from the board. Please join us at the 2025 Big Rock Annual Town Meeting. Best wishes for the coming Spring season!

Ken Rojek, Township Supervisor

The Big Rock Crier is published 6 times yearly by Big Rock Township, with financial support and sponsorship by the Village of Big Rock, Big Rock Park District, the Big Rock Fire Department and paid advertisements from local business to communicate local governmental activities to all township residents. Out of Township printed subscriptions can be arranged by contacting the Editor. PDF email delivery free to anyone that provides their email.

To advertise or submit articles for consideration please contact Tom Losiniecki at bigrockcrier@gmail.com The Town Hall is located at

408 Rhodes Street, Big Rock, IL Mailing address is

P.O. Box 252 Big Rock, IL 60511

Business Hours:

Please call for an appointment

Township Board Meeting Dates: Monthly: on the second Thursday at 7:00 Phone Numbers

Township and Assessor Offices

Phone: 630-556-4340 Fax: 630-556-4350

Road District 630-556-4331

bigrocktownship@gmail.com

bigrocktownship.com

bigrocktownshipassessor.com

Supervisor Ken Rojek Township Clerk Jennifer Schlachter Assessor Ralph Harkison Highway Commissioner Wade Thompson

Trustees
Amy Schoger, Paul Wedeen
Kate Buckson, and
Steve Michael

Matt Fitzpatrick President | Brian Phillips Treasurer/Deputy Village Clerk | Lindsey Zambrano Village Clerk Trustees: Mark Lynch, Kelly May, Tim May, Ted McCannon, Kathy Metzger, and Joe Walsh P.O. Box 128 | Big Rock, Illinois 60511 | (630) 556-4365 | www.villageofbigrock.us

Village Meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays* of the month at 7:00 pm

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

This year, the Village is looking to hire an on-staff code enforcement officer. The Code Enforcement Officer will make sure to properly always identify themselves when visiting any property(s). Please note, they will be making drives throughout the community on a regular basis. The Code Enforcement Officer will be utilizing and referring to the Village of Big Rock's "Property Maintenance Code" and doing compliance checks accordingly. Our Code Enforcement Officer operates by observing the community, but also through anonymous complaints forwarded from our residents to the Code Enforcer. The Village does not control who is issued a citation, the Village can only forward any anonymous complaints for investigation. If you have a complaint about a property code violation, please contact the Village in the following ways: Leave an anonymous complaint on paper in the village mailbox outside the office, call the Clerk at 630-556-4365 and leave a message or speak to the Clerk about the complaint, or email admin@villageofbigrock.us. The complaint will be forwarded anonymously to the code enforcement officer to investigate. Just because a complaint is filed, does not mean that violations will be issued. If you have any questions or concerns about the code enforcement process, please reach out to the Village office or attend a Village Board Meeting to hear the latest news or voice your own opinion.

PROPERTY OWNER ANIMAL ETIQUETTE AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

It has come to the village's attention that recently we have had dogs off leashes and/or off their properties. Please remember that the village does have an ordinance to ensure residents are keeping their animals on a leash. This provides safety for everyone! If your animal happens to wander off and use others property as their restroom facility, PLEASE be courteous and clean up after them! In addition, the village has an IGA with Kane County to contract animal control to come out (for a charge) if the need arises. This charge will be billed to the homeowner if its deemed the animal(s) were in fact off leash and/or their own property. Please be respectful to those around you and make sure your animal(s) are under owner supervision & care at all times.

DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION

The Village has no ordinance against solicitors. With this being said we have received a few complaints of individual solicitors that are going door to door possibly representing themselves as village employees or having received a village endorsement for their specific sale(s). In ALL cases this is un-true! The Village of Big Rock does not partake in any door to door sales with/for our residents. The village can only suggest that if you are receiving unwanted solicitations on your property to place a sign on your door that clearly states: "no solicitors". If you have any questions about this please contact the village office directly.



Dedicated to Serving You,

Your Village of Big Rock Board

*no fourth Tuesday meeting November to January.



INC opened its funding grant portal for FY26 on January 29th for new and currently funded agencies. All agencies that are aligned with INC's funding policy and FY26 Objectives are welcome to apply. The portal closes at 4 PM CST on March 14, 2025. Interested agencies can apply for funding via the link located on our website at www.incmha.org. General funding questions can be directed to Dalila Alegria at dalila@incmha.org and technical questions regarding agency applications can be directed to Colleen Balija at colleen@incmha.org

INC finalized its Strategic Plan for FY26-28. Staff conducted a survey of its 57 community volunteer board members, funded agency staff and board members, and dozens of key stakeholders such as government officials, provider agencies, and advocacy groups. The findings of the surveys as well as the purpose and operation of INC were shared with the board at the strategic planning session held in early January. The strategic plan helps guide and direct the Board and staff as it makes decisions on planning and funding for the next 3 years. The FY26-FY28 Strategic Plan and FY26 Objectives are located on our website. Staff wishes to thank the INC Board of Directors and 708 Board members for their time and commitment to INC's mission.



Gene Nehring President Ryan Hummell Vice President Steve Holub Treasurer Tara Mathewson Clerk Cindy Nehring

Program Director

bigrockparks.com Park District Voicemail: **(630)** 556-9599 (Recorded program listings and calendar)

The Big Rock Park District meets at 6:00 pm on the first Wednesday of every month at the Park District Building at 7S405 Madison Street in Big Rock. We would enjoy having you at our meetings and hear your suggestions.

SUGGESTIONS

Do you have an idea for a program you would like to see offered by the Big Rock Park District? Do you have a special talent or interest you would like to share with others? Please contact Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.

KITE FLY

Come and fly your kite at the Big Rock Park on Saturday, April 26th at 1 pm. You are invited to fly your kite at the Park anytime-if there are soccer or baseball games, please use the other end of the Park. While you are at the Park, enjoy the playground equipment, basketball/tennis courts, sand volleyball, pickle ball, baseball/soccer field, half mile walking path, the Dog Park and the Hake Pavilion with picnic tables and grills.

SAVE THE DATE

April 1st is the Consolidated Election . The election will be held in the Big Rock Park District Community Center. On the ballot will be three Big Rock citizens that are interested in the positions , they are Ryan Hummell, Tara Mathewson, and Amanda Hummell. We also have a write-in candidate Jordan Mrowczynski , you'll need to write his name in.

These four people will make up the heart of the Big Rock Park District of the future. Gene and Cindy Nehring will be leaving the Park District after the April election, after serving multiple years.

BIG ROCK LIONS CLUB

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS
TO JOIN THE BIG ROCK LIONS CLUB.
WE WILL PAY YOUR FIRST YEAR INITIATION
AND DUES

PLEASE JOIN US 1ST THURSDAY 7:00PM AT THE TOWN HALL. TRY US. YOU WILL LIKE US!

ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Bunny will be hiding over 2,400 surprise-filled eggs at Plowman's Park located at 48W508 Hinckley Road in Big Rock on Saturday, April 12th starting promptly at 1:15 pm. Please bring your own basket/bag for collecting eggs and a camera to take pictures. Number of eggs to collect is based on number of children in the age group.

Age groups and times: 1-2 year olds at 1:15 pm, 3 & 4 year olds at 1:30 pm, kindergarten & 1st grade at 1:45 pm and 2nd and 3rd grade at 2:00 pm. Please arrive at least 10 minutes ahead of time so your child does not miss their "Hunt". We start on time. To help the environment, we would like to recycle the eggs to fill again next year.

Thank you to the Big Rock Township, the Village of Big Rock, Big Rock Library and the Big Rock Park District who helped sponsor the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to everyone that help stuff and hide the eggs, announcing the start of each age group. Thank you goes out to the Plowman's Park Board for allowing the event to be held on their grounds.

Come and enjoy the Egg Hunt- bring a friend - the event is free. Any questions, please call Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.

EASTER BONNET DOG PARADE

On Saturday, April 12th at 2:30 pm an Easter Bonnet Dog Parade will be held after the Easter Egg Hunt at the Dog Park at the end of Madison Street in Big Rock. Use your imagination and decorate a bonnet for your dog and yourself, dogs must wear a "bonnet". Dogs will be judged and First, Second and Third Place prizes will be given with all dogs receiving a treat bag. There will be a "game" for dogs and owners to enjoy! Contact Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.





SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

4



A big THANK YOU to tree project donors in bringing us closer to our goal. With \$15K from the Association and the \$19K grant from the Kane County Board, through its Office of Community Reinvestment, with funds from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino, we are almost there. We are seeking \$4K by April 1 and would be grateful for your donation to help us save and extend the life of the old growth trees in Plowman's Park. Donations may be sent to: Big Rock Plowing Match Association, P.O. Box 261, Big Rock, IL 60511 or via the website.

We need you to help us make a difference at the 131st Plowing Match & Festival. Volunteers are key to successful events and activities and there are multiple opportunities to step up for this community event.

- The Junior Fair Committee is seeking 2-3 additional members to join the team and take the Junior Fair to the next level. Send us an email and we will be in touch.
- Help us spread the word to your favorite artists, crafters and businesses that the 2025 Vendor application is available now on our website.
- Be a volunteer. Fill out the form on our website.

Think Plowman's Park for your 2025 family, school, church, club or community event. This beautiful park under the oaks is available May-October, weekdays, as well as on weekends. Submit your rental inquiry via the request form on our website.

Save the Dates:

Bull Bash - August 9
Bronc Match - August 10
Plowing Match & Festival - September 19, 20 & 21, 2025

Website: bigrockplowingmatch.org Email: bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com Facebook: Facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch







Crew members from Davey Tree Expert Company pruning oak trees.



HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry would like to thank all of our donors and supporters over the past year. Because of you, we were able to serve over 117 families, an increase of almost 38% from 2023. Your support of our operation is how we are able to do what we do.

Openings at the HAFP - We Need You!

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP) is searching for a new Vice President and Members at Large. These volunteer positions are vital for the ongoing operation of the HAFP.

The Vice President leads the development, writing, and submission of grant requests and assists with procurement of equipment and supplies and serve as "back up" for the President.

Members at Large are needed to represent the communities of Big Rock, Maple Park, Shabbona, and Waterman. They serve as liaisons for their communities at our monthly meetings and provide first-hand insights that allow us to better serve that area. Interested parties should contact HAFP Board President, Todd Claxton via e-mail at t.claxton@mchsi.com.

The HAFP serves the communities of Big Rock, Hinckley, Maple Park, Shabbona, and Waterman. If you want more information about the pantry, please find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry/ or at our website, http://www.hinckleyareafoodpantry.org/.

815-286-7275 190 W. Lincoln Hwy Waterman, IL

Hinckley Big Rock FFA Alumni

5B's Pork Chop/Chicken Dinner Fundraiser Thursday March 13, 2025

Drive Thru Dinner 4:30-6:30 PM
Pick up H-BR High School

Your Choice of:
2 Chops, or 1/2 Chicken or
1 Chop & 1/4 Chicken Combo.
Includes: applesauce, coleslaw, beans and dinner roll

"ADVANCE TICKETS SUGGESTED"

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: JACK & JINA'S BP ● RT. 30 HINCKLEY

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OR PURCHASE IN ADVANCE USING OUR CHEDDAR UP QR CODE: and a credit card





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Proceeds to benefit Alumni Building Project & Scholarships for Senior HBR FFA Members



HBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings Hinckley-Big Rock Community~

Are you passionate about education and community involvement? Do you want to have a direct impact as we Cultivate The Future of the Hinckley-Big Rock area? The Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429 School Board is seeking individuals from the Big Rock or Pierce Townships to fill a two-year term appointment, and we want YOU to consider serving! Our Board is comprised of representation from Squaw Grove, Big Rock, and Pierce Townships, with no Township allowed to become a "super majority" of 4 or more representatives. Squaw Grove (Hinckley) has 3 spots on the Board, which poses the need for representation from the other townships.

Why Serve on the School Board?

Being part of the school board is one of the most influential ways to contribute to the development of our local education system. As a member of the board, you'll help shape policies and decisions that directly affect the quality of education and opportunities for our students. You'll work closely with fellow board members, school administrators, and the community to ensure the district is meeting the needs of all students while also managing the district's resources responsibly.

What Does the Role Involve?

Serving on the Hinckley-Big Rock School Board means engaging in regular meetings, reviewing district policies, approving budgets, and making decisions that help guide the direction of our schools. Board members also collaborate with community leaders and parents to ensure that our district's needs and goals align with the best interests of our students.

Why Should You Apply?

If you care about improving education and supporting your local community, this position is an excellent way to do both. School boards play a crucial role in ensuring that schools not only provide high-quality education but also foster a nurturing environment for students to thrive. By serving on the board, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities our schools face.

How to Get Involved?

Interested applicants can find more information and submit a letter of application for the two-year appointment by contacting Megan Sheffer, Secretary to the School Board, at MSheffer@hbr429.org or 815.286.7578. Whether you're a parent, community member, or a passionate advocate for education, we encourage everyone with an interest in shaping the future of our students to apply.

Thank you for your continued partnership, #TogetherWeAreHBR

~Jessica Sonntag, Superintendent



HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD 429 FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Hinckley-Big Rock provides screenings for children birth to 5 who may be delayed in developmental milestones (communication, fine/gross motor, problem-solving, and personal-social). If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact Bonnie Osborne at 815-286-7578 or bosborne@hbr429.org to set up a screening appointment. These screenings are conducted by a team of District Educators and Specialists and are available to families living within the HBR School District. The screening will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Afterwards, parents will have the opportunity to discuss the results of the screening as

well as any concerns about their child, with a member of the screening team.

Children 2-5 years old will participate in the screening with our team.

Children birth to 2 years old may be referred by our screening team for an Early Intervention evaluation.





BIG ROCK



Meet the Postmaster

Khaja, our new postmaster, provided an enjoyable roundtable. He discussed his career path and post office issues ranging from pension system (it's less than you expect) to the importance of revenue generated from postage, stamps, greeting cards at the local office as well as the volume of mail posted there. It was interesting to discover that each day the carrier's route is 62 miles long. Participants requested another informal session in a couple months.



The Best Deal in the Area

Look to your library for the best deal around. For \$15 a year, you have a hefty collection of books and we buy many new volumes along with our donated items. There are videos and CDs and an outstanding children's collection. You can read eBooks and listen to eAudio books with your library card through the Boundless app. The library holds programs of interest each month and the newly formed arts and crafts group also meets monthly. In a short time, there will be a robust summer reading program for children and adults with many prizes and activities. Bargain hunters find large used book sales twice a year at car show and plowing match times. The Museum Adventure pass has discounted admission to local attractions. Enjoy a tour of the library now with the on-going display of Native American Footwear (Moccasins) in their colorful splendor.

The "Win-a-Quilt" contest fundraiser deadline has been expanded to March 15 to give Crier readers a chance to respond. Give us a story of how a quilt or a quilter is important in your life or your plans if you won the "Shelves of Books" quilt. Enclose your masterpiece with \$3 to Big Rock

Library, PO Box 206, Big Rock, IL 60511 or drop off during hours of operation.

- Our February Bread Monk program needed re-scheduling due to an injury to the presenter. We will keep you posted when it
- Pick up a craft kit for the little ones at the library. These are developed by the Educators Rising group at HBR and there is a new craft monthly.



Conley Outreach Community Services is having thoughts of spring! Our regular grief programming has been running along with a few new events coming up. Adult bereavement groups continue to meet monthly at the Elburn Office. We are offering Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow (Grief Book Club), Grieving with Hope (General Grief Support) is back this month, and Life After Loss (Widows 55 and under) monthly. We are excited to announce that Conley Outreach and longtime facilitator, Lora Windsor, LCSW will be at the Sugar Grove Public Library on Sunday, March 9, 2025 with a presentation on "Bibliotherapy and the Top Ten Grief Books." See the library website or our events page for registration. Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss Event in partnership with Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital next class will be in April 2025. Also, in May, J&R Herra Showroom will graciously host our "Embracing Your Grief with Crystal Energy and Vibrational Sound Healing." Good Grief Day Camp dates have been finalized for the week of 6/23-6/27. Applications will be available in April. We are very excited about the ways we have been meeting the needs of the bereaved. Please see the Events page at Conleyoutreach.org for more information or contact Jennifer at cocsdirector@gmail.com to register for our grief groups.

As always, we are available to help navigate social service and mental health resources. Please contact the Executive Director, Jennifer Long at 630-365-2880 for more information or to stay in the know, like us on Facebook!





Scott Bickford 630-688-5686

BIG ROCK, IL

Jared Bickford 630-669-6886





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Need Help?...Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a charitable lay Catholic organization

founded to serve those in need.
Our group is associated with St.
Katharine Drexel Catholic church. We make no judgments about your situation, and you need not be a member of our church to receive aid. We serve Big Rock, Sugar Grove, and surrounding areas of Kane County. Typically, the kind of help we are able to offer is short-term assistance with bills, such as rent, a mortgage payment, utilities, medical bills, car repair, or other important expenses. If you are in need, please call us at 630-466-8833, and leave a message. Someone will return your call within 24 hours. You may also contact us by email at svdpsugargrove@gmail.com. For more information on how we can help, visit our website at www.svdp-skd.org.

The **BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER • MARCH 2025**

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SIGN UP HERE!



Locally (Big Rock)

Owned & Operated



EARN 1 POINT FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT RECIEVE A \$5 DISCOUNT FOR EVERY 50 POINTS REDEEMED REDEEMABLE ON ANY PURCHASE OF \$5 OR MORE (MAX \$5 DISCOUNT PER VISIT)

RECEIVE 25 BONUS SIGN-UP POINTS





