



# The **BIG ROCK** COMMUNITY CRIER • JANUARY 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*



## THE POLLS ARE CLOSED, FOR NOW.

Our next local election will be on **April first** (*no fooling!*) for Village board; Township trustees, supervisor, clerk, assessor and highway commissioner; Park District board; and School Board. Candidate filings are posted on the Kanevotes.org website, along with rules and deadlines for write-in candidates.

Quick totals from the November 5th election, Big Rock township had 1069 of the 1247 registered voters cast their ballots, just short of 86%. And of the 1069 tallied, over 23% of those voted either by mail or at one of the numerous early voting sites in the county.

County wide, there were 225945 cast ballots, just over 74% of registered voters, so as usual we're well above average.

And just a quick note from the election judges. If you have the time, please consider becoming an election judge and join our ranks. We are always in need of "new blood". While not every election is expected to have as robust a turnout as this last one (although it would be great if they were!), those are the kinds of days that require more judges and judge time than Big Rock has been able to supply. And yes, though the county will always bring in judges to fill gaps, both in needed personnel and party affiliation requirements, it's always nicer to have a local person behind the desk.

## SAVE THE SCHOOL HOUSE

The Big Rock Historical Society has continued efforts this year to generate funds to reconstruct a faithful rendition of the Red School. \$132,000 has been established as the target for the funds needed to complete the rebuild. Donations and fundraising have so far generated nearly \$10,000. The project recently received grant awards from the Kane County Riverboat Fund for \$24,000 and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley for \$19,500. Rich Harvest Farms has recently announced that they will do a matching donation for a total of \$25,000 for new funds generated to the project. If you would like to contribute toward the matching grant, please send a donation to the Big Rock Historical Society, PO Box 206, Big Rock IL 60511.

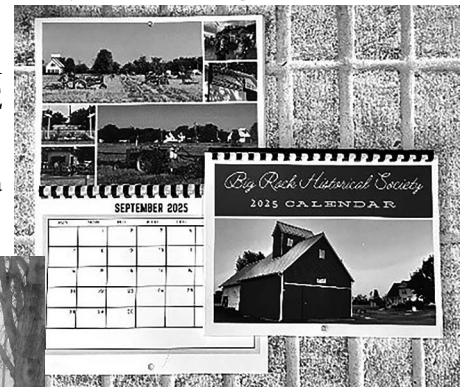
The "Red School" was located on the corner of Scott and Davis roads and was in use from the 1860s - 1922 until all the Big Rock rural one room schools were consolidated at the new grade & high school that was built in town. Plans are to reconstruct a faithful restoration of the original vintage Red School displayed in a 1901 photo on the Historical Society's property adjacent to the museum and library. It would be used as an educational exhibit to display what it was like to attend a one-room school as well as display local Big Rock school historical artifacts.

We are focused on involving local businesses and trades in the project and this Winter will be spent firming up plans and requesting bids. Plans are to begin construction this Spring. There are hopes that a talented volunteer group from the community could do the rough framing of the structure. If you would like to be involved in the project, leave a message at the Big Rock Library (630) 556-3604 and someone will contact you.

There are still a limited number of 2025 Big Rock Historical Society calendars. Email [lindseyzambrano@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyzambrano@gmail.com) or call the library (630) 556-3604

Don't let a piece of our local history be lost. **SAVE THE SCHOOLHOUSE!**

The Big Rock Historical Society is a 501(c)(3)



48W445 Hinckley Road  
P.O. Box 206  
Big Rock, IL 60511  
[bigrockhistoricalsociety.org](http://bigrockhistoricalsociety.org)



# 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!*

## ROAD COMMISSIONER

As of writing this we just plowed our first snowfall and there were two cars parked in the roadway. This is not allowed and will result in being ticketed and towed if this continues.

We have quite an assortment of old weathered Road signs available for \$10 each.

We are looking for part-time employees for the Road District and a list of people to help with snowfall on our stand-by list. Please call 630.201.7987 to discuss or with any Road District questions.

Thanks! Wade  
Big Rock Township Road District

P) 630-556-4331  
F) 630-556-4332

### 2025 Township Elections – April 1

The filing deadline has passed for candidate nomination forms to be submitted for the April 1 election for all township offices. A full slate of candidates will be on the ballot for the four positions as Township Trustees, and one candidate for each of the positions of Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Road District Commissioner. These positions will fill four-year terms beginning in May, 2025.

No one filed to run for the position of Township Assessor. Illinois law requires the township board to appoint a qualified person to fill this position before the current assessor term ends next December. Information on all candidates on the ballot for the April 1 elections will be detailed in the March 2025 issue of the Crier.

### 2024 Mosquito Season Report

Clarke Environmental completed all 5 contracted sprays for mosquitos in late September for the township and village. During the past year, traps throughout Northern Illinois counted over 30 different mosquito species. Our local population of adult mosquitos peaked in July, which corresponds to the highest monthly rainfall of the season. In the past year, 60 human cases of mosquito-borne West Nile virus were confirmed in Illinois, a 50% reduction from the prior year. The Clarke 2024 Annual Mosquito Report is posted on the township website at bigrocktownship.com.

### 2024 Township Tax Levy

Big Rock Township has not increased its property tax levy for 4 of the past 6 years, and the Road District has not been increased for the past 2 years. Due to the inflation over the past several years, we continue to see increasing costs for utilities, town hall maintenance, fuel costs, equipment repairs, road materials and asphalt, employee salaries, costs for bridge inspections, cemetery maintenance, and property and liability insurance.

To help offset these costs, the township board approved a modest increase in the tax levy for 2024 property taxes (collected in 2025). The Township and Road and Bridge levies will increase by 3.5% for the coming year. As a reminder, the township levy represents only 2.8% and the road and bridges only 5.8% of the property tax bills for Big Rock residents.

The township board remains committed to assure that all spending remains fiscally prudent and responsible in the future. The township continues to have zero long-term debt, and only spends what we have in the bank and reserves. The 2025/26 budget will be sufficient to continue all existing township, cemetery, and mental health support, as well as road and bridge maintenance and repairs, winter snow removal, and other programs. During 2024, 4.1 miles of township roads were tar-and-chipped, and the next budget will continue this multi-year road improvement project, with 2 miles of gravel roads expected to be tar-and-chipped next year. The 2024 township and road district tax levy ordinances will be posted on the township website after confirmation by the Kane County Clerk.

Your township board joins me in wishing all Big Rock residents a very Happy New Year in 2025!

*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](mailto: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



# VILLAGE OF BIG ROCK

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](http://www.villageofbigrock.us)

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

## TEMPORARY CHANGE IN VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS

The Village office hours will be temporarily amended while Clerk Zambrano is on leave this winter. Office hours will be by appointment only. The temporary clerk, Madeline, will be serving the Village in Clerk Zambrano's absence. Please call 630-556-4365 to arrange an appointment. If you have an urgent/ timely matter, please email President Fitzpatrick at [Matt.Fitzpatrick@villageofbigrock.us](mailto:Matt.Fitzpatrick@villageofbigrock.us).

## SNOW PLOWING

With the winter/snow season upon us the Village would like to remind residents of its parking ban on all Village streets when snow accumulations exceed 2 inches. The Big Rock highway department needs the roadways clear of parked vehicles so they can do their job to keep the streets clean. The Village's zoning enforcement/property maintenance officer will issue citations for cars that are in violation of the ordinance. First offense is a \$25 fine and the second offense will result in the vehicle being towed at the owners expense. The Village has had a parking ban ordinance in effect for many years. Please do your part to assist in keeping our Village streets, alleys, and roads clear so they can be maintained properly.

## VILLAGE INCOME SOURCES

Ever wonder just exactly where your village receives its income from? The board takes great pride in sharing with the community that it does not tax its residents therefore causing any financial burden. Want to see this yourself? View the line item on your real estate tax bill and this is what you will see: *BIG ROCK VILLAGE 0.000000 \$0.00* The village board works solely off of income received from sales tax, utility tax, motor fuel tax, liquor sales tax, etc..... All sources of income are generated outside of requesting monies from its residents. Therefore it takes time to accumulate enough funds to do projects in our community. The village has for many years now received the highest audit rating and is commended for operating within its budget effectively. You will also notice that over the years many different roads have been repaved & widened, trees trimmed, freight train quiet zone in place, sidewalks repaired/replaced, bridges being repaired, and many other things (big & small) to improve our community. This is phenomenal work for a municipality our size utilizing only funds that are generated from the revenue streams mentioned above.

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The Village encourages you to attend an upcoming Village Board meeting. The meetings are very informative about all that is currently happening in our Village. They are held at the Community Park Building at 7 p.m. The meetings will begin the winter schedule from November-February, meaning they will be held once a month, on the second Tuesday. Agendas are always posted in advance at the Park District & Post Office if you're curious as to what's going to be covered. And remember, at every meeting we have a "public" session where you or anyone can address any topic. All constructive feedback will be taken into Board considerations.



## Dedicated to Serving You,

Your Village of Big Rock Board

\*no fourth Tuesday meeting November to January.



INC staff will meet with Big Rock's township 708 Mental Board on Thursday February 27, 2025. The township board meets 4 times a year in February, June and October (INC annual meeting is the fourth). Meetings are open to the public and details are provided on our website at [www.incmha.org](http://www.incmha.org). INC is grateful to the 708 members who dedicate their time and talent to this board!

Did you know that Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS), managed by the Kane County Health Department (KCHD), is a free, web-based communication tool that helps organizations connect the individuals and families they serve to the right resources in our community? IRIS, developed by the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research, is used in 82 counties in six states and recently celebrated its own milestone of 100,000 referrals. Ten percent of those referrals were made by the Kane County IRIS community since the local program began in March 2021. Over 212 local organizations, from mental health to parenting resources to substance use services (and much more), are represented in IRIS. To learn more about IRIS, visit: <https://kanehealth.com/AOK/Pages/Initiatives-Pages/IRIS.aspx>.



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 interest or talent you would like to share with others? Please contact Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.

### VETERANS PROGRAM

A Veterans Program was held on Saturday, November 9th at the Park Building. The speaker was Steve Holtz, a National Commander and gave an interesting presentation and had a question and answer session. Light refreshments were enjoyed.



### CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

Christmas Decoration judging was held the evening of December 14th, First Prize went to Ryan Finley, Second Prize went to Alexa Nelms, there was a three way tie for Third Prize going to Jamie Brasfield, Mark, Sarah, Livia, William Hedborn and Eric Roche. Thank you to everyone that entered the contest.

### HALLOWEEN DOG PARADE

On Saturday, October 26th, after the Dedication A Halloween Dog Parade was held at Rigby's Bark Park. First Place went to Susan Collins and Hope, an 8 year Terrier mix, Second Place went to Amanda Nehring with Phoenix, a 3 year old Terrier mix and Third Place went to Donna Carney with Fiona, a 7 year old Malinois Belgian Shepherd. All dogs received a treat bag.



(left to right, Susan Collins Amanda Nehring and Donna Carney)

### DOG PARK DEDICATION

The Big Rock Park District had a Dedication on Saturday, October 26th, 2024 and named the Dog Park - Rigby's Bark Park in Memory of Steve Holub and his dog Rigby. Steve had been a Park District Board Member for 12 years and loved the Dog Park and took care of it - sadly, Steve passed away on September 10, 2024. Steve's 99 year old mother was able to attend the dedication with Steve's sister Barbara. Marvin Wilson and Cindy Nehring spoke at the Dedication.



(left to right Dorothy Holub and Barbara James)

### FIT & FUN FOR 55+

Low-impact aerobics, light resistance training and flexibility work to help participants gain strength and endurance for daily activities. Choose Tuesdays or Thursdays (makeups can be done on the alternate day within the session) OR Save \$10 on the Tuesday & Thursday Combo session. Bring water to hydrate.

Tuesdays: January 28 – March 4 \_\_\_\_\$40

Thursdays: January 30 – March 6 \_\_\_\_\$40

Tues & Thurs Combo: January 28 – March 6 \_\_\_\_\$70

Time: 10:00-10:45am

Classes are held at the Big Rock Park District Building located at 7S405 Madison Street. Feel free to email Jeanne.ecker@yahoo.com if you have questions or would like a registration form emailed to you. Bring completed registration form and class fee (cash / check made out to Jeanne Ecker) to your first class.

### HONEST ABS

Sign up for this class to firm up that belly, strengthen that aching back & tone up that posterior. This 30-minute core workout focuses primarily on mat exercises that target the abdomen, hips & low back. It's suitable for all fitness levels and is designed to strengthen those core muscles around your mid-section, increase flexibility, and reduce back pain. Bring an exercise mat and water to hydrate.

Tuesdays: January 28 – March 4 \_\_\_\_\$40

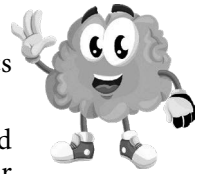
Time: 8:45 – 9:15am



**Big Rock**  
LIBRARY  
NEWS OF NOTE FROM  
BIG ROCK LIBRARY  
48W447 HINCKLEY RD.  
BIG ROCK

## Does Memory Loss Concern you?

Worried about dementia impacting your future or your loved ones? While genetics can play a role, your lifestyle can significantly influence the outcome.



Big Rock's own health coach, Virginia Waterstreet, brings you science-backed lifestyle strategies during this interactive presentation, to protect and sharpen your brain. Discover practical tips to build habits that support optimal aging and empower yourself to stay vibrant and mentally strong.

Gather at Big Rock Library on Thursday, January 16, at 6:30 pm for an hour's session how you can impact your mental clarity.



## Put a little mystery in your life

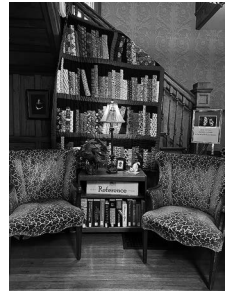
The fun-loving arts and crafts group will have a mystery adventure on January 15 at 6:30 pm at Big Rock Library. Cost is \$3 for supplies. RSVP to [info@bigrocklibrary.org](mailto:info@bigrocklibrary.org) or phone 630-556-3604 and leave a message. There is a limit of 12 spaces so please reply by Jan. 9. Pictured is a craft from the December session where button collages created holiday images.

## We Love a Good Story. Do you have one?

A patron kindly donated this 48" X 64" quilt that is suggestive of book spines on a shelf. It's a commercially sewn piece that is our newest fundraiser.

Tell us a memory you have with a favorite quilt or tell about your favorite quilter. Do you sew quilts and have had an interesting experience? Who would you gift this quilt to if you were to be awarded it? What memories have quilts made in your life?

Please tell us in a paragraph or so and enclose a \$3 entry fee (it's a fund raiser, after all) for Big Rock Library. Entries may be mailed to PO Box 206, Big Rock, 60511 or brought to the library in person. Deadline is March 6, Thursday, so begin thinking of your entry today. Hey, it's a lot easier than making a quilt.



**Waubonsee Community College** is offering **FREE technology** classes to the community. Registration is encouraged but not required. See their website for sessions at their downtown Aurora campus and sessions in Spanish.

## Basic Technology Programs at Waubonsee

Learn basic technology skills through your local library and Waubonsee Community College

### Intro to Microsoft Word

- 2/12/2025 @ 12pm - Aurora Downtown Campus Library
- 2/12/2025 @ 6pm - Sugar Grove Todd Library
- 2/13/2025 @ 12pm - Sugar Grove Todd Library
- 2/13/2025 @ 6pm - Aurora Downtown Campus Library - en Español

### Intro to Microsoft Excel

- 2/19/2025 @ 12pm - Aurora Downtown Campus Library
- 2/19/2025 @ 6pm - Sugar Grove Todd Library
- 2/20/2025 @ 12pm - Sugar Grove Todd Library
- 2/20/2025 @ 6pm - Aurora Downtown Campus Library - en Español

### Intro to Google Drive

- 2/26/2025 @ 6pm - Sugar Grove Todd Library
  - 2/27/2025 @ 6pm - Aurora Downtown Campus Library - en Español
- Registration encouraged not required. Call (630) 466-2400 to register!



**FIND SUCCESS**



Library Services

Virtual events are auto captioned. If you need professional captioning, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations for an event, please contact [library@waubonsee.edu](mailto:library@waubonsee.edu). Five business days notice is requested. Waubonsee does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's actual or perceived characteristics protected by law in its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to: Michele Needham, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60956, [compliance@waubonsee.edu](mailto:compliance@waubonsee.edu).



## 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!



**(630) 556-3755**

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auto service**

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- Engine Repair • Brakes
- Tune-Ups • Exhaust • 4x4
- Repair • Suspension Work
- And more

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday by Appointment

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

SM-CL-0384561



# HBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year HBR Community!

This month, we have some exciting O&M updates to share. Both the elementary and middle schools have received the ComEd incentive grant, allowing us to fully upgrade to LED lighting. This change not only reduces energy consumption and lowers maintenance costs, but it also has a positive impact on the learning environment. Research shows that LED lighting helps:

- Increase focus and concentration
- Reduce fatigue and eye strain
- Create a calmer, quieter atmosphere that supports better self-regulation

In contrast, fluorescent lighting often causes distractions in classrooms due to glare and flickering. Prolonged exposure to fluorescent lights has been linked to headaches, migraines, increased anxiety, and difficulty concentrating. We are thrilled to have completed this upgrade at a significantly reduced cost thanks to the ComEd incentives, and both students and staff have shared positive feedback about the improvements.

In other news, as of December 13, 2024, HBR is the proud new owner of 540 W. Lincoln Highway (formerly Hinckley Concrete). We are incredibly grateful to the Nehring family for their continued support of the school district and for working with us in this transaction to expand our school campus. Thank you to O'Donnell Excavating for their work in cleaning up the area for our use. In the short term, we plan to use the property for district storage, a workshop area for O&M staff, and an expanded shop for bus maintenance. Additionally, a gravel drive and parking area have been developed along the east side of the elementary school field, which will be available for community parking during spring soccer and baseball events. The existing building on the site will be referred to as the O&M Building. As we move forward, the long-term use of the property will be shaped by enrollment trends and evolving community needs.

Please join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a "2nd cup of coffee". We meet at the high school from 9:00-10:00 am. This is an opportunity for you to come in and discuss concerns, suggestions, and ideas with our administrative team. Our next meeting will be on January 21, 2025. Can't make it? Please send ideas to [suggestionbox@hbr429.org](mailto:suggestionbox@hbr429.org).

~Jessica Sonntag, Superintendent

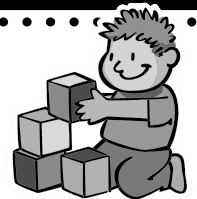
## HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD 429 FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

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 Dr. Sonntag at 815-286-7576 or [jsonntag@hbr429.org](mailto:jsonntag@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.

FREE  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
SCREENING



	<p><b>English Congregational United Church of Christ</b> 301 Rhodes Street Big Rock</p>	
<p>For up to date information, visit our website at <a href="http://ECUCC.org">ECUCC.org</a> and click on "News" and then "Calendar" for a list of upcoming Worship Services and events. Also, you can follow our Facebook page: "English Congregational United Church of Christ" to see current information.</p>		
	<p>Join us each Sunday at 10:15am for our weekly Worship Service. Everyone is always welcome at ECUCC and we look forward to seeing you! For further information, please call the church office at: 630.556.3986 Pastor John Omerod</p>	



P.O. Box 261, Big Rock, IL 60511 or via the 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: Plowing Match & Festival – September 19, 20 & 21, 2025**

**2025 Association Board:** Officers-Terry Sorensen, President; Bob Raymond, Vice-President; Kim Hummell, Treasurer; A. Denise Farrugia, Secretary. Directors: Bill Brickert, Sandy Madden, Abby Needham, Gene Nehring, Steve Ruh, Craig Thomas, John Thompson and Karen Yoder.



Website: [bigrockplowingmatch.org](http://bigrockplowingmatch.org) Email: [bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [Facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch](https://www.facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch)

**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](mailto:svdpsugargrove@gmail.com). For more information on how we can help, visit our website at



Conley Outreach Community Services has been fully emersed in the season! We have been having a wonderful time engaging in the community. In October, we had our annual "Cooking Up Comfort" Chili Cook Off fundraiser for our Good Grief Fund. Special thanks to Kuipers Family Farm and C.A.S.I. for making this event happen each year. Also, we were invited to the first annual Sugar Grove Park District 5K "Run to Remember." Early December, we were out and about with our Executive Director attending Christmas in Kaneville and the Elburn Stroll. We had fun seeing so many neighbors we know while meeting new people, too!

We just finished distributing to our Holiday Spirit Families. Thank you to all the amazing everyday folks, churches, businesses, and services organizations that sponsored this year. Our community's continued generosity allowed us to provide a little extra joy to 34 Kaneland area families and 81 children. This year we were able to do something special for our families. Thanks to the Sugar Grove Park District and Campise Family promoting our Holiday Spirit Program we were able to provide a special gift card for family fun in Lisa Campise's Honor. Lisa was a beloved Kaneland Social Worker, a resident of Sugar Grove, and 708 Board Member. The Sugar Grove Park District "Run to Remember" 5K was held in her honor and promoted Holiday Spirit which was a cause that Lisa held dear. We wanted to ensure the money raised went to a special gift for each family to help promote togetherness.

Grief programming is still building momentum. 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 on pause till after the holiday season, and Life After Loss (Widows 55 and under) monthly. Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss Event in partnership with Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital next class will be held February 2025. In May, J&R Herra Showroom will graciously host our "Embracing Your Grief with Crystal Energy and Vibrational Sound Healing." We are very excited about the ways we have been meeting the bereaved at with their grief. Please see the Events page at [Conleyoutreach.org](http://Conleyoutreach.org) for more information or contact Jennifer at [cocsdirector@gmail.com](mailto: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 Executive Director, Jennifer Long at 630-365-2880 for more information or to stay in the know, like us on Facebook!

Our free and confidential resource and referral service can link you to over 80 agencies in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties that provide affordable health and human services. This past year we have helped almost 500 area friends and neighbors find the help they needed. Don't wait for a small problem to become large...

**Call us today!**  
www.conleyoutreach.org

Conley Outreach  
**West Towns**  
Human Services  
Network



# BICKFORD ELECTRIC

ELECTRICAL, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Scott Bickford  
630-688-5686

BIG ROCK, IL

Jared Bickford  
630-669-6886

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## HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry needs help stocking our shelves!

The items most needed are: apple & cranberry juice, breakfast cereal, apple sauce, tuna, sugar, flour, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, and toothpaste.

Drop off items at our donation box outside of the pantry at 190 W. Lincoln Hwy. in Waterman or at the Hinckley First United Methodist Church at 801 N. Sycamore St. in Hinckley.

Visit our website for more information:  
[HinckleyAreaFoodPantry.org](http://HinckleyAreaFoodPantry.org)

Follow us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry](https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry)

815-286-7275

190 W. Lincoln Hwy Waterman, IL

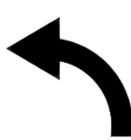
## The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER • JANUARY 2025

PO Box 252  
Big Rock, IL 60511

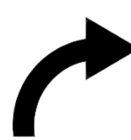
Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
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Big Rock, IL  
Permit #24

WS CAR-RT SORT

### Postal Customer Big Rock, IL 60511



Locally (Big Rock)  
Owned & Operated



**SIGN UP  
HERE!**

**SIGN UP  
HERE!**

EARN 1 POINT FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT  
RECEIVE 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**



EARN 1 POINT FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT  
RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT FOR EVERY 250 POINTS REDEEMED  
REDEEMABLE ON ANY PURCHASE OF \$10 OR MORE  
(MAX \$10 DISCOUNT PER VISIT)  
**RECEIVE 25 BONUS SIGN-UP POINTS**

