The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER • MAY 2026

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





Construction of a faithful rendition of the "Red School" is nearing completion. The entrance ramp and front door have been installed and work has begun on staining the floor and installing limestone veneer on the foundation walls. Antique school desks, displays, and other historic decorations will be moved in next along with landscaping and signage in May. A grand celebration will be announced for later this summer.

The Big Rock Historical Society was excited when Virginia and Sam Waterstreet shared the attached original photo of the "Red School" and other interesting artifacts that were passed along to the family from Mary Bagge. Mary attended the "Red School" until she reached 7th grade in 1920 when schools in Big Rock Township were consolidated and all students attended the same school in town.

A new web page for the Big Rock Historical Society is under construction. The address is "https://bigrockhistory.org" if you would like to take a peek. Please email Bigrockhistory@gmail.com if you have suggestions or would like to be involved.

Join us Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 pm at the historic Marvel Davis Farm on Jericho Road. The Big Rock Historical Society and Library will be hosting author Cynthia Clampitt and her presentation on "Wildboars to Bacon". If you are looking for a rustic barn venue to host a local event, you can contact the Big Rock Historical Society for more information by emailing Bigrockhistory@gmail.com.

The museum will open for the season on May 3. It will be open on Sundays from 2 – 4 pm.

48W445 Hinckley Road
P.O. Box 206
Big Rock, IL 60511

***The* Big Rock Historical Society**

To help keep residents safe and informed, the Big Rock Fire Protection District, in cooperation with the Village of Big Rock, has launched an automated text alert service for our community.

Residents who register will receive text message notifications for tornado warnings, and urgent community alerts. Tornado alerts are triggered by parameters set forth by the National Weather Service.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to enroll.

We now offer CPR classes!
Classes will be offered quarterly, and cost $30 per person.

2026 Class Dates:
Tuesday, July 28th - 6:30pm
Saturday, October 17th - 10am

Scan the QR code or visit our website to sign up!

If you are a local business looking to certify your staff, please reach out to bmathewson@bigrockfire.com

The fire department is looking for those interested in helping the community. Please contact Brock Mathewson or Chuck Kuhn at 630 556 3214. You can also follow us on Facebook. Give us a call if you have any questions.

Announcements. Website will have all the details about each event and announcement.

- Celebrate America Under the Oaks, presented by the Association, with music, food and more on Thursday, July 9 from 7-10 pm. Details by Memorial Day.
- Bull Bash and Bronc & Bull Bash information available now.
- Make a difference: Be a donor and step up as an event sponsor, contribute to the carnival or help save the trees. Your support is essential to what is possible at the 132nd Plowing Match & Festival. Big Rock Plowing Match Association, P.O. Box 261, Big Rock, IL 60511.
- Artisans, crafters and vendors are invited to be featured at the Plowing Match & Festival, September 19 & 20. Application and details available now.
- Volunteers needed for 2-3 hour shifts during Plowing Match & Festival. Assist at Information Booth, dinners and concessions, Junior and Exhibitors Fair and more. Sign on beginning in July.
- Rent Plowman's Park for your family, school, church, club or community event on weekdays, as well as weekends. Submit your rental inquiry via the request form.

2026 Save the Dates:
Bull & Bronc Events – August 8 & 9
Plowing Match & Festival – September 18, 19 & 20
bigrockplowingmatch.org | bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com
Facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch

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!

Big Rock Township's Student Art Contest

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Big Rock Township is proud to host a community wide Student Art Contest for children and teens. Young artists are invited to explore themes of history and community through their creative work. The contest is open to Big Rock Township residents ages 3–18, as well as any student enrolled in School District 429.

Winning entries will be displayed in the Exhibitors' Fair Building during the Big Rock Plowing Match, September 18–20. More than $500 in total cash prizes will be awarded, with judging taking place in September.

Beginning May 1, entry forms and coloring sheets will be available at Town Hall, the Big Rock Library, and online at bigrocktownship.com. Students should carefully review all entry requirements and submit their artwork by the listed deadlines.

Good luck to our student artists—we can't wait to see your creativity on display!

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Glad winter is over, although now we've been getting plenty of rain to make up for it. We've been adding gravel to three roads that are not paved and doing edge work on the sides of a lot of the roads. Please be patient with us when you see us out there.

Help Wanted - We are looking for possible full or part-time help, CDL a big plus but not a requirement Call 630-201-7987.

Wade
Big Rock Township Road District

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

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
Dean Hummell
Township Clerk
Jennifer Smith
Assessor
Tina Goeckel
Highway Commissioner
Wade Thompson
Trustees
Amy Schoger, Paul Wedeen
Kate Buckson, and
Dawn Lynch

INC Mental Health Alliance

Our board voted to open its funding application to new and currently funded agencies for FY27. Twenty-seven agencies have applied for funding opportunities that align with our FY27 Objectives, which includes 11 new agencies and a total of 51 programs. INC's Program Committee met on April 20th to review agency funding applications and present their recommendations to the full board at their annual meeting in May.

The next Big Rock 708 Mental Health Board meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m.. Details for this public meeting can be found on our website at https://www.incmha.org/meetings/

INC's April newsletter featured an interview with Ken Rojek. Ken shared how his professional experience led him to get involved with the BR 708 board and INC's umbrella board. Details of Ken's interview can be found in our INC Links April Newsletter edition, located here: https://www.incmha.org/reports-and-plans/

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



English Congregational United Church of Christ
301 Rhodes Street
Big Rock

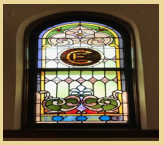


We're a small, close-knit family and we'd love for you to join us for worship and a bit of country hospitality. Our coffee is always hot, and our door is always open and welcoming.

For up to date information, please visit our website at ECUCC.org and click on "News" and then "Calendar". Also, you can follow our Facebook page: "English Congregational United Church of Christ".



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 soon!
For further information, please call the church office at: 630.556.3986
Pastor John Omerod



VILLAGE OF BIG ROCK

Matt Fitzpatrick President | Brian Phillips Treasurer/Deputy Village Clerk | Lindsey Zambrano Village Clerk
Trustees: Nick Gillis, Mark Lynch, Tim May, Ted McCannon, Cory Schollmeyer, and Haley Mason
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

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR SOLICITORS IN THE VILLAGE OF BIG ROCK

Ordinance No. 2024-07 was adopted by the Board of Trustees on March 26th, 2024. It outlines new licensing requirements and regulations for solicitors in the Village. The Clerk will license and regulate solicitors within the Village pursuant to Division 42 of the Illinois Municipal Code, and specifically pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-42-5. An exception is made for minors under the age of fifteen engaged in charitable solicitation; they are not required to obtain a license from the Village but shall comply with provisions of the ordinance regulations. The following is a summary of new solicitor requirements and regulations: An open display of the Village license to be presented to all solicitations sought as well as proper identification and statement of purpose presented to every solicitation. A solicitor can only solicit from the hours of 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. and is only allowed to enter premises using the principal approach. No solicitation where there is a "No Solicitation" notice posted. The solicitor shall immediately cease soliciting and leave the premises upon the request of any owner or occupant. The solicitor shall not advertise by use of signs, sound, music, or other method. No soliciting from a motorized vehicle at any time in any location within the village. No solicitation from public streets. No fraud or misrepresentation while soliciting. If you would like to see complete details of Ordinance 2024-07 "An ordinance approving licensing requirements and regulations for solicitors in the Village of Big Rock", please see "Big Rock Solicitor's Ordinance" at www.villageofbigrock.us.

BURNING IN THE VILLAGE

With spring upon us and property cleanup underway, please remember that the Village does have certain burning rules. More details about the Village rules are in "Amended Nuisances and Property Maintenance Code" **Section 3.2**. "Open burning of yard waste generated on the property shall be permitted. Yard waste shall include leaves, fallen trees, branches, grass, weeds, and vines. No yard waste not generated from the property may not be openly burned. No other materials may be openly burned on the property. Open burning is only permitted on one's property. Open burning is permitted only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Open burning is not permitted when the wind exceeds 10 m.p.h. All persons engaged in open burning on their property shall have immediate access to a water source or other source to extinguish the open fire". Burning leaves directly on the roadway edge is strictly prohibited!

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

The Village has hired a new Code Enforcement Officer that will be regularly touring our community looking for any property maintenance code violations. They wear a yellow Village of Big Rock vest and will provide proper identification. Please be reminded of some of the issues they will be inspecting as per "Amended Nuisances and Property Maintenance Code". Per (**Section 3**) "it is hereby declared that any of the following activities and/or conditions are nuisances and are unlawful when conducted or allowed to exist on property located within the corporate limits of the Village; whether conducted, allowed, suffered or permitted by the owner, tenant, and/or other occupant thereof (it being the intent of this chapter to make all such persons jointly and severally liable for compliance herewith)": **Sec 3.1** ***Exterior Property Areas:*** **a.** ***Noxious Weeds***: To keep, maintain or grow noxious weeds or other vegetation which creates a health or safety hazard to the public. Excluded from the provisions of this subsection are prairie plants, lands or portions of any lands located in a public nature area, any property owned or leased by a unit of government and property zoned and used for any agricultural purpose. **b.** ***Overgrown Residential Yard***: To allow vegetation defined as grass to exceed ten inches (10") in height on a residential use parcel located within the Village. Excluded from the provisions of this subsection are prairie plants. **c.** ***Depositing Of Junk, Trash Or Refuse***: To deposit or allow to be deposited offal, fecal matter, night soil, garbage, compost, junk, trash, refuse or other offensive substances upon public or private property, or to permit such objects to remain upon such property. Excluded from the provisions of this subsection is the application of compost for horticultural purposes. **d.** ***Storage Of Junk, Trash Or Refuse***: To keep or store junk, trash and refuse on property. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, "junk, trash and refuse" is defined herein to include any and all waste matter, whether reusable or not, which is offensive to the public health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood, and is specifically intended to include, but not to be limited to, trucks, tractors, machinery of any kind, any parts thereof, iceboxes, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, metal drums or other containers, paper, construction debris and raw garbage irrespective of whether or not such objects are located on the property of the owner or bailee of such objects. This subsection shall not apply to refuse disposal facilities regulated by the state, the county, or any municipality of the state. **m.** ***Inoperable Motor Vehicles***: Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in a process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth. **n.** ***Exception***: A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes. To view the document in its entirety, please see the Village website. Thank you to those that keep their properties looking great! We can all appreciate living in a safe and clean community.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The Village holds their bi-weekly Board Meeting at 7pm every second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (until winter hours begin in November) at the Park District Building at 7s405 Madison Ave. If you're curious as to what's going to be covered, or has been previously discussed, you can view the agendas or the minutes any time on the Village's website at www.villageofbigrock.us. Remember at every meeting we have a "public" session where anyone can address any topic. All constructive feedback will be taken into Board consideration. Stop into the Village Office at the Park District Building for office hours or make an appointment.

Dedicated to Serving You,
Your Village of Big Rock Board

*no fourth Tuesday meeting November to January.

Big Rock Park District

Ryan Hummell
President
Jordan Mrowvzynski
Vice President
Tara Mathewson
Treasurer
Amanda Hummell
Program Director
Leslie Barker
Secretary

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.

*** EASTER EGG HUNT 2026 ***



This year we held the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday March 22nd. The weather was a little cold, but the rain held off and the event turn out was very successful! Many kids showed up to collect over 2,400 hidden eggs and received many prizes. Thank you to our community for your patience as these events are run by your Park District volunteer board members and additionally helped with members of our own community.

Our jellybean contest was won by Finley Zimmerman, with his guess of 1,025! The correct amount was 1,092!

H-BR ELEMENTARY CHESS TEAM UPDATE

The Hinckley Big Rock Elementary School chess team had 14 students compete in the 2026 Illinois K-8 State Chess Championship on March 7th-8th. The tournament had just under 700 participants from all across the state. HBR's K-1 team finished in 4th place at the state tournament. The team was led by 1st graders Ethan Meyer and Jaclyn Johansen who both finished with a 3/7 score. The 2nd-3rd grade team finished in 9th place. The team was led by 2nd graders Jordyn Johansen and Hudson Kuperus who both finished with a 4/7 score. The 4th-5th grade team finished in 19th place. The team was led by Andie Sellers who scored a 3.5/7 and Olivia Diederich who scored a 3/7.

On March 20th, HBR had 19 students participate in the St. Cletus Friday Night Scholastic. 9 out of the 19 students participated in their very first chess tournament. HBR's 4th-5th grade team finished in 1st place. The 4th-5th grade team was led by 5th grader Olivia Diederich who was the section champion with a perfect 4/4 score. 4th graders Maggie Diederich and Jonah Degroot each added a 3/4 score. The K-1 team finished in 3rd place. The K-1 team was led by Milo Degroot who posted a 3/4 score, finishing in 7th place and Eva Drawz who posted a 2.5/4 score finishing in 9th place.

Big Rock Park District proudly sponsors the H-BR Chess Club memberships to Chesskid.com

PARK DISTRICT UPGRADES FOR 2026

This year we have many plans to improve the Big Rock Community Park.

First, the bathrooms will open soon, we're currently thinking late April or early May. In the meantime, we have brought in a portable unit as we have in past years, which is on the north side next to the dog park.

The board has reviewed plans to build permanent covers for the dugouts on the softball fields, giving the H-BR Girls Softball teams nicer fields to host their games and practices. We will vote on whether to proceed with the project at our May meeting and hope to start shortly after.

We have signed an agreement with US Tennis Court Construction & Restoration to fill the cracks in our pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts and resurface the area. The courts have cracks in many areas, and some low spots causing water to pool. This project will begin early in the season, once overnight temperatures stay above 50.

Another project we are currently evaluating is resurfacing the parking lot and walking path. We aren't sure at this point if both projects will happen but are looking at grant opportunities and partnerships with the township as ways to reduce costs and stretch our dollars.

All of these plans are "penciled in" and very dependent on the weather and contractor availability, so watch our Facebook page for updates. The board has also discussed replacing the benches along the walking path and are currently restoring the sign at the main park entrance. If you have ideas, please come to our meetings or email us at info@bigrockparks.com!

In order to respond to you as promptly as possible, we have also set up a new phone system. Our number has not changed! However, when you reach out to us via phone, because we are not regularly in the office, you will hear a brief audio message after which you have the option to leave a voicemail. The best way to contact us is via email at info@bigrockparks.com. If you would like to rent the building or pavilion, please complete the form found on our website, bigrockparks.com. If your issue is time sensitive, please feel free to leave a voicemail, as we can now receive those even when we are not in the office.

*** FITNESS CLASSES ***

Summer is almost here! Here is our next round of fitness classes run by our very own Jeanne Ecker. Please come try a class. Dates are listed in flyer.*

Big Rock Park District
Fitness Classes

HONEST ABS
Sign up for this class to firm up that belly, strengthen that aching back & tone up that posterior. This 35-min. core workout focuses primarily on mat exercises that target the abdomen, hips & low back. Suitable for all fitness levels and designed to strengthen the core muscles around your mid-section, increase flexibility, and reduce back pain. Bring an exercise mat & water to hydrate.

Tuesdays: May 19 – June 23 ___$40
Time: 8:30 – 9:05am

FIT & FUN FOR 55+
Low-impact aerobics, light resistance training and flexibility work to help participants gain strength and endurance for daily activities. Choose Tues or Thurs (makeups can be done on the alternate day within the session) OR Save $10 on the Tues & Thurs Combo. Bring lightweight dumbbells, a mat, and water to hydrate.

Tuesdays: May 19 – June 23 ___$40
Thursdays: May 21 – June 25 ___$40
Tues & Thurs Combo: May 19 – June 25 ___$70
Time: 9:30 - 10:15am

Honest Abs and Tuesday OR Thursday Fit & Fun Class ___$70

Honest Abs and Fit & Fun for 55+ Tues & Thurs Combo ___$105

Classes held at the Big Rock Park District Building located at 7S405 Madison St. Email Jeanne.ecker@yahoo.com with questions. Bring completed registration form and class fee (cash / check made out to Jeanne Ecker) to your first class.

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____

*** REPTILE SHOW ***

We have confirmed the return of Dave's Traveling World of Reptiles again this year for July 11th, 2026. Please keep an eye our for more details on our Facebook closer to the event.

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Drainage Solutions • Spring Clean-Ups
Landscape Design & Installations
Seeding & Sod • Total Yard Renovations

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schollmeyerlandscaping.com

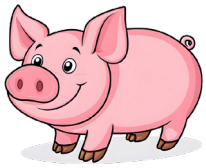
6S578 Dauberman Road
Big Rock, IL 60511

Big Rock LIBRARY

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

***Remember our new website address is* bigrocklibrary.org.**

Pigs in History and Popular Culture



The library is partnering with the Big Rock Historical Society to host a fascinating Illinois Humanities Road Scholar program, Wild Boars to Baconfest, at the Davis farm, 47W066 Jericho Rd., Big Rock, on Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 PM.

Author Cynthia Clampitt will be exploring the topic of how pigs came to this country, their popularity making them an almost instant success, valued not only by settlers moving west across the prairie, but also by Native Americans. Following the presentation, we will host a bacon tasting featuring samples of varieties sold by Reams of Elburn.



Spring Craft Night

The library's crafting group meets the fourth Friday each month at 6:30 PM. In May, we're trying out some interesting design techniques using paint to create flowers, trees or whatever your imagination can come up with. June's craft involves getting creative with bottle caps. For more information, see our newsletter or check our website. We encourage you to RSVP, 630-777-8520, or email us at bigrocklibraryinfo@gmail.com if you plan to attend so we have enough supplies for everyone.

Summer Reading Is Almost Here!

This year's summer reading program theme is Plant a Seed, Read! We're encouraging everyone who reads a book or two in the summer to sign up; don't miss this opportunity to win fun prizes and get a few goodies as well. The program will begin on June 1, when you can pick up your reading log(s), and will end on August 3. Stay tuned for more summer programs!!

Calling All Readers

Read Any Book group will meet at 6:00 PM on Monday, May 4 and Monday, June 1.



Read One Book Group is meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 8. For those interested in participating, we are reading My Friends by Fredrik Backman.

HBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Rethinking Screens in Schools: A Community Conversation

Recently, our administrative team read The Digital Delusion: How Classroom Technology Harms Our Kids' Learning-And How To Help Them Thrive Again by Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath. The research is clear: for the first time ever, our current generation's cognitive abilities are underperforming those of the generation before them. In essence, kids are not learning and thinking as well as kids in the past. We have been reading and researching to get to the "why". This book offers powerful discussion topics that highlight the roots of this issue. Our staff will be reading this book together and exploring changes that we need to make to take back teaching and learning using research-based, effective practices.

Dr. Horvath's work challenges the idea that more screen time equals better outcomes. He argues that the widespread assumption that more technology automatically improves learning is not supported by cognitive science. The cognitive science actually suggests that while digital tools have a place, overuse, especially in 1:1 environments, can undermine attention, memory, and deep learning. To develop learners who are collaborative, adaptive, deep thinkers, problem-solvers, and contributors, we must establish learning environments that foster deep learning and enhanced cognitive development. Our staff is exploring a model that will move away from 1:1 devices back to a classroom or department shared device model. This is not a shift to eliminate technology from our schools, but a focus on how and when we are using it as a tool to support depth in learning, improved cognitive development, and regained focus and attention.

This is a vital conversation for everyone in our community. We encourage all parents and community members to join us for a community read and discussion of Dr. Horvath's book, The Digital Delusion. Specific dates and times will be promoted via our district website. Stay tuned!

As we wrap up the year, please save the date for these celebrations:

May 17: HS Graduation at 2:30
May 27: 5th-8th Grade Award Ceremony: 1:00 PM
May 28: Royal Celebration for K/4: 9:00 AM
May 29: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony: 9:00 AM
May 29: Last Day of School: noon dismissal

As always, thank you for your partnership and support. Remember: Every day is a GREAT day to be a ROYAL!

~Jessica Sonntag, Superintendent



Planning Ahead for the Pumpkin Trains

Just a quick note from the Prairie State Railroad Club that there will again be a Pumpkin Train Festival at Plowman's Park this fall.
Start thinking about your display ideas now!

Saturday, October 3, 2026
Times 1:00-4:00pm and 5:00-8:00pm

HBR FFA Plant Sale



Plant sale hours **5/4 - 5/20**
M-F 9:00 – 11:00
Wednesday afternoons 3:30 – 6:00, 5/13 and 5/20 only
Saturday mornings – 9:00 – 12:00, 5/9 and 5/16

Save the Date, HBR FFA Alumni Progressive Golf Outing July 11

Thank you from HAFP! Thanks to the donations, time and partnerships from our various communities we were able to serve 104 households and 300 individuals in 2025. But the need continues. Please consider donating on Give DeKalb County Day, May 7th. Donations made through this day by mail or online may be increased with the Bonus Pool, details still to come.

HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY
"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

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

Conley Outreach has been welcoming 2026 with renewed energy and meaningful programming as we prepare for the spring season. On **Saturday, March 14, 2026**, we were pleased to offer *"Allowing Your Mind and Body to Recover While Grieving."* This special event provided a restorative "time out" for those who are grieving, offering a few hours of relaxation and renewal designed to promote overall wellness. Participants received guidance on self-care, skin care, and experience the calming benefits of sound healing. Thank you to Lora Windsor, LCSW, Esthetician, Geralyn O'Brien and Certified Sound Healer, Sandy LaBianco-Brown for sharing their time and expertise. Special thanks to J&R Herra Home Studio for providing their beautiful space for the event.

We are also excited to return on **April 27, 2026**, to the Sugar Grove Public Library for our 90-minute program, *"Managing the Seasonal Impact on Grief."* This thoughtful session will explore the bittersweet emotions that often accompany the changes of spring for grievers. Participants will learn practical skills for using elements from the natural world to create a mandala as a way to help integrate and honor their grief. Reading recommendations and helpful resources will also be shared during the evening. Registration details will be available soon on the library's website and on our events page.

Plans are underway for the return of our popular class, *"Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss,"* coming **Thursday, May 28, 2026**, 2pm at our new location at Grace United Methodist Church in Maple Park. While we will be gathering in a new space, participants can expect the same supportive atmosphere and dedicated team that made this event so meaningful.

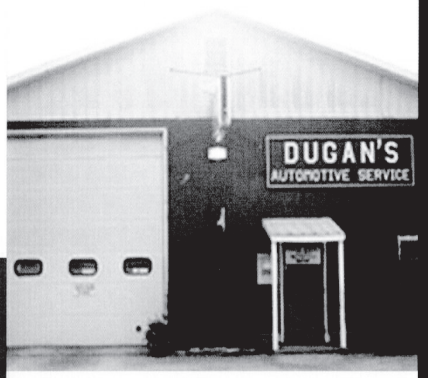
Finally, save the date for Good Grief Day Camp to be held the week of June 22nd-June 26th. We will be partnering with Anchor Counseling's Stable Minds program to add a new component to camp, equine therapy. Applications are available. Please contact Jennifer Long for more details.

For more information about our events, to register for support groups, or to request referrals and resources, please contact Executive Director Jennifer Long at cocsdirector@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook or visit our events page at ConleyOutreach.org.

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

DUGAN'S SERVICE INC.



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First Baptist Church
-- Vacation Bible School --

Howdy Partners! Children ages 3-11 are invited to Wonder Junction, where we marvel at Jesus and live for His glory!

July 6-10 from 6-8 pm at First Baptist Church, 211 Lincoln Avenue, Big Rock, Illinois. Contact Kelsey at 630-441-6396 for information or to register for VBS.

The **BIG ROCK**
COMMUNITY CRIER • MAY 2026

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June 7, 2026

Mark your calendar - The Big Rock Classic Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show will be June 7th at Plowman's Park from 8:00am-4:00pm. Vehicle registration is 8:00-11:00am or pre-register at www.bigrockcarshow.org.

This year we are celebrating "America Turns 250" and will be showcasing patriotic themed vehicles. All vehicles must be 25 years or older. Free admission, free registration, and free parking. Event t-shirts will be available for sale. Concession stand will be available. 5B's pork chop and chicken dinner from 11:30-1:30. Hill's Country Store will be selling ice cream. From 12:00-3:00pm, the Prairie State Railroad will be giving free train rides and there will be free face painting during that time.



For more information, contact Barb Baie @ 630-768-3251 or see our website – www.bigrockcarshow.org. Handicap/senior parking is available.

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