The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER • JULY 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

Big Rock Plowing Match Association

Our website and BRPMA Facebook posts are THE place for accurate information about our events. Communicate with the Association at bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com

- Bull Bash and Bronc & Bull Bash ticket sales begin on Sunday, July 12. Everyone needs a paid ticket to enter. The Association will be selling tickets and t-shirts at Plowman's Park. Weekend Pass is available only from the Association. Limited quantity. Read more on website.
- Available now: 2026 Premium Lists, registration forms and schedule for the 132nd Plowing Match & Festival.
- Craft & Art show has openings for artisans, crafters and vendors at the Plowing Match & Festival. Apply before August 15 for best rate.
- Get involved: volunteer. Sign on now.
- Rent Plowman's Park. Submit your rental inquiry via the request form.

2026 Save the Dates:
Bull & Bronc Events – August 8 & 9
Plowing Match & Festival – Sept. 18, 19 & 20

Make a difference: Be a donor, step up as a 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.

bigrockplowingmatch.org
Facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch

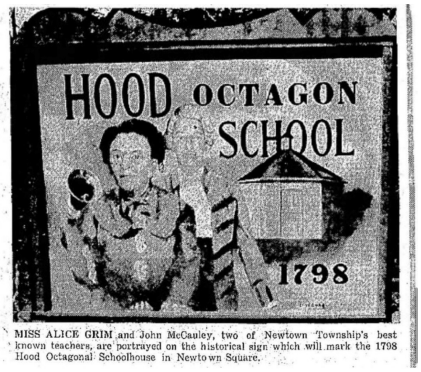


Little Red Schoolhouse Update

Stay tuned for the grand-opening event for the red one-room schoolhouse. Work is being done now with landscaping, signage, mounting the original exterior school bell from Banker Bridge school (donated by Les Granart), and preparing the historical displays inside. Virginia Waterstreet donated school artifacts from Mary Bagge, who attended the red school and was in the first class to attend the new 1923 Big Rock High School. Her grade cards, graduation speech, and attendance will be on display as well as a township map locating all 8 schools in Big Rock township before consolidation.

A Very Old School Bell

A much older school artifact in the collection is a desk school bell donated by Donna Lehrer. Donna grew up in the historical town, Newtown Square, PA, where she was a neighbor to Miss Grimm, an elderly retired school teacher who had taught in an octagonal stone school with roots back to 1798. Pictured is the school bell of indeterminate age along with the teacher who rang it and gave it to her little neighbor girl, Donna Zarutskie Lehrer.



MISS ALICE GRIM and John McCauley, two of Newtown Township's best known teachers, are portrayed on the historical sign which will mark the 1798 Hood Octagonal Schoolhouse in Newtown Square.

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

The Big Rock Historical Society

BIG ROCK FIRE RESCUE ILLINOIS

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.

In 2024 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) stated there were 11 reported fireworks-related deaths, most involving misuse and device misfire/malfunctions. An estimated 14,700 people were injured by fireworks last year – a sharp increase of about 38% in deaths and about 52% in injuries respectively compared to 2023. There were an estimated 1,700 emergency room treated injuries in 2024 involving sparklers.

Adults ages 25 to 44 accounted for the largest share of reported injuries (32%), followed by people ages 15 to 24 (24%). The most frequently injured body parts were hands and fingers (36%) and head, face, and ears (22%). Burns were the most common injury, making up 37% of all emergency room visits. Sparklers can burn as high as 1,200 degrees.

Best practice is to leave fireworks to the professionals. Mishandling fireworks can turn a celebration into a tragedy.

The Big Rock Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday.

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!

There has been a lot of discussion lately regarding a new real estate listing in Big Rock. This is a large 328+/- acre multi parcel listing, with multiple owners. Some of the property is in the Village of Big Rock and other parts are in Big Rock Township. The parts in the Township are controlled by the county. We have very little say and what the county allows. Currently all the properties are zoned Agriculture. Whoever purchases this property Would have to have it rezoned to develop it. The parts in the Township could petition the village to annex and allow one zoning process.

Due to infrastructure constraints in Big Rock, we have managed to hold off any major development for quite a while. However, we do live on the edge of the sprawl. Development is always knocking at the door and while we can control some of what happens You must look at what the village has laid out in their zoning ordinance. When people come up with requests, they must be dealt with in a professional manner. If it is already in the zoning ordinance and they are requesting that zoning, it becomes a struggle to keep any development out. As you can see from what is happening along Route 30 with storage.

We all want Big Rock to stay just the way it is, and we can't blame people for wanting to sell property. What we can do is pay attention to what is happening in our village and come to the meetings with constructive input.

Dean Hummell

ROAD COMMISSIONER

We just started our second mowing of the ditches and should be done shortly. Then we will be patching roads so be safe and keep us safe. Slow down when you see us working. Have a fun and safe Summer. It goes by way too fast!

Wade
Big Rock Township Road District

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

Help Wanted

Looking for a boy 13-16 years old to help on small farmette; yard work. 630-649-3960

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

INC staff met with the Big Rock Township 708 board at its June 4th meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. at Big Rock Town Hall.

INC's board of directors approved funding allocations for FY27 at its May meeting. INC is excited to announce the addition of 3 new agencies and 5 new programs! Details are available at https://www.incmha.org/funded-agencies/

Did you know where INC gets its funding? It comes from your property taxes! Each year, INC learns what CPI (Consumer Price Index) and includes new construction figures to determine the increase recommendation. At INC's Annual Meeting in May, the Board votes to recommend the next year's mental health tax levy for each of the seven townships, with the potential of increasing the levy by the change in CPI from previous years, plus expected growth due to new construction.

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

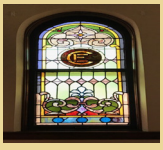


We're a small, close-knit family and we'd love for you to join us for worship and a bit of country hospitality. Our coffee is always hot, and our door is always open and welcoming.

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

VILLAGE CLERK POSITION OPENING (PART-TIME)

The Village is currently seeking qualified candidates with government clerk experience. The position is part-time, working around 20 hrs. per week. If you are interested, please email your resume to admin@villageofbigrock.us

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT TREATMENTS

Clarke Mosquito will be performing adult mosquito abatement treatments multiple times throughout the summer. West Nile Virus has already been verified in our area, and the treatments are done as a preventative measure to keep this virus from spreading.

STEP (SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT PUMP) SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Please know that the Village has a contractor that will be performing regular (annual) maintenance/pumping of the Village tanks on private property. These tanks are identified by the "green" riser lids that are located in resident(s) yards. Residents are responsible for the condition of the sewer tank lids. Residents will also see smaller "grey" electrical panels located on the side of their homes. The panels should have an emergency hotline number on them should you ever hear an alarm or see anything concerning pertaining to the tank(s) and/or system. Simply press the "red" button to silence the alarm and call the number on the box (630) 277-1294. Contractors will be identified by wearing Village labeled lanyards and/or bright yellow safety vests. Should you have any questions or concerns please call the Village office and we will assist in verification of work being performed on a septic tank located on your property.

VILLAGE OF BIG ROCK COMMUNITY DONATIONS

The Village has been a major supporter of all your favorite community events for years. The Board prioritizes our community's local events, but they can't afford to do it alone. Our Village has been built and sustained by the power of volunteers. This patchwork of folks working together is the bedrock of our community foundation. The Board gives thanks to all those that donate their time, talents and money to make this such a special place to live! Please consider how you can lend a hand in our community by volunteering or fundraising for upcoming events. In our small Village, everyone has value to add, and we hope you can find time to participate and meet some new neighbors!

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Please visit us during office hours Monday-Friday 1:15pm-4:00 pm or by appointment. Stop by for an upcoming Village Board meeting. They are on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7pm in the Village Park District Building. Agendas are always posted in advance at the Park District Building- Village Office & also at the Post Office if you're curious as to what's going to be covered. And remember at every meeting we have a

*no fourth Tuesday meeting November to January.

Dedicated to Serving You,
Your Village of Big Rock Board

Conley Outreach has been keeping busy with a variety of programs and events this year. In March, we hosted "Allowing Your Mind and Body to Recover While Grieving," followed in April by "Managing Your Season Impact on Grief" at the Sugar Grove Public Library. Both programs were well attended and warmly received by participants.

We were also pleased to welcome back our popular class, "Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss," on May 28, 2026, at our new location, Grace United Methodist Church in Maple Park. Culinary Instructor, Jo Cessna and Grief Facilitator, Lora Windsor returned to present "Blue Foods, Blue Mood," offering participants a meaningful opportunity to learn about grief, cook, and connect. Our next class is scheduled for the evening of August 27, 2026. Registration will be required and will be available soon on our website under the Events section. Looking ahead, Good Grief Day Camp will be held June 22–26, 2026. This year, we are excited to partner with Anchor Counseling's Stable Minds program to introduce a new equine therapy component to camp. We look forward to sharing updates about this exciting addition in the future.



For more information about our events, to register for support groups, West Town Services, 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 ConleyOutreach.org for upcoming events and programming information.

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

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.

*** PARK UPDATES

As of May 2026, the pickleball and tennis courts have been fully resurfaced and repainted. In partnership with Big Rock Township, we have also opened a bid to resurface the parking lot and, pending available funds, the walking path. Additionally, permanent coverings are currently being installed on the softball dugouts.

For further project updates, please follow our Facebook page.

*** UPCOMING PROGRAMS

* Registration is now open for the 2026 fall softball season. Please note the following details:

- Location: All games will be held in Yorkville.
- Schedule: Games will take place on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, beginning August 22 and ending October 17 (no games on September 5).
- Practices: Sessions will begin in mid-to-late July; specific dates will be determined by the coaches.
- Registration: Please visit the Park District website for registration forms, payment, and additional information.

TRAVELING WORLD OF REPTILES

We are pleased to announce that Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles will return this summer on Saturday, July 11, 2026. Please mark your calendars for this event.

Planning Ahead for the Pumpkin Trains

Just a quick note from the Prairie State Railroad Club that there will be 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

* FITNESS CLASSES

We also invite you to join our weekly fitness classes at the Big Rock Park District building. Please refer to the posted flyer for the next available sessions.

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: July 7 – August 18 (no class 7/28) ___$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: July 7 – August 18 (no class 7/28) ___$40
Thursdays: July 9 – August 20 (no class 7/30) ___$40
Tues & Thurs Combo: July 7 – Aug 20 (no class 7/28, 7/30) ___$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

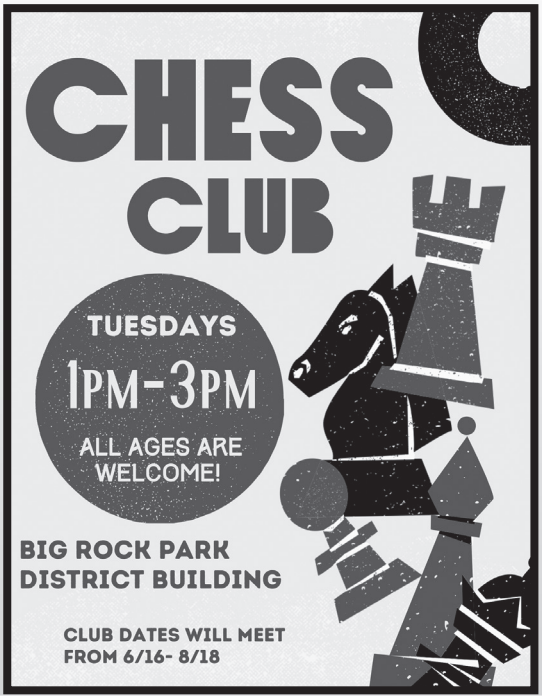
Classes held at the Big Rock Park District Building located at 7S405 Madison St. Email Jeanne.ecker@yahoo.com with questions. Bring completed registration form and class fee (cash / check made out to Jeanne Ecker) to your first class.

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____

*CHESS CLUB

Chess club is a new club we are hosting also at the park district building. They will meet every Tuesday from 1pm - 3pm. All ages are welcome!

insert chess club flyer



Big Rock LIBRARY

NEWS OF NOTE FROM BIG ROCK LIBRARY

48W447 HINCKLEY RD.
BIG ROCK

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

Summer Reading Is In Full Swing!

This year's summer reading program theme is **Plant a Seed, Read! It's not too late to sign up and read for rewards!** All you need to do is read 15 minutes (Elementary and Middle School kids) or 20 minutes (teens and adults) per day. There are lots of prizes available including gift cards for your favorite stores, certificates from local businesses, who will be listed in the newsletter and at the library, and even a free 25-minute glider ride! The program will end on August 3 so hurry and sign up!

Gardening for Families

Enjoy gardening? Want to get your kids involved? We are in the process of setting up some programs in conjunction with the Kane County Master Gardeners that will be free and family friendly sessions centered around gardening and plants. We will provide further information on dates and times in our newsletter.

Orphan Train Program

On Monday, July 27, at 2 pm, Illinois Humanities speaker, Jamie Poorman, from Marshall, IL, will present The Orphan Train Experience in the Midwest. For 75 years, orphan children from the east coast were sent by train to the Midwest in anticipation of adoption by community members at train stop events. Learn about this social issue of the early 1900s and hear of some of the consequences. Big Rock Library & Historical Society is located at 48w447 Hinckley Road in Big Rock. You are also welcome to a sneak preview of the replica one-room schoolhouse located on the property.

Growing Up in Big Rock

Join us in August for an informal get-together to reminisce about what it was like in Big Rock years ago. Share stories and memories while enjoying a snack and beverage. Date will be announced soon.



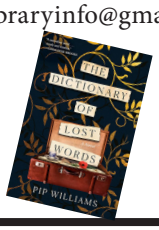
Spring Craft Night

The library's crafting group meets the fourth Friday each month at 6:30 PM. In July, we will be creating journals with decorative covers, and August's craft is still under discussion but is guaranteed to be fun. Kids from 10 up are welcome but need to be accompanied by an adult. 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.

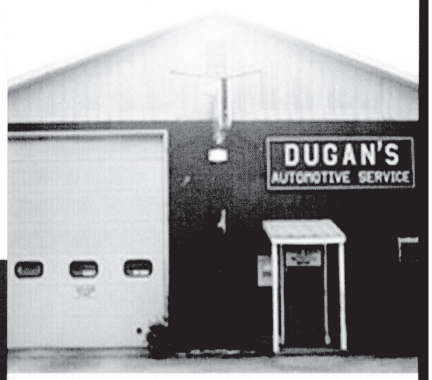
Calling All Readers

Read Any Book group will meet at 6:00 PM on Monday, July 6 and Monday, August 3.

Read One Book Group is meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 10. For those interested in participating, we are reading *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams.



DUGAN'S SERVICE INC.



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HBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

From 1:1 to Intentional: Rethinking Technology in Learning

Over the last several years, schools across the country experienced one of the most significant educational shifts in modern history: the rapid expansion of technology in classrooms. During COVID-19, districts moved quickly to 1:1 student devices to ensure learning could continue during an unprecedented time of disruption. At Hinckley-Big Rock, that transition helped us maintain instruction, connection, and access for students when they needed it most.

The move to 1:1 devices served an important purpose during an extraordinary time in education. But one thing I believe deeply is that schools should continue learning too. As our understanding of how students learn evolves, we should be willing to reflect, ask questions, and adjust our practices when the research points us in a better direction for kids.

Over the last several years, there has been growing research and discussion around screen time, gamification of learning, and cognitive development. While technology absolutely has a place in education, researchers are increasingly reminding us that more screen time does not automatically mean more learning.

Many educational programs today are designed to be highly engaging. They use rewards, points, badges, sounds, and game-like features to motivate students. While these tools can increase participation and engagement, they also raise an important question: Are students deeply learning, or are they simply highly entertained?

Research increasingly points us back to something educators have always known to be true: meaningful learning often comes through conversation, productive struggle, reading, writing, hands-on experiences, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Sometimes learning is challenging, and that challenge is often where growth happens.

After thoughtful staff reflection and review of emerging research, Hinckley-Big Rock School District 429 will be making a shift beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. We will move away from a universal 1:1 Chromebook model and toward a more intentional, developmentally appropriate shared-device approach.

Technology remains an important tool for learning, and students will continue using Chromebooks in meaningful ways for research, writing, assessments, collaboration, and digital literacy. Our high school students, in particular, will continue building the technology skills needed for college, careers, and the workforce. That being said, handwriting, cursive writing, note-taking, and reading material on paper versus a screen are tried and true ways to foster deep learning and are also research-based actions that strengthen and develop our brains. A combination of both is needed.

Our goal is to create the right balance, one where technology supports learning rather than becoming the center of it. We want classrooms filled with curiosity, discussion, productive struggle, collaboration, and meaningful learning experiences while still preparing students for an increasingly digital world.

~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 Jessica Sonntag at 815-286-7578 or 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.



ANOTHER GREAT CAR SHOW!

A big thank you to all that attended this year's car show. The theme was "America Turns 250".

There were 420 registered vehicles including a 1976 Case "Spirit of 1976" tractor which is one of 200 made. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who help make this show possible. A shot out to the Big Rock Lions Club for their 400 strawberry shortcakes that they made.

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6S578 Dauberman Road
Big Rock, IL 60511



HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

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.

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

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.

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!



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

PO Box 252
Big Rock, IL 60511

NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW IN BIG ROCK

The arrowheads and axe heads and spearpoints found in Big Rock soil signifiy this area was inhabited by Native Americans going back thousands of years. It's lost to history whether the Mascoutin tribe encamped in Big Rock but the present day Mascoutin Society has planned a pow wow of dancing, food, and friendship at the Big Rock Plowing Match grounds on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1 and 2, opening at 11 am each day. Dancing starts with a grand entry which is 1 pm and 7 pm on Saturday and noon on Sunday. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for children and seniors. Children under 5 are free. Bring a lawn chair to sit under the towering oaks and witness what might have been happening in Big Rock hundreds of years ago.

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RECEIVE 25 BONUS SIGN-UP POINTS

SIGN UP HERE!

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EARN 1 POINT FOR EVERY $1 SPENT
RECIEVE A $5 DISCOUNT FOR EVERY 100 POINTS REDEEMED
REDEEMABLE ON ANY PURCHASE OF $5 OR MORE
(MAX $5 DISCOUNT PER VISIT)
RECEIVE 25 BONUS SIGN-UP POINTS

SIGN UP HERE!

Locally (Big Rock) Owned & Operated