

THE WORD



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BIG ROCK LIBRARY JANUARY 2026

(630) 556-3604

MONDAY 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

THURSDAY 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SATURDAY 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*The library will be closed from
January 1 to January 5, 2026 to
celebrate the New Year holiday, and
on January 19, 2026 in honor of
Martin Luther King Day.*

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY



READ ANY BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, January 5 @ 6:00 PM

Sadly, our December One Book Group gathering was canceled so we have no book list for you to sample. Here's hoping the January weather cooperates and we can meet for an enjoyable discussion of the books we read over the holidays. Join us on January 5th and bring your Christmas romance or murder mystery favorites!

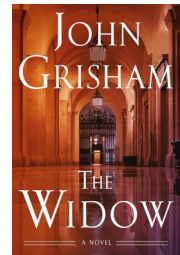
READ ONE BOOK GROUP

Described as his first whodunit, John Grisham's newest book, *The Widow*, brings small town Virginia lawyer Simon Latch and widow Eleanor Barnett together to create Eleanor's will, while trying to keep the fortune she inherits from her husband a secret.

But when Eleanor is hospitalized after a car accident, her story begins to sound fishy, and Simon finds himself arrested for murder. Knowing he didn't do it, he must find the real killer in time to save his own skin.

The book raises questions about ethical standards, ambition and the inequities of the small law firm versus the powerful and influential one. How Simon's character develops and changes as a result of his quest for true justice is also a major theme.

The One Book Group will meet on Monday, February 23 at 6:00 PM. The library has three copies of the book so you should have plenty of time and opportunity to read. Pick up a copy today and join us in February!



Changes at the Library

Starting the first of the year, Kathy Rudolph, who has been the library manager for the last 8 ½ years, will assume the role of Library Director. Donna Carter, recently retired RN, will be our Assistant Director.

Mary Hauge, who has guided the library since its inception in 2009, is stepping back from day-to-day activities, but is not leaving the library and will continue to play a role in creating displays and sharing her wisdom with the rest of us. She is currently working on the upper floor temporary display featuring the buffalo and its importance in the lives and culture of the Great Plains Native American tribes.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

CREATIVE CRAFTERS



“Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow” is a refrain brought to us by crooners of yesteryear. That song is a great opening for this month’s craft. Plan to come to the Creative Crafters meeting and make the adorable “Sammy, the Snowman” or perhaps his sister, “Samantha”. They are wearing colorful boots along with fluffy sherpa coats and snugly warm hats to keep out the chill. Sammy has a snowflake on his hat and Samantha’s sports a rose. These little guys are sure to bring a smile to your face.

None of the snowmen will be alike and each has an original whimsical painted face. Sammy stands about 12” tall. You will dress your snowman in a coat and hat and mittens. You will add accoutrements to personalize your work. To this class you will need to bring **fabric** scissors, glue gun and stix.

Join us at the township hall on Wednesday, January 14 from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost of the class is \$7. Twelve kits are available. Sign up deadline is January 10. Take the chill out of your winter evening and come warm your heart by creating this delightfully happy snowman. Call the library at 630-556-3604, or email us at bigrocklibrary@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Once you sign up you are responsible for the cost of the class.

This class is open to adults 18 and over.

A BIG THANK YOU!!

To everyone who contributed to this year’s Toys for Tots campaign. 2025 data isn’t available yet but boots on the ground reported a huge number of toys in the warehouse ready to go. Stay tuned.

More Freebies

If you need a paper 2026 calendar, the library has a large selection to choose from. They range from pocket calendar size to hanging wall calendars. They are in the circulation desk area so help yourself.

The Palace Project

INTRODUCING YOUR NEWEST E-READER THE PALACE APP

The Palace Project is an e-reading experience developed by and for libraries. With the Palace app you have access to the library's digital collection in one place. Enjoy thousands of free books from the Palace Bookshelf. Download the Palace app for Android or Apple iOS today!

HOW TO ACCESS THE PALACE PROJECT APP

- ◆ **DOWNLOAD:** The Palace Project app is available in both the Apple App Store for iOS phones and the Google Play Store for Android phones and tablets.
- ◆ **CONNECT:** Open the Palace app, tap "Find Your Library," and type or scroll to find your library's name to access their collection of ebooks and audiobooks. Make sure location services (GPS) are on while using the app.
- ◆ Click on settings.
- ◆ Click on add library. Find Big Rock Historical Society Library.
- ◆ Click on the link to the library.
- ◆ Sign up for a library card by completing the form and submit.
- ◆ You will receive an email from The Palace Project. Open this email and follow the directions to verify your email address
- ◆ Scroll down this email to find your virtual library barcode number and pin (your password you created when you logged in is your pin). Your **virtual** library barcode is an alpha-numeric string of characters (NOT your library card number).
- ◆ Enter your virtual library barcode number and pin into the app.
- ◆ You can now start borrowing audiobooks and ebooks.
- ◆ Be sure you save the email with your virtual barcode number for future use. It's also a good idea to write down your virtual barcode number so you can log back into The Palace Project app if necessary.

Take Home Craft Kits for Youngsters



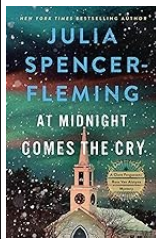
Hinckley Big Rock High School's Educators Rising chapter is partnering with local libraries, creating monthly take-home craft kits, called Explore and Design kits, for our younger visitors. These future teachers create new kits monthly, and parents and older siblings are encouraged to grab a kit or two for the little ones. Please help yourself; you'll find the kits in the kids' area on your next visit to the library.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Mysteries & Thrillers

One Perfect Couple by Ruth Ware (2024)

Five couples are sent to a tropical island to compete in a reality-TV show in the hopes of winning a cash prize, but things start to go south, the power is cut off during a bad storm, and the contestants have to band together to survive. They soon realize they're caught in a truly life-or-death situation.

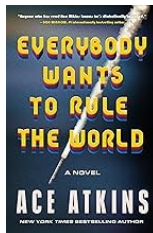


At Midnight Comes the Cry by Julia Spencer-Fleming

Reverend Clare and her ex-police chief husband find a local parade invaded by white supremacists and they try to protect their town along with a disparate group of law enforcement personnel.

Everybody Wants to Rule the World by Ace Atkins

High school freshman Peter is convinced his mother's boyfriend, Gary, is a Russian spy and in 1985, it appears he may be right. A nest of Russian spies has infiltrated Atlanta, spying on the Scientific Atlanta labs where Peter's mom works, and where an employee is murdered, and the investigation involves a host of unusual characters, both within the law and outside of it.



Haven't Killed in Years by Amy K. Green

Marin, the daughter of a serial killer, has a new identity and lives a private life hiding from the past until someone starts sending her body parts and she decides to pursue the mysterious killer who apparently knows who she is.

New-Not New

Breaking Free by Lauraine Snelling (2007)

A Home for Unloved Orphans by Rachel Wesson (2020)

Love, Clancy: Diary of a Good Dog by W. Bruce Cameron (2022)

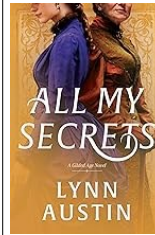
River's Song by Melody Carlson (2011)

Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz (2020)

Heaven, My Home by Attica Locke (2019)

New Historical Fiction

All My Secrets by Lynn Austin

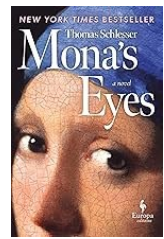


In Gilded Age New York, the unexpected death of Arthur Stanhope III leaves his mother, wife and daughter penniless, so Sylvia, his widow, sets out to find a rich husband for her daughter before anyone finds out. But grandmother Junietta has some ideas of her own.

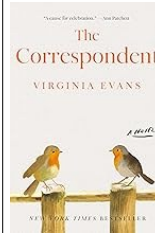
New Adult Fiction

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessor

Ten-year-old Mona may be losing her sight, so her Parisian grandfather take her to visit a different great work of art every Wednesday for a year, teaching her all he knows about the work and its power to move and educate its viewers.



The Correspondent by Virginia Evans



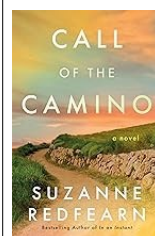
Sybil grounds herself by writing letters to everyone, except her letters to one person are never mailed. Then a letter from someone in her past jolts her out of her predictable life and she realizes the unsent letters should be read.

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Obsessed with the stars from a very early age, physicist Joan Goodwin is chosen to travel on the space shuttle, and begins a journey of discovery among new friends in a dangerous and high stakes world.



Call of the Camino by Suzanne Redfearn



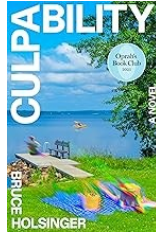
Following in her father's footsteps over 25 years ago, Reina, a budding journalist, decides to hike the 500 miles of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Like her father, Reina's experiences make a profound impact on her life and intertwines with Isabelle Vidal, who made the same hike 25 years ago as well.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Adult Fiction

Culpability by Bruce Holsinger

The Cassidy-Shaw family are traveling in their self-driving minivan when the van crashes headlong into another vehicle, with 17-year-old Charlie in the driver's seat. Charlie's mom just happens to be one of the foremost experts on AI, and the investigation and repercussions of the crash lead to questions about the ethics and consequences of using AI.



Days You Were Mine by Clare Leslie Hall (2019)

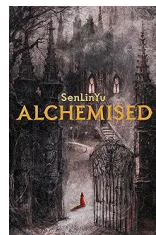


Luke and Hannah's serene and happy life is upended when Luke decides to search for his birth mother, a step that at first seems to be working out until Luke experiences long-suppressed feelings of abandonment and his birth mother Alice may become a threat to his family.

New Adult Fantasy

Alchemised by SenLinYu

"In this riveting dark fantasy debut, a woman with missing memories fights to survive a war-torn world of necromancy and alchemy- and the man tasked with unearthing the deepest secrets of her past." (Book jacket)



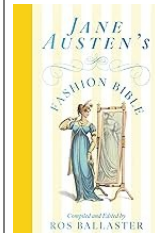
The Book of Doors by Gareth Brown

New York bookseller Cassie is gifted with a book, the "Book of Doors"...a book that bestows extraordinary abilities on whoever possesses it." (book cover)



New Adult Nonfiction

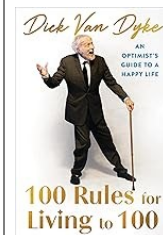
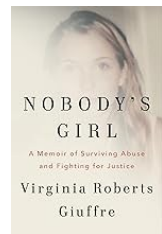
Jane Austen's Fashion Bible by Ros Ballaster



For lovers of Jane Austen and the world she created, this book combines passages from her novels and letters with beautiful color drawings taken from Regency magazine *La Belle Assemblée* depicting the fashions of the period.

Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice by Virginia Roberts Giuffre

The haunting memoir of the woman whose testimony sent Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell to prison.



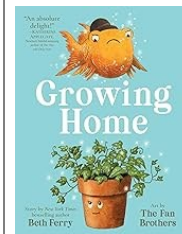
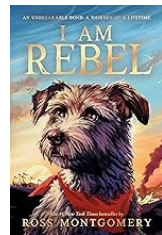
100 Rules for Living to 100 by Dick Van Dyke

Beloved actor and comedian Dick Van Dyke shares his secret to living a happy life despite setbacks and challenges.

New Junior Fiction

I Am Rebel by Ross Montgomery

One of 2025's top picks in junior reading, this is the story of Rebel, a brave little dog who follows his master Tom into war to protect him and discovers a bigger world than the one he thought he knew.



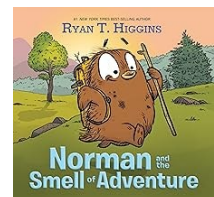
Growing Home by Beth Ferry

What do a houseplant, a spider, a violet and a goldfish have in common? They all live at Number 3 Ramshorn Lane and together and that leads to magic.

New Picture Book

Norman and the Smell of Adventure by Ryan T. Higgins

Norman the porcupine and Mildred the tree are best friends. But when Norman sets off on an adventure without Mildred, he may lose his friend.



A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: In January we're bringing you unadulterated cuteness, with no pesky information to get in the way. Enjoy!



Calendar for January

January 1– New Year's Day

January 3– Closed for holiday

January 5- Read Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM; library reopens

January 14- Crafts and Creatives @ 6:30 PM

February 2– Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

February 23– One Book Group @ 6:00 PM