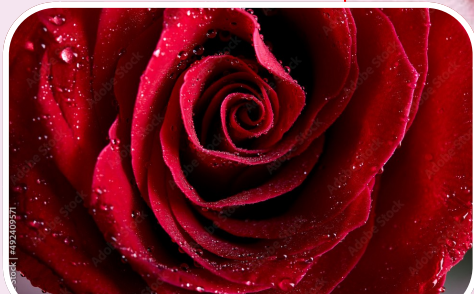


THE WORD



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BIG ROCK LIBRARY FEBRUARY 2026

(630) 556-3604

bigrocklibrary.org

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 on Monday,
February 16, 2026 in honor of
Presidents Day.*

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Left to right from top: *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy, *Evensong* by Stewart O'Nan, *Everybody Wants to Rule the World* by Ace Atkins, *Murder on the Christmas Express* by Alexandra Benedict, *The Christmas Jigsaw Murders* by Alexandra Benedict, *Simultaneous* by Eric Heisserer, *Murder by the Book* by Amie Schaumberg, *100 Rules for Living to 100* by Dick Van Dyke, *The Wasp Trap* by Mark Edwards.



READ ANY BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, February 2 @ 6:00 PM

Our January group brought several bestsellers to the table, several of them available at the library, as well as some uniquely creative book-related ideas. Though it looks like a sixties Nancy Drew mystery, the lower left item is a junk journal (or treasure journal). Take an old book and fill it with memorabilia such as ticket stubs, pressed flowers, treasured greeting cards, etc. You get the idea. The middle left package is called “blind date with a book.” Wrap a book you think someone would like, decorate with flowers and ribbons, and give as a gift. The bowls in the upper corners are hand-crafted papier-mache.

You never know what will happen at book group so join us and find out what the next reading installment brings!

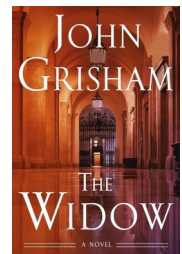
READ ONE BOOK GROUP REDUX

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.

How Simon’s character develops and changes as a result of his quest for true justice is 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!



COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

A FRESH START

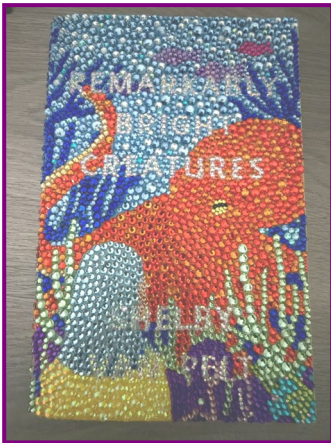
On Wednesday, February 25, the Big Rock Library is sponsoring a new monthly craft group for those who enjoy getting creative together. Each month, we'll explore a different craft project– and this month, it's all about bedazzling!

Bring anything you'd like to bling out: a tote bag (like the one pictured, available on Amazon), a book, a tumbler, or any item of your choice. Just bring it with you!

Supplies such as diamond drills (bedazzling beads) and glue will be provided, and you're welcome to bring along any craft supplies you already have.

Come create, decorate, and add a little sparkle to your life.

The group is open to anyone old enough to work independently. Kids 15 and under need to attend with a parent or other adult. This is a wonderful way to spend time with your child, niece, nephew, neighbor, etc!



Call Big Rock Library to reserve your spot, at 630-556-3604, or email us at bigrocklibraryinfo@gmail.com. Reservations are appreciated so we can ensure adequate supplies are available. Crafting will begin at 6:30 PM **at the library** and last about two hours.



FOR DO-IT-YOURSELF MECHANICS

Have you discovered the on-line resources to be found on the bigrocklibrary.org website? Click on the On-Line Resources menu tab. Scroll down to EBSCO databases.

The first one you'll find listed is Auto Repair Source and it's handy for providing detailed information about your car or pickup truck. After you have entered your make and model (information is available from 1985 to current), the database will give you items such as diagnostic codes, service bulletins, diagrams, procedures, specs and other information.

Along those same lines is Small Engine Repair Source with information about snowmobiles, snowblowers, and other small engine powered machines.



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.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming events include

2/5 @ 6:00 PM- A Taste of Japan, an informal get-together to sample some of Japan's many intriguing snacks and hear about Erin Ehrhart's recent trips to Japan.

2/19 @ 2:00 PM- Colonial Coinage: expert Richard Shimkus will talk about early American currency and show some of his collection.

We'd love to make your life a little easier!

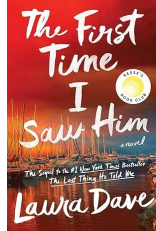
The library has long had an unwritten policy of delivering books to those who can't get out to go the library. For those who aren't aware of this, we are happy to deliver/pick up library books for you if you are disabled, recovering from surgery or illness, or otherwise restricted. Just contact us at (630) 556-3604 or bigrocklibraryinfo@gmail.com with your request.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

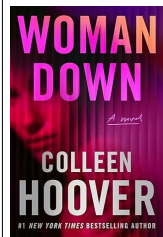
New Mysteries & Thrillers

The First Time I Saw Him by Laura Dave

Sequel to the best-selling *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Hannah and her stepdaughter Bailey are now living safely in California until Owen reappears and threatens their lives again. Can there be a reconciliation?



Woman Down by Colleen Hoover

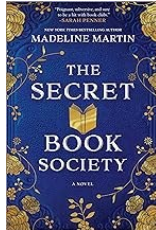


When a backlash from her screenplay sends writer Petra Rose's career in a downward trajectory, she retreats to the woods to write a mystery novel, only to have her detective muse become more threat than inspiration in her quest to recover her reputation.

New Historical Fiction

The Secret Book Society by Madeline Martin

Three women in 1895 London are invited to attend a book club hosted by the reclusive Lady Duxbury, and their friendship and newfound but secret freedom gives them the courage to try to change their suffocating and unfulfilling lives.



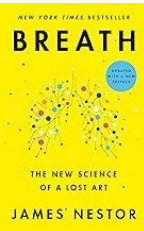
The First Witch of Boston by Andrea Catalano



Based on the true story of Margaret Jones, the first woman in Massachusetts to be found guilty of witchcraft, this is the story of an independent woman whose character aroused mistrust, and finally, unjust accusations that threatened even her marriage to a man she deeply loved.



New Non-Fiction

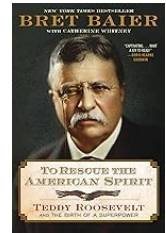


Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art by James Nestor

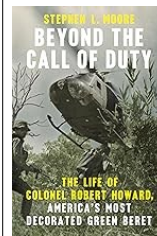
A fascinating study of the history and science of breathing, this book “draw(s) on thousands of years of medical texts and recent cutting-edge studies in pulmonology, psychology, biochemistry, and human physiology...turn(ing) the conventional wisdom of what we thought we knew about our most basic biological function on its head.” (Amazon.com)

To Rescue the American Spirit: Teddy Roosevelt and the Birth of a Superpower by Bret Baier

One of the most storied of our presidents, this biography seeks to capture Roosevelt's enthusiasm and adventurousness and how it affected his presidency.



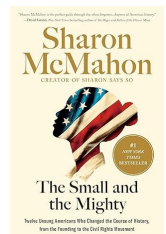
Beyond the Call of Duty: The Life of Colonel Robert Howard, America's Most Decorated Green Beret by Stephen L. Moore (2024)



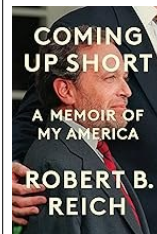
Winner of over 50 awards and ribbons for his service during the Vietnam War, this book chronicles Howard's tours of duty as well as his life after the war.

The Small and the Mighty by Sharon McMahon (2024)

This book “will introduce you to a new cast of improbable champions who will challenge everything you thought you knew about America and who makes it great...a portrait of twelve ordinary Americans whose little-known stories define our national character.” (book jacket)



Coming Up Short: A Memoir of My America by Robert B. Reich



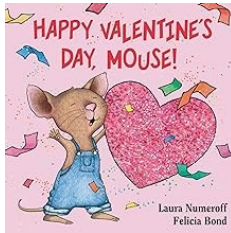
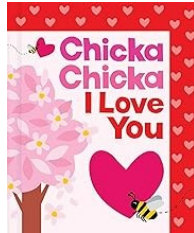
Reich's memoir includes his involvement with a number of important political figures including his time working for Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama, showing the trajectory of his career in parallel with that of this country.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Picture Book

Chicka Chicka I Love You
by Bill Martin Jr.

A great addition to your bedtime reading on Valentine's Day or any day.



Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse! By Laura Numeroff (2019)

Mouse tells why he loves each of his animal friends.

New-Not New

Left of Boom: How a Young CIA Case Officer Penetrated the Taliban and Al-Qaeda by Douglas Laux & Ralph Pezzullo (2016)

Different Kinds of Minds by Temple Grandin (2023)

Magyk by Angie Sage (2007) Young Adult Fiction

Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker (2019) Young Adult Graphic Novel



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

An America 250 Moment

George Washington's troops kept field corn kernels in their pockets to munch on during battles.

For more in-depth history, watch Ken Burns' documentary *The Revolutionary War* streaming on PBS.



A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: Cats of Maui. The wildfires that left parts of the Hawaiian island of Maui devastated, left many cats without a home. Added to the already large population of feral cats, an effort is being made to rescue and home as many as possible and to take care of those who still like their free lifestyle.

The Maui Cat Rescue organization has instituted a program called “Paws Across the Pacific” that finds loving homes on the mainland for many of these homeless cats. Find out more at MauiCatRescue.org.

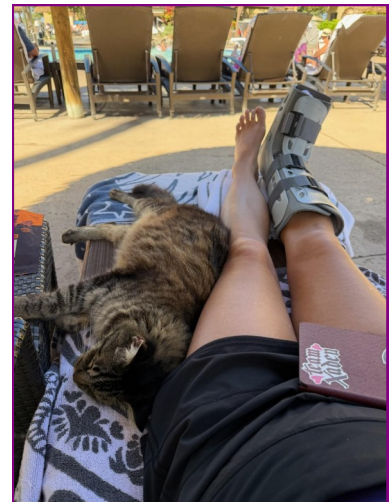
Check out some of these “resort” cats who are living the dream life.



Naptime



Rosie (above) is definitely looking for handouts while Cinnamon (left) is still skittish about the situation.



Sir Fluffy provides medical aid for a broken foot.

Calendar for February

February 2– Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

February 16– Presidents Day

February 23– One Book Group @ 6:00 PM

February 25– Craft Group @ 6:30 PM

March 2- Read Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

March 5– Taste of Japan @ 6:00 PM