

THE WORD

ck | #413993559



Stock | #136198296



Don't forget Easter Sunday is on April 5.

Coming up at the Library Page 2-3
BRHS Pork Chop Dinner Page 4
New at the Library Page 5-6
Calendar of Events Page 8

BIG ROCK LIBRARY
APRIL 2026

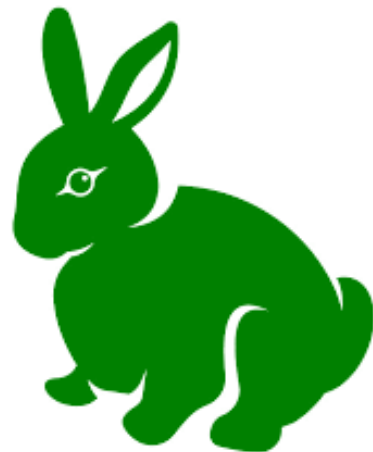
(630) 556-3604

bigrocklibrary.org

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

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

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



COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Left to right from top: *The Black Wolf* by Louise Penny, *Vanishing Treasures: A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures* by Katherine Rundell, *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans, *Marble Hall Murders* by Anthony Horowitz, *Anatomy of an Alibi* by Ashley Elston, *The Librarians* by Sherry Thomas, *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman, *Breath* by James Nestor.



READ ANY BOOK GROUP

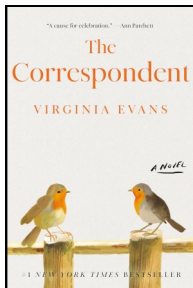
MONDAY, April 6 @ 6:00 PM

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, or is it the other way around? Anyhow, we had lamblike books about endangered creatures and breathing, as well as stormier offerings like Louise Penny's *The Black Wolf* and Anthony Horowitz's *Marble Hall Murders*.

Join us for a fun evening of sharing about books (and sometimes other things).
Read anything you want or just come to listen.



READ ONE BOOK GROUP Monday, April 13 @ 6:00 PM



Hailed as one of the year's best books, "...this year's breakout novel no one saw coming." (*The Wall Street Journal*), *The Correspondent* is about the power of letter writing.

Sybil has led a full life, and uses letters to bring order and meaning, and perhaps even purpose, to events in it, a means of expressing herself to others. All except the letters she has written and never sent.

Until, that is, she receives unexpected letters from someone in her past that bring back painful memories. Her decision to go back to those unsent letters changes her life.

A Best Book of the Year: NPR, *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Elle*, *Christian Science Monitor* and *She Reads*.

Join us for an in-depth discussion of this best-selling book about the power of the written word, and the gift of letters.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Spring Craft Night At Big Rock Library

Spring has sprung and Mother's Day is just around the corner. Join us at the Big Rock Library for an evening of crafting and conversation as we create a beautiful hoop of flowers to celebrate the warmer weather.

- ♦ Big Rock Library
- ♦ April 22, 2026
- ♦ 6:30 PM
- ♦ Supply cost: \$4.00

Space is limited, so please call the Big Rock Library to reserve your spot: 630-556-3604. Or email us at bigrocklibraryinfo@gmail.com.



We're Now a Mouse Free Zone

The library and historical society now has a contract with TJ Pest Control, a local Big Rock business. We had been noticing signs of mice here and there in the building and even had one sighting, so it seemed that we should take action before the mice did! TJ Pest Control has sealed all points of ingress and set bait traps to prevent mice from getting inside. We hope they've also got the bugs under control as well!

We want the library to be a safe and pleasant place to visit without the threat of critters!



Our March craft was this springtime bunny.

A Big Thank You

To Richard Shimkus for giving us a fascinating lesson on the history of coins used from the early days of Colonial America. From Spanish reals and doubloons, to state issued coins, we learned what was considered legal tender before the federal government assumed control of our currency.

We were also given the opportunity to see some of these antique coins and learn how they were manufactured.

We appreciate Richard sharing his expertise with us.

Big Rock Historical Society Spring Fundraiser 5B's Pork Chop and Chicken Dinner



**Wednesday, April 1, 2026
4:30-6:30PM**

At Hinckley-Big Rock Middle School

Drive-Thru Carryout Only

\$17.00 per dinner

**2 Pork Chops, or ½ Chicken, or
1 Pork Chop & ¼ Chicken with
baked potato, coleslaw,
applesauce, roll & butter**

**For tickets contact
Mary Rogerson at 630-330-0114**

Schoolhouse Update

The historical society reports that their goal is to have the new schoolhouse building ready for touring when the third graders visit the library and museum in May. Remaining to be completed this month are the ramp (pictured here), stone veneer on the foundation and staining the floor. Next month, moving in desks and displays is the objective. The last step will be to complete the landscaping and signage, so it appears the construction is in the home stretch.

NOTE: The ramp has been completed since this picture was taken and looks great!



Pigs in History and Popular Culture



You're invited for a Saturday afternoon on the Marvel Davis Farm in Big Rock to learn how pigs have had a worldwide impact on culture, foods, and health. The Big Rock Historical Society and Big Rock Library will host a presentation about pork at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 9, from one of the Illinois Humanities' favorite Road Scholars.

Author Cynthia Clampitt will probably not talk about "political pork" but she will explore the topic of Wild Boars to Baconfest. Once pigs were introduced into the Americas, Clampitt says, they became an almost instant success, raised by settlers but also valued by Native Americans. As the Midwest opened, pigs moved west and numbers grew rapidly. Poet Carl Sandburg would call Chicago, "Hog butcher for the world."

After the presentation, join participants for a bacon tasting featuring samples of bacon varieties sold by Reams in Elburn.

The Marvel Davis Farm is located at 47W066 Jericho Road, Big Rock. Marvel Davis and her husband Harley lived in Big Rock their entire lives. One of Harley's ancestors, John Pierce, settled the family's Big Rock farm back in 1836.

Here's your chance to tour a restored barn which had been a hog operation at one time. Big Rock Historical Society has lovingly restored the barn to be an event venue in the area.

Members of the surrounding historical societies (Kaneville, Hinckley, and Sugar Grove) have been invited for this afternoon event.

National Library Week

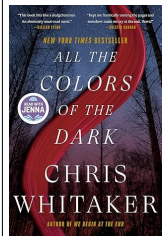
April 19-25, 2026

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Mysteries & Thrillers

Anatomy of an Alibi by Ashley Elston

Camille and Aubrey team up, devising a plan to spy on Camille's sketchy husband Ben, until Ben turns up dead and the pair need an alibi.

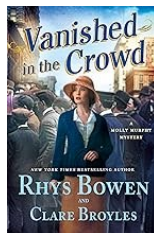


All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker (2024)

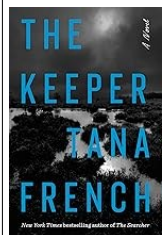
"A missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, a love story, a unique twist on each, Chris Whitaker has written a novel about what lurks in the shadows of obsession and the blinding light of hope." (Amazon review)

Vanished in the Crowd by Rhys Bowen

In the newest Molly Murphy mystery, the Hudson-Fulton celebration honoring the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River is the scene of the disappearance of a Vassar graduate, and Molly's loyalties are divided when she is asked to find her.



Coming Soon



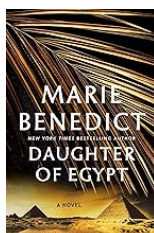
The Keeper by Tana French

Retired Chicago detective Cal Hooper now lives in rural Ireland and is reluctant to involve himself in local issues, but when a young girl Rachel is found dead, he needs to investigate, and he finds himself in the middle of more than he bargained for.

New Historical Fiction

Daughter of Egypt by Marie Benedict

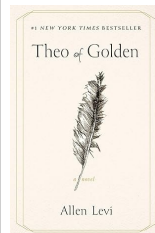
Overshadowed by the discovery of King Tut's tomb is the story of Hapshetsup, Egypt's lost pharaoh, a woman whose history Evelyn, daughter of famous archaeologist Lord Carnarvon, is trying to uncover to save her hidden tomb.



New Adult Fiction

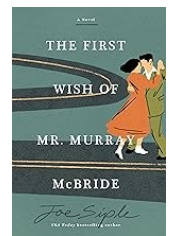
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi (2023)

A long-time best seller, this story tells of how the stranger Theo comes to Golden and visits the local coffee house where pencil portraits line the walls. Theo buys the pictures one at a time and returns them to the people depicted in exchange for their stories.

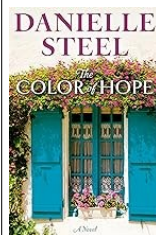


The First Wish of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple

Third in the Murray McBride trilogy, Murray is forced to move his wife to a memory care center, but on the previous day, Jennie convinces him to dig up a "treasure" buried in 1850, and their journey brings back their original love story. (Books One and Two are in the New Not New list.)



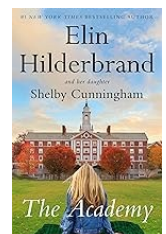
The Color of Hope by Danielle Steel



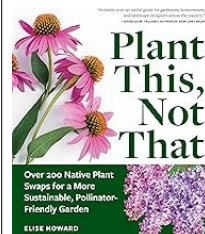
Samantha rents a chateau in France after the sudden death of her husband, and finds herself developing a friendship with the chateau's owner, whose struggling business took a hit during Covid, while a local convent orphanage convinces her to take in children, changing her life in radical ways.

The Academy by Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham

When Tiffin Academy unexpectedly finds itself ranked as the number two boarding school in the country, it becomes the target of internet trolls who reveal the secrets of students and faculty members.



New Nonfiction



Plant This, Not That by Elise Howard

Guide to choosing native plant swaps to create a more pollinator-friendly garden.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

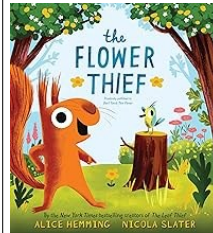
New Junior Graphic Novel

The S.Q.U.I.D. Squad, Vol. 1-6, by Megan Miller

The S.Q.U.I.D. Squad teams up to save the world's books in the unofficial graphic novel series for minecrafters.



New Picture Books

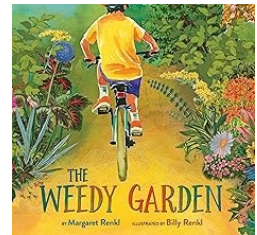


The Flower Thief
by Alice Hemming

Bird teaches Squirrel all about wildflowers in this charmingly illustrated book about nature.

The Weedy Garden
by Margaret Renkl

Sometimes weeds are a good thing. This book explains how different kinds of weeds are important habitat for all kinds of nature's creatures.



K-Pop Demon Hunters: For the Fans! By Angela Song

Follow the exploits of this imaginary K-Pop group who hunt demons in their down time.

New Not New

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride
by Joe Siple (2018) Adult fiction

The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride (2021)
Adult fiction

Word Gets Around by Lisa Wingate (2009)
Adult fiction

Dandelion Summer by Lisa Wingate (2011)
Adult fiction

The Tinderbox by Beverly Lewis (2019)
Adult fiction

The Teacher by Meg Gray (2013) Adult fiction

Just the Nicest Couple by Mary Kubica (2023)
Adult fiction

To Tell You the Truth by Gilly MacMillan (2020)
Adult fiction

Just the Nicest Couple by Mary Kubica (2023)
Adult fiction

Tired of Waiting?

Are you afflicted with a touch of FOMO?
Can't wait for the newsletter to find out what's new at the library?

We have a quick fix for that. Go to the library's website, bigrocklibrary.org, and click on Catalog. This will take you to our Resource Mate web catalog. Scroll down below the lovely photo of our library and you will find the header, New Items. Scroll through the list to see if there's anything you want to read right away. Items are added as soon as they are cataloged. Can't get any quicker than that!



A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: We're all for diversity at the library and our research has uncovered the uber diverse world of chickens, just in time for Easter and eggs.



The Polish Chicken is a European breed but the name is probably based on the old Dutch word "pol" or big head. They can be identified by their lovely feather crests.



The Sumatra Chicken, on the other hand, carries his lovely feathers on his tail end. The breed came to this country, via Europe, from Sumatra, sadly originally for cock-fighting. They are considered endangered.



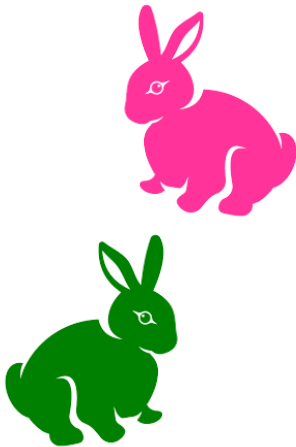
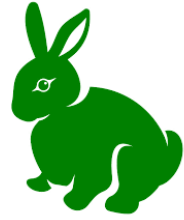
The Silky Chicken comes from China and is known for its soft fluffy plumage. The breed dates back at least as far as Marco Polo's visit to eastern Asia in the 13th century. Silkies also are unusual because they have five toes instead of four.

The Sultan Chicken's name derives from a Turkish phrase meaning "fowls of the palace." Sultans also have five toes which are hard to see due to the profusion of fluffy foot feathers. This breed probably deserves his own cartoon show!



The Frizzle Chicken is recognized as a breed in Europe but not the U.S. Frizzle chickens have genetically inherited curly or "frizzled" feathers which gives them a fluffy disheveled appearance. This chicken is a Blue Frizzle Pullet bred in Australia.

A Final Word



REMINDER: Our interlibrary loan (ILL) service is a wonderful feature of getting a library card. Since our collection size is limited, we appreciate being able to get books from other libraries for our patrons.

However, it's important to remember that only books ordered through ILL should be returned that way. Because we are an "offline" library, any book returned in the system that wasn't ordered through our library has no tracking record. As a result, the book you are returning cannot be traced and you may incur fines, late fees or even be liable for the book if it is lost.

