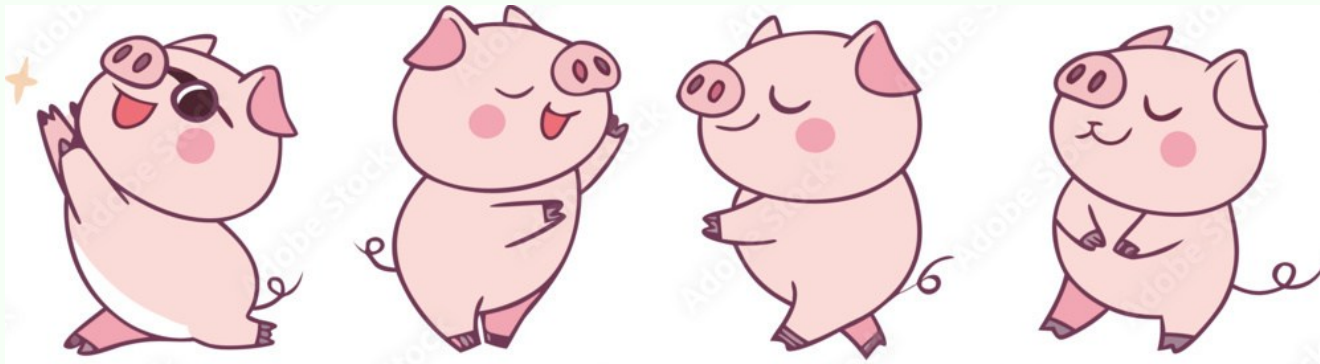




THE WORD

**BIG ROCK LIBRARY
MAY 2026**

(630) 556-3604

bigrocklibrary.org

*The library will be closed on Monday,
May 25, in celebration of Memorial
Day.*

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

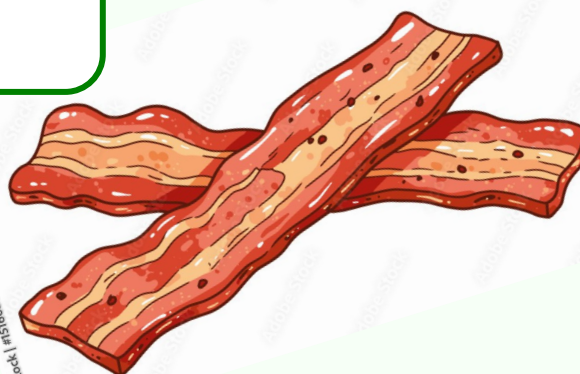
THURSDAY 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Coming up at the Library Page 2-4

New at the Library Page 7-9

Calendar of Events Page 11



How Pigs Became Part of our History, Culture, and Diet

There have been no accounts of settlers in this area having to hunt wild boar. Boars did not roam northern Illinois, stalking the early settlers. So, from where did they come? How did we learn to love pork-BBQ, bacon or otherwise? When did pork production become a local farm family livelihood? What's the difference between a pig and a hog?

These are the questions that the Illinois Humanities speaker, Cynthia Clampitt, will be addressing on May 9 at 2:00 PM. You're invited to spend Saturday afternoon at the Marvel Davis Farm in Big Rock to learn how pigs have had a worldwide impact on our culture, foods, and health. The Big Rock Historical Society will host this presentation thanks to a grant from the Illinois Humanities' 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 farming 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 Meat Mart 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 was 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, Sugar Grove, and Newark) have been invited for this afternoon event, providing the opportunity to see your neighbors as well as meet new friends. A special thank you to the Illinois Humanities program for the grant that sponsors this event. They are celebrating 50 years of connecting Illinoisans through free public programs and grants that make the public humanities accessible for all.

Another special thank you to Polish Pottery for furnishing the cool drinks for the day. Their extensive sales room is the next-door neighbor of Marvel's farm so plan to stop for a color-popping display of pottery. Their hours will be extended to accommodate this event.

STAY TUNED– SUMMER READING STARTS ON JUNE 1 AND RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 3. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER , WHICH WILL BE ISSUED A WEEK EARLY.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY



Left to right from top: *The Astral Library* by Kate Quinn, *The Things We Leave Unfinished* by Rebecca Yarros, *The First Gentleman* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson, *Murder in Mesopotamia* by Agatha Christie, *The Secret Adversary* by Agatha Christie, *Murder at World's End* by Ross Montgomery, *Artificial Selection* by Marianne Pickles, *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans, *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn, *Nicked* by M. T. Anderson, *Good Bad Girl* by Alice Feeney, *The Blonde Who Came in from the Cold* by Ally Carter, *Knife Skills* by Wendy Church.

READ ANY BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, May 4 @ 6:00 PM

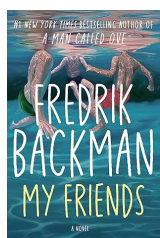
April brought another plethora of murders from Agatha Christie's *Murder in Mesopotamia* to Alice Feeney's *Good Bad Girl*. Some historical fiction and science fiction rounded out the night. If these genres aren't your cup of tea, no worries, we love variety.

Join us for an interesting discussion about what we've been reading and you might even discover something new.



One Book Group

June 8 @ 6:00 PM



Fredrik Backman's latest is a "stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of friendship and art." (Amazon review)

Louisa, an aspiring artist, possesses a famous painting that depicts three tiny figures in one corner. Twenty-five years before, three teenage boys meet at the pier to escape their brutal home lives, and enjoy each other's company, inadvertently becoming part of a stunning work of art.

Louisa's journey to find out more about the painting creates the groundwork for an understanding of "art and human connection, the value of friendship, and the relationship between grief and healing." (supersummary.com).

If this kind of story appeals to you, please bring your thoughts to our One Book Group discussion of the book and its themes.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

DON'T POP YOUR BALLOON!



Our craft group is growing along with the the unusual artistic tool for May's project. Balloon art promises to be a fun way to be creative so join us at the Big Rock Library and get messy!

- ♦ Big Rock Library
- ♦ May 27, 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.

FOR GREAT FAMILY FUN! DON'T FORGET

16th Annual



Sunday, June 7, 2026 – 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Plowman's Park, 48w508 Hinckley Road, Big Rock, IL

This Year's Special Feature –

America Turns 250 – Patriotic Themed Vehicles

All vehicles must be 25 years or older

Vehicle Registration 8:00AM–11:00AM

Trophy Presentation 3:30 PM

Free Registration, Free Admission, and Free Parking

Free Train Rides by Prairie State Railroad 12:00-3:00

Free Face Painting 12:00-3:00

50/50, Raffles, Event T-Shirts, Concession Stand, Ice Cream from Hill's Country Store

5B's Pork Chop/Chicken Dinner 11:30-1:30

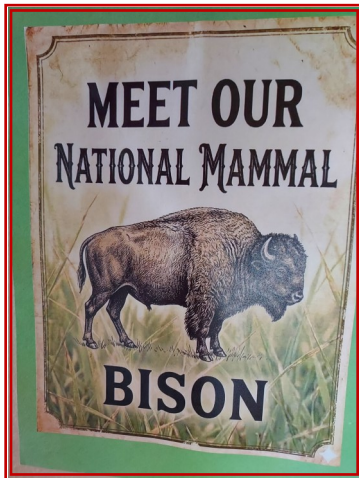
Questions or Registration - contact Barb - bbaie1@att.net or 630-768-3251

Visit www.bigrockcarshow.org for entry form and more information

All proceeds and donations benefit the Big Rock Historical Society

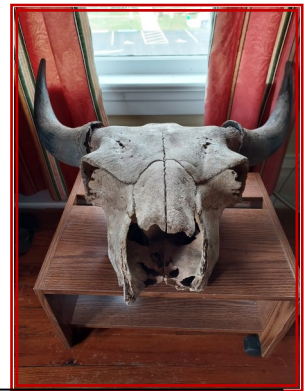
Over 400 entries last year!

MEET OUR NATIONAL MAMMAL



Joining our country's 250 year celebration is our local display honoring bison. You're invited to visit the upstairs special exhibit room at the library to view Native American bison artifacts such as a scapula (shoulder blade) which was used as a hoe or shovel. There are fossilized bison teeth and a buffalo robe, and you can examine up close a bison skull with the core beneath the horns on display. Be impressed with Indian tribe uses for all the parts of the animal. There is also a fossilized skull from a Pleistocene bison (*Bison antiquus*) that lived from 18,000 to 10,000 BCE in the middle of the North American continent. This exhibit permits you to see this magnificent animal close-up.

Another reminder is that the Historical Society Museum, which is across the parking lot from the library, now has Sunday hours from 2 :00 to 4:00 PM except for holidays like Mother's Day. If you've never seen their local artifacts or it's been a while, prepare to be surprised at what the Big Rock community has in its historical past.



Are You an Environmentally Concerned Person?

If you have the health of the planet in mind, you will want to check out the Aurora GreenFest which will be held at the old Aurora Post Office (near the corner of Stolp and Benton which formerly housed Sci-Tech) between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 2. Big Rock Library will be in attendance with semi-precious polished cabochon necklaces for sale at their vendor booths.

Stop by and say Hello and check out the Lapis, Tiger Eye, Malachite, Petoskey stone, Dendrite agates, and more of these lovely jewelry pieces. There is much more information about the activities for children and the event schedule on the Aurora GreenFest website.



**BIG ROCK LIBRARY
SUMMER READING
PROGRAM**

PLANT A SEED, READ!

SAVE THE DATES

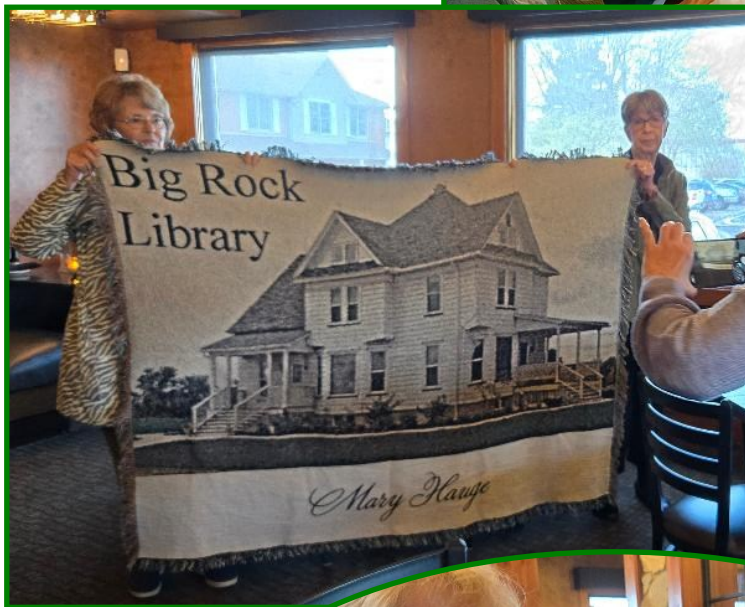
June 1 through August 3, 2026

**Watch for more info coming
soon!**

A Wonderful Time Was Had by All!

On Sunday, April 19, current and former volunteers from Big Rock Library gathered at Fireside Restaurant to celebrate Mary Hauge's career as director of the Big Rock Library. After a delicious meal and a short "roast", she received several library- and book-related gifts in honor of her service including a blanket, a canvas expressing our gratitude in words and several other items. The Big Rock Historical Society recognized her dedication to the library by naming the upstairs "Mary Hauge Special Exhibit Room." We are not letting her retire just yet, though.

Congratulations!

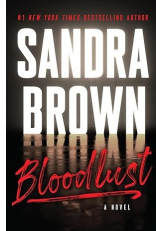


NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Mysteries & Thrillers

Bloodlust by Sandra Brown

Detective Mitch Haskell's obsession with avenging his wife's murder has affected his life to the point where his boss sends him to a therapist. Their chemistry, and Dr. Dylan's connection to the murder lead to compromises that may undermine both their jobs and their lives.



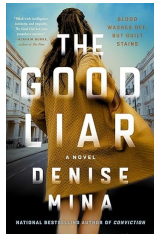
Missing by E. A. Jackson



The missing baby case seems to be resolved but Detective Inspector Martha Allen isn't satisfied. Thirty years later, the woman who found the missing baby turns up dead, triggering memories of the original case and prompting DI Allen to do a little investigating.

The Good Liar by Denise Mina

Blood spatter expert Claudia O'Sheil learns that evidence she provided for a double murder was wrong, an innocent person is behind bars, and she knows who the real killer is.



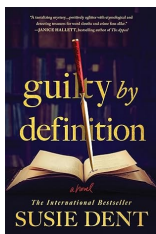
The Vanishing Place by Zoë Rankin



Effie has left New Zealand and the family with whom she lived a peculiar life in the bush and off the grid, but when a young girl emerges from the bush twenty years later, and leads the locals to a murder scene, Effie is forced to return and confront her past.

Guilty by Definition by Susie Dent

Working as an editor for the Clarendon English Dictionary, Martha Thornhill receives an anonymous letter that leads her and her team on a journey through riddles and clues that may lead to why Martha's sister Charlie disappeared years ago.



New Mysteries & Thrillers

The King's Ransom by Janet Evanovich



Best-selling author of the Stephanie Plum saga has created a new series! To save her ex-husband's bank from ruin, Gabriella Rose, a recovery agent, must locate a number of priceless artifacts, the Rosetta Stone among them, that have gone missing, pieces that her ex has insured for a huge amount of money that appears not to have been approved by the bank's board.

The Midnight Feast by Lucy Foley (2024)

Murder breaks out at The Manor, a posh vacation retreat set in a woods long thought to be the home of a pagan legend, and the site of animosity between the staff and locals who resent the retreat's attempts to take over their beach.



A Beautiful Family by Jennifer Trevelyan

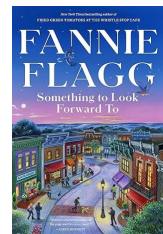


When the vacation of a ten-year-old girl and her family gets boring, she and her new friend decide to solve the mystery of a little girl who disappeared two years ago, and uncover more than they bargain for.

New Adult Fiction

Something to Look Forward To by Fannie Flagg

A collection of humorous short stories that explore how different people cope with life's adversities.



A Reason to See You Again by Jami Attenberg (2024)



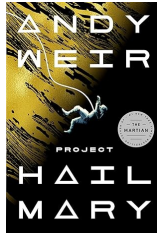
"...a dazzling novel of family, following a troubled mother and her two daughters over forty years through a swiftly changing American landscape as they seek lives they can fully claim as their own." (book jacket)

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

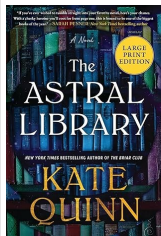
New Adult Fantasy/SciFi

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir (2021)

Seen the movie? Now you can read the book by the author of *The Martian*. Ryland Grace finds himself light years from anywhere, his crewmates dead, the fate of Earth in his hands, and he really can't remember much.



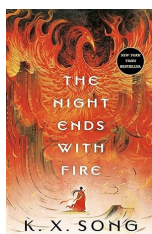
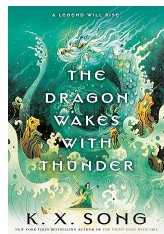
The Astral Library by Kate Quinn



A hidden door at the Boston Public Library opens for Alix Watson, who takes refuge from her discouraging life between the pages of books, where the Librarian helps people flee their lives by literally escaping into their favorite books. But a shadowy enemy seems to threaten the library and Alix and the Librarian must protect their world from danger.

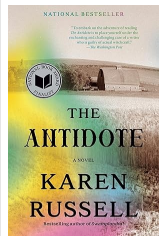
The Night Ends with Fire by L. X. Song

The Dragon Wakes with Thunder by L. X. Song



In this fantasy duology, Hai Meilin assumes the role of a man to fight in the imperial army and help save the kingdom of Anlai, then finds herself imprisoned for doing so. But soon, her military exploits put her in high demand while she tries to find her way to becoming her own woman.

The Antidote by Karen Russell



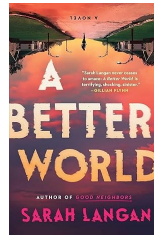
The story begins and ends with two devastating natural disasters, a dust storm and a flood, in 1935 Nebraska, and features a woman with witch-like powers, a farmer and his niece whose property remains undamaged, and a photographer with a time-traveling camera.

New Not New

A Death in Denmark by Amulya Malladi (2023)-adult fiction

New Adult Fantasy/SciFi

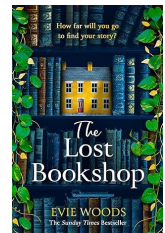
A Better World by Sarah Langan (2024)



"A cunning, outside-the-box satirical thriller about a family's odyssey into an exclusive enclave for the wealthy that might not be as ideal as it seems." (book jacket)

The Lost Bookshop by Evie Woods (2024)

Three residents of Dublin with insignificant lives discover a lost bookshop and the magic it brings to them.



New Historical Fiction

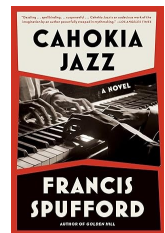
Huguette by Cara Black



Life in post-war France is chaotic and dangerous for Huguette Faure who has lost her family, is pregnant and almost jailed, and finally takes a job with a famous film director as an assistant, then accountant of a sort.

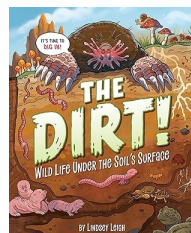
Cahokia Jazz by Francis Spufford (2023)

In this alternate history thriller, the setting is 1920s Illinois, in the city of Cahokia, a thriving metropolis founded by indigenous people a thousand years ago, where inhabitants of all races and religions co-exist, until a body is found on the roof of a skyscraper and Joe Barrow needs to find out what happened



New Junior Nonfiction

The Dirt: Wild Life under the Soil's Surface by Lindsey Leigh



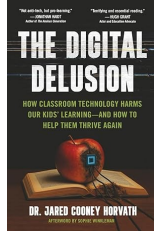
Illustrated with whimsical cartoons, this book explores what lives under the surface of the dirt under our feet and how these inhabitants make our soil healthy and productive.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

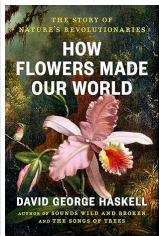
New Nonfiction

The Digital Delusion by Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath

Dr. Horvath, a neuroscientist and educator, discusses how our dependence on screen learning is undermining kids' ability to learn in traditional ways and affecting performance, attention span and academic rigor.



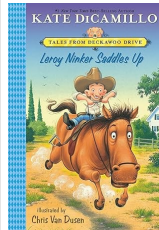
How Flowers Made Our World by David George Haskell



This book explores the role flowers played in creating the world as we know it, and shows how flowers "offer us lessons on resilience and creativity in the face of environmental change." (book jacket)

New Junior Fiction

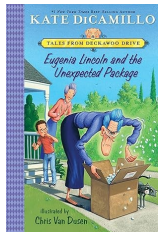
Tales from Deckawoo Drive by Kate DiCamillo (2014-2020)



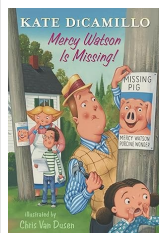
If you loved the Mercy Watson series, here's another series set on Deckawoo Drive to entertain your beginning readers. Six tales tell the further adventures of the Endicotts, the Lincolns, and many others.

They include:

Leroy Ninker Saddles Up, Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon, Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?, Eugenia Lincoln and the Unexpected Package, Sheila Endicott and the Anything-Is-Possible Poem, and Franklin Endicott and the Third Key.



Mercy Watson Is Missing by Kate DiCamillo (2023)



The whole Deckawoo Drive community is inconsolable. Mercy Watson has disappeared and no one can find her. They call in a PI to help, and with the pigeon Polly, Mercy might still be found unharmed.



News You Can Use– and Worth Repeating

By permission, from Illinois Farm Bureau Partners, Fall 2024

SHARE THE ROAD

Follow these tips to help keep you and farmers safe throughout the harvest season and again *in spring when planting starts*.

- Most importantly, slow down and be patient.
- Slow down when you see the Slow Moving Vehicle emblem, the orange and red reflective triangle, which warns you a tractor or combine will be on the road traveling at a slow rate of speed.
- Watch for the farmer's indication of a turn. Newer equipment has one or more amber lights flashing rapidly to indicate a turn. Older equipment is typically not equipped with turn signals, so watch for the farmer's hand signals.
- Keep a safe distance from the farm equipment so farmers can see you. Remember, if you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you.
- Be prepared to yield to wide equipment.
- Flashing amber lights on the equipment mean caution, so reduce speed when encountering farm equipment on public roads.
- Pass wide, large farm equipment only if you know the conditions are safe and you are sure the farmer will not be making a left-hand turn.
- It is illegal to pass in a no-passing lane or within 100 feet of a bridge, intersection or railroad crossing.

For more information, you can access the Illinois Farm Bureau at ilfbpartners.com/roadsafety. **STAY SAFE THIS SPRING SEASON!**



A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: Porcupines are classified as rodents although they are much bigger than most other rodents. They are herbivores and often climb trees to find food including leaves, twigs, herbs and green plants.

Porcupines are most famously known for their method of self-defense, raising their sharp quills and rattling them. These quills are modified hair reinforced with thick plates of keratin.

The oldest known rodent was a porcupine named Cooper who lived to be 32 years old!



Calendar for May

May 4– Any Book Group @6:00 PM

May 9– Boars to Bacon @ 2:00 PM

May 27- Craft Group @ 6:30 PM

June 1– Summer Reading begins

June 1– Any Book Group @6:00 PM

June 7– Big Rock Car Show—8:00 AM-4:00 PM

June 8– Read One Book Group @ 6:00 PM