

THE WORD

**BIG ROCK LIBRARY
JUNE 2026**

(630) 556-3604

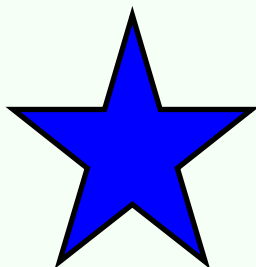
bigrocklibrary.org

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

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

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

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JOIN the GOOD EGG &
the BAD SEED for



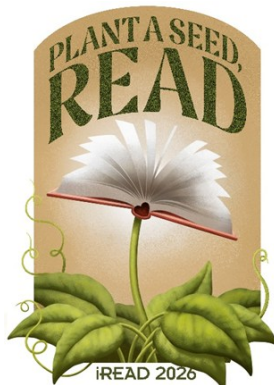
2026 BIG ROCK LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM June 1 through August 3

Read a little every day and get rewarded!

Three reading levels: Read to Me for toddlers through kindergarten, Elementary/Middle School, and Adult/Teen.

Each level offers exciting prize opportunities.

Stop by the library on June 1 to pick up your reading log, stickers and goodie bag (or beanie baby).



FOR GREAT FAMILY FUN! DON'T FORGET



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 8:00 AM–11:00 AM

Trophy Presentation 3:30 PM

Free Registration, Free Admission, and Free Parking

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

Free Face Painting 12:00-3:00 PM

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

Get Your Historic T-Shirt

Get this classic t-shirt commemorating the America 250 celebration and the 16th annual car show!

Shirts are \$16-\$19. Small-XL \$16, 2XL-5XL \$19.

Send your check, made payable to Big Rock Historical Society.

Barb Baie, PO Box 218,
Big Rock IL 60511



COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Come For The Cars, Stay For The Books!

When you've had your fill of vintage cars, come on over to the library and peruse our **great big book sale**. Check out the tables and carts behind the library and then visit the sale room downstairs.

Our prices are still a huge bargain at \$1.00 for hard cover, 50¢ for paperbacks, 25¢ for mass market paperbacks and kids' books. Audiobooks and DVDs are also for sale.

Look for the "garage sale" table for additional bargains.

Stock up for summer reading! (As always, teachers shop for free.)

Open: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM.



Left to right from top: *We Love You, Bunny* by Mona Awad, *This Body of Death* by Elizabeth George, *A Death in Denmark* by Amulya Malladi, *Bone Valley* by Gilbert King, *The Hack* by Marianne Pickles, *Walk Me Home* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, *How To Be Okay When Nothing Is Okay* by Jenny Lawson, *Other Birds* by Sarah Addison Allen, *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown.



READ ANY BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, JUNE 1 @ 6:00 PM

From the darkly serious true crime story of wrongful conviction in *Bone Valley*, to Jenny Lawson's amazing hysterical advice on mental illness, from dark sci-fi to humorous horror, plus a few murders in between, May was again a gathering of eclectic and interesting titles. Bring your own weird or wonderful recommendations and join us in June!

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY



A Patriotic Project

The Big Rock Crafters will meet on June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the library. We will be making a patriotic themed project with red, white and blue painted bottle caps.

Supplies needed: A piece of decorative wood that can be hung or propped up.

Let's show our patriotism and enjoy an evening with friends! RSVP to 630-556-3604 or bigrocklibraryinfo@gmail.com.

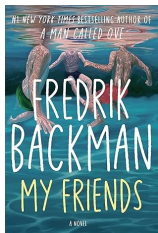
Planning Ahead

Join us for a summer reading wrap-up presentation on Monday, July 27 at 2:00 PM in the schoolhouse on the museum/library property. Road Scholar speaker Jamie Poorman is coming from Marshall, IL to relate the story of the Orphan Trains in Illinois. For 75 years, homeless, parentless children were sent on trains to the Midwest for potential adoption. Learn the stories of this little-known part of history's attempt to deal with the homeless in the early 1900s.

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.

Join the Library and the Historical Society for an Old-Fashioned "Bed-Turning"

You're invited to bring a vintage quilt to the Big Rock Park District on Thursday evening, June 11, at 7:00 PM. The quilts will be spread on a "bed" (which is really a table approximating a bed). In turns, the owner of the top quilt will talk about what makes it special—a special occasion, fabric choice, the pattern, the creator, or whatever memories the quilt brings forth. The quilt is then folded and returned to its owner, giving the next person a chance to talk about their quilt.

The Common Threads Quilt Guild of Sugar Grove promoted this interesting idea. It's exciting to share your quilt that may have been tucked away in a linen closet.



ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS! (KIDS ONLY)

Big Rock Township is hosting the America 250
STUDENT ART CONTEST.

Students in HBR 429, or residents of Big Rock Township, ages 3-18 are eligible. Create your work of art and submit your creation with an entry form by August 22.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first and second place entries in each category, as well as gift cards for honorable mention works. Winners will be exhibited at the Big Rock Plowing Match.

For more information, coloring pages and entry forms, visit the library or go to bigrocktownship.com. You can also send questions to katebuckson@bigrocktownship.com.



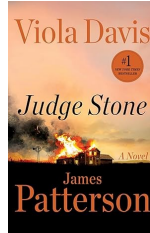
SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS: According to an alarming statistic heard on NPR, the Midwest lost 30,000 farms between 2017 and 2024.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

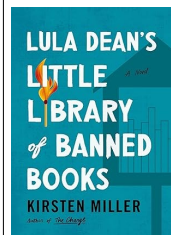
New Mysteries & Thrillers

Judge Stone by Viola Davis and James Patterson

Judge Mary Stone of small-town Alabama navigates the most controversial case the South has ever seen, trying to ensure that justice is served.



New Adult Fiction

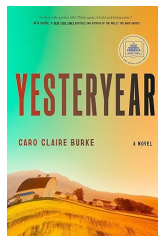


Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller

Lula's on a crusade to remove all objectionable books at the public library in Troy, Georgia, which she replaces with a "little" library of literature she deems worthy.

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke

Natalie Mills' perfect pioneer lifestyle filmed for her 8 million followers, backed by a staff who make it seem easy, is suddenly upended when she wakes to discover she is really in the 1850s, and her life becomes not so idyllic.



New Junior Graphic Novels

Coming soon:

Fight or Flight (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) by Jeff Kinney

Jeff becomes the target of a bully and hopes his best friend's karate lessons will help.



A Sprinkle in Time (Dog Man) by Dav Pilkey

Grandpa "alters the fabric of time and space" and Dog Man faces his greatest challenge.

New Junior Graphic Novels

Kristy and the Mother's Day Surprise by Ann Martin

Karen's Surprise by Ann Martin

Mary Anne's Bad Luck Mystery by Ann Martin

Dawn on the Coast by Ann Martin

Good-bye Stacey, Good-bye by Ann Martin

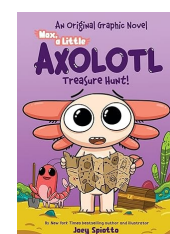
Jessi Ramsey, Pet-Sitter by Ann Martin

Join the Baby-Sitter's Club on a whole new set of adventures!



Max, a Little Axolotl #1, #2, #3 by Joey Spiotto

Coral Elementary School is full of marine creatures and Max, an axolotl that no one's ever heard of. All the attention is making Max nervous and he can't stop his hiccupps.



New Not New

The River Runs South by Audrey Ingram (2023)

The Teacher by Freida McFadden (2024)

The Coworker by Freida McFadden (2023)



An America 250 Moment

In 1787, the "Great Moose Dispute" arose between France and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was annoyed with a French scientist's claim that American animals were small and "degenerate" compared to European ones. The scientist had probably only seen the French fur traders' hides for beaver, raccoon, fox, and opossum. Jefferson responded by ordering a giant moose to be killed, stuffed, and shipped to France to prove them wrong. History doesn't record what the French reaction was.

...and While We're on the Subject of Giant Animals

Check out the herd in the upstairs display room after you sign up for summer reading. You can touch a genuine buffalo robe such as the pioneers would have used, and if you have time, watch the DVD of Ken Burns' The American Buffalo. And, maybe learn the answer to the burning question, Buffalo or Bison?

PLANT A SEED

Seeds that are started indoors develop stronger, sturdier stems if a fan is left to blow on them. Likewise, trees in windier areas develop stronger trunks.

Drops of rainwater on plants and the surrounding soil also activate plant growth.



A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: This handsome guy may look like he'd like to curl up on your sofa, but the sand cat prefers sandy and stony desert climates, ranging from North Africa to the Middle East. Due to their hardiness and habitat, they are plentiful and not in danger, using their sandy-colored fur as camouflage. Sand cats are the smallest wild cat species, weighing in at just 3-7 pounds for females and 4.5-7 pounds for males.



Sand cats live in underground dens and hunt at night for small rodents, birds and snakes. Females have 2-3 kittens per litter.

Interesting physical characteristics of the sand cat is its auditory canal which is twice the size of a domestic cat, and the furry hair covering its paws, protecting them from extreme temperatures and hot sand. For learn more, visit Brookfield Zoo this summer, and use your library card for a discount.



Calendar for June

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

June 11 -Quilt Turning @ 7:00 PM

June 24- Craft Group @ 6:30 PM

July 6- Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

July 27- Orphan Train presentation @ 2:00 PM