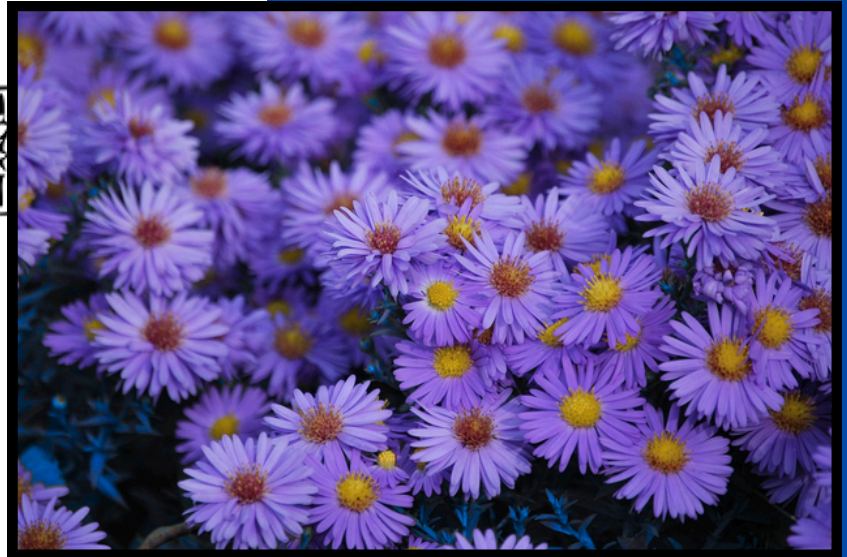


BIG ROCK LIBRARY
bigrocklibrary.org
630-556-3604

August 2026

Monday 12-6 PM
Thursday 10 AM-6 PM
Saturday 10 AM-3 PM



THE WORD



COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Left to right from top: *Ironwood* by Michael Connelly, *The Afghan* by Frederick Forsyth, *The Divorce* by Freida McFadden, *The Midnight Train* by Matt Haig, *There There* by Tommy Orange, *Angel Killer* by Andrew Mayne, *The Naturalist* by Andrew Mayne, *How To Get Away with Murder* by Rebecca Philipson, *Sticky Notes* by Matt Eicheldinger, *Dreamer's Pool* by Juliet Marillier, *Tower of Thorns* by Juliet Marillier, *Magyk* by Angie Sage, *Night Road* by Kristen Hannah.



READ ANY BOOK GROUP

Monday, August 3 @ 6:00 PM

Getting ready for the new school year may be keeping you busy these days. A quiet evening with other readers exploring the books they've read might make a relaxing change of pace, and help you unwind. Read anything you want and bring it to the group to share. We'd love to see you here!!

ONE BOOK GROUP

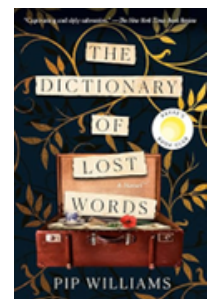
Monday, August 11 @ 6:00 PM

In a shed in Oxford, a team of lexicographers is assembling the first Oxford English Dictionary. With slips of paper bearing words and definitions, the team's painstaking sorting and construction is observed by one scholar's daughter, Esme, who collects slips that fall to the floor. These slips have been discarded because they are "woman" words.

Esme sets out to correct this insult, and the exclusion of the world and language of women, by creating her own dictionary of forgotten words.

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams explores the power of words to shape the world around us, as well as the extraordinary accomplishment of the men who wrote the first comprehensive English dictionary.

Join us on August 11 as we discuss this fictional account of actual events, beautifully imagined by the winner of the Australian Book Industry Award.



Summer Reading Ends August 3

Sadly, Summer Reading, *Plant a Seed-Read!* is almost over. Participation this year was up, especially with our adult readers; we had 27 adult/teen patrons sign up! Read-to-Me kids totaled 11, and Elementary/Middle School totaled 14. To level the playing field for those who love to read but don't have a lot of time for it, this summer's challenge included reading 15 minutes per day for elementary level, and 20 minutes for adults. We hope you enjoyed these changes we made and have suggestions to make future summers even better. In order to reward the most ambitious readers, next year will include a separate drawing for those who have the time and motivation to read lots of books! We know you're out there...



Prize drawings will be held after closing on August 3, and the winners will be notified soon after. A list of winners will appear in our September newsletter.

We hope you and your kids started a reading habit that will continue into the new school year.

A Huge Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

Windy City Soaring
Paisano's
Happy Hen House
Esther's Place
More Polish Pottery
Kuiper's Orchard
Funway
Donna Carter

Dairy Joy
Kane County Cougars
Winding Creek Nursery
Target
MacDonald's
Casey's
Dawn Stegall
Joella Lenz

**THANK
YOU**

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY



The Big Rock
CRAFTERS

will meet on
Wednesday
August 26, 2026
at 6:30pm
at the library to
PAINT BRICK PAVERS!

Come out and enjoy an evening of fun, conversation and crafting.

These are just some examples.

Come and let your imagination run **wild!**

Please call the library (630-556-3604) and let us know if you can make it. We want to make sure we have enough supplies!

We can't wait to see your creations!

**Don't forget the Plowing Match in September,
Friday, Sept. 18 through Sunday, Sept. 20.
Big Book Sale at the library!**

Orphan Trains in the Midwest

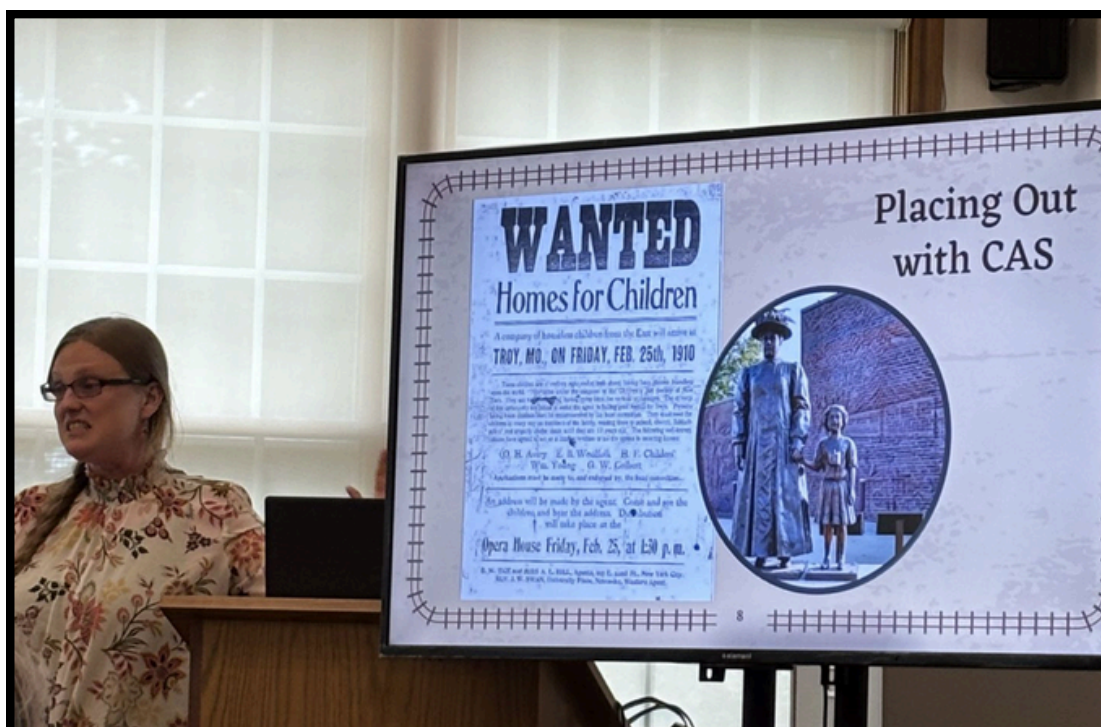
On Monday, July 27, Jamie Poorman, Illinois Humanities presenter, gave us a snapshot portrait of the orphan train programs that ran from 1865 to 1929. Approximately 250,000 children, primarily New York homeless youth, were placed in Midwestern homes during that 75 year period.

An early solution to foster care, the program was an attempt to bring children ages 7-17 by train to the Midwest for adoption. Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri received the greatest number of young people. Typically, the train event was advertised in the local newspaper like that pictured below, and people would gather in a hotel or court house to meet the prospective adoptees. Since this was actually a form of indentured servitude, a contract was signed if a child was chosen.

Sometimes siblings were sent together. If they were lucky, they may have been adopted out as a pair, or may have been living in close proximity at neighboring farms. Upon reaching age 18, each child was given a new set of clothes; boys got \$75 and girls received \$50, and then they were on their own.

There are surviving letters that some orphan train children wrote as adults. Some got parents who loved them as their own. Others didn't thrive in their new home and were placed elsewhere. Jamie Poorman followed a group of children who arrived in Clark County Illinois in 1884 and highlighted the account of one boy who became a successful business man in that community.

It was an eye-opening account to hear what life might have been like for an orphan of that time.



Grand Opening Celebration Of The Red School House



The grand opening of the one-room Red Schoolhouse on the grounds of the Big Rock Historical Society will be Sunday, August 30, from noon to 3:00 PM. Prepare for a great community get together starting with a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon followed by a picnic for all. The school replicates the last remaining one-room schoolhouse in Big Rock township. The Red School was located at the corner of Davis Road and Scott Road north of the village. It operated until the early 1920s when the township's country schools were consolidated into a big new school in Big Rock. Here's your chance to tour an old-fashioned country school and see the teaching materials, child seating, and the décor, and to compare it to a classroom of today.

The grand opening will have all sorts of family friendly events. On the lawn will be classic vehicles from the 1920s which would have been vehicles in use during the era of the schoolhouse. The Kane County Police canine unit will be bringing puppies who are in training. Big Rock Library will have a used book sale featuring children's books including a few vintage children's books plus a selection of natural stone pendant necklaces for sale. Kids can get their faces painted along with learning and playing old-fashioned games. You're invited to come listen to a performance of historical folk music in the library. There will be a 50/50 raffle along with other surprises and things to do. Visit with your neighbors and meet new folks. It promises to be a day of good food, fun, and fellowship. This event is rain or shine and there will be plenty of tents if needed.

Will you help?

The community picnic is offered at no cost to attendees. Can you bring a side dish (no lettuce salads please) which would accompany the hot dogs and sloppy joe sandwiches? Or bring a dessert which will be used as a bake sale item fundraiser. There will be a nominal fee for bake sale items.

Please email Dawn Stegall at dcsras6057@sbcglobal.net if you can bring food items.

new at the library

New Mysteries & Thrillers



The Hamptons Lawyer by James Patterson and Mike Lupica (2025)

Long Island attorney Jane Smith takes on a famous client and gets far more than she bargained for.



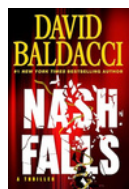
The Texas Murders by James Patterson and Andrew Bourelle (2025)

Texas Ranger Roy Yates, along with Ava Cruz of the Tigua Tribal Police, investigate the disappearance of an indigenous woman, and discover clues that point to a cold case.



Return of the Spider by James Patterson (2025)

Alex Cross revisits a long-ago crime and a relentless serial killer who keeps a "Murder Book" recounting his life of crime and detailing Cross's investigation mistakes.



Nash Falls by David Baldacci (2025)

Nash's position in an investment group is exploited by the FBI who are looking for his help bringing down an investor who is laundering money through Nash's firm, and his cooperation leads to serious consequences.



Hope Rises by David Baldacci

Nash has lost everything he values to criminal mastermind, Victoria Speers, so now he is working undercover to bring her down.



The Divorce by Freida McFadden

Naomi's happily-ever-after life comes to an abrupt end when her husband divorces her and takes everything in the divorce, so he can be with his much younger new girlfriend. Naomi is not going to take this lying down, and begins to stalk the girlfriend, uncovering dark and possibly dangerous secrets.

New Adult Fiction

The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett

From the best-selling author of *The Help*, a Great Depression tale of women trying to survive. Meg, an unwanted orphan at the Lafayette County Orphan Asylum, Birdie, unmarried mother and her socialite sister, and Charlie, whose got nothing to lose, converge in Oxford Mississippi, to take back their identities.



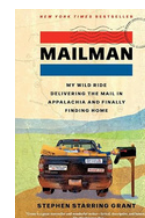
A Pair of Aces by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Eunice Carter, the first Black female Assistant DA in New York, and the notorious Polly Adler, known to run the finest brothel, team up to bring down Lucky Luciano.

New Nonfiction

Mailman: My Wild Ride Delivering the Mail in Appalachia and Finally Finding Home by Stephen Starring Grant (2025)

Laid off during Covid, Grant returns to his hometown and takes a job as a Rural Carrier Associate on one of the most grueling routes in rural Appalachian, and in his book, he describes the experiences along the way that changed his perspective and his life.

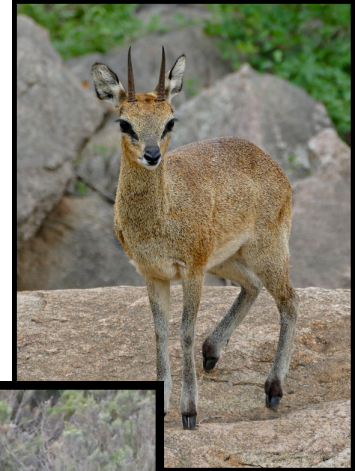


Finding My Way by Malala Yousafzai (2025)

After surviving an attack by the Taliban for her fight for women's education, Malala gained world recognition, and in this memoir, she tells of her search for her role in the world as an adult.

A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: The klipspringer is in the antelope family but is comparatively tiny compared to other antelopes, standing about 17 to 23 ½ inches at the shoulder. Living in rocky terrain with sparse vegetation, they live on plants, fruits and flowers in eastern and southern Africa. Pairs tend to be monogamous and the male klipspringer marks a territory for he and his family to live. These cute but hard to spot antelopes greet each other by rubbing cheeks!



An America 250 Moment
In 1872, Ulysses S. Grant was given a speeding ticket for racing his horse-drawn carriage in Washington, DC. He was fined \$20.

Calendar for August

August 1-2- Mascoutin Pow Wow @ 11:00 AM

August 3- Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

August 11- Read One Book Group @ 6:00 PM

August 26- Crafters' Group @ 6:30 PM

August 30- Red Schoolhouse Grand Opening @ 12:00 PM

September 13- Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM