

# The BIG ROCK 7 COMMUNITY CRIER

DECEMBER 2019

## Big Rock Plowing Match President's Trophy

With a firm handshake, Terry Sorensen accepted the President's trophy from Roger Hatfield. Newly elected as President, Terry has been on the Board since 2003, most recently as Vice-President. He has been involved with the grounds and equipment, as well as many activities at the Plowing Match, including the Pedal Tractor Pull for kids. Officers for the Association are: Bill Brickert, Vice-President; Kim Hummell, Treasurer; and Bonnie Warchal, Secretary. Our Officers have 99 combined years of service on the Big Rock Plowing Match Association Board.

Here's another opportunity to purchase your Plowing Match memorabilia: send an email and we will contact you to set-up a time to pick up those items you can't live without. Photos of memorabilia are on the website: [www.bigrockplowingmatch.com](http://www.bigrockplowingmatch.com). Think birthdays and the holidays for those on your shopping list or for friends and family who have moved away. [bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com)

Bookings for the rental of Plowman's Park in 2020 are now being accepted. To book your family, school, church or community event under the oaks contact Bonnie Warchol at (630) 556-3501.

## COMMUNITY CRIER CALENDAR

### December 2019

- |    |                              |                       |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3  | Park District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
|    | Drainage Committee           | 5:30 @ Town Hall      |
|    | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall      |
| 10 | Village Board Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 10 | Fire District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Fire House     |
| 11 | TWP Board Meeting            | 7:00 @ Town Hall      |
- there is only one Village Board Meeting in December 2019

### January 2020

- |    |                              |                       |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7  | Park District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
|    | Drainage Committee           | 5:30 @ Town Hall      |
|    | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall      |
| 8  | TWP Board Meeting            | 7:00 @ Town Hall      |
| 14 | Village Board Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 14 | Fire District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Fire House     |
| 28 | Village Board Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |

### February 2020

- |    |                              |                       |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4  | Park District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
|    | Drainage Committee           | 5:30 @ Town Hall      |
|    | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall      |
| 11 | Village Board Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 11 | Fire District Meeting        | 7:00 @ Fire House     |
| 12 | TWP Board Meeting            | 7:00 @ Town Hall      |
| 25 | Village Board Meeting        | 7:00 @ Community Park |

*Happy Holidays!*



## CYBER CRIER



While residents of Big Rock Township receive the Crier via the USPS, there is a list of people that receive an electronic PDF version via email. Advertisers, local

government representatives and others can sign up for free by simply sending a valid email address to [bigrockcrier@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockcrier@gmail.com) with a note requesting being added to the list. The editor will confirm and the next issue will be sent. Future issues will be automatically sent until an email is sent asking to be removed from the list or the address is no longer active.

Most of the recent previous issues are also available for download from the Village website and hard copies going back many years are kept at the library.



# BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP

## *From the Supervisor's Desk*

The Big Rock Township board recently approved a resolution for no increase in township and road district property tax levies for the coming year. The 2019 property tax levy for all township services (collected on 2020 tax bills) will remain the same for a second consecutive year. While the township and road district taxes are only a small portion (8.4%) of your property tax bills, we are pleased to be able to keep our share of property taxes at this ongoing lower level.

The township and road district continues to be fiscally responsible, and have sufficient reserves to operate efficiently and effectively through fiscal 2020/21. We will continue to work and support the other Big Rock governing bodies and organizations and combine our tax resources where appropriate to enhance services in the community.

The township also approved placing a voter referendum on the March 2020 primary election ballot. If approved by a majority of voters, the referendum would allow the township to select a single and exclusive waste and recycling hauling provider that would serve all residents and businesses in unincorporated Big Rock (excluding the Village). At our recent annual town meeting, the township board was asked by residents to considered this.

A township-wide agreement is expected to lower trash and recycling bills throughout the township due to economies and efficiencies of scale. More importantly, a single waste company will reduce the number of heavy waste hauling trucks on township roads up to 75%, reducing the damage they cause to our blacktop and gravel roads. Voters in other townships, including nearby Kaneville township, have approved similar referendums that led to cost savings for homes, businesses and repair of their township roads.

There will be a special town meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding the March waste referendum, and more information will be available and sent out to all residents in the coming months. Please feel free to send any comments or concerns to me at [bigrocktownship@gmail.com](mailto:bigrocktownship@gmail.com).

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2020!

Ken Rojek, Township Supervisor

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TOWNSHIP ON  
FACEBOOK

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*It is the best way for  
me to get information  
out to you quickly!*

## ROAD COMMISSIONER

Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. We should be just about done adding gravel to last road as we hauled in stone on every gravel road this year after last years problems with mud pumping up on roads. Please remember to keep cars off the street after snowfalls so we can keep them clean as possible. Thank you to all who put up markers on the edge of the roads; it does help. Wishing all, Merry Christmas!

Wade,

Big Rock Township Road District

P) 630-556-4331

F) 630-556-4332



The Big Rock Community Crier is published six times yearly by The Big Rock Fire Department, Big Rock Township, The Big Rock Park District and the Village of Big Rock as a service to the public. Annual subscription for outside of the township is \$10.

To advertise or submit articles for consideration please contact Tom Losiniecki at [bigrockcrier@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockcrier@gmail.com)

*The Town Hall is located at*  
**408 Rhodes Street, Big Rock, IL**  
*Mailing address is*  
**P.O. Box 252 Big Rock, IL 60511**

*Business Hours:*  
**Please call for an appointment**

*Township Board Meeting Dates:*  
Monthly: on the second  
Wednesday at 7:00

*Phone Numbers*  
Township and Assessor Offices  
*Phone:* **630-556-4340**  
*Fax:* **630-556-4350**

Road District **630-556-4331**

**[bigrocktownship@gmail.com](mailto:bigrocktownship@gmail.com)**

**[bigrocktownship.com](http://bigrocktownship.com)**

**[bigrocktownshipassessor.com](http://bigrocktownshipassessor.com)**

*Supervisor*  
Ken Rojek  
*Township Clerk*  
Cara Rausch  
*Assessor*  
Ralph Harkison  
*Highway Commissioner*  
Wade Thompson  
*Trustees*  
Amy Schoger, Paul Wedeen  
Bonnie Warchol, and  
Steve Michael



# VILLAGE OF BIG ROCK

Dean Hummell President | Pat Anderson Treasurer | Tim May Village Clerk

Trustees: Matt Ftizpatrick, Clay Hanninen, Mark Lynch, Ted McCannon, Kathy Metzger and Kelly May.

P.O. Box 128 | Big Rock, Illinois 60511 | (630) 556-4365 | [www.villageofbigrock.us](http://www.villageofbigrock.us)

*Village Meetings are held  
the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of  
the month at 7:00 pm*

## *Happy Holidays!!!!*

*The Village Of Big Rock would like to wish everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!!!*

### **STEP (SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT PUMP) SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

Please know that the village has a contractor that will be performing regular (annual) maintenance/pumping of the village tanks on private property. These tanks are identified by the “green” riser lids that are located in resident(s) yards. Contractor’s will be identified by wearing village labeled lanyards and/or bright yellow safety vests. Should you have any questions or concerns please call the village office and we will assist in verification of work being performed on septic tank located on your property.

### **SNOW PLOWING**

With the winter/snow season upon us the village would like to remind residents of its parking ban on all village streets when snow accumulations exceed 2 inches. Our Big Rock highway department need the roadways clear of parked vehicles so they can do their job to keep the streets clean. The villages zoning enforcement/property maintenance officer will issue citations for cars that are in violation of the ordinance. First offense is a \$25 fine and the second offense will result in the vehicle being towed at the owners expense. The village has had a parking ban ordinance in effect for many years. Please do your part to assist in keeping our village streets, alleys, and roads clear so they can be maintained properly.

### **VILLAGE POLICING**

The Village has heard and witnessed firsthand for many years traffic that comes through our small town driving at speeds well above our posted speed limits. As a result it’s been discussed on numerous occasions ways the village can reduce those disobeying our traffic speed limits. The village board has been budgeting accordingly and has recently been in discussions and signed a contract with Kane County to pay for a deputy to specifically cover Big Rock. The officer will randomly be patrolling within Big Rock during high traffic times paying special attention to violators on Rte 30, Rhodes Rd, and Granart Rd. The village hopes that with more police presence/enforcement that this will slow people down and make our community roads safer to be on.

### **LOCATING SERVICES (CALL811)**

Please be advised that the village has been billed for many “double & triple locates” when digging on property has occurred. If you are building on your property and have obtained the necessary village/county approvals to do so, please communicate with your contractor on whom is doing any locating on your property. In addition when the locate has been completed and the mini flags are present please don’t remove them until the job no longer requires these visible markers. This will help keep costs in line and hopefully eliminate multiple locates for the same property.

### **YOUR OPINION MATTERS**

Please visit us during office hours or stop by for an upcoming meeting. They are very informative and productive evening meetings starting at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Agendas are always posted in advance at the Park District & Post Office if you’re curious as to what’s going to be covered. And remember at every meeting we have a “public” session where you or anyone can address any topic. All constructive feedback will be taken into board considerations.

## **Dedicated to Serving You,**

**Your Village of Big Rock Board**





Gene Nehring  
President  
William Yoder  
Vice President  
Steve Holub  
Treasurer  
Bonnie Warchol  
Clerk  
Cindy Nehring  
Program Director

**bigrockparks.com** Park District Voicemail:  
**(630) 556-9599** (Recorded program listings and calendar)

The Big Rock Park District meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Park District Building at 7S405 Madison Street in Big Rock. We would enjoy having you at our meetings and hear your suggestions.

### SUGGESTIONS

Do you have an idea for a program you would like to see offered by the Big Rock Park District? Do you have a special interest or talent you would like to share with others? Please contact Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.

### HALLOWEEN DOG COSTUME PARADE

Ten dogs participated in the Halloween Costume Parade on October 26, 2019 at the Big Rock Dog Park. Three winners were chosen - First Prize went to Riley, an eleven year old Australian Sheep Dog owned by Shelby Novicki, Second Prize went to Mia, a four year old Papillion owned by Lorraine Hall and Third Place was awarded to Sadie, a twenty month old rescue dog owned by Elizabeth Nokes. All dogs enjoyed treat bags and playing in the enclosed area with the new interactive equipment. The dog owners enjoyed the shelter of the Pavilion as it started to rain.



(Pictured left to right is - Elizabeth Nokes, Lorraine Hall and Shelby Novicki)



### VETERANS HONORED

Veterans, past and present were honored on November 9<sup>th</sup> with pictures decorating the Veterans Christmas Tree. Eleven Veterans and their families enjoyed the video of WW 2 New York Victory Parade, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne provided by Allan Bastian of Hinckley. Allan also gave a little history of his days in the service. Pastor Sejoon Jang from the Hinckley First United Methodist Church gave a slide show on the Korean War and how his family was affected. Both presentations were very interesting and informative. Thank you to Jerry Bahl for arranging the programs. The event was co-sponsored by the Big Rock Park District and the Big Rock Historical Society with light refreshments served after the program.



### DECORATE WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

Win \$50 first prize, \$30 second prize or \$20 third prize by decorating the outside of your house and/or yard with Christmas lights! Open to all residential homes in Big Rock. A minimum of 10 participants will be needed to have the contest. Judging will take place on the evening of Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> by 3 non-area residents. Winners will be contacted by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Send your name, address and telephone number to the Big Rock Park District, P.O. Box 295, Big Rock, IL 60511, Attn: Christmas Lights. Deadline to enter is December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### MOVIES AT THE PARK

“MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE” will be shown on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 7 pm at the Park District Building on Madison Street in Big Rock. Message In A Bottle is rated PG 13 and runs 131 minutes starring Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn and Paul Newman. Grieving widower Garret Blake builds boats for a living. Rebuilding his life - that's another matter. But that's before Theresa Osborne comes to his North Carolina village. Theresa, a lonely divorcee and researcher for the Chicago Tribune knows Garret is the author of the message she found inside a bottle on a Cape Cod beach. And she knows the message spoke to her in a way that profoundly touched her heart.

### FROZEN 2

“FROZEN 2” will be shown on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Park District Building on Madison Street in Big Rock. Frozen 2 is a computer-animated film that follows Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven who embark on a journey beyond their kingdom of Arendelle in order to discover the origin of Elsa's magical powers and save their kingdom after a mysterious voice calls out to Elsa. Featuring the voices of Idina Menzel -Elsa, Kristen Bell -Anna, Jonathan Groff - Kristoff and Josh Gad- Olaf. Frozen 2 is rated PG and runs 103 minutes.

Please bring a friend and enjoy a free movie and popcorn.



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**English Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**301 Rhodes St. - Big Rock**

**\*\*Bible Study and Sunday School start at 9am.**



**Our 2019 Cookie Walk is Friday, December 13th from 6am to noon.**

**Don't miss out on our huge selection of cookies, breads and candies! Perfect for all of your holiday parties, gatherings or late night snacking! :)**



Please join us for our  
**2019  
Cookie Walk**  
Friday, December 13, 2019  
6:00 am - 10:00 am

English Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
corner of Rhodes & Third Streets  
Big Rock, IL

Enjoy delicious home-baked  
cookies, candies & sweet breads.  
Stock up for the holidays from the  
many available varieties.

Gift Certificates are available.  
Call 630-556-3986 for info/purchase.

Rev. Bill Riegle, Pastor

Office Hours— Monday thru Friday  
9am to noon

Phone: 630.556.3986

**Everyone is always welcome at the  
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## HSBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

### Executive Function: What's Your Function?

Executive Function. These two words are being used a lot within the school system, but what do they really mean? The Harvard University Center on the Developing Child states that “executive function and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.” Executive functions include the processes responsible for purposeful, goal directed behavior.

Executive functions help you use what you know in the moment to come up with new responses to new situations. Executive functions allow us to internalize rules, use self-talk, reason and plan. In addition, executive functions combined with social perception and interpretation result in socially acceptable behavior.

While often times we talk about executive function as it relates to attention and organization, a largely under-developed skillset in children is emotional regulation and control. The ability to maintain a calm state during situations that cause us to experience negative feelings (such as frustration, sadness, surprise, rejection) is critical to developing and maintaining effective relationships, navigating school and career life, as well as developing a positive sense of self.

Executive functions also play a key role in academic performance. Academics require effortful, adaptive application of knowledge, enforcing the use of executive function skills. Executive functions are taxed throughout the school day, as students are required to use executive function skills, language, and social perception to complete tasks or assignments, and to interact with peers and teachers. A recent study from Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child indicates that executive functioning skills in pre-school age students is actually the strongest predictor of school success for kindergarten students, not how well they know their letters and numbers.

How do we help our children develop emotional control? Executive functions continue to develop through early adulthood, but there are things we can do to support growth along the way. We gain emotional control through the development of resiliency. While it is very difficult to see our children feel anything other than happy, it is important to allow them to feel a full range of emotions and to help them develop coping skills and strategies for dealing with negative emotions. Allowing our children to solve their own social problems versus solving problems for them teaches our children that they are capable of navigating through the social terrain. Our young learners benefit from imaginary play, games that require turn taking, and learning how to lose at games.

Submitted by: Dr. Jessica Sonntag, Director of Student Services

Kersten Kidd, Speech Language Therapist

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## What is Depression?

As the days grow shorter, many people complain of feeling depressed or having no energy. But what is depression, really? Depression is more than a day of feeling low. It is a long-lasting, often recurring illness as real and disabling as heart disease or arthritis. Adults who experience clinical depression may feel an oppressive sense of sadness, fatigue, and guilt. ***Clinical depression is a serious illness, not a personal weakness.***

## What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms of depression may include:

- persistent sad, anxious or “empty” mood
- sleeping too much or too little
- changes in weight or appetite
- loss of pleasure or interest in activities
- feeling restless or irritable
- persistent physical symptoms that don’t respond to treatment
- difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions
- fatigue or loss of energy
- feeling guilty, hopeless or worthless
- thoughts of death or suicide

## What Causes Depression?

Many things can contribute to clinical depression:

- chemical changes in the brain
- hormonal changes
- genetic vulnerability
- difficult life events, such as divorce, retirement or death of a loved one, loss of a job, financial difficulties
- presence of other mental or physical illness
- abuse of alcohol or drugs

If you or someone you love is suffering from depression, help is available. Contact the West Towns office at 630/466-5236 for a list of counseling agencies in the area. If you or someone you love is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255 or the Depression Hotline at 630-482-9696 immediately.

54 SNOW STREET IN SUGAR GROVE 630/466-5236

### Need help? Don't know where to turn?

Our free and confidential resource and referral service can link you to over 80 agencies in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties that provide affordable health and human services. This past year we have helped almost 500 area friends and neighbors find the help they needed. Don't wait for a small problem to become large...

→ **Call us today!**

[www.conleyoutreach.org](http://www.conleyoutreach.org)

Conley Outreach  
**West Towns**  
Human Services  
Network

## The Big Rock Historical Society

The Big Rock Historical Society had our final meeting of the year on Thursday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Remember us when shopping at Amazon. Select “Big Rock Historical Society” as your charitable group on check out. Amazon gives us a percentage of purchases and it does not increase your cost. We thank you in advance. If you would like to purchase our Cookbook, we have copies for sale at the Library for only \$10, available during Library hours, or by calling 630-698-0626. We are a 501c3 corporation if you would like to make a donation. Mailing Address is PO Box 206, Big Rock, IL 60511.

We have been the Big Rock Historical Society since 1995 and we will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. You are a part of Big Rock History and we would love to have information about your family in Big Rock, either from the 1800's or if you have just moved to Big Rock. The Museum is closed for the season, but if you would like a private showing, please contact us at 630-698-0626 to make an appointment or to discuss your Big Rock History. We will keep you updated on our 2020 plans.

Our November elections resulted in the reelection of Board Members, Mary Rogerson, Joni Roscoe, and Sue Beck. Our Board just elected officers, Sue Beck - President, Jerry Thomas - Vice President, Mary Rogerson - Secretary, and Steve Michael - Treasurer.

We have had our paper recycling bins for over 10 years. We have made arrangements with the Big Rock Park District to have one of the bins moved to their location at the north parking lot on Madison Street, by the dog park. Our other bin will be removed at the end of the year. We thank you for your years of recycling paper products and hope you continue to recycle at the Park District.

***We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!!***

48W445 Hinckley Road  
P.O. Box 206  
Big Rock, IL 60511  
[bigrockhistoricalsociety.org](http://bigrockhistoricalsociety.org)





**NEWS OF NOTE FROM  
BIG ROCK LIBRARY**  
48W447 HINCKLEY RD.  
BIG ROCK

## Holiday Wishes to the Big Rock Community from Big Rock Library

The Library is a great place to hang out now that it's decorated for the holidays. Check out Christmas music CDs or videos to watch when you need to relax. There are best sellers to read and more than 22,000 books and audio books for children and adults to download. It's a warm, inviting spot and we'd love to take you on a tour.

Visit the on-going art display of Nakoma's work on the upper floor. It's a thoughtful view of Native American culture which is detailed and takes time to absorb. Allow for some extra viewing to let it soak in.



## New Year's Resolutions



If you are a Big Rock resident who has never been to the library, vow to come during the month. We can guarantee it's different than what you expect.

If you are a Big Rock cardholder who knows of a new neighbor or someone with young children, ask them to accompany you to the library.

## Two Historical Displays to visit after January 1.

The library focuses on historical anniversaries during January. It's 30 years since the Berlin Wall was torn down. Come check out a piece of the Berlin wall in the glass display case along with related items.

Big Rock Library invites you to a special exhibition exploring how the lessons and legacies of World War I continue to affect the United States today. **World War I: Lessons and Legacies** is on view in January and February. The poster exhibition is brought to you courtesy of the Smithsonian and The United States World War I Centennial Commission.



World War I gave rise to significant and enduring changes in America. Wartime technologies and medical advances resulted in new industries and novel ways to both fight disease and treat disability. The critical roles that women and minorities played in the war led to the right to vote for women and a raised consciousness of civil rights issues throughout society. From the Great Migration to the 1918 flu pandemic and from the unionization movement to women's suffrage, World War I led to pivotal changes in America's culture, technology, economy, and role in the world. It redefined how we saw ourselves as Americans and its legacy continues today. If you would like to be informed of the events that Big Rock Library is offering, please email [info@bigrocklibrary.org](mailto:info@bigrocklibrary.org) and ask to be included in the monthly newsletter.



**DECEMBER 2019**

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