

The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER

FEBRUARY 2021

All the calendar dates listed are previously scheduled dates and times. Please check with the specific government entity to confirm the meeting is still taking place as noted.

COMMUNITY CRIER CALENDAR

February 2021

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 | Park District Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Drainage Committee | 5:30 @ Town Hall |
| | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall |
| 9 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 10 | TWP Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Town Hall |
| 23 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

March 2021

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 | Park District Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Drainage Committee | 5:30 @ Town Hall |
| | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall |
| 9 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 10 | TWP Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Town Hall |
| 23 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

April 2021

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6 | Election Day | 6:00am-7:00pm
Community Park |
| | Park District Meeting | 7:00 @ TBD |
| | Drainage Committee | 5:30 @ Town Hall |
| | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall |
| 13 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 14 | TWP Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Town Hall |
| 27 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

FFA WEEK: FEBRUARY 22-26, 2021



FFA Week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. We are grateful for your continued support, and hope you can enjoy our adapted activities due to Covid.

Monday, February 22nd

Greenhand Member Day, First year (Greenhand) FFA members will be honored today, and welcomed into the organization.

Tuesday, February 23rd

Feeding the Future, Current FFA members have been logged in 60 hours this school year at Hinckley Area Food Pantry. We have a goal of 100 hours of service by May. As a celebration of our partnership we will be making a donation to Hinckley Area Food Pantry.

Wednesday, February 24th

F.A.R.M Bags, 100 activity bags about soybeans will be available at your local library. By May 2021 HBR FFA will have distributed 1,000 F.A.R.M bags to local students by this monthly effort.

Thursday, February 25th

Community Appreciation Breakfast, a way to say thanks. FFA will be partnering with Hinckley Café and Big Rock Café to provide breakfast to all school staff.

Friday, February 26th

Blue and Gold day, All Freshman and Sophomore FFA members will have the opportunity to participate in a State FFA Leadership Conference.





BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP

From the Supervisor's Desk

All of the township positions, including supervisor, trustees, assessor, highway commissioner and clerk are up for election to 4-year terms at the April 6 consolidated election. The ballots will also include elections for the open positions on the boards in the Village of Big Rock, Park District, HB-R School District, and Waubesa College board. Kane County is offering expanded mail-in-voting for this election, and voters can apply for mail in ballots on the Kane County Clerk election website. Ballots will be likely be mailed out by the county in early March. Information regarding mail-in voting applications, submission deadlines, etc. will also be available on the Big Rock Township Facebook page, and on our website.

Big Rock Township has adjusted well and has been able to maintain all township services during the state Covid restrictions throughout 2020. The township board has returned to in-person board meetings with masks, social distancing, and other safety measures required. Based on space limitations, a maximum of 6 outside attendees are permitted at meetings until state restrictions are lifted. All meetings with township officials and staff continue to be by appointment only, and all messages are generally returning within 24 hours.

The Township Hall has reopened for private and group events subject to current state Covid guidelines. These guidelines are posted on the township website and on the doors to the town hall. Groups are currently limited to 20 people (25% of capacity) with sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer available. Contact the township for more information.

We join you in hoping for a return to "normal" as soon as possible in 2021. Best wishes!

Ken Rojek - Big Rock Township Supervisor

JOIN BIG ROCK
TOWNSHIP ON
FACEBOOK

facebook

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

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Hopefully we are half-way through winter now. Please remember to not park cars on streets on snow days or nights. We are supposed to plow when two inches of snow falls. Obviously we do more than that but sometimes just main roads are salted on light snows as we try to manage our salt to last all year. Be safe and Happy New Year.

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

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
bigrocktownship.com
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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry Board with reluctance and regret has accepted the decision of Nan Long, Director of Operations. After nearly 30 years of volunteer service in the area of food insecurity, helping her Neighbors in Need, Nan has decided to retire as Director of Operations of the Hinckley Area Food Pantry. Nan is a founding member of the food pantry.

The Board has decided that the position may be divided into several focused areas: Inventory Coordinator, Distribution Coordinator and Community Liaison. We will be looking for up to three people to fill these volunteer/unpaid positions. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact HAFP Board President, Todd Claxton via e-mail at t.claxton@mchsi.com. Please share this information with others who may be interested.

The Board thanks Nan and her family for their efforts to create and grow the food pantry. You will continue to see them volunteering at the pantry. Due to COVID-19 restrictions now, a celebration of Nan's contributions will be held at a later date when we can safely gather.

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry serves the communities of Hinckley, Big Rock, Waterman and Maple Park. If you want more information about the pantry, please find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry/> or at our website, <http://www.hinckleyareafoodpantry.org/>

Warmest regards, The Board of Officers, Hinckley Area Food Pantry



HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY
"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"



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

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

STAY HEALTHY

The Village hopes you and your family are staying healthy in these unprecedented times. We all look forward to the coming days when things can hopefully move towards a more normal life again. Please remember the village office does not have regular office hours and if you should need an appointment please call or email to set a meeting time. Masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced. We are still available to meet and help our residents during this time.

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 (CALL 811)

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.

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.

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.

The pandemic has caused many changes in the Districts programming that often change with the course of events. Softball registration is underway and looks to proceed this Spring without incident. Other sport events, although in planning, are being scheduled as health conditions permit. Keep an eye on our website BigRockParks.com for any forms or updates.

The next event for the District could be the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Planning is underway to see if a safe and acceptable way to administer this program is possible. More to follow!

Building rental is restricted to current state guidelines. These have fluctuated and we have planned accordingly. Current users of the Community Center are masking and social distancing with additional cleaning and sanitizing.

Election cycle sees two board positions up for election. Board members Bonnie Warchol and Bill Yoder have served terms of 6 years and may reapply. Let them know what you think.

Hopefully Spring will bring a new awakening to Big Rock Community Park.



(630) 556-3755

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

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THANK YOU!

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP) would like to thank everyone who volunteered with us and made donations to the HAFP throughout 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic created additional challenges for us and the clients we serve. Thankfully, our community of donors grew along with donations to allow us meet all the challenges we faced to help and support our neighbors in need. We were able to expand our Food 4 Kids program for children in our schools, sponsor the DeKalb County Community Gardens Grow Mobile monthly food distributions in Hinckley, and expand the support we provide to our patrons. The generosity of our community is overwhelming, very much appreciated, and proof that we are definitely a community of neighbors helping neighbors!



HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY
"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"



HSBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care. ~ Mandy Hale

CARE is a simple, yet powerful four-letter word. It has the power to impact us in life-changing ways, especially during times of chronic stress. Through our words and actions, we can make a difference in someone's life. There is documented evidence that shows that helping others can benefit our own mental health and wellbeing. In the 2020 podcast, Royal-y Resilient, we discussed contribution as one of the 7 C's of developing resilience. Sometimes there are things happening in our lives that make it hard for us to show we care because we just don't feel kind and loving. During those times, we have to dig deeper beyond the surface feelings of anger, fear, frustration- whatever is blocking the love within us- and be intentional about taking action in caring for others. Serving

others and contributing to the community are acts of care that lead to increased self-esteem, happiness, and improved mood for both those demonstrating care and those receiving care.

Care is an action. It's a feeling. It's a gift we give to ourselves and to each other. When we care: People feel loved. People feel heard. People recover. When people care, society, and entire systems, can change (www.nami.org)*.

February brings us Valentine's Day, the long recognized day of caring. There are many ways to demonstrate our care for others that take minimal time and cost us nothing. Showing you care comes from being kind and loving. Make a homemade card for someone. Let someone cut in front of you in line or let someone in as the traffic lanes merge. Leave someone flowers to brighten their day. Shovel your neighbor's driveway. Need more ideas? You can find lots of them at <https://tinyurl.com/kindandloving>.

Let's be intentional and come together to show our HBR community how much we care! Join the #429Cares initiative by capturing your acts of CARE by posting on social media using the hashtag #429Cares or submitting pictures or stories for us to share on our site by emailing us at 429cares@hbr429.org. We challenge our HBR community to send us four hundred and twenty nine (429) acts of CARE this month. Let's get our care on!

HBR CUSD #429 Cares Team

Beth Ferguson - HBR School Psychologist

Jessica Sonntag - Director of Student Services

Matt Kantor - HBRHS School Counselor

Mallory Wassmann - HBRES Social Worker

Tara Neidigh - HBRMS/HS Social Worker

**NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out for support by calling 1-800-950-NAMI or text "NAMI" or "HOME" to 741741.*

ATTENTION PARENTS

Hinckley-Big Rock School District is excited to continue to offer a blended early childhood program for the 2021-22 school year. This program will serve students ages three through five. Applications open on February 16. Space is limited, students will be selected through a lottery process. Please go to the link below for more information and how to register for this exciting program.

<https://tinyurl.com/HBRBlended>

HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD 429 FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Hinckley-Big Rock provides screenings for children birth to 5 who may be delayed in developmental milestones (communication, fine/gross motor, problem-solving, and personal-social). If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact Amy Spears at 815-286-7576 to set up a screening appointment. These screenings are conducted by a team of District Educators and Specialists and are available to families living within the HBR School District. The screening will take approximately one hour to complete. Afterwards, parents will have the opportunity to discuss the results of the screening as well as any concerns about their child, with a member of the screening team.

Children 2-5 years old will participate in the screening with our team.

Children birth to 2 years old may be referred by our screening team for an Early Intervention evaluation.

Please note that developmental screenings are NOT kindergarten readiness screenings.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING





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

Big Rock Library invites you to bring your facemasks that need repair or need adjustment for proper fit to a facemask repair workshop on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 1-3 pm. Rebecca Hummell will provide supplies like elastic and metal nose pieces and do repairs at no charge while you wait. She asks that your mask is freshly laundered. A special invitation is extended to health care providers to participate.



creation of a work using online tools and allowing readers to share with local authors. There is also the availability of the "Soon to be Famous Contest" to enter your completed work.

Are you a writer? Is there a book lurking within you? Are you documenting the challenges of a pandemic for future generations? RAILS library system offers a free website which allows a user to create a digital book using the tools at inkie.org This is a suite of publishing resources allowing the



ANOTHER ROUND OF ELECTIONS!

Coming up on April 6 is our consolidated elections voting day, where we will elect members and officers of the Village board, the Township board, the Park District Board and the School Board. Just like last fall, there will be many locations in the area for early voting, as well as mail-in options and in-person day of voting.

In March, we will have a special early-to-press Crier with introductions and statements for candidates running in contested offices, and there looks to be a few of those this time around. In the meantime you can check out the candidate list on kanevotes.org or check with the various board presidents for any update.

For those that missed the filing deadline in December but are interested in running as a write-in candidate, you have until February 4th to file a notarized declaration form. Again, the form and where to file is all located on the kanevotes site.

This election again will likely be Covid restricted for social distance, spacing, mask wearing and other PPE for staff and voters. With the contested positions this time around that will have many of us voting, it is probably safer and likely faster if you can either vote early or by mail.

And for those that like planning ahead, this is the ONLY election in 2021.

Need Help?... Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a charitable lay Catholic organization founded to serve those in need. Our group is associated with St. Katharine Drexel Catholic church. We make no judgments about your situation, and you need not be a member of our church to receive aid. We serve Big Rock, Sugar Grove, and surrounding areas of Kane County. Typically, the kind of help we are able to offer is short-term assistance with bills, such as rent, a mortgage payment, utilities, medical bills, car repair, or other important expenses. If you are in need, please call us at 630-466-8833, and leave a message. Someone will return your call within 24 hours. You may also contact us by email at svdp-sugargrove@gmail.com. For more information on how we can help, visit our website at www.svdpskd.org.



**English Congregational
United Church of Christ
301 Rhodes St.
Big Rock**



While our "in church" Worship Service and other programs are cancelled due to the Coronavirus, we are worshipping via Zoom (see below). When it is safe to gather again, our Worship Service will resume at the church. Please call the church for updates as the state mitigation levels change.



Rev. Bill Riegler, Pastor
Office Phone: 630.556.3986
**If you would like to join our weekly
Worship Service via Zoom, please call
Rev. Riegler at the number above.**



BIG ROCK LIONS CLUB
LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS
TO JOIN THE BIG ROCK
LIONS CLUB.
WE WILL PAY YOUR FIRST
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DUES - PLEASE JOIN US 1ST
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THE TOWN HALL.
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CHRIS FRENCH
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~ Volunteer Fridays ~

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therapeutic programs for people with unique
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Lives...
with a
little help
from our
friends



~ Community Service ~

Do You or someone you know need to complete community service hours?
The Farm is a great place to do that working outside or from home.
You can get your community service and be able to keep social distancing.

Check out our blog  "Amazing Farm Pond"



Like our Facebook Page and keep up with what we are doing!

45W134 Raymond Rd., Big Rock IL 60511-9387

www.farmfriendsnfp.org • email: FarmFriendsBigRock@gmail.com • Office: 630-360-6410 • Farm Friends nfp is a 501(C)(3) Non Profit Organization

A Season of Change

I have worked for Conley Outreach for over 20 years. As I look to retirement in January, I can honestly say that I have loved this job. I am so proud of the services we have developed over my time at Conley Outreach. From Holiday Spirit and the Good Samaritan Clothes Closet to the Monthly Meals program in Elburn and our Good Grief Day Camp, we have tried to meet the needs of this growing community. We are in Kaneland High school encouraging kids to stay healthy and providing grief support through 3 adult support groups. Every year we help over 2000 people in our community. It is hard to say good-bye, but it is time to turn the reins over to the next generation. And so, I am pleased to introduce our next Executive Director, Jennifer Long. Jennifer is a Batavia native, now living in rural Kaneville with her husband Scott and two children. She has 20 years of experience in social service, including substance abuse counseling, community outreach, mental health, and adult protective services. Jennifer has the right combination of education, experience, and temperament to take on the challenges of leading a small nonprofit in these changing times. You can count on her to continue the 30+ year Conley legacy of "Caring for the Heart of Community".

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have been able to work with you over the years. Thank you!

Carol Werdin Alfrey



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





Greetings residents,

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are staying healthy. This time of year brings exciting winter activities like making snowmen, skiing, skating and even ice fishing. We want you all to enjoy these activities safely so before heading out on that ice be aware!!!

- Running water, like in our creeks, takes longer to freeze than in our ponds and lakes

- Water freezes from the shoreline out towards the center of the body of water. So while it might be a safe thickness at the edges, as you get farther out, the ice can be thinner
- Water also thaws from the shoreline out towards the center of the body of water
- See the chart for generally accepted safe thicknesses of ice

Have fun this winter and be safe, should you choose to venture out onto the ice. As always, if you are interested in joining the Big Rock Fire Department, stop in any day between 8am-5pm and talk to the on duty crew and ask for an application.

REMINDER-Due to State COVID restrictions our February Dance was cancelled for 2021.



The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER

FEBRUARY 2021

PO Box 252

Big Rock, IL 60511

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