

The BIG ROCK COMMUNITY CRIER

DECEMBER 2022



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

COMMUNITY CRIER CALENDAR

December 2022

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 | Park District Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Drainage Committee | 5:30 @ Town Hall |
| | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall |
| 12 | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 13 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 15 | TWP Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Town Hall |
| 27 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

January 2023

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 | Park District Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| | Drainage Committee | 5:30 @ Town Hall |
| | Drainage District #1 Meeting | 6:30 @ Town Hall |
| 9 | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 10 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 12 | TWP Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Town Hall |
| 24 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

February 2023

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |
| 13 | Fire District Meeting | 7:00 @ Fire House |
| 14 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |
| 28 | Village Board Meeting | 7:00 @ Community Park |

OTHERS

While used as a thank you to the early Salvation Army, the thought of Others means a lot to us here in Big Rock.

The Annual Turkey Drop netted a whopping 38 frozen turkeys plus boxes and bags of other meal items, bettering last year's total. This year the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts were on hand to receive the donations, and they say, well, yell really, **THANK YOU!**

Volunteer time and donated supplies run our Library without any tax payer monies.

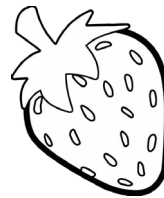
Our local faith and civic organizations are always looking out for those in need.

We are a giving community, and take heart in that this holiday season. And if you can, your gifts of time, money, objects, and yes, even blood - There are many blood banks in the area that are always in need of this precious commodity - will always be welcome and be rewarding in their own rite. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday season and see you in the New Year!

Coming Soon!....

Hinckley Big Rock FFA Alumni 2nd Annual

Fresh Florida Strawberry Sale!



Sold in Full or 1/2 flats. Prices available in January 2023

These are farm fresh strawberries! picked, cooled, loaded on the trucks, and delivered to us in late February or early March 2023!

Watch for additional details!

ELECTION RESULTS

Once more, the mantra "Big Rock votes" wasn't just lip service. Of the 1256 registered voters in the township, 828 cast a ballot, a combined average of 65.92% between the two precincts. County-wide numbers were only at 53% turnout, but even there a majority of those able to do so cast a ballot. There were only 47 of 292 precincts in Kane County that had a higher turnout than our average.

And thankfully for the judges at the Park District building, not everyone that voted did so on election day. Around 30% of ballots were in some form of early voting. The election judges say a robust thank you to everyone that participated and we look forward to seeing you in April!





BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP

From the Supervisor's Desk

JOIN BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP ON FACEBOOK

facebook

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

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Now it is the beginning of December and we just completed our last mowing of year as we want ditches as short as possible to let snow blow across the roads and not build up.

We do have our trucks ready for snow and have been enjoying the last bit of warm weather. Orange markers on edge of yards always help to help us clear the entire roadway.

Happy Holidays to all.

Thanks,

Wade
Big Rock Township Road District
P) 630-556-4331
F) 630-556-4332

The township board recently approved the 2022 property tax levy (payable in 2023) for the township and road district. The township is subject to a property tax cap that links increases in the tax levy to inflation measured by the national Consumer Price Index (CPI). With inflation increasing the CPI to over 7% in the last year, the maximum increase for most local governments is capped at 5%,

Big Rock Township remains in excellent financial shape and has sufficient reserves to support our current township activities, maintain our two cemeteries, operate and improve the township hall, and fund other approved projects for next year. Because of these strong finances, the 2022 township tax levy will not increase next year, with only a small increase (\$1,250) in the separate Mental Health fund. The township has not increased our tax levy for 3 of the past 4 years.

The Big Rock Road District also has strong financial reserves, but the Permanent Road Fund levy needed to be increased to continue the multi-year project to tar-and-chip additional township gravel roads and maintain other roads. To fund an increase in the Permanent Road Fund, the levy for other road funds remains flat (0%) and the Bridge Fund levy will decrease. The total road levy will increase 2%, well under the maximum permitted.

Your township board remains committed to providing quality services while doing our part to help address the property taxes paid by our residents.

Due to scheduling conflicts, beginning in January, the Township Board will hold its 2023 regular meetings on the 2nd THURSDAY of every month.

Best wishes for a safe holiday season!

Ken Rojek, Township Supervisor

The Big Rock Crier is published 6 times yearly by Big Rock Township, with financial support and sponsorship by the Village of Big Rock, Big Rock Park District, the Big Rock Fire Department and paid advertisements from local business to communicate local governmental activities to all township residents. Out of Township printed subscriptions can be arranged by contacting the Editor. PDF email delivery free to anyone that provides their email.

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
Jennifer Schlachter
Assessor
Ralph Harkison
Highway Commissioner
Wade Thompson
Trustees
Amy Schoger, Paul Wedeen
Kate Buckson, and
Steve Michael

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Dean Hummell President | OPEN Village Clerk

Trustees: Matt Fitzpatrick, Joe Walsh, 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*

ROAD PROJECTS

The road projects for this year have been completed. Unfortunately, they were done so late we will have to wait till the spring to finish the sides of the roads. This completes the repaving of all the roads in the village jurisdiction over the past ten years.

The intergovernmental agreement between the Township Road district and the Village it's still in effect for this winter. Please be helpful during snowfalls and keep cars off the street anytime there is more than two inches of snow.

VILLAGE BOARD POSITIONS

The village president and 3 trustees are up for reelection in April. Anyone wishing to run can phone the village office or e-mail (admin@villageofbigrock.us) to receive a candidate package. All petitions must be turned into the village clerk during the week of December 12th through 19th.



Dedicated to Serving You,
Your Village of Big Rock Board



Big Rock LIBRARY

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

Birches: Ojibwe Giving Trees Display at the Library

You're invited to an open house of the new display of birchbark Indian artifacts at Big Rock Library on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 7 from 1 - 3:30 pm in the library. Meet the AU Museum Studies grad who did much of the installation and the collector of the artifacts. Here's the opportunity to tour the rest of the natural history display. This display will be ongoing after the first of the year.

The Ojibwe Indians lived in upper Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and in to Canada. The past Northwoods Ojibwe found the birch tree provided a great deal of the items they needed to maintain life: fuel, transportation, shelter,



containers, buckets, medicine, entertainment, and more. If you're familiar with Shel Silverstein's Giving Tree, the birch tree was the Native American equivalent of a tree that gave its all.

In the gallery room of the library are numerous Native birchbark artifacts on loan from the Ray Miller collection. See firsthand how this building material lends itself to flexible, durable, lightweight, and a wide variety of items. You will be amazed by the creativity and ingenious uses of birchbark. Take our personal challenge to learn one new fact about birches or their products.

Grief Support Group

Beginning November 9th and meeting every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, a Community Grief Support Group will be gathering. Each meeting takes place at the Hinckley First United Methodist Church beginning at 7pm. This group is for any and all individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Some are newly grieving; some have been living with grief for decades. Some have lost a parent, some a partner and some a child. Our circumstances may be different, but the loss we feel is real. Please feel free to join us at any or all of the upcoming meetings. Meetings are always free of charge.

The group will be hosted by Life's Building Blocks' owner Jennifer Klambauer. Jennifer is a Hinckley born-and-raised community member, mom, grandma, former teacher and business owner and has experienced her own losses throughout her life. She was lay leader with the Fox Valley Hospice group "Footprints" for two years and has a certificate from IIN as a registered integrative health coach.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or comments at lbhealthandwellness@gmail.com or call/text 815-520-0026.



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



**Please join us each Sunday at 10:15am for our weekly
Worship Service. Our church is beautifully decorated to
welcome you in celebration of this joyful advent season.
Our special Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm on 12/24,
and our Christmas Day Service is at 10:15am.**



We look forward to seeing you!
For further information, please call
the church office at:
630.556.3986









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 call Cindy at 630-742-4275.

VETERANS HONORED

Veterans, past and present, were honored on Sunday, October 30th at 2 pm at the Big Rock Park District Building at 7S405 Madison Street in Big Rock.

Jack Hake, a veteran of the Korean War, made a case for his service medals and proudly displayed them. Jack enlisted in the Army on January 13, 1951 and was honorably discharged on January 12, 1954. Master Sergeant Jack Hake served as the Company First Sergeant for the Mine and Demolition Platoon in the 8th Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War. Jack earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars, United Nations Service Medal, Army Occupational Medal (Japan) and National Defense Service Medal.

Steven Holt, First Vice Commander of Illinois AMVETS was the speaker for the program. Steve brought flags for the Veterans donated by V.F.W Post #468 in Aurora. Steve shared his stories from when he was stationed in Berlin, Germany and brought in a German newspaper and a piece of the Berlin Wall from 1989 as well as a piece of barbed wire he had obtained from the Wall. Medals and pictures were also shown with the history behind them. Steve also gave information on how AMVETS can help Veterans and was very informative and giving of his time and knowledge.



Steven Holt with display on table and group

Light refreshments were enjoyed after the presentation. If you would like your Veteran to be included on our Veterans Christmas Tree displayed at the Park District Building, please call Cindy Nehring at 630-742-4275.



Jack Hake with display case

HALLOWEEN DOG COSTUME PARADE

A Halloween Dog Costume Parade was held on Saturday, October 22nd at 1 pm at the Big Rock Dog Park located at the North end of the Park at 7S405 Madison Street in Big Rock. Eleven dogs participated in the Halloween Dog Costume Parade with First Prize going to Ben David with 5 month old Misty, an Australian Shepherd dressed as Baby Yoda, Second Prize went to Amanda Nehring with 18 month old Phoenix, a wire haired Terror mix dressed as a dragon and Third Prize went to Elizabeth Nokes with 3 year old Sadie, a Lab dressed as a bucket of chicken, with all dogs receiving a treat bag. A corn hole game was played and the top 3 winners won a plastic skeleton.

Elizabeth, owner of CampingWithDogz.com, supplied everyone with samples of her dog and cat food which can be purchased along with supplies. Thank you to Elizabeth for being so generous and also being our Judge.



*(pictured left to right,
Ben David,
Amanda Nehring and
Elizabeth Nokes)*

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 for the contest. Judging will take place on the evening of December 16th by three non-area residents. Winners will be contacted by December 17th. Send your name, address and telephone number to Cindy Nehring, P.O. Box 119, Big Rock, IL 60511, Attn: Christmas Lights. Deadline to enter is December 15th, 2022.





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**Big Rock
PLOWING MATCH
& FESTIVAL**

As we look back on 2022 we are most grateful for all the donors who support the Association. We reflect on the laughter of kids, smiling adults and everyone that enjoyed being under the oaks at Plowman's Park. Your sponsorships and donations are essential as the Association is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization that owns and maintains Plowman's Park and holds the Bull Riding, Bronc Match and the Plowing Match & Festival without any tax or public funds.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Association. Donations are gratefully accepted at Big Rock Plowing Match Association, P.O. Box 261, Big Rock, IL 60511. Your support can make the difference in helping to ensure the Association may continue to serve the community.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2023 - Save the Dates - 2023
Bull Riding - August 12; Bronc Match - August 13;
Plowing Match & Festival - September 15, 16 & 17

2023 Association Board: Officers-Terry Sorensen, President; Bob Raymond, Vice-President; Kim Hummell, Treasurer; A. Denise Farrugia, Secretary. Directors: Bill Brickert, Sandy Madden, Sarah Magro, Abby Needham, Gene Nehring, Steve Ruh, Craig Thomas, John Thompson, Matt Williams and Karen Yoder.

Get the latest news on our website and on Facebook.
Website: bigrockplowingmatch.com
Email: bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com
Facebook: [Facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch](https://www.facebook.com/bigrockplowingmatch)



HBR CUSD #429 • UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a great first semester of getting #BackToBetter at Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429. I would like to take some time so share with you some of our highlights for the first semester:

- Different perspectives in our weekly blog, Every Royal's Voice (<http://hbrcommunityblog.blogspot.com/>), have been shared highlighting some of the experiences of our students, parents, and staff including Snake Road at HBRMS and Walk A Thon at HBRES. If you haven't checked it out, I would encourage you to visit our blog to gain a better perspective on the happenings at HBR this first semester. Lots of great relationships and learning are going on.
- We honored our Veterans on Friday, 11.11.22. It was great to have everyone together again this year as we served breakfast to our Veterans at HBRES and then held assemblies at both HBRES and HBRHS where our Veterans were honored and all of our students heard directly from our Veterans. This continues to be an important part of what we do. #ThankYouVeterans!
- We are nearing the completion of our first semester with the implementation of chorus across our district and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) at HBRES. We have heard lots of positive feedback on meeting the students' learning needs through these new learning opportunities.
- Being a Royal staff member is to be an authentic, enthusiastic, reflective, student-centered professional who creates an environment where all feel welcome, develop relationships, and strive for excellence. Keeping this in mind, we have implemented additional opportunities to increase the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff. We are utilizing Character Strong to provide regular opportunities for growth and support. We are off to a great start in which we are enhancing and improving our welcoming environment and building deeper relationships.
- We are #BackToBetter as we provide learning opportunities outside of our building walls. Field trips, college visits, and career expos are back in our toolbox to help our students strive to create a self-directed goal and investigate the options for the future as we strive to help all graduating seniors be career ready when they walk across the stage at graduation. This is a whole district focus and these opportunities help our students to refine and define their self-directed goal as they plan for their future. Thanks to our transportation department as they find ways to make these trips possible.

While this is not an exhaustive list, it is a glimpse into some of the happenings at HBR. We are proud and excited to be #BackToBetter and can't wait to see what the second semester has in store.

Travis L. McGuire
Superintendent, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429

2022-2023 District Theme - #BackToBetter

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 Dr. Sonntag at 815-286-7576 or jsonntag@hbr429.org 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 30 minutes 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.

•••••
**FREE
DEVELOPMENTAL
SCREENING**
•••••



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



Conley Outreach Community Services is getting ready for the upcoming holiday season. We will be out in the community volunteering at both the Holiday in the Grove and Elburn Stroll! Additionally, we will be seeing donors and families in the next few weeks for our Holiday Spirit Program which helps us spread a little joy to our local families. We look forward to meeting with the community each year and all the generosity they share!

Grieving with Hope general support group is still meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, except in December which will be moved to the week before. The group, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow is a grief book club for those who are further along in their grief journey and looking for more socialization

than acute support. Sessions will be in six month intervals and are being facilitated by Executive Director, Jennifer Long and Lora Windsor, LCSW. Please contact us to register.

Also, our annual event Cooking Up Comfort Chili Cook Off at Kuiper's was a success! Funds were raised to help us continue to support our bereavement programming including Good Grief Day Camp for children who have lost a parent or sibling.

Finally, our clothes closet, the Clothing Exchange, operates the third Wednesday of each month and by appointment. There are no income restrictions. Please email our closet manager, Jennifer Schlachter at jenncocos1@gmail.com. Keep your eyes and ears open for developments on our events! For more information please contact Jennifer Long at 630-365-2880 or to stay in the know, like us on Facebook! Seasons Greetings from Conley Outreach!

WE'VE MOVED!



HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

Come see our new location at **182 W. Woodlawn Ave in Hinckley**

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry, with generous funding from the DeKalb County Community Foundation, has established a Free Store in the HBR high school. Students can use the Free Store to get school supplies, personal hygiene products, snacks, and even food to take home to their families. The Free Store is open to all students at the high school during regular school hours.

www.hinckleyareafoodpantry.org
815-286-7275

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HinckleyAreaFoodPantry/



Pictured here receiving the award are (left to right) Bobbi McFarland, Sally Thomson, Tara Neidigh (H-BR429 high school social worker), Daveyon (DCCF representative), and Marci Viland.



INC Board of Directors staff met with the Big Rock Township 708 board at its October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. The meeting agenda will be posted on our website at www.incmha.org in February. The public is welcome to attend.

There is a vacancy on the Big Rock 708 Board of Directors. The 708 board consists of a 7-member board that meets 3 times a year. Board members must reside in Big Rock township. For more information, contact INC staff at 630-892-5456.

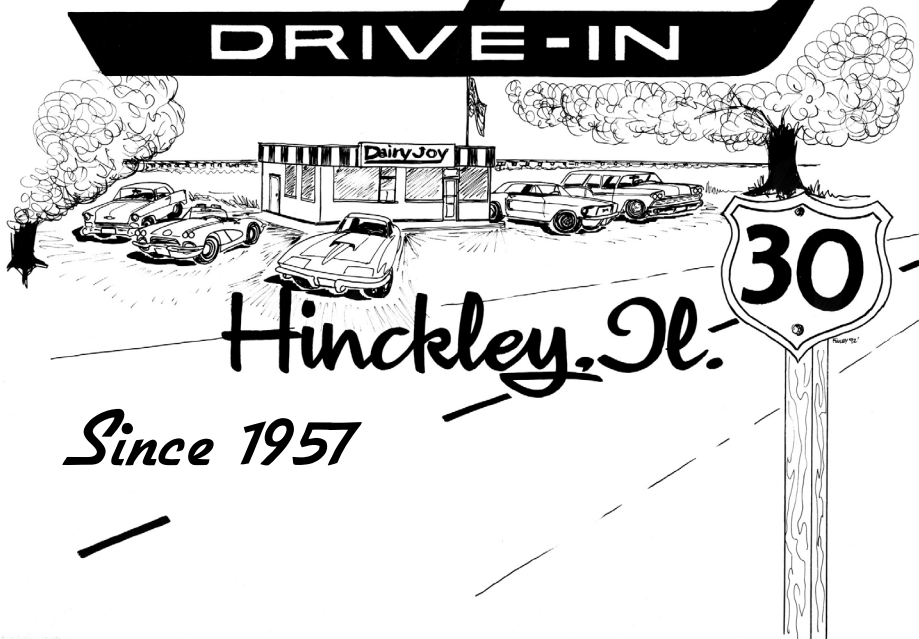
INC would like to thank Ted McCannon and Tom Losiniecki for renewing their term as President and Secretary of the Big Rock 708 Board.

The holidays are a magical time, but they can also be a very stressful time. And seniors aren't immune to this, either. In fact, the elderly are often the ones who suffer the most during the holidays. Some ways to help combat senior stress during the holidays this season are informing them of holiday plans as soon as possible to put their mind at ease or have friends and family members include them in their celebrations or plan to visit, have a moment of silence for lost loved ones or take a few moments to reminisce over some happy memories, and ask them to help during the holidays to take their mind off other stresses and help them feel needed.

Senior Services, an INC funded agency, offers an opportunity for seniors to connect seniors living in Kane County with caring volunteers through their Friendly Visiting Program. Friendly Visitors provide positive social contact each week to their seniors, and the holidays are a great time to connect volunteers with seniors. For more information, visit <https://seniorservicesassoc.org/>.

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