



BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY CLUB
December 2025 NEWSLETTER
“Everyone is Family in the Forest”

Schedule of BFCC Events

Monday, December 1, 9am-noon ****Decorate the Hall for Christmas****
Thursday, December 4, 6:30pm **BFCC Board and Officers Meeting**
Saturday, December 6, 2-5pm **Tree lighting/Santa/Ornament Making**
Thursday, January 8, 2026 7pm **Elections**

Remember to pay you BFCC annual dues of \$20 before the end of the year if you plan on voting for candidates for board and officers Jan. 8.

(ALL members are welcome to attend the Board and Officers Meetings.)
For Line Dancing classes, etc., check bfcommunityclub.org calendar.

Upcoming:

Monday, December 1, 9am to noon is “Decorate the Hall for Christmas.” And, of course, your help is needed.

Inside the Hall, top of the list is someone to **put together the tree** before it can be decorated. Be as creative as you wish. Then the **wreaths** need to be hung in each window.

The **outside tree** has been doing quite well and growing out of our reach for decorating the top. **MVEA agreed to send help with a bucket truck to help with the lights and star and upper decorations.** But there will be plenty of things

to do for old-timers or anyone wanting to get in on the fun. Hanging ornaments and arranging lights and hooking up the electrical cord to the Log School all must be completed. Any help will be appreciated!

Dawn has promised **us hot cider and cookies and coffee** to kick off the Christmas spirit. Questions? Call Carolyn at 719 495-3127 or browncarolyn828@gmail.com.



Black Forest Annual Tree Lighting Saturday, Dec. 6, 2-5pm

Dress warm everyone! The weather forecast says about 32 degrees at 4 pm
The sun will be setting at approximately 4:35pm

Santa is Coming to the Community Club at 2....Come one come all!!!

Decorate a Cookie and make an Ornament all children big & small

Warm drinks and cookies will be served throughout the event.

Just a note: there is someone baking **gluten free and dairy free**.

If you are just coming to the tree lighting, we will return to the club and sing the Twelve Days of Christmas with cookies and drinks.



Winter Coat Drive November 16

by Dawn Sciarrotta

The BFCC sponsored the Women Warriors of the Woods and their coat drive. Dawn Sciarrotta and Laurie Gephart were the hostesses of this event with soups and chili, sides and desserts. The community came together with food drop offs also.

We supported these nonprofits: Because We Choose To.

Kayla, gave us an in-depth look into what she does. She started in 2011(hope that's correct) taking coats and blankets to Goodwill! She didn't make it to Goodwill that day and what happened next changed her life. She saw a poor soul shivering on the side of the road and gave him warmth with a coat and a blanket! She continues this adventure to this day. Bless you Kayla and your group. By the way, her truck was full to the brim inside and out with coats, clothes for children, socks, hats and mittens.

Tri-Lakes Cares in Monument. 80-90 volunteers

Bill and Molly came out to join us and explained how far and where their organization goes. They took with them 177 pounds of food and \$243 in donations! WOW!

Fresh Start Center at Mountain Springs Church 80-90 volunteers

Grant is the Guy...this center takes food almost to the eastern border of Colorado.

He took with him 186 pounds of food and 24 pounds of personal care products.

Monetary amount was \$30! Again, WOW!

ALL three organizations talked of the extra needs during the government shut down...going from 120 families a week to over 400 a week.

THANK YOU, BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY.

WE FILLED SOME HEARTS AND STOMACHS.

LAURIE you are a peach! Thank you for dragging me into this very special event! Let's do it again next year.

Note from the President

Hello to this Great Community.

I am humbled to be running for my second year as President of our community club. My desire is to continue to work with our board, officers and members to grow the club stronger and inviting to all Black Forest residents. Together we have made great achievements in improving our club and backyard. Thanks to Steve White in leading the back yard committee and the great generosity of Picker Munson in creating a much more useable and welcoming space for our Festival and events. Thanks also to Josh Eker from

High Country Air for getting AC in the Hall at material cost only. Through shared love for this community, we have a great group of dedicated people who put on events for all. I look forward to continue the work of improving our club and backyard area.

Have a Blessed Day

James Collins

Pay your dues before December 31 if you want to vote in the January elections to be held Thursday, January 8. The candidates are listed below.

Candidates for the BFCC 2025 Elections

President: Jim Collins

Jim moved his family to Black Forest 6 1/2 yr ago after a 35-year career as power lineman, 20 years as a Trouble Patrolman, 5 years as a General Foreman.

He is father to six wonderful children and Papa to ten awesome grandchildren. He enjoys working their six acres, fixing up their home and woodworking. He and his wife Christy decided it was time to give back to this great community so he decided to volunteer at the slash site and he and his wife at the Community Center. Last year he was elected to the Board where he became very active in reaching out to our businesses and community while getting more community involvement. He was one of many new volunteers working to save the Festival & Parade.

He has used his abilities to get maintenance and repairs done at the BFCC and recruiting many new members. As president he is looking forward to building on that momentum by continuing to reach out to our community and progressing our Backyard property improvements. He says he will continue to be very active in this great community and will always be available for our growth.

Jim resigned from his position on the Board to run for President last year. He is running for that position again for 2026.



Vice President: John Trcka served as secretary in 2025.

He was born and raised in the Dallas, Texas area and received his BSEE from Texas A&M and his MSEE from USC. He worked as Systems Engineer at Hughes Aircraft/GM/Boeing for 32 years in satellite communications, currently working as consultant to Space Force via LinQuest in Briargate.

Boeing moved his family to Colorado Springs from California in 2005. They started building their house in Black Forest in 2007 and moved in to new house in 2008.

He has volunteered his efforts over his years here in the Forest: Cub Scouts Pack 70 2008-2016, Den Leader, pack committee member Boy Scouts Troop 70, 2011-present, served as Scoutmaster 2018 – 2021, all three boys earned Eagle, now serves as Eagle Coach



Responded to many requests from community for service: BF residents, BF Trails Association, BF Festival, BF Fire Remembrance, Trunk-or-Treat Pals of the Pines 4-H club 2008-2018
Athletic Association of Black Forest (AABF) summer soccer league 2009-2019; Coached divisions A, B, C; joined board 2012, served as president 2016-2018
High Country Home Educators homeschool family Co-Op 2009-2021, served on Support Group board 2016-2021.
He and Ginny, his wife, were elected as 2025 Keepers of the Keys.
His favorite activities: time with family, Bible study, hiking, mountaineering, skiing.

Secretary: Rebecca Eker



She has lived in Black Forest since 2019. Before settling here, she and her family spent many years in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Kansas City, but Black Forest quickly became the place that truly felt like home. Rebecca and her husband, Josh, are raising their four boys—ages 20, 13, 11, and 9—in this community. She has been involved locally through the Black Forest Festival and by supporting High Country Air, the family’s small business, which recently installed air conditioning at the Community Center.

Rebecca has served in Federal Service for more than 19 years. Throughout her career, she has held multiple leadership and supervisory roles that strengthened her skills in project management, organization, communication, and problem-solving; abilities that directly support the responsibilities of Community Club Secretary. She values clear record-keeping, teamwork, and accountability, and takes great pride in supporting the people around her.

Rebecca has a strong sense of service and a deep commitment to giving back to the community. As Secretary, she hopes to contribute her experience, strong work ethic, and enthusiasm for supporting community programs.

TREASURER: Cherie Erler

Cherie Erler has been a resident of Black Forest since 1990 when she moved here with her husband, Bob Erler. Cherie graduated from Adams State University. Although her work history includes the legal field, the dental field, and the world of taxes and accounting, her most important job was raising her three children; Perry, Katie, and Teddy. She has enjoyed her involvement with charitable causes; CASA, 4-H, and church missions. Cherie currently has her own business in tax preparation; a job she has loved for over 20 years.



**Board Position with one year remaining is Leif Garrison
(This position is not up for a vote.)**



Attorney **Leif Garrison** has lived in Black Forest since 1990, where he and his wife Jill Whitley have raised three children. He is a former BFCC officer and board member. He also serves as chairman of the Black Forest Community Foundation, as well as counsel for the Friends of the Black Forest. In his spare-time he enjoys skiing, mountain biking, sailing, kayaking, hiking, gardening, and camping.

Board Position to finish out the remaining 2 years of Mindy Geiser's term: Johanna Ofstedal

Johanna and her family have lived in the Black Forest for a little over 4 years after moving here from Omaha, NE where she and her husband were proud to serve in the Air Force. She joined the BFCC soon after arriving to meet people and give back to the community she now calls home. It has been so fun (and a lot of work) working with the wonderful volunteers at the club and supporting the community in a number of ways and she looks forward to continuing this service as a member of the Board.



Board Position 3 Year: Steve White



I was born in Denver on December 28th, 1966 and moved to Arkansas when I was 10. Finished school in Paris AR, then joined the US Navy when I was 18.

I met my wife Rhonda in Coronado, CA and we married in January, 1998 and have three kids. We moved to Black Forest in 2006. I got stationed and USNORTHERN Command on Peterson AFB (Now Space Force Base). I retired from the US Navy in April 2011 and did contract work for a few years, then in 2018 bought a dump truck and started Black Forest Trucking. I'm still running the trucking business.

Elections for Board and Officers will be coming up Thursday, January 8, 2026. Anyone wishing to vote or run for office is reminded that membership dues must be paid before the end of the year.

Quote of the Month:

Happiness is having good health and a poor memory. – Paul Newman



The Ultimate Black Forest Festival Bundle

ALL FOR JUST \$25

Includes: 2025 Festival T-shirt

many sizes available

2025 Beverage Koozie

2025 and 2024 Beer Pint Glass

Black Forest Community Club Reusable Tote

**Available for purchase at all upcoming BFCC events
or while supplies last.**

Great for the Holidays!!!!

Black Forest Community Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 88034

Black Forest, Colorado 80908-8034

WEBSITE:

www.bfcommunityclub.org

Please send this application to the address above. Membership is \$20.00 per family per year.

Monthly newsletter — (circle one) Electronic Hardcopy

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

\$20.00 Active Membership (Must reside within Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries) (Voting)

\$20.00 Associate Membership (Outside Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries (Non-voting)

Circle any interest from those listed below:

Black Forest Festival

Hall Maintenance

Land Use

Club Programs

Publicity

Hall Rental Management

Membership

BFCC Property Development

Pay Your Membership Dues Online! You can now pay your membership dues online via PayPal. Just go to www.bfcommunityclub.org and click on “Become a Member” on the left side of the home page or “Click Here to pay online.” You do not have to have a PayPal account to use it. You can choose debit or credit with VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. Choose this easy way to pay your membership dues or use the membership form above. **Don’t Know If Your Membership Is Current?** Just look at the address label and note the year date in the upper right corner. If it says 2025 or later, you are up to date. For those getting your newsletter by email, there is a similar designation. If you have questions, contact Chuck at 719 495-8675)

Hall Rental Manager: Jeff Ader (cell: 232-1882)

The Black Forest Community Club Newsletter is a publication of the Black Forest Community Club, a non-profit, social club organized around a theme of community service. Subscriptions are included exclusively with club membership. Membership is open to all adult residents of Black Forest. Annual dues are \$15 per family. For membership information write to the following address or visit our website. Black Forest Community Club, POB 88034, Black Forest, CO 80908-8034. Or fill out the membership form in this issue.

President: Jim Collins

Vice President: Kelly Marchbank

Secretary: John Trcka

Treasurer: Cherie Erler

Director: Leif Garrison

Director: Sherrie Lidderdale

Director: Johanna Ofstedal (to serve out the year for the resigning Mindy Geiser)

Visit our website at <http://www.bfcommunityclub.org>

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