



BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY CLUB
January 2026 NEWSLETTER
“Everyone is Family in the Forest”

Schedule of BFCC Events

Monday, January 5, 9am	De-decorate the Hall (Please help)
Thursday, January 8, 7pm	BFCC election of board and officers
	Beer, soft drinks, pizza later
Thursday, January 22, 6:30pm	Board and officers meeting

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

Note from the BFCC President, Jim Collins

Hello to all,

As we close out 2025 we look back to all the great progress at our Community Club. We also celebrate all the fun events put on through the year. I personally want to thank all the hard work of those who organized them and those who volunteered to help. As we look forward to 2026, I encourage all our members and community to think about bringing new ideas for gatherings or volunteering for an existing event. You'll be amazed at how rewarding it can be to meet and work next to others in this great community.



I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to continuing the growth of our great Community Club.

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.** After we vote, enjoy food and drink together.

Volunteers created Christmas in the Hall



A hard-working crew showed up to decorate the building to get ready for Christmas. Shown are Shelly Still, Christy Collins, Deb Heitman, Barbara Hosmer, Dawn Sciarrotta, Don Root, and Phil Hosmer. They had the tree up and wreaths arranged with time for the treats Dawn provided.

At the same time, MVEA's crew showed up to



help us decorate the outside tree. After one look at our box with strings of old lights, they said they would be back soon. They returned with 4 reels of new LED lights and a new tree topper and hung them and all of our old ornaments. We just picked out what we wanted hung and



they did the work. Probably our safest decoration in years as none of us had to be teetering on ladders. They backed two of their bucket trucks up to the tree and adjusted up and down and around safely.

Christmas Events at BFCC



December 6 Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at 2pm to the delight of some 60 children who also enjoyed cookie decorating and ornament making. At 4:30 everyone met around the outside Christmas tree and enjoyed singing some Christmas carols before this year's



Keeper of the Keys, John Trcka lit the lights on the tree.

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 Treka 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 sons 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 with 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.

Local Scout Honored



Robert Slojkowski, a 16-year-old Boy Scout with Troop 70, was awarded Scouting America's Medal of Merit on December 2, 2025 for his lifesaving actions at a traffic accident in our community. His quick thinking, calm demeanor under crisis, and decisive actions were critical in protecting the accident victims and supporting the first responders who arrived on the scene. Robert learned these skills, leadership, and good citizenship in Troop 70 and the

Scouting program. The incident is described briefly below.

On a misty evening, August 12, 2024, Robert and his mother Kerry were driving north on CO-83 when they witnessed a vehicle roll over and pulled over to help. Robert initiated a call to 911, he gave the phone to his mother to continue the call as he noticed the driver had been ejected and thrown approximately 40' over a three-rail fence making it difficult for people to get to her. Along with another unidentified person, Robert ran past the smoking vehicle, jumped over the fence, and using his Scout First Aid training, assessed

the victim's condition and helped to calm her and keep her from moving to prevent further injuries. She kept trying to move despite her obvious serious injuries (deep lacerations, broken arm and head trauma). He directed the accompanying bystander to keep her still, and ran back to his vehicle to get a blanket as it was cold and raining and the victim was going into shock. While waiting, the two passengers began to act in a questionable manner, providing safety concerns for Robert and accompanying bystanders providing care.

When the paramedics arrived, Robert provided an assessment of the victim's condition and mechanism of injury. Robert then directed the removal of some fence rails so that they could easily and safely move the victim to the ambulance. He also provided a scene report and video evidence of the rollover from his dash camera to the responding CSP Officer.

Here is a list of upcoming concerts at Black Rose Friday nights. (second and fourth Fridays of the month.

2025/2026 Black Rose Friday Concerts	
<i>November 28</i>	High Lonesome
<i>December 12</i>	Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers
<i>December 26</i>	No Show – Merry Christmas!
<i>January 9</i>	The Mild Thornberrys
<i>January 23</i>	MoonShroom
<i>February 13</i>	Jeremy Facknitz & David Siegel
<i>February 27</i>	Blue Canyon Boys with CC Bluegrass
<i>March 13</i>	Avourneen
<i>March 27</i>	Daniel Kimbro
<i>April 10</i>	Homecoming Concert: Carmen & Lewis
<i>April 24</i>	Abby Posner with Sage and Aera
<i>May 8</i>	Dakota Blonde
<i>May 22</i>	No show - Meadowgrass
<i>June 12</i>	Second Gear Bluegrass

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

Land Use

Publicity

Membership

Hall Maintenance

Club Programs

Hall Rental Management

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>

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Brown

495-3127

browncarolyn828@gmail.com



Black Forest Community Club
PO BOX 88034
Black Forest, CO 80908-8034