



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

**Schedule of BFCC Events**

<b>Saturday, February 7, 7pm</b>	<b>Valentine Dessert Social</b>
<b>Saturday, February 21, 5-8pm</b>	<b>Troop 70 Chili Dinner/Silent Auction</b>
<b>Thursday, February 26, 6:30pm</b>	<b>Board and officers meeting</b>

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

---

**Valentine Dessert Social Saturday, Feb. 7, 7pm**

Bring your favorite **cherry or chocolate dessert or your favorite anything dessert** and join us for a **night of socializing with your friends and neighbors. Prizes!** We will have coffee and drinks or BYOB. The winners of each category will receive a prize. If you have a fun idea, bring it along too. Come in out of the cold.



**Troop 70 Chili Dinner and Silent Auction**

**Saturday, February 21, 5-8pm**

Hi Black Forest Community,

The annual Troop 70 Chili dinner and Silent Auction is fast approaching and will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Black Forest Community Center from 5 PM to 8 PM. If you have not marked that date on your calendars, please do so now. The Chili Dinner and Silent Auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for Troop 70, and it allows the Troop to cover

event costs for the boys and provide equipment and materials for our Scoutmasters to run our great scouting program.



Over the past few Chili Dinner events the silent auction team secured over \$12,000 worth of silent auction items each year. Purchasing these silent auction items is great way to support our local businesses and the Troop. In 2026 Troop 70 will complete our 74th year of scouting in Black Forest and we are so thankful to

have the widespread support from our community. Please come out on February 21st and enjoy a great dinner, visit with some long-lost friends and bid on some awesome silent auction items.

For questions about the event or if you have items you would like to donate items to the silent auction please contact the following: Kevin Vider, Committee Chair – [kjvider@gmail.com](mailto:kjvider@gmail.com) – 719-243-0409 or Keith Kramer, Scoutmaster, [keithakramer@gmail.com](mailto:keithakramer@gmail.com) – 573-337-1768.

Thank you and see you on February 21, 2026 from 5 PM to 8 PM!!

### **Letter from the President:**

Hello to All,

I hope you're having a great start to 2026. First, I'd like to welcome Steve White and Johanna Ofstedal as new Board members and Rebecca Eker as our new Secretary.

We look forward to this year and continuing on our progress from 2025.

We have some maintenance and great upgrades in mind.

Candy Gardner has been hard at work transferring and upgrading our websites.

Chris Gardner is helping us upgrading our audio and video systems.

Steve is putting together phase two of Our Backyard improvements. We will be presenting this plan at the Flat Broke after Taxes Spaghetti Dinner on April 15th.

Other upgrades we're hoping to do include:

- Replace/upgrade our security cameras

- Replace the lights at front door

- Replace/upgrade front and rear door locks

- Put lights on the marquee

- Replace/upgrade lights in the Hall

Repair or replace our 8' tables  
Along with all the upgrade we are looking to perform, we are trying to improve or add some fun Family Events for the Community.  
**So that said we can always use fresh ideas and especially new people to volunteer to help. If you would be willing to pitch in at any level, please reach out to discuss thoughts.**  
Have a blessed Day.  
Jim Collins

### **2026 Board and Officers**



The weather was dicey but Black Foresters turn up anyway. As you can see in the above picture, we have a great crew to run the BFCC in 2026.

Front row from left to right: Steve White (3-years board member)

Rebecca Eker (Secretary)

Johanna Ofstedal (2-years remaining board member)

Back row from left to right: Leif Garrison (1-year remaining board member)

John Trcka (Vice President)

Cherie Erler (Treasurer) and Jim Collins (President)

### **Volunteers Needed**

Any non-profit organization depends on interested people pitching in a little or a lot of their time to keep it going. If you only have an hour or two a month, let Jim, our president, know and he can ask for help when needed. 562 833-2449 or jimcolli@hotmail.com.

### **Letter from Steve White who has taken on the task of heading up development of the Backyard property.**

This year the club is moving on to phase two of developing the backyard of the Community Club. The backyard is the 4.75 acres just to the north of the club's log building. The property was purchased in 2016.

Last year the club hired a landscape architect to develop a master plan. The board put together a backyard committee consisting of 6 members to come up with a plan to present to the board and club members. The committee handed out surveys with a number of questions about how the backyard should be developed.

All of the information from the surveys was compiled and prioritized based on input from club members. The backyard committee then came up with a plan. The plan is being presented to the Landscape Architect in the coming weeks and the club should soon have a nice master plan depicting the future of the backyard for club members to see.

Last year was phase one of developing the backyard which consisted of planning and making some improvements to the backyard. The improvements consisted of improving the road, limited grading, adding a walking path from the club building to the back yard, removing the old cistern and well head, and laying down several loads of mulch to help with water runoff and provide a walkable surface for foot traffic.

For this year's phase two of developing the backyard, the board has determined more limited grading to expand the size of usable land and the addition of a fence which will run north and south along Black Forest Rd. with a gate for access from Black Forest Road to the backyard. The club has also decided to investigate adding a fence which will run east and west along the northern border of the backyard. The cost and time to add the northern fence will determine if it is added to this year's phase two or pushed out to future years. The type of fence is under review at this time. Anyone wanting more information about this project can attend the next board and officers meeting or contact the backyard development POC Steve White at 719-244-8075.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

V/R Steve White

### **And Now for a Little History of the Black Forest Festival**

(Taken from the booklet compiled and published by the Black Forest History Committee of the Black Forest Community Club/Terry Stokka)

The idea for a summer festival was first presented by Jim Suddarth at a Black Forest Community Club meeting. He suggested that it would need the support of the whole community. The theme was *Grimm's Fairy Tales and Enchanted Forest*. German costumes were recommended for the ladies and children. A festival committee was formed and called "Der Elves." The Saturday events were held at the Black Forest Community Club and on Sunday the Black Forest Recreational Area (now called Regional Park) was used. Thus, the first Summer Festival was held on the second weekend in June of 1960 in anticipation of wildflowers being in bloom. Residents voted by ballot at local stores for the first Keeper of the Keys.

An impressive ceremony held outside the community hall installed Wayne Rusk as the first Keeper of the Keys to the Forest at 7:30pm Saturday, June 9, 1960. The other nominees—Ralph Ayer, Dean Black, John Burrows, Gus Davisson, George Morris and D.D. Wooley—served as Counselors. Mr. Rusk received a certificate recognizing him as a longtime resident who contributed to the Forest, was active in community affairs and had the future of the Forest at heart. He also received a staff cut from the Forest to represent strength. The staff was passed to each Keeper as long as the Festival was held in the 1960's. There was a dance in the hall afterward with music by Babe Humphrey and the Flying W Wranglers.

On Sunday, June 10, a flag-raising ceremony conducted by the local Boy Scouts opened the festivities at 11:30am at the recreation area and was followed by a baseball game. There was a basket dinner picnic at 12:30pm and a pageant based on an old German fairy tale afterwards. A German band performed at 2pm and 4pm. And the Boy Scout Indian dances were at 3pm. Other activities during the afternoon were couples egg toss, ladies' shoe toss and children's three-legged race. The day ended with a campfire and community sing. Even though there were threatening skies and a few raindrops, the festivities lasted until 10pm. It was reported that 500 to 800 people attended.

The seven Keys to the Forest were created by Jim and Anna Mae Hawkins. Anna Mae designed the keys, each one different. Jim cut them from wood blocks, and she overlaid them with sheet copper. Then she crafted a design on each key to symbolize its meaning: (1) The Key to storms and blue skies, (2) The Key to the changing beauties of trees and meadows, (3) The Key to the storehouse of wild flowers, (4) The Key to bird songs and music of the waters, (5) The Key to squirrel nests and small animal homes, (6) The Key to deer trails and antelope playgrounds and (7) The Key to the spirit of neighborliness in the Forest.

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

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

*“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.”*

— William Ralph Inge

Black Forest Community Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 88034

Black Forest, Colorado 80908-8034

WEBSITE:

[www.bfcommunityclub.org](http://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](http://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 \$20 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: John Trcka

Secretary: Rebecca Eker

Treasurer: Cherie Erler

Director: Leif Garrison

Director: Johanna Ofstedal

Director: Steve White

---

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

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Brown

495-3127

[browncarolyn828@gmail.com](mailto:browncarolyn828@gmail.com)



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