



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

**Schedule of BFCC Events**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday, Jan. 6, 9-noon</b>    | <b>De-Decorate the hall for Christmas</b>   |
| <b>Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:00pm</b>  | <b>Annual Meeting/Elections</b>             |
| <b>Thursday, Jan. 23, 6:30pm</b> | <b>Board &amp; Officers/General Meeting</b> |
| <b>Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:00pm</b> | <b>MVEA Community Meeting</b>               |

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and the events.

For Line Dancing classes, etc., check [bfcommunityclub.org](http://bfcommunityclub.org).

**Let's de-decorate the BFCC Monday, Jan. 6 starting at 9am.**

**Please come and help.** Anyone who can give a couple of hours of help is asked to show up at the hall to help take down inside decorations and outside decorations. Any help will be appreciated.



**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER YIELDS IMPRESSIVE RESULTS**

Leif Garrison, President

Thanks to the abundant generosity of BFCC members and the larger Black Forest community, the first “A Black Forest Christmas” fundraiser, hosted by the BFCC on December 7 in collaboration with the Friends of the Log School and the Black Forest Community Foundation, was a big success.

Initial results reveal that the net amount raised for the Log School restoration project will be about \$3400.

Kudos and a big thank you to the many leaders and volunteers who made it all come together, including especially the primary movers and shakers: outgoing BFCC board chair Tiffany Coles and husband Rod, Dawn and Louie Sciarrotta, and Suzanne Stauber and her dedicated Friends of the Log School members and docents.

In addition to the delicious food gathered and prepared by Dawn and Louie, many guests expressed their appreciation of the tours of the Log School, featuring Christmas decorations as they likely appeared about a century ago, back in the mid-1920s when the

school was new and the primary way for the students to get there was on foot or by horseback.

The tasty drinks prepared by bartenders Don Root and Rod Coles, especially their hot chocolate and cider-based concoctions, were also a big hit.

Also very popular were the visit from Santa Claus, with a big assist from former BFCC president Mack Sharp, as well as the melodious acoustic music courtesy of Paul-David Almond, bolstered by the acapella musical selections provided by the Pine Creek High School Choirs.

Many thanks to all who attended and volunteered to pitch in and assist in funding the log restoration project for the historic Log School!



Mack and Young Sharp did the honors this year.

### **MVEA Meeting at BFCC Thursday, January 30, 7-9pm**

**Since the November meeting was snowed out, this is the re-schedule.**

Electrical service started for the Black Forest at a meeting in this very hall back in the 1940's as concerned residents gathered to start the process. This is your chance to hear from **Mountain View Electric Association's** leadership about your electric service.

**Ruth Marks**, MVEA's Chief Executive Officer, and her team will be at the hall to answer any of your questions. They will be talking about **Wildfire Mitigation and Broadband**. They may also throw a slide up about how to **find the outage map on our website**. You can get an informative overview by going to **mvea.coop** but an evening at the BFCC will give you a chance to hear from other MVEA members and their concerns.

It is an opportunity for you to get out of the house and show up in full force to thank these people for coming to the Black Forest with their presentation. **Let's give the MVEA a full house to thank them for their time and dedication to keeping our lights on. Cookies and drinks.**

## **2025 Elections will be held the second Thursday of January, 2025**

**(January 9) at 6:30pm.** Come to vote for your choice or run yourself.

All the terms for officers are for one year and for board members three years with the exception of the treasurer which needs continuity for completeness of this difficult job.

There are **openings for president, vice president, secretary, and two board positions.**

The same people can run for their office again but others can send in their desire to run if they meet qualifications. A candidate must have been a paid-up member for at least eleven months prior to the election date and have paid dues for the current year. If you have questions about the bylaws such as officer/board duties, go to

**bfcommunityclub.org and look under About.** You will find the current bylaws there.

Or you can go directly there at [www.bfcommunityclub.org/bfcc.bylaws.241025.pdf](http://www.bfcommunityclub.org/bfcc.bylaws.241025.pdf)

If you are wishing to serve the BFCC in one of these positions, consider that there are usually eleven or twelve meetings a year (the meetings are usually on the fourth Thursday of the month starting at 6:30pm and may last two hours or longer depending on the number of items that need attention). Attendance at each meeting is expected since it is only one meeting per month. Of course, there are exceptions to this but consider this if you are wishing to run for office.

If this schedule would create a problem, you might consider that there is always a need for members to help with the many facets of the BFCC. We need committee members willing to help with the Property Maintenance Committee, the Building Management Committee, the Backyard development, and the Membership Committee. The Social Committee also needs help with ideas and setting up and food. Finding a position where members can work together to keep this organization and building performing as the community activity center of the Forest is a great opportunity and so rewarding.

The Election Committee will be accepting applications from those wishing to run for a position. Email your biography and a picture indicating which position you are running for to [brownkarolyn828@gmail.com](mailto:brownkarolyn828@gmail.com) or call 719 495-3127. Someone on the committee will get back to you promptly.

## **Candidates for the BFCC 2025 Elections**

### **President: Jim Collins**

Jim moved his family to Black Forest 5 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 will be resigning from his position on the Board to run for President.

### **Vice President: Kelly Marchbank**



Kelly (Dowling) Marchbank has lived in Black Forest since 1978 having moved with her family from Princeton, New Jersey. Her husband Jim Marchbank and his family have lived in the Forest since 1963. Kelly and her husband built their home on the family's property in 1990. She and Jim had two children.

Kelly has been an active volunteer in Black Forest and at the Community Center for many years. This will be her third term as

Vice President. She has been on the Black Forest Festival Committee for many years and has assisted with Black Forest Fire Remembrances, the Black Forest Trunk or Treat/Oktoberfest, the Christmas Market and the Tree Lighting events. She has helped in all aspects of these events. She has also assisted with other events like the Summer Concerts in the Park series, Keeper of the Keys Dinners, as well as other community events and fundraisers. She also assists in administrating the Black Forest Community Facebook group.

The Marchbank family has volunteered in other ways, including serving in the mission field on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana for the past ten summers.

Kelly looks forward to continuing to serve on the Board and Officers of the Black Forest Community Club. She has been serving in her community for many years and hopes to continue to keep the BFCC community connected with a willingness to serve and make a positive impact for everyone in the Forest.

### **Secretary: John Trcka**

John 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 and his wife, Ginny, have three sons.

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  
His favorite activities: time with family, Bible study, hiking, mountaineering, skiing.

### **Board Position to replace Tiffany Coles who is finishing her 3-year term: Mindy Geiser**

My husband, Jerry Geiser, and I moved to Black Forest in April 2020. We are currently raising our two daughters Jocelyn (8) and Rose (2) in this lovely community. I have spent the last 7 years as a District Manager for Airgas in the Southern Colorado market. Prior to my 14-year career in the Welding and Gas Supply industry, I worked for several municipalities as a Recreation Supervisor where I managed community and aquatic centers, planned events and worked with several volunteer organizations. I obtained my MBA in Business Administration at the University of Texas Arlington. I am looking forward to contributing my time to the Black Forest in an effort to preserve the community while learning more about its history.



### **Board Position to replace the resigning Jim Collins: Leif Garrison**



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.

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### **Got Ideas for upcoming events at the BFCC?**

What would you like for activities at the hall? Informational talks? Game nights? Food events? First aid class? CPR training? Do you have a particular skill, interest, talent, person with a story? Let me know and we will try to get it on the calendar.

Carolyn 719 495-3127. [Browncarolyn828@gmail.com](mailto:Browncarolyn828@gmail.com)

## **“Hands & Feet”**

### *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* (Article by Patricia Hunnybun)

Terry Stokka, longtime resident of 31 years and advocate for the preservation of Black Forest, has launched a new community outreach & support program called **Hands & Feet!**

This is a Black Forest community resource program where neighbors help other neighbors with simple ‘fix it’ type requests and support in other ways for those with limited mobility, skills, resources or budget.

The program is in its infancy and modifications will be made as it grows and more feedback is provided, not only by those who have volunteered to be ‘Fixers & Helpers’, but also by those that request assistance.

Terry has reached out to members of the ‘Friends of Black Forest’ over the past few months to see if there is a need in the community for such a program, as well as seeing if residents are willing to volunteer and donate their time and skills to support our neighbors. There has been an overwhelming response by the members who want to provide their time, skills and knowledge, to support the Hands & Feet program!

Terry loves Black Forest and is a strong advocate for people within our own community taking care of one another, with a focus on what we have in common (not our differences) such as, love for our community, one another and our way of life.

Members of the ‘Friends of Black Forest’ will receive copies of an Application Form to distribute to their neighbors and neighborhoods. The Application form needs to be completed with the type of repair or support that is requested and then mailed or emailed to the address on the form.

There may be additional communications about the program via flyers, the club newsletter and media articles such as this, to spread the word and make residents aware of the ‘Hands & Feet’ program.

Initially the program is for simple and critical ‘fix it’ type of jobs, for those that may not have the budget, tools or skills necessary to do it themselves. If the requested repair requires a permit or is a larger scope job that a professional contractor is needed, the support team will let the requester know.

The program is free of labor charge, but any materials costs (once agreed upon up front) will be the responsibility of the requester. Initially the program is focused to assist seniors, those with limited mobility, single women or single parents within the community.

As the program is new, the full list of services available is not yet fully defined, so please feel free to complete an application with your specific service request so that the Program Director and assigned team can determine if the request can be supported and is within the scope of their skills.

The boundaries for Black Forest and this program is (W) Hwy 83, (N) County Line Road, (E) Eastonville Road and (S) Stapleton Road.

If you are a resident within the boundaries, with limited skills, budget or knowledge or need some support after a surgery, have limited mobility and need assistance with things like yard work, snow shoveling please visit this website and click on “continue” to get to the form to request assistance. <https://friendsofblackforest.org/helphands/>

If you are a resident that has skills to offer to the program, please contact Terry Stokka - [terry@friendsofblackforest.org](mailto:terry@friendsofblackforest.org)

## WORDS OF WISDOM

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

– Benjamin Franklin –

### 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 \$15.00 per family per year.

Monthly newsletter — (circle one) Electronic      Hardcopy

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

\$15.00 Active Membership (Must reside within Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries) (Voting)

\$15.00 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](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 2024 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.**

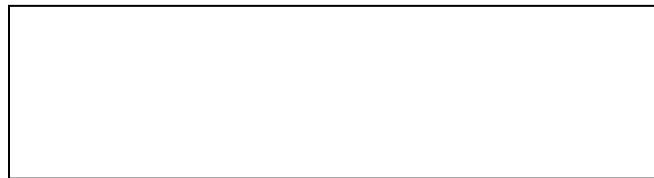
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President: Leif Garrison  
Vice President: Kelly Marchbank  
Secretary: Mindy Geiser  
Treasurer: Cherie Erler

Director: Tiffany Coles  
Director: Sherrie Lidderdale  
Director: Jim Collins

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