



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

**Schedule of BFCC Events**

Saturday, September 13, 6pm	Fall Harvest Potluck
Thursday, September 25, 6:30pm	BFCC Board and Officers Meeting
Saturday, October 4	Oktoberfest
Thursday, October 23, 6:30pm	BFCC Board and Officers Meeting
Saturday, October 25	Trunk or Treat

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

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**2025 KEEPER OF THE KEYS**



A very deserving couple was nominated for the 2025 Keepers of the Keys to the Forest. John and Ginny Trcka moved to Colorado Springs from California while he was employed by Boeing in 2005. They moved into their Black Forest home in 2008.

Their three sons were home schooled and are following their dad in the engineering and computers field.

Both have spent a great deal of time guiding youngsters in many ways. All levels of scouting, 4-H club, LEGO robotics, athletics, and church ministries are the predominant areas.

However, John has still found time for his love of hiking/mountaineering. He leads church members in frequent hikes and has hiked all the Colorado 14ers! If you can't find him, he may be skiing or something in the mountains. Ginny is a busy person with teaching young people and gardening and home design especially now with a son trying to update an old home.

**September Social Event for all Members and Neighbors: Fall Harvest Potluck and Best of Your Garden \*\*\*Prizes\*\*\***

**Saturday, September 13, 6pm.**

Let's get together over a simple potluck and talk with friends about how fast the summer went and how some of our garden plantings survived the hail, the heat, the cold, and the rains. **If you have a garden item of interest, bring it and see if you win a prize.** That zucchini that hid out under all those leaves and now is the size of a walrus. That carrot that looks like a giant with many legs. The giant potato that looks like a rabbit. Show and tell time at the club. I bet there might be a prize for the biggest, deadeast pocket gopher (picture only, please). Anyway, it is time to slow down and enjoy a meal with friends. **Bring a dish to share. No garden, no worries.** You might be the biggest winner.



**Note from the BFCC President:**



Our 2025 Black Forest Festival is in the books. It was a great success enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to all who sacrificed their time and energy to make it happen. **This event along with all events put on by the Community Club takes the time and dedication of many volunteers. Please consider serving your community with a little bit of your time.** It's also a great way to meet new friends and catch up with old ones.

**Jim Collins**  
**President BFCC**

**Another important plea:**

The Black Forest Community Center is an old building (dedicated in 1929) and is busy supporting a host of activities people enjoy right here in the Forest. The Scouts, the exercise and dance classes, the Black Forest Arts and Crafts Guild meetings and shows, weddings, celebrations of life, BFCC membership social events, and many others use this building throughout the years. That means it **needs maintenance.** We have a great person who cleans regularly and after events but **we need a maintenance crew consisting of several handyman types who can tackle simple maintenance types of fixes.** A running commode in the bathrooms. Burned out lights throughout the building and outside. Occasional paint touch-ups. If there were **several people on the committee available and**

**familiar with the lighting and heating/cooling system and the water supply, when a paying customer calls and says something isn't working, there is someone available to take care of that problem. This is a very important job and needed by the BFCC. If you are interested, please contact Jim Collins 562 833-2449.**



## **Black Forest Festival 2025: A Celebration of Community and Joy**

**by Leilani Richie**

The 2025 Black Forest Festival was a resounding success, bringing together community members for a day filled with fun, food, and festivities. The event, held at the Black Forest Community Center, showcased this year's theme beautifully: the Heart of the Forest – 56 years Strong!

The festival kicked off with the traditional pancake breakfast, where volunteers served around 700 delicious breakfasts. The volunteers and our local Boy Scout Troop 70 did an outstanding job feeding the community. A huge thank you to the Omelette Parlor, Golden Pine Roasters, and Dawn and Louie for sponsoring this year's breakfast!

The booth fair was another highlight, featuring 90 enthusiastic vendors. The fair benefited from recent backyard grading, making the area more accessible and visually appealing. Many vendors reported good sales and positive feedback, with categories ranging from artists and 3D-printers to homemade goods and coffee. The demonstration booths were also a huge hit with many, many people appreciating the variety of animals around the festival grounds. The petting zoo, tractor rides, alpacas, sheep and especially the wolves received many compliments and resulted in many gleeful smiles of children.

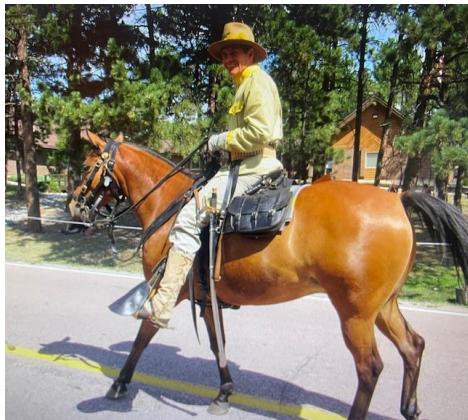
Food trucks were a delightful part of the festival, with six trucks offering a variety of great options. The new experiment of giving first right of refusal to local food trucks and business was well-received, and the vendors provided positive feedback about their location, attendance, and earnings.



The parade was the most complimented activity, featuring nearly 60 registered entries and around 800 participants. The mix of high school bands, cheerleaders, floats, classic cars, motorcycles, and tractors brought joy to everyone. The excellent planning and execution by volunteers ensured a safe and enjoyable experience for all. The children were especially delighted by all the candy. The neighbors along the parade route voiced appreciation to Iron Knight Disposal for all the post-festival cleanup.

**Bob and Karen Hilborn drive the 2025 Keepers Ginny and John Treka**

*(Photo courtesy of Judy von Alfeldt.)*



Dan Burtz, BF resident, Reenactor,  
Teddy Roosevelt

*(Photos courtesy of Judy von Ahlefeldt)*



Parade Goose

A special flyover by Flight for Life added an extra touch of excitement to the festival. The helicopter flew down and back Black Forest Road following the parade, and everything went smoothly.

The Family Beer Garden was a popular spot, with steady patronage and a great atmosphere. Participants complimented the soulful grooves of the AshTonz under the pine trees in the backyard. The addition of soda and water for sale was well-received, and plans are in place to add more seating and shade next year to enhance the experience.

The festival's success was made possible by the outstanding support of local businesses and individuals who signed up as sponsors. Thank you to all our sponsors who provided funds, volunteer hours, and in-kind donations! Your contributions and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated, and your participation added to the overall success of the event.

A special thank you to our Black Forest Churches, Edith Wolford Elementary, Alecia Munson, and The Black Forest Bistro for the use of their parking lots. A round of applause for Mountain View Café, whose fundraiser directly supported the cost of the

shuttles and buses for all our festival-goers, avoiding a long uphill walk to the festival grounds. Academy School District 20 and Special Kids Special Families made the buses, shuttles, and drivers available for the festival.

The 2025 Black Forest Festival was a celebration of community spirit and joy, and the organizers are already looking forward to making next year's festival even better.

## **Board Member Resignation**

The BFCC board and officers recently received a letter of resignation from one of the board members. **Mindy Geiser is taking a job out of state and cannot continue in this role.** Mindy will be missed since she had been active in various activities for the BFCC. At the last board and officers meeting, Johanna Ofstedal was voted in to serve in Mindy's place until the end of 2025.

## **Upcoming Citizens' Academy**

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is excited to announce applications are now open for our upcoming Citizens' Academy. This free, in-depth program for community members begins on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**, and runs **twice a week from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM**, concluding with a graduation ceremony on **Thursday, October 9, 2025**.

Designed to provide a behind-the-scenes look at local law enforcement, the Citizens' Academy offers participants a comprehensive overview of the Sheriff's Office and its many responsibilities.

Topics include:

- Use of Force
- Illegal Marijuana Operations
- Targeted Traffic Enforcement
- Emergency Services (including Wildland Fire and Search & Rescue)
- SWAT and K9 Operations
- Jail Operations and Civil Processes

Attendees will also follow the course of a criminal investigation, guided by detectives who will explain each step of the process. A tour of the El Paso County Jail is included to give participants an understanding of the challenges faced by our detention staff.

The program culminates in **realistic, scenario-based training**, giving participants the opportunity to experience what it's like to serve as a deputy.

To apply, download the application from our website at [epcsheriffsoffice.com/citizens-academy](http://epcsheriffsoffice.com/citizens-academy), or email the Community Affairs team at [shrcitizensacademy@elpasoco.com](mailto:shrcitizensacademy@elpasoco.com) to request a copy.

**There is no cost to attend**, but all applicants must pass a standard background check. Space is limited to the first **40 completed applications** received. Don't wait to apply! Applications must be returned no later than 4:30 PM on August 22, 2025.

[\*\*Sheriff's Office Accepting Applications for Fall 2025 Citizens' Academy – El Paso County Sheriff's Office\*\*](#)

## **Music in the Park**

This summer's music in the Park was well attended and anticipated by the community. It is regretful that the season is over. **Jeff Ader** deserves a great "Thank You" for arranging all of this talent and we hope he will be inclined to do his magic again next year.

Another big Thank you goes to **Dawn Sciarrotta** and her crew for providing great food and drink to the crowd which leads to the following note from Dawn.

## **A Thank You to My Friends from Dawn Sciarrotta**

**Music in the Park:** **Jeff Ader**, you are an amazing organizer of this event for our BF community. Eight weeks of bands for free!

To my helpers, **Kris Babcock** for watching over me and making Banana Cake. Kris has helped me for the past 4-5 years. What a blessing!

**Della Clark** (BFACG) for always coming to my rescue the past two years. Looking ahead every week to your advertising in new ways next year. Thanks a bunch.

**Festival Kitchen Helpers and beyond:** Mountain View Cafe's **Spring and Bridget** for a generous donation of food for the beer garden. **Leslie and Ed Stuler, Henzie Sciarrotta, Jolene Gebelt**.

**Troop 70** for table and chair set up and clean up.

**Kelly M, Johanna O, Sheri C, Michelle G** and many others... I'm blessed to be able to provide food for the Festival volunteers! Without the help of others, it could not happen. You are amazing and Thank You.

### **\*\*\*\* Dawn needs a committee for events/socials at the BFCC. \*\*\*\***

- 1) You could help every time or once in a while.
- 2) I need an email group to send you info.
- 3) I need 8-15 people.
- 4) I need event planners.
- 5) Set-up/clean-up/kitchen help/serving

**Time is a created thing. To say 'I don't have time' is to say 'I don't want to.'**

– Lao Tzu –

## **Air Conditioning in the BFCC Hall**

After 15 years of talking about it and a lot of hard work from those involved, we have finally got AC in the hall. It started with a meeting in February with Bob, Ned and Doug from Black Rose and Jim and Leif from the Club. We discussed the many options to get this project done.

It was decided to get estimates from three local companies to see what our options were and what the project would cost. One of those companies was **High Country Air**. Jim had met owner **Josh Eker** at a **Business Connect** meeting at the Club. Josh offered to do this monumental task for cost. This offer turned out to be at half the cost of two other bids received.

With a proposal in hand we started our journey through Regional. We found **Plant Engineering Consultants** to do our mechanical and electrical engineering. They gave us a pretty good discount. With those two reports in hand, we were able to get through Regional and obtain our permit. **Will from Headley Electric** attached an electrical permit to Josh's permit. By the way, he only charged us the permit fee for this, as Jim did all electrical work with the help of **Rylan Eker (Josh's son)**.

With Josh and his son **Tristen** who is also an H-VAC tech, we worked two long weekends to get this work completed. On July 20th all units were pushing cold air into the club.

A special thanks to the **Eker Family** for their hard work and extreme generosity to make this happen.

Jim Collins, President BFCC

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: 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)

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

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