



Black Forest Together

News Flash #82

April 16, 2015

April 17 auction will benefit Black Forest recovery and restoration

Black Forest Together has received a generous donation of new items, which will be auctioned to raise funds to support fire recovery and forest restoration work.

A wide variety of new household and office goods will be included in the regular weekly auction at [Ross Auction](#), at 815 S. Sierra Madre (downtown). The **Friday, April 17** auction begins at noon; items can be inspected beginning at 8:30 am. To learn what items will benefit Black Forest Together, simply ask the Ross Auction staff.

This auction will take place on Friday, April 17 only. (This is a change from our original announcement.)

The items to be auctioned were recovered by the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) during an investigation and subsequent prosecution of a large retail theft ring. The items were stolen from retail stores and are in new condition.

Safeway, through the efforts of Nathan Bandaries, Senior Investigator for Safeway's Organized Retail Crime Division, supplied and paid for a semitrailer to store the items as well as a commercial driver to move the trailer from location to location. An exhaustive inventory of the items was completed by CSPD Evidence Technician Shirley Milligan.

When it was clear that the remaining items could not be returned to the retail centers, officials of the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office in cooperation with the defense attorneys, thought of a solution that would benefit the community. They donated the entire lot to Black Forest Together, Inc., to raise funds to support the Black Forest community's ongoing recovery from the wildfire of 2013.

Seedling tree pickup instructions

If you have already reserved seedlings, here's when and where to pick them up:

- Date: Saturday, May 9, 2015
- Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Place: Black Forest Fire Station 2 on Ridge Run Road (at the corner of Hodgen Road).

Trees MUST be picked up at that time. If you cannot pick up your trees during those hours, you must make arrangements for someone else to pick them up for you. We do not have facilities to store the trees. **Seedling orders not picked up by 3:00 pm will be considered abandoned. All abandoned trees will be given away from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.** This is a first-come, first-served giveaway, but each household is limited to 50 trees.

This tree giveaway has been made possible by generous support from the Arbor Day Foundation, FedEx, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Colorado State Forest Service. A total of 10,000 free tree seedlings, in five species, has been donated to restore land that was burned by the Black Forest Fire of 2013. These trees have been grown by the Colorado State Forest Service, and are well suited to our area.

You can make your business or organization more disaster resilient

Can your business, organization or group survive the next disaster or loss of key personnel? Are you prepared to take action when the time comes? Learn how you can be ready for an emergency or disaster by attending the American Red Cross Preparedness & Resiliency Academy for Businesses and Organizations. This free training, which includes lunch, will be offered 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Thursday, April 23 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center: 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909.

The Academy is a great opportunity to learn from local disaster experts and leaders of disaster-affected organizations. This event is free, but pre-registration is required: Contact Dana.Goldsmith@redcross.org to register.

New help is available for fire-affected businesses

New grant funding is available to help businesses and non-profits that were impacted by the Black Forest Fire, or by the floods of September 2013. The Recover Colorado Business Grant and Loan program has received a second round of funding to meet needs that have not been addressed through other sources of public and private assistance (such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration).

Applications for this program are now available. The application deadline is July 31, 2015.

If business owners were not able to qualify for earlier help from this program, they may qualify now. Here's how to get more information:

- Visit <http://dola.colorado.gov/cdbg-dr/content/recover-colorado-business-grant-and-loan-program>
- Contact Liz Hershberger, SBDC Disaster Relief Program Coordinator, at 719-667-3803, 719-667-3812 or disasterrelief@cssbdc.org

Tri-Lakes community meeting this Saturday, April 18: "You can protect your home from wildfire"

You are invited to a community meeting for all residents of the Palmer Divide area, hosted by the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group. From 9:00 to 10:00 am, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Marshal John Vincent will explain how to make your home and property more defensible from wildfire and prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. You'll learn how you can keep most of your trees and still have a home that firefighters could defend. Following his talk, from 10:00 am to noon, Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department Chief/Fire Investigator Margo Humes and Black Forest Together representative Bill Mantia will conduct an explanatory tour of selected Black Forest burn sites, and discuss lessons learned.

The meeting will be presented at: Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, 20256 Hunting Downs Way (east of Kings Deer). For info, [write to Andre at \[epg@tlumc.org\]\(mailto:write_to_Andre_at_epg@tlumc.org\)](mailto:write_to_Andre_at_epg@tlumc.org), or call Lisa (719) 339-7831 or Judy at (719) 229-9636.

Grant funds can cut your mitigation cost in half

You have a rare opportunity to reduce the cost of wildfire mitigation by 50%, through a grant that Black Forest Together has received from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. [Click here to get more details on our web site](#), or contact Scott MacDonald, our Program Director for Forest Recovery and Restoration, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday-Friday: (719) 495-2630, (719) 321-2359 or scottmacd.bft@gmail.com

Need help? Want information? Contact the Resource Center:

Resource Center Hours

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 1 pm

1st and 3rd Saturdays:

By appointment

Appointments must be made by the preceding Thursday at noon. To make an appointment, call 495-2445 or [send us an email](#).

Weather Delays or Closures:

The Resource Center will follow [School District 20's delay or closure policies](#).

Closing soon: Case Management for Unmet Needs

The [Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response](#) office has been grateful to serve the survivors of the Black Forest Fire. After 18 months of providing individual case management support, including financial assistance, **LFS Disaster Response will be closing on Friday, May 1, 2015.** The last day for new client appointments was Monday, March 1, 2015. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Denise Dawson at 719-495-2554 or denise.dawson@lfsrm.org as soon as possible.

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Black Forest Together Resource Center

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In the Forest Center, just west of Subway - [\[MAP\]](#)

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Black Forest Together is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt charitable organization.

Mission Statement

To help the people of the Black Forest region to recover, rebuild and restore their lives, protect the Forest's water quality and ecological health with an emphasis placed on community values, economic stability and the richness of our natural environment today and in the future.