



Black Forest Together **News Flash #88** July 9, 2015

Important Updates and Events

Sandbags Available at Black Forest Fire & Rescue July 11

Sandbags will be available to Black Forest residents for pickup on Saturday, July 11 from 11:00am - 3:00pm at Black Forest Fire & Rescue (11445 Teachout Road). Please use Teachout Road and enter through the gate at the upper level. Sandbags are free and will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis. Residents will be required to show driver's license or utility bill as proof of residency.

Thanks to El Paso County for providing the sand and bags and to Boy Scout Troop 512 for filling the sandbags!

El Paso County Development Code Exceptions Allowed to Expire, Temporary Exceptions May Be Allowed on a Case by Case Basis

On Tuesday, July 7 the Board of El Paso County Commissioners confirmed the immediate expiration of code exceptions which were put in place to make it easier for residents to rebuild after the 2013 Black Forest Fire. The Board's unanimous decision allows the Development Services department to work with individual property owners with extraordinary circumstances on an individual basis to allow them to continue to live in RVs for a limited time pending the completion of construction work on their homes.

Residents with concerns or questions can call El Paso County Development Services at [\(719\)520-6300](tel:7195206300) and ask for either Max Rothschild or Mark Gebhart.

Noxious Weed Treatments

The Resource Center has received a number of questions regarding control and treatment for noxious weeds. The first step is to identify if you have noxious weeds on your property. For help with identification of noxious weeds, see the link "El Paso County Noxious Weeds and Control Methods 2014" on the El Paso County Forestry and Noxious Weeds [website](#). If you have identified noxious weeds on your property, contact the El Paso County Environmental Division at [\(719\)520-7871](tel:7195207871) for assistance.

ForestEdge Gardens Open July 18 and 19

The beautiful ForestEdge Gardens will be open to the public Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be a \$5 entry fee and all proceeds benefit The Friends of the Black Forest Preservation Plan. Location and additional information available on the ForestEdge

Facebook Page. 

Work Project Spotlights

Thank you to all our Volunteers!!



Our Lady of the Pines Youth Digs In

A big thanks to the youth group from Our Lady of the Pines for their fantastic work last month! On Tuesday, June 9 this hard-working group of about 40 kids grades 6-12 came together for a big clean-up effort at the Greenlee home. They spent the day raking and picking up sticks, accumulating the debris in piles and lawn bags. We are so thankful for your help and dedication! [Website](#)



Catholic Heart Workcamp

Last week (from June 29 - July 2), more than 4 crews of 8 energetic and motivated youth campers from the Catholic Heart Workcamp descended on the Black Forest to complete numerous work projects. Campers came from 11 different parishes across the US, most from Wisconsin and Minnesota.

By the end of the week they added 2 more teams of dedicated campers totaling almost 50 volunteers! For one Black Forest couple, the

campers worked to stem the erosion eating away at their property and clear the enormous amount of fuel from around the house. The campers cleared 300-400 trees from the property, making the property look healthy and well-mitigated.

For another homeowner, the kindness of the camp's bus driver meant a trip to the home improvement store for equipment rental and help with digging a trench. Black Forest Together and the homeowners who benefited from these projects would like to say THANK YOU for the impact you've made in the community!

Shown at right:
Bill Mantia and about 30
campers representing
Catholic Heart Workcamp
pictured during a rap-up
celebration after 4 days of
hard work here in Black
Forest.

This year, about 230 campers
from Catholic Heart
Workcamp completed projects
all over Colorado Springs in
service to the community.

The campers
are accompanied by their
youth ministers, college-student counselors and sometimes a parish priest. Catholic Heart Workcamp
does camps across the nation during spring break and summer including 50 different work projects
across the USA. [Website](#)



Energetic Crew Completes Cleanup for the Greenwood Family

Thanks to 2 dump
trailers and an
energetic crew,
these volunteers
finished a clean-up
job at the
Greenwood home
on Monday, July 6.
The dedicated
volunteers took 2
trailers on 6-7
round trips each to
the slash mulch
site when the
chipper was
unavailable. What
a great team effort!

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**Need help? Want information?
Contact the Black Forest Together Resource Center**
(719) 495-2445

11590 Black Forest Road, Suite 30, Black Forest, CO 80908
In the Forest Center, just west of Subway - [\[MAP\]](#)

**Hours: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Wednesday 3 pm - 6 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](#).

BlackForestTogether@gmail.com | www.BlackForestTogether.org

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.