

*History of  
BEEP  
Part 1  
  
Page 5*

*Membership Form  
Page 11  
  
Prizes for Membership  
Page 12*

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January 2024

# The Forest Ranch Post

⚡ FOREST RANCH ⚡

# CHILI COOK-OFF

1.20.2024 **BRING THE HEAT!** 1-3:00PM

Email or call Bethany at [bethee29@gmail.com](mailto:bethee29@gmail.com)  
724-316-3702 for entry!

Forest Ranch Community Center  
15807 Forest Ranch Road



ALL DONATION  
PROCEEDS GO  
TOWARDS THE  
FRCA

**Attention  
All  
Forest Ranch  
Residents**

As you can see the Chili Cook Off is going to be held in the afternoon! Hope to see you there...it has been one our most popular events.

This issue is focused on recruiting people to join FRCA. We need members to help keep the center going for all the organizations by paying our bills. We are offering some great incentives to encourage joining. (See back page)

Please fill out the form, if you haven't already done so and attend the February FRCA Meeting to see if you won!

THANK YOU!



The Forest Ranch Post  
 A monthly publication of the  
 Forest Ranch Community Association  
 Editor: Beth Wattenberg  
 E-mail: [forestranchpost@gmail.com](mailto:forestranchpost@gmail.com)  
 (530) 570-6319

#### **FRCA Officers**

President: Mishka Nobel  
 Vice-President: David Mitchell  
 Secretary: Nancy Bacon (Interim)  
 Treasurer: Heather Childs-Alexis

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 Nancy Bacon  
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 Candace Fish  
 Monique Weichelt  
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 FR Lions Club: Jill Collins  
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 Vol. Fire Dept.: Dona LaFranchi  
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 FR Post: Beth Wattenberg  
 Center Coordinator: Camme Vasquez  
 Center Maintenance: Jim Norman:  
 FR Cemetery: Sandy Santos  
 (530) 521-3196

#### **Forest Ranch Community Association**

530-255-4330  
 15807 Forest Ranch Road  
 Forest Ranch, Ca 95942  
 P.O. Box 381

Website:

<https://forestranchcommunity.com>  
 A link to the Post is available on the  
 Website each month

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

The Forest Ranch Community Association has approved the Post to be distributed to all the residents living in the 95942 zip code area in the hope that we can increase our membership.

The Post is an extension of the association: publicizing and reporting on events, highlighting people in the community, printing monthly columns (i.e. Gardening), publishing obituaries and births as well as occasional newsworthy stories.

Due to the high cost of printing, we had to cut back on the number of copies and offer an online version. (Some folks have noted that they prefer that form.)

We appreciate feedback about the content of the Post, "the good, bad and the ugly" ...it will help us improve the paper and make it more relevant.  
 (email: [forestranchpost@gmail.com](mailto:forestranchpost@gmail.com))

Beth (editor)

### **Christmas Tree Lighting 2023**



Everyone attended seemed to have an enjoyable time: Santa for the kids, small bonfire for warmth, food from the Taco Wagon, lighting of the tree and lots of good cheer!

*Thanks to Jodie Campbell*

## THIS WINTER GARDENING CHECKLIST

Winter gardening is an opportunity to keep your yard in order through the coldest months. Giving your trees and perennial beds a little attention this winter will help them be at their best when spring returns. Plus you can get a jump on weeds and pests, fortify your soil with compost, and start seeds indoors so you're ready for transplanting when the weather warms up again.

The cold season is also a good time to do some maintenance on your garden tools. Put the following winter gardening tasks on your to-do list so you'll be ready for your most successful growing season yet.



- \* Clean bird feeders and keep them full of high-fat food. Birds need a lot of calories to stay warm in the winter, so put out foods like sunflower seeds, peanuts, and suet cakes, all of which have a high-fat content that birds can quickly digest and convert into energy. Every two weeks or so, clean the feeders with a solution that's 9 parts water and 1 part bleach. Scrub away any debris, rinse and dry the feeder, and refill it.

- \* Watch out for weeds. Inspect your lawn, garden, and planting beds for weeds that pop up over the winter. Yes, some weeds keep growing despite the cold. Pull them out by hand or chop them out with a hoe while they're still small, destroying all the roots and underground parts. Put down mulch where you pull out weeds to keep them from returning.

- \* Mulch perennial beds. Put 2 to 3 inches of compost, shredded leaves, or bark mulch on the bed to protect your plants' crowns and roots from temperature fluctuations.

- \* Don't turn the compost pile during the winter. The compost will lose heat and break down even more slowly. Wait until spring to turn.

- \* Recycle holiday evergreens. Cut branches from your live Christmas tree into 2- to 3-foot sections and use them as mulch for the garden and perennial beds. You can do the same with wreaths and swags. These lightweight, open branches let moisture reach the soil while insulating the roots and crowns of plants from extreme cold.

- \* Prune trees. With the leaves off the trees, you can see dead, diseased, or damaged limbs more easily. Cut them off now while the tree is dormant, so you are not cutting away new growth.

- \* DON'T prune spring blooming trees such as dogwood, magnolia, or redbud in the winter, or you'll get no flowers. Prune them after they bloom.

- \* Protect deciduous fruit trees from diseases and pests. Smother the eggs of aphids, mites, and scale insects by spraying dormant oil on branches and trunks of apple, pear, peach, and other fruit

- \* Order up those seed catalogues

This article was gleaned from Leanne Potts, Dec 6,'23, "Better Homes and garden"

Happy Gardening, Scott and Lynelle Jackson

# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 FRWC	4	5	6
7 Mtn Joy	8	9 Yoga Crafts Lions	10 FRFSC Food Commodities	11 Yoga	12	13 Recycling
14 Mtn Joy	15	16 Yoga Crafts Book Club	17 FRCA Bd Meeting	18 Yoga	19	20 CHILI COOK OFF
21 Mtn Joy	22	23 Yoga Crafts Lions	24	25	26	27
28 Mtn Joy	29	30 Yoga Crafts	31			

**Yoga Classes** are presently being offered through Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am in person on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am & 9:30 am. If you are interested please contact Lisa Weber at [lisa.weber@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa.weber@yahoo.com) or 591-5917. Each class costs \$10.00. *(You only pay for classes you attend.)*

**Sewing & Crafting:** Tuesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm; contact Dona LaFranchi at: (530) 895-8847 or [ddlaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddlaf@sbcglobal.net)

**Food Commodities:** Usually the 2nd Wednesday of each month; Food can be picked up at Mtn Joy Fellowship Church: 15522 Nopel Ave; from 11:00 am to noon.

**Recycle Day** will be on Saturday, January 13th from 9-11:00 am. RAIN or SHINE  
We would like to thank the Community for bringing us their CRV Recyclables.

**FR Lions:** Meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**FR Fire Safe Council:** Meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

**FRCA:** All meetings begin at 6:30 on the third Wednesday of each month. General Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, October and December. Board Meetings are held in alternate months. Anyone can attend the meetings, however, only Board Members can vote at Board Meetings.

**Book Club:** Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. The book for January is The StoryTeller by Jodi Picoult.. Morea Martin, who is organizing this, has also created the Facebook site: Forest Ranch Book Club, where the book titles are posted.

## Valentine's Dinner on February 13th

Each year the Lions hold a dinner at the Community Center for Valentine's Day which is open to members of the community to attend. The dinner is usually catered and tickets are sold in advance. Last year we had a FULL house and a great time was had by all. The meal was prepared and served by Roots Catering and we hope to work with them again this year. Watch for more information to follow next month.

## History of the Forest Ranch Broom Education and Eradication Program (BEEP)

### Part 1

By Andy Mark

**Introduced to the United States in the 1800s, primarily from Europe,** the broom plant eventually established itself on the west coast and has become a noticeable feature of our local landscape. It was, and still is by some, highly prized as an ornamental plant and was also used for erosion control, especially along roadways. Here in the Forest Ranch area, we mainly have two species of the non-native plant: Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) and French broom (*Genista monspessulana*). However, Scotch broom (*Cystisus scoparius*) has been known to make an occasional appearance too. Although these plants are pleasant to look at, with their bright yellow flowers, they pose a clear danger to the community of Forest Ranch and outlying areas. They are an invasive plant that grows vigorously and often chokes out native species that feed and shelter native wildlife. And the plant has high levels of combustible oils, which can burn like a match head when ignited—not good for high-risk fire areas, such as Forest Ranch. It was a problem, and something had to be done about it. **Enter Broom Education and Eradication Program (BEEP).** The program started rather modestly on November 16, 2006, with a Forest Ranch Community Association program about broom. At the meeting, Dulcy Schroeder passionately encouraged people there to start removing the plant from the ridge before it would find its way into the Chico Creek watershed and establish itself around these parts permanently. On December 15, 2006, the founding members of BEEP established the program, along with a mission, goals and a name. **Early on, BEEP received outside support from several agencies,** including the Butte County Resource Conservation District, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, Friends of Bidwell Park, CA State Parks, Butte County Fire Safe Council, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and Sierra Pacific Industries. Cal Trans, Cal Fire, California Native Plant Society's Mt. Lassen Chapter and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) also hopped on the bandwagon. These entities offered help in the form of physical assistance, advice, tools and funds, including help with writing grants. **Today, BEEP and the Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council have joined forces, since much of their membership overlaps and they both focus on fire prevention. As the name implies, the first goal was to educate people,** which was difficult considering how many were enamored with the plant's beauty and that it could easily take care of itself. The *Forest Ranch Post* ran educational articles for BEEP and the Forest Ranch Charter school let BEEP do some broom programs for the students, who would, in turn, educate parents. The group created a glossy brochure that explained why broom populations had to be controlled and how to start doing it. BEEP representatives were seen at most community events, such as the Fireman's Barbeque, and even put on a couple of events on their own.



To be continued in the February edition of the Post.

*Note: If you want to get involved in BEEP, please attend the Fire Safe Council Meetings, held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 at the FR Community Center.*

FOREST RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION			
Board of Directors, Officers, Club Representatives			
ROSTER			
Fiscal Year 2023-2024			
Position	Name	Email	Phone Number
President	Mishka Nobel	<a href="mailto:mishkanobel@gmail.com">mishkanobel@gmail.com</a>	(530) 966-8773
Vice President	David Mitchell	<a href="mailto:davidaudimitchell@icloud.com">davidaudimitchell@icloud.com</a>	(916) 501-1079
Treasurer	Heather Childs-Alexis	<a href="mailto:meadow729@yahoo.com">meadow729@yahoo.com</a>	(530) 354-1647
Temporary Secretary	Nancy Bacon	<a href="mailto:nbacon74@gmail.com">nbacon74@gmail.com</a>	(530) 343-0281
Director	Marlene Fune	<a href="mailto:marlenefune@gmail.com">marlenefune@gmail.com</a>	(530) 894-6563
Director	Nancy Bacon	<a href="mailto:nbacon74@gmail.com">nbacon74@gmail.com</a>	(530) 343-0281
Director	Steven "Tank" Konstenius	<a href="mailto:skonstenius@yahoo.com">skonstenius@yahoo.com</a>	(530) 899-2841
Director	Candace Fish	<a href="mailto:candygramm22@gmail.com">candygramm22@gmail.com</a>	(530) 343-0277
Director	Corrine Hayes	<a href="mailto:corrinehayes@gmail.com">corrinehayes@gmail.com</a>	(530) 566-6636
Director	Monique Weichelt	<a href="mailto:moniqueweichelt@gmail.com">moniqueweichelt@gmail.com</a>	(530) 586-2136
Local Organization Representatives			
Women's Club	Heather Childs-Alexis	<a href="mailto:meadow729@yahoo.com">meadow729@yahoo.com</a>	(530) 354-1647
FR Charter School	Mishka Nobel	<a href="mailto:mishkanobel@gmail.com">mishkanobel@gmail.com</a>	(530) 966-8773
Lions	Jill Collins	<a href="mailto:myfashions2you@aol.com">myfashions2you@aol.com</a>	(530) 899-1275
FR Fire Safe Council	Dorr Lewright	<a href="mailto:Dorr.Lewright@gmail.com">Dorr.Lewright@gmail.com</a>	(530) 521-9887
Vol. Fire Dept	Donna LaFranchi	<a href="mailto:ddlaf@sbcglobal.net">ddlaf@sbcglobal.net</a>	(530) 895-8847
Mountain Joy Fellowship	Dan Christian	<a href="mailto:christiankd@comcast.net">christiankd@comcast.net</a>	(707) 260-5842
Center Coordinator	Camme Vasquez	<a href="mailto:mrsccammevasquez@gmail.com">mrsccammevasquez@gmail.com</a>	(707) 637-6630
Post Editor	Beth Wattenberg	<a href="mailto:forestranchpost@gmail.com">forestranchpost@gmail.com</a>	(530) 570-6319
CERT	Rick Pero	<a href="mailto:coachinfo@gmail.com">coachinfo@gmail.com</a>	

The Forest Ranch Community Association held its first election of officers in 1980. In 1981 there was a lively election as three members vied for the Presidency and two candidates for the Vice Presidency. At that time, there were only four Directors (now we have six) in which eight candidates competed for the positions.

In 1981, one of the main concerns of the association was the speed of traffic (*still a concern!*). According to the *Planet* (an eight-page newspaper for Forest Ranch), FRCA petitioned for a moratorium on the use of phenoxy herbicides in the foothills and watershed areas of Butte County.

Many residents of Forest Ranch have served as officers in FRCA since its inception. Holding an office is an excellent way to contribute to the community. The Association oversees the center and hosts many events that benefit all of us. Please come to the General Meetings (February, April, June, August, October & December). Everyone is welcome and who knows, you may want to become a board member!



### Thank You Forest Ranch!

The Forest Ranch Lions Club would like to thank everyone who selected a gift tag off the Christmas Tree inside the Post Office. Your generosity helped make Christmas a bit brighter for 25 Children in our Community. We collected 75 gifts (3 for each child) and distributed them to the different families and we also helped them with food gift cards for Holiday. We want to offer a special Thank you to the Forest Ranch Women's Club for donating \$250 that went towards the food gift cards.



We would also like to thank everyone who donated to the Red Kettle for the Salvation Army. Each year the Lions volunteer to ring the bell for them during the Holidays. The Salvation Army does a lot of good throughout the year and your donations really mean a lot to those needing help.

### Children's Christmas Party



On December 16th the Lions Club held their annual Children's Christmas Party at the Community Center. This event was open to all children 3-12. Each child was able to pick 3 gifts of their choice of close to 100 toys. There were lego sets, toy cars, games, stuffed animals, so many items they had a hard time making a decision. The children also got to make at least 3 different ornaments to take home and place on their own tree. They were treated to hot chocolate, cider and cookies. The main event though was Santa himself. He arrived by Fire Truck with the sirens a blazing driven by our own Volunteer Fire Fighter, Jim Norman. The Kids got to tell Santa the wishes for Christmas and were given a stocking full of toys and treats that even included a peppermint candy cane.



### **BINGO on New Year's Day!**

About 25 people attended the first Bingo event held at the community center. Prizes of \$50 gift cards were given to the winners of Bingo.

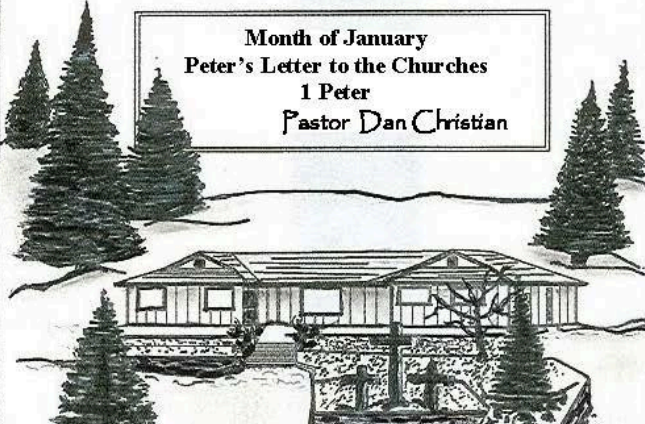
All the 'first timers' received a free dauber.

There was an "Opportunity Drawing" and lots of food.

The Forest Ranch Lions are planning on offering Bingo on a regular basis as a fundraiser.

**MOUNTAIN JOY  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Month of January  
Peter's Letter to the Churches  
1 Peter  
Pastor Dan Christian



A NON-DENOMINATIONAL  
BIBLE BASED FELLOWSHIP

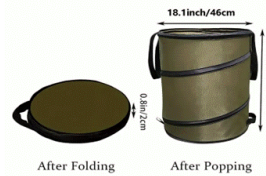
15522 NOPEL AVE, FOREST RANCH  
Church phone: 566-1099  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM  
**Jesus the same last New Year,  
this New Year, the next New Year**



**RECYCLE NEWS**

Recycle Day for this month will be on Saturday, Jan 16th from 9:00-11:00am in front of the Vets Store. We only received \$181 for December's recycle. We hope with all the Holidays, you'll have more to be recycled this month. Over the past few months, anyone who brought in their CRV Recycling received an entry into a drawing for a Collapsible Fabric Bin (see picture below). This bin is great for storing empty CRV plastic bottles or aluminum cans to be recycled. Once emptied, they can be flattened for easy storage. We are only doing this special drawing while supplies last. Anyone who brings in their CRV Recycling on Jan 16th will receive an entry into January's drawing for a FREE Collapsible container. Hope to see you there!

**Note:** Even though California is going to start charging CRV fees on wine bottles beginning Jan 1st, we will **NOT** be accepting wine bottles. Unless we can provide the Recycle Center a receipt verifying that the CRV was paid when purchased they will not take these items.



November's Winner:  
**Roger**  
December's Winner:  
**Lisa Speegle**  
Congratulations Roger & Lisa!



254 E. 8th Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
**(530) 680-8884**  
15511 Nobel Avenue  
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1.530.899.2841 (home)

DISCOUNTS FOR  
Member of Forest Ranch Community Association  
Charter School Staff/1st Responders/Military/Veterans  
Lions/Women's Club

One of the 'perks' for joining FRCA is that you will be able to get a discount on Flight Care. It is an amazing service, check it out.

To apply go to: [www.enloe.org](http://www.enloe.org)

**\$30 per year for family:**

2023-2024 FRCA Membership  
\$15.00/year for each adult 18 years or older  
Make Checks Payable to FRCA\*  
P.O. Box 381  
Forest Ranch, Ca 95942

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Residential Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Street Light \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Street Light Fund: Your donations (can be paid with your membership dues) helps to keep the street lights on at Hwy 32/Nopel and Forest Ranch Road/Hwy 32:

Reserve Fund: This fund helps to pay for unexpected costs or maintenance issues that are above and beyond the normal day to day operation costs.

Name to be printed in Forest Ranch Post: Yes No  
Sign up for FRCA Listserv Yes No

Interested in becoming a board member for the Community Association? Yes No

You can also pay by Paypal: [paypal.me/FRCA](https://paypal.me/FRCA), however, you will still need to fill out the registration form and send to: PO Box 381; Forest Ranch or email to [forestranchcomassoc@gmail.com](mailto:forestranchcomassoc@gmail.com)

Please feel free to make suggestions and or comments. *(You may have ideas about what events you would like to see.)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Detach the Receipt below for Tax Purposes

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The Forest Ranch Community Association is a Non-Profit Corporation #94-2779864 organized for charitable purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The specific purpose of this corporation is to protect and promote the general interests and welfare of the community of Forest Ranch.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your donation with a value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made to FRCA

Donation Description: Annual Membership Dues

# FRCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Drawing at FRCA Meeting

Wed., February 21, 2024



**CAMELBAK  
HYDRATION  
PACK  
3 L Reservoir!!!**



Wine Tasting for 4  
**LA ROCCA  
WINERY**



**Mushroom Kit**  
*From Earth Regen Earth*



**Black Bear Diner  
Gift Basket**

Any Forest Ranch resident who has joined FRCA by January 31st will be entered in the drawing to win one of these great prizes that have been donated by local businesses.

You can go the website: [forestranchcommunity.com](http://forestranchcommunity.com)

Or get a membership form off Post Office bulletin board.