

The BEAR FACTS

A publication of Mountain C.A.R.E. (<http://www.mtncare.net>)

Autumn 2025 Volume 19 Issue 3

Gillmore Real Estate - 1925-2025 A Century of History, Chester Gillmore & Son

by Shannon Wray

The summer of 1925 was a busy time for Chester Gillmore. The young mechanic owned a Hollywood service station and was also in the insurance business in North Hollywood—all of this in addition to opening the real estate office in Fallsvale that summer. And on July 6, 1925, his wife, Maybelle, gave birth to a son, Richard Charles Gillmore.



Chester Gillmore circa 1925

Lots were selling steadily, and Chester closed two important sales with new resort owners. The first was with James A. Roulette and his wife in the summer of 1926. Roulette had big plans to build a large store, a recreation hall and furnished tent houses to rent. His builder estimated that the new resort would cost a whopping \$5,000 to build and Roulette felt certain that he would open by October. The second important sale of lots was to Guy O. Swartz, a rancher from Valencia Heights who wanted to get into the resort business in 1927. Swartz spent the winter of 1927 building Big Falls Lodge and opened on May 29, 1928.

Chester Gillmore established a tradition of service to the community and commitment to the expansion of Fallsvale. He served on the board of the mutual water company and was a founding member of the Mill Creek Chamber of Commerce. In 1937, Chester hiked into the mountains with a delegation of men to seek a new route from Mill Creek Canyon to Big Bear. Their work

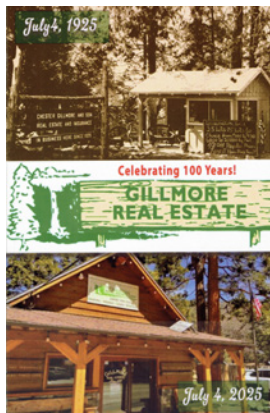
and consistent lobbying ultimately resulted in the construction of Highway 38 a decade later. Chester Gillmore had to weather many storms. The excitement about the Valley of the Falls Tract crashed in 1929 with the stock market, and the subsequent Great Depression made the sale of vacation homes very difficult. Chester and Maybelle sponsored social gatherings with sing-alongs and dances, organized potluck dinners, and tried to keep people's spirits up. Then in 1939, an exciting development brought new life to the business. George F. Humphrey of Redlands bought a large tract of land below Forest Home. He sub-divided 45 lots and built an office for his new Forest Home Park Tract. Chester Gillmore and Son realtors were the exclusive sales agent for the new tract.



The First Gillmore Real Estate Office

During World War II, men went off to war, and their wives and children left to live with family members rather than stay in the mountains alone. The community shrank dramatically. Dick Gillmore, Chester's son, also went to war, serving in the European theater as secretary to General Eisenhower. When Dick returned, he went into the business with Chester in 1945.

Over his 50-year career in the mountains, Chester Gillmore was the unofficial mayor, "visitor center," and guide as well as the premier real estate broker in the mountains. Beyond that, he set a tradition for community service and was always a booster for progress in the mountain communities. In 1985 Chester Gillmore passed away at the age of 94.



Mountain C.A.R.E. Board of Directors

Debi Welch
President

Terry Hamilton
*Vice President,
Advertising, Development*

Jamy Gray
Secretary

Rob Clizbe
Treasurer

Deby Anderson
Graffiti Busters, S.T.A.R.

Carol Burgess
Member at Large

Everett Gray
Member at Large

Bernadette Griffith
Member at Large

John Ruble
Canyon Clean-up

Bear Facts Staff

Pat Daniels
Editor

Paul Tetreault
Layout Artist

to submit
Letters to the Editor
write to:

bfeditor2025@gmail.com



continued on page 5

Editor's Message

by Pat Daniels

A Wonderful Experience For Me, and a Little Something New For You

I'm taking a moment to share a recent, truly wonderful experience and briefly introduce a new article featured in this Fall 2025 edition. My wonderful experience involves our fearless leader of the Graffiti Busters, Deby Anderson, who kindly offered to take me on a hike to explore the wonders of our local creek and its waterfalls. With safety as a priority, Deby made sure I was well-prepared with cautionary guidelines as we ventured along one of the many trails. The walk along our local creek was serene, the sound of water flowing our constant companion. At one point, we carefully crossed the creek, continuing our hike towards the waterfalls. When we finally reached the falls, I was absolutely in awe. The sight was really wonderful. Deby showed me a particular spot where she likes to sit and reflect. But as I stood there, I found myself discovering several other peaceful spots among the large rocks or stones around the area—each with its own charm. What struck me most was the sense of both vastness and closeness that this place offered, which is a rare combination that made it feel truly special. In comparison to other hikes I've been on ages ago, this one felt particularly connected to the land in a way I hadn't quite experienced before. This wonderful experience has become a hiking treasure for me—one that I will frequent from now on—thanks to Deby Anderson, our fearless leader of the Graffiti Busters.



In this Fall 2025 issue is a little something new and special for you. As you read, review, and note our terrific articles, ads, and calendar activities/events, I hope you enjoy reading our special cover story by historian and author, Shannon Wray—including a special piece by our very own Tom McIntosh. The cover story features 100 years of Gillmore Real Estate and the origin of our mountain communities. Also, please check out the 'Linguistics Corner' by Jean Delgado, and there's a little something by Dr. Rebecca Lyons, which I'm sure you will enjoy. Nick Shades and Leonard Peterson, et al, are among our new participants in this edition. With that in mind, I encourage you to get involved, share your stories, and participate by staying connected with our community. Above all, I thank all of you who continue to stay involved by submitting some wonderful material. Please reach out via the new email for submissions: bfeditor2025@gmail.com

I'm looking forward to hearing from you! Warmly, Pat

Remember:



both the current issue & old issues
are OnLine with Live Links at:

<http://www.mtncare.com/bear-facts>

Check out current community news at www.mtncare.net

Why Do I Bother...?

by Deby Anderson



Our next gen, pitching in and lending a hand

Why do I bother hiking our local trails? Could it be I like the exercise? Yes. Could it also be I like to be outside with Mother Nature? Yes. I have been hiking our local trails for almost 18 years. I sometimes go off trail, but I mostly hike with friends now on the trails.

There was a moment in time where I didn't want to bring family or friends to our canyon. I was embarrassed.

Embarrassed of what, you ask? Ok, so maybe that wasn't what you were thinking, but I'm going to answer it anyway.

I don't mean to be a broken record, but did you know we have a graffiti problem right here in our canyon? Did you know we have a local group called Graffiti Busters Tag Team that works at trying to distract the "taggers" by covering up what we can? The Forest Service provides us with a powder paint that we mix with creek water and is environmentally friendly. It does a fairly good job of covering the ugliness.

I can't remember the last hike I went on without seeing something painted on a rock, tree, sign, or garbage bin. I have even seen tags on the tables in the picnic area.

When you hike our local trails you may see an occasional tag or two, but if you looked closely, you would see years of trying to cover up the damage that is being done.

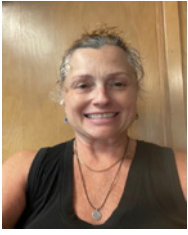
So why have I brought this up again? Because we need your help. The more people we have willing to paint a rock or two when out hiking, the more we can stay on top of the problem. I have "go bags" you can keep in your backpack. I provide a little paint, a brush, and a container for stirring. I'll even provide gloves if you don't want your hands to get dirty. There are plenty of stir sticks on the trails. It's that simple. Our motto is One Rock at a Time.

So back to why do I bother? I love our canyon. I love the beauty. I love the peacefulness. I love sharing our canyon with friends and family. I want to continue to enjoy our backyard. This is my way of doing my part. You can too.

Private message me from Facebook, text me at 951-306-8425, or email me at: avilabrat@gmail.com

Mountain C.A.R.E.

President's Message by Debi Welch



Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Gillmore Real Estate Celebrates its Centennial, July 4, 2025. This is a break from my normal column because I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who came and helped us celebrate this momentous milestone!

On Friday, July 4, 2025, Gillmore Real Estate embraced its 100 year anniversary. Having been a member of this exclusive team for almost a quarter of that time, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated this special milestone with us! And thank you to everyone who contributed, like Catherine Graham who put the slideshow together and Michele Pellissier for sharing Eddie's thousands of photos with us!

The weather was perfect, warm but not too hot, easy ups provided shade, the band was wonderful and eclectic playing tunes we all know and love. Our special guest Terry Palmer was in attendance and for once not singing for his supper but as an honored guest! El Mexicano catered the event with all our favorites! Misha's special lemonade added that extra magical touch since it's a recipe that came from long time resident, lost but not forgotten Art Bjornstad. Art was an entity unto himself and we still miss him to this day! This made it a poignant reminder of those no longer with us, but not forgotten: Art was here in spirit. Pun intended.

Gillmore staff was in attendance handing out SWAG specially designed just for this event, including a wonderful historical commemorative booklet written by town historian Shannon Wray. We still have some fun swag if you missed the celebration including, pens, air fresheners, local coasters made of native pine and cedar, lip balm and the 100 year comparative booklet. We are so happy Shannon captured our 100 years of involvement and support in our communities. In office we had a wonderful slide show for viewing of some of the things we have contributed to this wonderful one of a kind canyon. You can still pick up a booklet at Gillmore Real Estate, or see the slide show we had running on the 4th @ GillmoreRealEstate.com

Thank you to my team at Gillmore, and all of you who showed up to celebrate with us – looking forward to the next hundred years.

If you're new to town and want to know more about this special place we call home, stop by our Gillmore office for any local info you need, pickup a Mountain C.A.R.E. welcome package, or just to see a friendly face and sit a spell for good conversation! We are here for you!

Remember in an emergency, fire, flood, any natural disaster – your neighbors are your first recourse. As always folks, until next time, stay safe and keep your eyes on the webcams@mtncare.net and don't be a stranger! Debi

Use the link below or QR code to donate to Mountain CARE:
https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_6c65ed47a79a3445c9ad363ff3d89905



Angelus Oaks Fire Safe Council

by Crystal Ramirez

East Mountain Emergency Preparedness Festival Brings Together Neighbors for a Day of Fun & Readiness

The East Mountain Emergency Preparedness Festival was a great success this year, drawing attendees from Angelus Oaks, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, and even visitors from as far as Orange County. The festival, organized by the Angelus Oaks Fire Safe Council was filled with excitement, education, and community spirit as families came together to learn more about staying safe and being self-sufficient in emergencies.

One of the most talked-about moments was the lively watermelon eating contest, which featured 19 enthusiastic contestants and brought laughter and cheers from the crowd. The Seismic Simulator gave guests a hands-on experience of what a real earthquake feels like, and hourly raffles kept the energy high—culminating in the grand prize: a one-night stay at the Angelus Oaks Lodge.

A variety of vendors offered emergency preparedness essentials such as tactical keychains, solar-powered power banks, camping gear, fire-resistant landscaping plants, and even homegrown produce. Attendees were able to learn about self-sufficiency and practical preparedness tips. Emergency agencies including CERT, OES, CALFIRE, Search & Rescue, US Forest Service, and others were on hand to answer questions and provide critical information.

Planning is already underway for next years' festival; so, mark your calendar and remember to plan on attending **July 25, 2026**. If this year was any indication, it's sure to be another inspiring and impactful event. We hope to see you there!

Mill Creek Canyon Fire Safe Council

by Frank Sexton



The Mill Creek Canyon Fire Safe Council is looking for a representative from Mountain Home Village to join us on our Executive Board.

Please contact Frank Sexton, 909-553-5483 for details.

With assistance from the Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council and the Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance, our MCC Fire Safe Council

has been sponsoring free curbside chipping in Mill Creek Canyon. The next deadline to sign up is **SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**. Go to <https://www.freechipping.org/how-to-request-to-sign-up>.

Assistance with Hazardous Dead Tree Removal is also available at <https://www.firesafenow.org/tree-hazards>

In the future, we would like to provide green waste disposal and an **INSURANCE SEMINAR/WORKSHOP**.

Your neighbors at the Mill Creek Canyon Fire Safe Council are proud to help you with better mountain living!

Forest Falls Animal Rescue Team

by Debi Welch



It's that time of year folks! Wildfires are happening and it's our duty as pet owners to be aware and responsible and that's where Forest Falls Animal Rescue Team (FFART) comes in.

We are here to help in an emergency. When the road becomes blocked because of a fire, flood, or other natural disaster—Forest Falls Animal Rescue Team steps up and helps take care of your pets. Our rescue team will arrange to have animal control get your pets off the mountain, or just step in to feed and water them. We have helped everything from chickens, to pigs, to fish, cats, dogs, and rodents, etc. For so many of us our pets are our family!

In preparation for the next natural disaster we are working on stickers you can put in your window identifying how and what critters could be in the home. We hope to have these ready by the next Bear Facts edition. But also, it's important to have a hide-a-key or lockbox, or a way for you to enable us to safely get to your pets in your time of need!

If you want to talk to me in person letting me know what special needs you might have, or if you want us to keep a key for your home in a locked key box, please feel free to call or text me@ 909.260.0215. As Ben Franklin said: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". In this case, a little planning goes a long way and we are here to help.

Local Poetry

Poetry by local artist, Juan Delgado

Deep in the Creek

The creek disregarded my waving hand as I called
a hiker friend over to join me. We stumbled to reach
each other, more leaf-like, drifting, brushing along,
and stopping to balance ourselves over a cluster
of sun-blenched stones while the Coulter pines
swayed with intent, sure in their footing, eyeing
our awkward strides sidwinding under them.

Our scent was not the sweetness of White sage
after an August downpour. Half-embedded, the rocks,
carved into the loose sand and soil of walls dug out
by years of floodings, sunned themselves and gave us
a side ear to our steps, ignoring our words, often
repeated, spillovers that harden in our wake
like pine sap. We nodded: "The creek is deeper
than last summer." We climbed out of the ravine,
and our footprints surprised us as we studied them,
retracing them, a familiar pathway of options,
weaving downstream out of our sight, partly
a leave-taking of the creek's flow, a steady calling
even when we were more than a shout away.

**"Don't cling to a mistake just because
you spent a lot of time making it"**

~ anonymous

-Serving Our Mountain Communities-

Protect YOUR Home's Comfort...

**With Safety Upgrades, Services,
Home Generators & More!**

Contact Us for More Info!

BURGESSON'S
HEATING • A/C • ELECTRICAL
SOLAR • PLUMBING

Since 1949

Service ★ Installation ★ Repair
909-792-2222 ★ burgesons.com

CODE:ITBF
CA Lic 265871

MOUNTAIN C.A.R.E. NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Please renew your subscription!

This publication can not survive
on ad revenue alone,
we need resident support!

**Just \$15
per household
per year
shows you care**

you can send a check
in the mail to
PO Box 13
Forest Falls CA 92339

All Donations are Tax Deductible

Gillmore & Son *(continued from pg. 1)*

by Shannon Wray

Richard Gillmore was the perfect leader for the Gillmore business in the post-war boom of the 1950s. Energetic and blazingly intelligent, the younger Gillmore had ideas. While still working with his father, Dick opened a second office in Glen Martin, now Angelus Oaks. In 1958, Gillmore Insurance opened in a new office block in Yucaipa, expanding the lines of business. Families were returning in droves, lots were selling at a clip, and cabins sprouted up the length of the canyon.

"The son" in Gillmore & Son also carried on Chester's community work, serving on the board of the mutual water company and leading the Mill Creek Chamber of Commerce. He enthusiastically continued support for the new highway to Big Bear. The younger Gillmore also brought a lot of fun to the canyon in the 1950s and



Dick Gillmore at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

60s. On Saturday nights he put on plays at Big Falls Lodge and sometimes starred in them. In summer 1963, Gillmore and the Mill Creek Chamber of Commerce sponsored Chuck Wagon Days, a three-day celebration featuring stagecoaches, covered wagons, horse parades, square dancing, hay rides, a cookout, and the Miss Forest Falls contest.

Dick Gillmore also took action to make our communities safer. As chairman of the governing board of the fire district, Mr. Gillmore championed a new fire station mid-canyon that would serve both the upper and lower communities with better response times. Following the tragic loss of a 13-year-old boy who might have been saved if the community had had a trained and equipped rescue team, Gillmore and others campaigned for funds and training, and the Valley of the Falls Search and Rescue Team was formed.

In 1960, the U.S. Postal Service amalgamated the Forest Home and Fallsdale post offices to create Forest Falls. Mr. Gillmore was front and center at the dedication. Dick Gillmore was the patriarch of our mountain communities and when there was a need, he always responded. He fostered the growth of our communities and served our residents for 54 years until he passed away in 1999.

Origins of Then & Now

by Tom McIntosh

The Old & New Era of Gillmore Real Estate



1925 was a landmark year in the "Valley of the Falls" as the Elkhorn General Store would soon open its doors, Snow Canyon Mutual Water, now Fallsdale Service Company, was founded, the first phone line was installed, Tract 2007 (the heart of Forest Falls) was subdivided, and Gillmore Real Estate opened its Fallsdale office, which began what might now be the oldest continuously operating real estate firm west of the Mississippi. Founder Chester Gillmore was first licensed in 1923 in Los Angeles, California. The original business was called "Chester Gillmore and Son." The son, Richard C. Gillmore, took over the firm with Chester's retirement, changing the name to "Gillmore and Son" and eventually formed the RCG Corporation with the "Doing Business As" (DBA) "Gillmore Real Estate." I joined the office in 1980/81 as a licensed sales agent and, after several years, became manager and VP of RCG Corporation. After Richard's passing in 1999, my wife Patricia and I purchased the company from Evelyn Gillmore under the corporate name of Southern Sierras, Inc., while maintaining the proud historical DBA of "Gillmore Real Estate" to this day.



Misha & Tom at Gillmore

Gillmore Real Estate continues to be more than just a business. With its brick and mortar locations in Forest Falls and Angelus Oaks, we are Visitor Center, Chamber of Commerce, and Information Central for all things Mill Creek Canyon and Angelus Oaks and boast a long tradition of service to our communities. Most of our agents are current or former Canyon residents and, as we all know, living in one of the East Mountain Communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, or Mountain Home Village is more than just a mailing address... it's a way of life. While we provide real estate services all over the state, our emphasis and lifestyle expertise are in our local communities. We are the Mountain Property Specialists... for a century and counting.

Herbal Consultations Custom Formulation

Handmade, small batch
tinctures, teas, salves & more!



**Rebecca Lyons, PhD
Clinical Herbalist**

biobotanicalsbybecky.com
biobotanicalsbybecky@gmail.com

Valley of the Falls Community Church

Sunday Schedule:
Community Prayer at 10:00 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 am
followed by Fellowship Time

Dr. Paul Reed,
Lead Pastor
(909) 794-3189

40626 Valley of the Falls Drive, Forest Falls, CA 92339
Follow us on Facebook @forestoffthefallscommunitychurch

Glorious Goldenrod

by Rebecca Lyons, PH.D. Professor of Chemistry



All summer long, I have watched the stalks of goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) get taller. Now, they are heavy with flower buds. By press time, they will have erupted into vibrant golden tassels of flowers. Goldenrod flowers signal the onset of autumn, along with a few other golden Aster family flowers that come out late. To identify goldenrod, look for slender, narrow leaves that end in a point and dozens of tiny flowers clustered on the end of the central shoot. If you have a magnifying glass, get up close to a flower. Each tiny flower has a central button of disk flowers and a ring of ray flowers, like all Asters.

Goldenrod has a long history of medicinal uses. Ironically, it is excellent at moving mucus and thinning secretions. Many folks consider it an allergen, so this use seems counterintuitive. But goldenrod excels at breaking up the thick mucus of a sinus infection. It offers kidney support as well. Clinical studies show that goldenrod increases the glomerular filtration rate of the kidneys, that is, how fast the kidneys filter fluids. It is also a bit of a diuretic—so caution should be exercised if someone is taking a diuretic medication already. Finally, one of my favorite uses is as a wash for radiation burns. This can be radiation from the sun or radiation treatments for cancer. Goldenrod contains quercetin, an anti-inflammatory compound, and flavonoids which make it useful in this application. Prepare it as you would a strong tea and make a compress of soft flannel soaked in the decoction. If any sort of skin irritation occurs, discontinue use.

So, while many folks see goldenrod as a weed, it can also be seen as readily available medicine, not to mention a key part of our ecosystem. Pollinators love goldenrod, so watch for bee friends when harvesting. As always, only take what you will use, and leave plenty for the next person.

Please note: The information in this article is for educational purposes only and should not be taken as medical advice.

BIG FALLS RANCH & FARM

COMPOST HAPPENS HERE

909-747-8117

BigFallsTrading.com

Steve + Marcie

A Note from the Pastor, VOTFCC

by Pastor Paul Reed

As I drove up to Valley of the Falls Community Church (VOTFCC) on Thursday, August 1st, I saw the parking lot at Fallsvale School was full. I parked at the church to the sound of children laughing and playing, and I got a little nostalgic. Remember back in the day when school didn't start in the fall until after Labor Day? So much has changed—not just for children and youth, but for everyone! For us at VOTFCC the importance of two things remain constant: church and family!

This summer we celebrated both with our Family Fun Nights, which were held on four Wednesdays in the church parking lot. There were group games, arts and crafts, along with a tasty light meal. These nights were a lot of fun with the adults often joining in with the games. At the end of each evening I would tell a brief devotional story and the children were given a thank you gift for being a part of the night.



Angeles Oaks and Mountain Home Village!

Please consider joining us on Sundays for Community Prayer at 10:00 a.m. and/or for Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Each Sunday we enjoy prayer, worship, and a special fellowship time after the service. On the 1st Sunday of each month we gather after the morning service for a 1st Sunday Pot Luck Fellowship Lunch. I hope to see you at VOTFCC or out and about in the Mountain Communities!

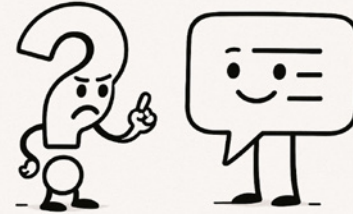
We continue to thank God for placing VOTFCC in Forest Falls and look forward to seeing how we can be a part of what is happening in our mountain communities of Forest Falls.



Linguistics Corner

by Jean Delgado

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT LINGUISTICS



Hello, neighbors! My name is Jean Delgado. I'm a retired professor with over 30 years of teaching experience, and my passion is language and linguistics. Editor Pat and I thought it might be fun to have a Linguistics Corner where you can submit questions of any kind related to language usage, grammar pet peeves, writing conventions, sociolinguistics, child language acquisition, bilingualism, dialects, foreign language learning, policies relating to language, etc. For example, it's great to see so many young kids around, and you might wonder why your child pronounces something funny, cannot say a particular sound, or says "eated" or "likeded." You might be annoyed when someone says "irregardless" or pronounces a word differently from you, like "nukyular" for "nuclear." Or maybe someone has criticized or teased you for saying something "funny" or "wrong." I can help! I can even give you strategies for responding to critics! Sure, there's Google and AI, but why not start a neighborly conversation? You can submit questions directly to me at any time: jeanbearfacts@gmail.com, and I'll keep all inquiries anonymous!

Specializing in Mountain Property Since 1925

Angelus Oaks

37690 Hwy 38

(909) 794-2969

Fax 794-2173

eMail: greff@verizon.net



Calif DRE #01294178

Forest Falls

40978 Valley Falls Dr.

(909) 794-2518

Fax 794-5436

eMail: greff@verizon.net



Sales • Rentals • Property Management
• Consulting • Multiple Listing Service



Forest Falls - Angelus Oaks - Mountain Home Village

www.GillmoreRealEstate.com • www.ForestFalls.com

Gail D. Cox Community Center

Big Falls Lodge

41303 Valley of the Falls Drive
P.O. Box 41
Forest Falls, CA 92339



Haunt on the Hil - Oct 18th Welcome to the Haunted Library!

Most every October, Big Falls Lodge in Forest Falls welcomes children, teens, and adults to a spooky Halloween evening of games, activities, and food. This year, our theme is the Haunted Library! Each booth and activity will be designed around a fun Halloween (possibly scary) story.

Saturday, October 18th – Entry is Free – Activities, food, and beverages require a various number of tickets (1 – 5 tickets)

Beginning Early for Little Ones (less scary)
at 4 pm – 5 pm
Spookier Time is 5 – 9 pm

There will be pumpkin painting, carnival type games, cake walk, food (pumpkin soup & Sandwiches - courtesy of Misha Boyarski & Debi Welch), baked goodies (deliciously provided by the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club) and a bar with beer, wine, and punch for those 21 and over.

We will have a few contests for prizes this year! A costume contest divided into age categories and NEW this year: a pumpkin carving contest! Pumpkins are to be carved at home and presented for judging the morning of the Haunt. There will be 3 prizes awarded based on age group. One entry per person will be judged.

VFCCI will be pre-selling tickets (look for details on Facebook after Oct. 1st)

At the event on October 18th, we will have a ticket booth for \$1 game & food tickets, bar wristbands & tickets [remember to bring your ID], as well as Haunt on the Hill T-shirts (designed by Paul Tetreault). This event is the Community Center's fundraising event for the year--an opportunity to help support and have family fun!

Do you have an idea for a game booth? Are you willing to volunteer to help with the event? We are looking for volunteers. Call a Board Member (see the list in the Bear Facts) or email us at director@vfcci.org.

Join us at our next Haunt Meetings: Sept. 2nd, 16th, 30th, and Oct. 7th held at Big Falls Lodge at 5:30 pm.

Start planning your Book Character Costumes and
mark the date on the family calendar!
Boo!



www.VFCCI.org

Board of Directors

vacant

President

Michelle Macri

Vice President

909-222-9067 direct

events@vfcci.org

Robyn Clark

Secretary

rocknrobn80@hotmail.com

Leonard Peterson

Treasurer

leonard.m.peterson@hotmail.com

vacant

Member at Large

Dee Konczal

Member at Large

dkonczal2@gmail.com

Andrea Riley

Member at Large

andreariley365@aol.com

Nick Shades

Member at Large

nickshades@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Did You Know????

by Leonard Peterson

- That Richard Inness, a 20-year Forest Falls resident, was a renowned blues drummer who played with many top performers like Bo Diddley and Chuck Berry et al. according to Barbara Inness.
- That you are slightly taller in the morning than at night.
- That the Polish army had a bear named Wojtek in WWII that carried ammunition for them, and he was a corporal in their army... according to *Reader's Digest*.
- That honey never expires if stored correctly.
- That *Nomophobia* is the fear of not having a mobile phone or not having mobile service.
- That Tom Hanks and Mister Rodgers are distant cousins... according to *People* magazine.
- That the first penny printed read: "Mind Your Business" instead of "in God We Trust" ... according to *Snopes.com*.
- The bumblebee bat is the world's smallest flying mammal – according to *Guinness World Records*.
- The Scottish have 421 words for snow, according to *BBC.com*.
- The CIA building has a Starbucks, but the baristas don't write anyone's names on the cups... according to Len Peterson.
- While bears hibernate, they do not urinate; their body turns waste into protein... according to *FactRetriever.com*.
- In 1987 Richard Jackson started Forest Home resort which became the Christian conference center in 1938... according to SBC records.
- That the 2022 Forest Falls/Oak Glen flood completely destroyed 6 homes and damaged one more.... according to the *LA Times*.
- There are 1,277 residents in Forest Falls: 728 males and 549 females... according to *Point2Homes.com*.
- There are 127 renters this year (2025) in Forest Falls... according to *Point2Homes.com*

Some Helpful Phone Numbers

Angelus Oaks Firehouse	909-794-3227	Non-Emergency, AO leave a message.
CA Highway Patrol	909-383-4247	for Road Conditions
Code Enforcement	909-387-4044	Illegal Dumping
Building & Safety	909-387-4244	Building Codes
So Cal Edison	800-655-4555	Customer Service
FF Firehouse	909-794-4413	Non-Emergency
Fish & Wildlife	909-484-0167	for Bear & Lion Issues
Forest Service USFS	909-382-2600	Forest service property

Additional general information can be found at:

www.AngelusOaks.info	www.forestfalls.com
www.ForestFalls.info	www.fs.usda.gov (USFS)
www.MountainHomeVillage.info	www.MtnCARE.net
www.Socalmountains.com	www.VFCCI.org



Supper on the Hill

Not too long ago, the community hosted Soup Night at the Big Falls Lodge - now the idea is brought back to life in a new form titled "Supper on the Hill". New approach, new name, but same community care and love for a nice supper with friends.

Our next "Supper on the Hill" will be Thursday Oct 2nd, 2025. We will provide some SOUPS and the participants are asked to bring either an entrée side dish or dessert to share and your own dinnerware. Please consider joining us!!

Thanksgiving Nov. 27 2025

Everyone is invited to attend...we provide turkey, stuffing, gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. Attendees bring a salad, vegetable OR dessert. We serve from 2-5pm.

Volunteers are always needed. We appreciate donations of turkeys and hams.

Please contact Dee Konczal at dkonczal2@gmail.com



August 30 2025

Forest Falls Firefighters

LABOR DAY DINNER

5-7 PM

STEAK AND CHICKEN DINNER

INCLUDED: BAKED POTATO, ELOTE CORN, SALAD, DRINKS, DESSERT

STATION 99 SWAG OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

BIG FALLS LODGE, FOREST FALLS CA
41303 VALLEY OF THE FALLS DRIVE

FOREST FALLS FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1955

8th Annual 23 Mile Yard Sale

Angelus Oaks-Forest Falls-Mtn Home Village

Labor Day Weekend

Friday, Aug 29th - Mon, Sept 1st
8am-3pm
give or take

Days and hours determined by each seller

23 Miles of Treasures - Over 35 Yard Sales

Follow the signs along Hwy 38

Please drive slow and be mindful of our neighbors

Follow us on FB 23 Mile Yard Sale



23 Mile Yard Sale

August 29th – September 1st (LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

If you're interested in being listed on the map or in volunteering,
Please contact Dee Konczal at Dkonczal2@gmail.com or via Facebook



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Mountain Communities Food Pantry

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS.

Just a friendly reminder from Renata, Dee, and Michelle~

We are here for anyone who needs a helping hand.

You can call any of us & we will be happy to meet you at the Pantry (Forest Falls Community Church)

Renata (408)-410-7510

Dee (909) 794-0885

Michelle (909) 794-3135

We look forward to serving you.

Warmly,

Your Pantry Pals THANK YOU!



Mill Creek Plumbing LLC

a VFCCi Founder

909-794-0206

Serving our Mountain Communities
Maintenance for Home, Business, & Rentals

Bill Forgues & Joaquin Baeza

Lic. #1075415



Griffith
Professional Services

Bernadette Griffith

909.295.4888

griffithprofessionalservices@gmail.com

Tax Preparation | Signing Agent | Notary Public | Document Services

ROMBERG TREE SERVICE



Brian Romberg
(909) 225-0668
(888) 659-8733
(909) 913-7777

• Arborist on Staff

A+ Rating, Better Business Bureau



NETCY GARCIA
INSURANCE AGENCY
LIC #6003705

**MEDICARE
ASSISTANCE**

\$0 COST FOR OUR SERVICES.

909-793-0400

staff.ngarcia2@farmersagency.com



NETCY GARCIA
INSURANCE AGENCY
LIC #6003705

- Life insurance
- Commercial insurance
- Retirement insurance
- House insurance
- Health insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Education insurance
- Natural Disaster

909-793-0400

staff.ngarcia2@farmersagency.com

It's easy to have **YOUR** business ad in the **Bear Facts**

See the bottom of the www.mtnicare.net home page or email Terry Hamilton: terrywhamilton@gmail.com

Check out current community news at www.mtnicare.net

Community Events & Activities Calendar

Angelus Oaks - Forest Falls - Mountain Home Village

Autumn 2025 Special Events

What	When	Where	Info
23 Mile Yard Sale	Aug 29th to Sept 1st	All of Angelus Oaks, Forest Falls, & Mtn Home Village	Huge yard sale that spans throughout Angelus Oaks, Forest Falls & Mountain Home Village + Big Falls Lodge. Days and hours are determined by each seller (approx. 8am to 3pm) and will be listed on the map.
Forest Falls Firefighter Labor Day Dinner	Aug 30th	Big Falls Lodge	Steak and chicken dinner with baked potato, elote corn, salad, drinks & dessert. 5-7 pm.
Family Game Night	Sept. 3rd 17th Oct. 1st & 15th	Big Falls Lodge	Join us for a fun evening of board games, cards, or dominos. Bring what you have or would like to play. 6:30-9:30 pm.
Dungeons & Dragons Game Night	Sept. 11th, 25th & Oct. 9th 23rd	Big Falls Lodge	6:30-9:30 pm.
Haunt on the Hill planning meeting	Sept. 2nd, 16th, 30th, & Oct. 7th	Big Falls Lodge	Interested in volunteering, planning, sponsoring?? Join us at 5:30 pm.
Life Stream Blood Drive	Sept 28th	Big Falls Lodge	From 12- 5 pm the Life Stream team will be in Forest Falls for Blood donations.
Supper Night Thanksgiving Dinner	Oct 2nd	Big Falls Lodge	5-7 pm, Community Potluck Dinner. Bring a side or dessert and your own dinnerware for good food & community spirit.
Haunt on the Hill	Sat, Oct 18th	Big Falls Lodge	4-5 pm: For our little ones to enjoy the event 5-9 pm: Open to all, food, games and spooky fun.
Community Thanksgiving Gathering	Nov 27th	Big Falls Lodge	Join us from 2-5 pm. Rolls, Potatoes, dressing, and drinks are provided. Please bring a side dish to share such as salad, vegetables, or a dessert.

Regularly Scheduled Events

What	When	Where	Info
Angelus Oaks Fire Department	2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Meeting Starts at 6:00 pm
Forest Falls Fire Department	Tuesdays at 6:30pm	Forest Falls Fire Station (99)	Contact 909-794-4413 for information
AO Fire Safe Council, Community Meeting	4th Thursday in Aug, Oct, & Dec	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Meeting Starts at 6:30 p.m. The upcoming meetings will be about Fire Safety, evacuations and homeowner concerns.
Angelus Oak's GCERT	3rd Thursday each month	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	meetings start .at 6:00 pm
Yoga with Angela Andiorio	Mondays at 4:30-5:30 pm	Fallsvale School	First class FREE, then \$11.00 per person per class
Music Night in Forest Falls	Mondays at 6:30-9:30 pm	Big Falls Lodge	All Musicians, all styles, all levels are welcome, anyone can come play or just come to listen.
The Needlers Knitting Group	Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am	7th Day Adventist Church, Forest Falls	All are welcome, Contact Denise Reid 794-5130.
Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club Meeting	3rd Monday of each month at 11:30 am	Big Falls Lodge	contact Robyn Clark at (909) 921-3762 or Jan Horton
Community Book Club	3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm	Big Falls Lodge	Contact Robyn Clark at (909) 921-3762

Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

by Jan Horton, Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club President



Invite the Night Watch:

How to Make Your Yard Owl-Friendly

If you've ever scrolled through Facebook and seen videos of rodents munching on garden plants under the cover of darkness, you're not alone. Many of us have felt the frustration of discovering ground squirrels, mice, or other critters damaging our hard-earned plantings overnight.

So, I began wondering: what if we could enlist some natural help? Specifically, our majestic mountain predators—the owls. Owls are nature's pest control, silently patrolling the skies after sunset. In our region, species like the California Spotted Owl thrive in higher elevation mountain areas, while Burrowing Owls make their homes in the flatter terrain of the Santa Ana River drainage. The magnificent Great Horned Owl is extremely adaptable and can be found at all elevations. Attracting these nighttime hunters to your property could be a powerful, eco-friendly way to manage rodent activity.

So how can you make your yard more inviting to owls? Dr. Google had plenty to say, here's list of the best tips:

1. Install Nest Boxes

Owl nest boxes offer a safe, secure place for owls to roost and raise their young. Since different species prefer different box sizes and placements, it's important to research which owls are native to your area before installing one.

2. Leave Snags

Dead trees or large limbs, known as *snags*, often contain natural cavities perfect for nesting. If it's safe to do so, leave snags on your property to provide shelter for owls.

3. Avoid Heavy Pruning

Large, sturdy branches make excellent perches for hunting and roosting. Resist the urge to over-prune mature trees—those limbs may be more valuable than they look.

4. Plant Native Evergreens

Dense evergreens such as pine, juniper, or spruce offer excellent daytime shelter. Native species are especially helpful, as they're better suited to your local climate and ecosystem.

5. Keep It Quiet

Owls thrive in calm, quiet environments. Minimize loud noises and disturbances—especially at night—to make your yard more appealing to them.

6. Reduce Light Pollution

Artificial light can disorient or deter owls. Turn off unnecessary outdoor lighting after dark to keep your yard owl-friendly and encourage natural behaviors.

7. Maintain a Bird Bath

Owls need a clean water source too. A large bird bath with good drainage can provide a reliable spot for drinking and bathing.

8. Encourage Natural Prey

Owls are drawn to areas rich in food. Native plants can attract small mammals like voles and mice, and leaving parts of your lawn un-mowed may provide additional habitat for prey animals.

Final Thought:

By making just a few thoughtful changes to your landscape, you can turn your garden into a haven for owls. In return, they'll patrol your property nightly—keeping the rodent population in check while you sleep peacefully under the stars.

Traditional Downtown Trick-or-Treat!



Children Trick-or-Treating downtown in front of Gillmore RE

With Halloween just around the corner we would like to invite you all to join us for our traditional downtown Trick-Or-Treat! We will be meeting on Halloween, Friday, 10/31/25 to give out candy for trick-or-treaters! Please bring a chair, a blanket, and a candy bowl with your candy to give out. We will begin set-up at 5:15 pm and ready for trick-or-treaters at 5:30 pm. If you are giving out candy from home and would like to be on the Trick-or-Treat Trail map, watch for a Facebook posting – we will be compiling locations for the map beginning around 10/1/25. Please plan to join us on this fun and wonderful event that kicks off the holiday season mountain style. Hot apple cider will be served at Gillmore Real Estate just like always and we look forward to seeing you!



El Mexicano

Authentic Mexican Food

40977 Valley of the Falls Dr
Forest Falls, California
(909) 794 - 3186

Food To-Go
Cold Beer & Wine
 Open Seven Days A Week
 Live Music / Entertainment Weekends



Finazzo's

PizzaBox

909-894-6785

text us your order

Open:

Fri, Sat & Sun

Do You Live in a Hallmark Movie?

by Nick Shades



I paused quietly in front of my laptop after being asked this novel question and thoughtfully pondered. I'd never heard *that* question until moving into the Canyon of Mill Creek, 18 months before. When folks would ask where I live, and I replied, "Forest Falls," their next question would always be, "Oh, Big Bear?" My response included a little bit of grumbling and usually ended with a concession of, "Sure," and I would move on to my next task. Valarie and I took the plunge and closed escrow just before the Christmas snow-dusting of 2023. Our initial outlook on our future was one of simply having a home to call our own, with a whimsical idea that maybe one day we would see a bear and perhaps even snow on the mountain tops.

The first 4 months of living here were an education on how to quickly put on and remove snow chains, which of our shovels was the best to remove snow, and how to load the fireplace for an all-night burn. After being evacuated by the Line Fire in September of 2024, our experiences at Chili Cook-Off, Mountain Jamboree, and Monday Music Nights had me longing to be back home among the pine and oak trees that surrounded us; I missed that feeling of being spooked by a bear walking up the street to the watering hole and hardly paying me any attention.

After the evacuation had been lifted, the first thing I did was put on my hat and walk down the road, waving to everyone who had also just returned. I had met some of my neighbors down the road for the first time, then. The smiles and hands waving back reminded me that the surreality of this Canyon exists because everyone here lives through the same shared events.

Our first winter here was a learning experience that also included making a second major financial decision to buy our first Subaru; however, the confidence we gained that first winter was part of what was life-changing. Traveling down the hill to work and seeing the snow-capped ridges on either side of us, the chilled valley down below, and the San Gabriel mountains beyond, our words would practically utter themselves: "I can't believe we live here." I rubbed my beard through my fingers at the question my client had asked me moments before: "Do you live in a Hallmark Movie?"

I suppose, in a way. That would be a good way to describe it. Waving at people we know every day. Waving at people we don't know. Stopping into the store just to say hello and then buying a bag of chips or a piece of candy. Going up to the Lodge to play musical instruments until the sun goes down. It does sound like a Hallmark movie, doesn't it?

Check out the town & road conditions on the
Mountain C.A.R.E. Web Cams



<http://mtncare.net>

Considering Books

by Katherine Thomerson-Bird

The Secret Lives of Sunflowers

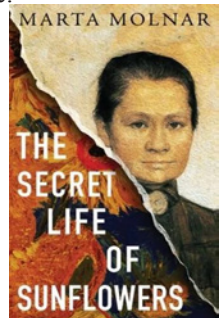
by Marta Molnar



Mountain Readers! Autumn is a beautiful time of year to reflect on the changing weather and fall foliage. And, it's the perfect time to curl up with a new book, *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar, which also focuses on change,

especially the changing of lives. The book focuses on Vincent Van Gogh and his paintings. Molnar researched this book thoroughly! She first became inspired after viewing an art documentary about a woman virtually lost to the art history world, Johanna Bonger Van Gogh, the wife of Theo Van Gogh, Vincent's brother. After much research, Molnar writes, "This book broke me."

This historical fiction novel is built on two separate plots and in different time frames. The first concerns life in the current century, featuring a young woman, Emsley, who co-owns an auction house. The second focuses on Johanna Van Gogh, sister-in-law of famed artist Vincent. The chapters alternate between the two time periods. Molnar's research is revealed through historical details sprinkled throughout the story.



Readers will admire Johanna Van Gogh. When Theo went 'mad' and died six months after his brother, it was Johanna who inherited all the paintings and was largely responsible for propelling the legendary painter to fame. (True story.)

Readers will also admire another character, Emsley's grandmother Violet, an independent, forward-thinking woman of the 20th century who forged her own path as an artist and feminist, a powerful woman. She befriended artists such as Andy Warhol and many others. When Emsley visits Violet, now elderly and in a care center, Violet says: "Emsley! If you want to murder that cheating boyfriend of yours, I am in! I thought about it, Emsley. I can't help you bury the body, but I can provide you with an alibi!" This is the last time Emsley talks face to face with Violet.

Violet dies and leaves the brownstone house for Emsley to sell; the money will pay her medical bills. Emsley is left with funeral arrangements and a blue box of mystery. Emsley assumes it contains Violet's diaries. However, she finds that it is full of letters between Violet and Johanna Van Gogh! Emsley also must deal with Strena, the artist that occupies Violet's art studio upstairs. Strena is an up-and-coming artist who paints nude female models. In the basement is a Victorian merry-go-round and a huge taxidermy bear with claws ready to pounce. Emsley employs someone to take apart the merry-go-round and bring it and the bear to the funeral. This is a marvelous scene in the novel. Violet wrote these words to be spoken at the service: "If anyone cries at my funeral, I shall never speak to them again."

One quote from Violet describes the main characters of this novel: "Sunflowers are adaptable. You plant them somewhere and they'll figure out how to grow. They'll come up in the rich loam of rivers as easily as in arid, poor dirt. The worse the soil, the bigger they flower. They're scrappy as hell!"

The ending is pleasant and comforting. For me, all the trouble in the world at large makes a happy ending in a desirable book.



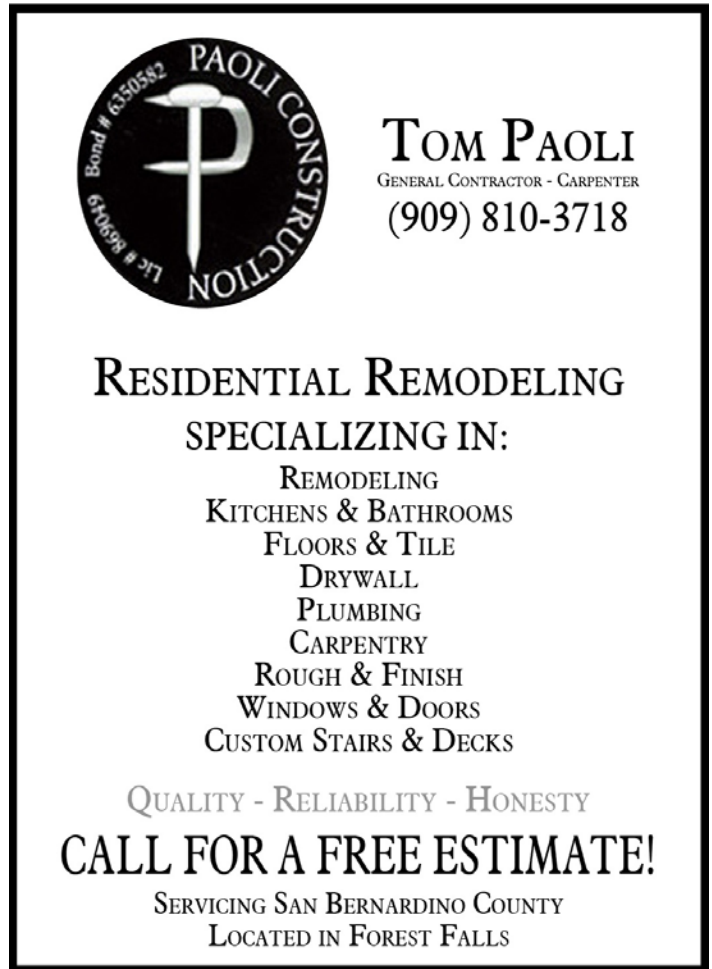
LLOYD COPELAN GARAGE DOORS
SINCE 1972

"When Quality Counts, Count On Us!"

Residential Garage Door Service & Sales
(909) 797-8046
31291 Outer Highway 10,
Redlands, Ca. 92373

www.LloydCopelanGarageDoors.com
Follow us on  facebook.com/lloydcopelan

* weather and roads permitting



TOM PAOLI
GENERAL CONTRACTOR - CARPENTER
(909) 810-3718

RESIDENTIAL REMODELING
SPECIALIZING IN:

- REMODELING
- KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
- FLOORS & TILE
- DRYWALL
- PLUMBING
- CARPENTRY
- ROUGH & FINISH
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- CUSTOM STAIRS & DECKS

QUALITY - RELIABILITY - HONESTY
CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
SERVICING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
LOCATED IN FOREST FALLS



Welcome Home!

BOOK NOW 909.503.5960

 **MATRIX ESTATE GROUP INC.**

Deborah Jacobs
Real Estate Agent
DRE 01905167

MatrixEstateGroup.com
DeborahJacobs.Realtor

Let's make your dreams come true!

The Bear Facts is a publication of Mountain C.A.R.E., a non-profit organization.

We appreciate the patronage of our advertisers and the services they offer to our readers.

However, the subscribers and the Board of Directors of Mountain C.A.R.E., are not endorsing these companies simply by including the ads in this publication. The advertisers pay for the privilege to post their ads and The Bear Facts is produced in part by those fees. We hope you will enjoy the services these companies offer.

It's easy to have *YOUR* business ad in *The Bear Facts*

Go to mtncare.net and click on ADVERTISE or contact bfeditor2023@gmail.com

The Bear Facts Ad Rates

Half Page	\$400 /year
Third Page	\$325 /year
Quarter Page	\$300 /year
Business Card	\$200 /year
Special Full Page Inserts	mtncare.net

Quarter Page size ad

\$300 / year

Business Card size ad

\$200 / year

Rettig Machine, Inc.

Franz A. Rettig

P.O. Box 7460 • REDLANDS, CA 92375
301 KANSAS ST. • REDLANDS, CA 92373
(909) 793-7811
FAX (909) 793-0662
franz@rettigmachine.com



CHERRY CREEK A tradition of trust
MORTGAGE COMPANY

De Anna Gillespie-Bangerter
Sr. Mortgage Advisor, Branch Manager
Licensed CL Instructor

Mountain Home Loan Specialist
Licensed in AZ, CA, CO, ID, NV, OR, TX, UT, & WA

NMLS#23114
Direct: (801) 502-0184
Office: (801) 858-0702
Cell: (714) 381-9565
Fax: (800) 961-6059

75 East 7200 South
Suite 132
Midvale, Utah 84047
deanna@ccmlending.com
www.deannabangerter.com



V. Mike

**Your Friendly Neighborhood
Computer Guy**

909.907.4708
tech@thetechrelay.com

The Bear Facts - Release Dates Next Submission DEADLINE: Nov 1st

The regular schedule for the Bear Facts submissions and issue "in mailbox" dates are as follows:

	Submission Deadline	MtnCARE.com post Date	In the Mail Issue Date
Issue 1 Spring	Feb 1st	Feb 20th	Mar 1st
Issue 2 Summer	May 1st	May 20th	Jun 1st
Issue 3 Autumn	Aug 1st	Aug 20th	Sep 1st
Issue 4 Winter	Nov 1st	Nov 20th	Dec 1st

Please make sure any ad artwork, articles, calendar updates, and photos are sent to bfeditor2025@gmail.com on or before the submission deadline (all submissions digital and layout ready please). For questions call the editor, send an email to bfeditor2025@gmail.com



Presorted Standard
US Postage
Paid
San Bernardino CA
Permit NO 28

Mountain C.A.R.E.
P.O. Box 13
Forest Falls, CA 92339

ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Forest Falls, CA 92339
ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305
ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Mountain Home Village, CA 92359

Volume 19 Issue 3 Autumn 2025

Mountain Citizens Acting to Restore the Earth

Mountain C.A.R.E. is a non-profit community based organization located in Forest Falls California. We are a group of volunteers that came together in early 1990 to arrange an Earth Day activity. Our articles state that "We are to educate the general public about environmental concerns and the need to restore and preserve the environment for future generations".

Our vision is to:

- Encourage the community to recycle, reduce, and re-use;
- enhance knowledge and love of the area;
- and show we care by keeping personal property and community areas clean and beautiful.

Your Subscription, Contribution, or Participation with Mountain C.A.R.E. helps to support the education and environmental work we do in the communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Mountain Home Village. It helps to create this Bear Facts newsletter which keeps our communities up to date on local events and important issues. We are a non-profit organization working with volunteers. All donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law and gratefully appreciated. Your donations keep this publication and all Mountain C.A.R.E. activities going strong. Thank you for all your support!

We have a commitment to each other and all our mountain communities. Please join us in that commitment by sending any donations to:

Mountain C.A.R.E.
P.O.Box 13, Forest Falls, CA 92339

(please make checks payable to Mountain C.A.R.E. or contact us through www.MtnCAR.E.net)

