



MARCH 2026 ELECTRONIC EDITION #5

THE SQUEAKY SQUIRREL

THE SAMPSON COMMUNITY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

ABOUT AND FOR OUR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY, PRODUCED BY KIM VANTREASE

SAMPSON COMMUNITY CLUB 16150 SAMPSON ROAD, LITTLETON, CO 80127 FACEBOOK.COM/SAMPSONCOMMUNITYCLUB OR WWW.SAMPSONCLUB.ORG



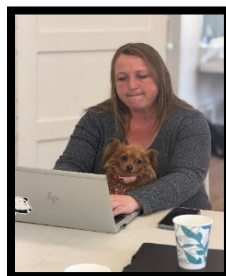
April 25TH 2026 at 5:00 PM Big Deal Poker Night Fundraiser!

Introducing our first annual Big Deal Poker Tournament Fundraiser! This will be a lively, community-driven poker tournament designed to raise funds while giving everyone a fun, competitive night out. Perfect for adults who love cards, friendly rivalry, and supporting a great cause. We have arranged for a poker tournament specialist to manage this event so, bring your friends, family, or neighbors! Novices welcome, too. For more info, you can always reach us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com where we would be happy to answer your questions or you can look for info and updates online at sampsonclub.org and facebook.com/sampsonclub. Arrive around 5 PM to get registered, settled in, and grab some snacks. Cards fly at 6:00 PM sharp! Sorry, no kiddos this time. We will have light snacks and soft drinks on hand. Feel free to bring your own drinks or snacks if you prefer your own.

Be sure to sign up early so you get a seat! Click this link below to sign up:

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A quick snap of Amanda Dougherty *secretarying* for the Big Deal Poker Tournament Fundraiser meeting. Her lovely assistant is Maddie, Treasurer Jackie's furbaby.





On March 7th, Bingo Night was an absolute blast! We had lots of laughs, big winners, full snack bar, and the kind of feel-good fellowship that only happens when friends and neighbors fill the room. And let's talk about our superstar of the night — little Fern snagged **three wins!** Go, Fern! That story is definitely going down in Sampson Club history. Huge thanks to everyone who came out and made the night sparkle. Can't wait to do it again on Friday, August 21st at 6:30 PM. Keep your eyes on the Sampson Community Club website for announcements www.sampsonclub.org.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

We would like to put a page together on our website where local business owners are displayed for the community interest. You can advertise your business and contact info there for \$50.00 per year. If you're interested, please contact Kim at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com or text her at 303-570-9028.

QUICK CONTACT REFERENCE - SAMPSON COMMUNITY CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President, Kim Vantrease, valleyhawk7@msn.com 303-681-2104 or text 303-570-9028

Vice President, Bryn Shepeck, shepeckbryn16@gmail.com 720-499-6347

Treasurer, Jackie Johnson, jazzyjj@live.com 720-933-8601

Secretary, Amanda Dougherty, imactingup21@hotmail.com 303-903-1918

www.sampsonclub.org -- [facebook.com/sampsoncommunityclub](https://www.facebook.com/sampsoncommunityclub) - sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This new year inspires us with new ideas, projects and upgrades to the Sampson Community Club Schoolhouse. We have lots of fun events planned again this year for the community to enjoy, and projects on the books for continued maintenance and other upgrades. Recently, we raised the Annual Membership Dues to \$30.00 to help in those endeavors.

We are planning a paint day at the Schoolhouse April 18th at 9 a.m., where we will be repainting the interior of the building and, if time allows, re-staining the bridge on the north side of the building. If you are seeking volunteer opportunities for this day, just let us know at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com. We will also update information regarding this day in case of inclement weather at sampsonclub.org and our facebook page at [Facebook.com/SampsonCommunityClub](https://www.facebook.com/SampsonCommunityClub).

If you aren't already a member of the Sampson Community Club, we invite you to become one today! As always, there is no obligation to commit to being a volunteer just because you are a member. We know life gets busy and hectic, so don't feel trapped; but if you can't offer your time, we always appreciate monetary support via annual Memberships or any other donations.

The Sampson Community Club was founded February 15th, 1955 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the bonds of friendship within our canyon community. Our mission includes fostering the betterment of our mountain area, preserving our local history, and maintaining the historic Sampson and Lamb School properties for future generations. This Club, or community center, serves as a hub for the community where friendships are born and valuable information is shared. Each quarter, we produce a community newsletter called the *Squeaky Squirrel*. In years past, we sent a hard copy to residents, but the price of postage has now led us to providing it to you through email and on our Sampsonclub.org website. If you would like it emailed directly to you, just let us know at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com.

The Sampson Community Club just celebrated its 70th Birthday last summer. We hope you consider being a part of this wonderful community! If you are already a Sampson Community Club Member, thank you for your support! If you would like to continue to support the Sampson Community Club, you can mail in your Annual Membership Dues to 16150 Sampson Road, Littleton, CO 80127 or, if you prefer, we now take payment via Zelle. Just email us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com and let us know!

For those who are not already a Member, and would like to be, drop us an email at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com and we will send you the Membership Form! Thank you for your interest!

And, finally, if you have any questions, suggestions, or any feedback, you are always welcome to contact us. We are here for you!

Best regards!

Kim Vantrease

President, Sampson Community Club

2026 SAMPSON COMMUNITY CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 18 @ 9 AM - SAMPSON CLUB PAINTING INTERIOR & NORTH LOT BRIDGE

If you would like to volunteer for this day, come on down and join in the fun. Reach us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail and let us know you'd like to join in! If you decide to make a last-minute decision to come that morning, that's great, too! Did we mention we will have donuts? We will be painting the interior of the building!!! Finally! So excited!!! Also, for those that want to do something outdoors, we are hoping to re-stain the bridge on the north of the building.



Of course it'll be fun, donuts are involved!



April 25 @ 5 PM – BIG DEAL POKER NIGHT FUNDRAISER! Cards fly @ 6 PM! More info at sampsonclub.org. Sign up early as seating is limited. Here is the link below.

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MAY 2nd @ 9 AM to 11 AM - MOUNTAIN MAMA BREAKFAST

We are dedicating this morning to “MOM”! Treat the amazing moms in our community to a full, delicious breakfast made just for them. Bring Mom on down and let her enjoy a morning where she's the queen — no cooking, no cleanup, just good food and appreciation. A hearty breakfast. A happy mom. A beautiful start to the day. Come hungry!



JUNE 20TH @ 2 PM ICE CREAM SOCIAL

What's better than ice cream? Sharing it with your family, friends, and neighbors while Don Coenen fills the air with live music and good vibes! Grab the whole crew — yes, even Uncle Hank — and head on down for our Annual Ice Cream Social! This long-loved tradition just isn't the same without home-made ice cream and all the fixins, and we want your best creations on the table. Show off your ice-cream-making magic and wow your neighbors. Bring your home-made (or store-bought — we don't judge!) ice cream to the Sampson Community Club, and we'll take care of the rest. Toppings, treats, and all the goodies you need to build the ultimate ice cream masterpiece will be waiting. Come for the ice cream, stay for the music, laughter, and community fun. It's the sweetest day of the summer! 🍦



JUNE 12TH @ 8ISH - MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS ON THE GIANT SCREEN Movie to be determined—Check website and Facebook page for updates. If inclement weather, we will show the movie on the giant screen indoors. Bring a comfy chair (or use one of the club's chairs) something warm to wear, and your favorite movie munchies!



July 17th – MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS ON THE GIANT SCREEN Movie to be determined—Check website and Facebook page for updates. If inclement weather, we will show the movie on the giant screen indoors. Bring a comfy chair (or use one of the club's chairs) something warm to wear, and your favorite movie munchies!



AUGUST 14TH - MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS ON THE GIANT SCREEN Movie to be determined—Check website and Facebook page for updates. If inclement weather, we will show the movie on the giant screen indoors. Bring a comfy chair (or use one of the club's chairs) something warm to wear, and your favorite movie munchies!



AUGUST 21ST @ 6:30 PM BINGO! FUNDRAISER FUN! C'mon Down! Full snack bar, 8 games of Bingo, and fun with your friends and neighbors!



SEPTEMBER 12 @ NOON - ANNUAL PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER

The festivities kick off at noon, and the fun starts the moment you arrive! Bring your favorite side dish to share and enjoy a big, delicious community feast with friends, neighbors, and all the familiar faces that make this event such a highlight every year. Come on down, meet new people, reconnect with old friends, and jump into an afternoon full of laughter, games, and good company. We always have a great time hanging out, playing games, and welcoming new folks into the mix — it's one of those events that just feels good to be part of.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any Board Member or email sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com. This favorite fundraiser is just \$18.00 per family or \$9.00 per person, and extra donations are always appreciated. Every contribution helps support the Sampson Community Club building and future events. And because we love to keep things exciting, we'll have extra games and prizes this year! Woot! Oink...



OCTOBER 10TH @ 5 PM - CHILI COOK-OFF

Bring a big ol' pot of your best homemade chili and let the crowd taste what you've got! We'll all dig in, laugh, compare flavors, and crown the champions of this year's Chili Cookoff. Not a chili-maker? No worries at all — come on down anyway, grab a warm bowl, and help pick the winners. The more taste-testers, the better the fun. Donations are always welcome, but don't you fret... we're not shaking anyone upside-down for spare change. Just bring your appetite, your neighbors, and your good vibes. This one's gonna be a spicy good time!



NOVEMBER 7TH @ 3 PM - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Sampson Community Club is serving up the turkey, and we're inviting everyone to bring a favorite side dish to share. It's the perfect chance to test out those new holiday recipes on your friends and neighbors while enjoying a cozy afternoon together. This year, the offices of President and Secretary are up for election or re-election. If you've got ideas for future events, activities, or improvements for Sampson Community Club, bring them along! Your presence matters and we'd love to hear your thoughts as we brainstorm, dream big, and celebrate what makes this community special. Come join the fun, the food, and the fellowship. Your participation helps keep the Sampson Community Club thriving, and we can't wait to see you there!



Remember, Scheduled and NEW Events will be updated on the website at www.sampsonclub.org or [Facebook.com/SampsonCommunityClub](https://www.facebook.com/SampsonCommunityClub) if there are any changes or postponements. So, check often for updates & new events that may be added or cancelled!



THIS IS OUR FIFTH ELECTRONIC SQUEAKY SQUIRREL NEWSLETTER...

We appreciate your support and hope you like this new version! The Squeaky Squirrel will always be available online for your perusal at www.sampsonclub.org. Remember, if you, or someone you know, would like the Squeaky Squirrel emailed directly, please contact us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com and let us know. If you want a paper copy because you have limited access to the internet, please text or call Kim at 303-570-9028 and advise her of your desire to receive the Squirrel via postal delivery. Feel free to let us know if you do not receive your emailed copy; we want to make sure everyone gets a copy each quarter! Thank you!

OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS

Our special neighbors will be waking soon, if they haven't already. They are hungry and looking for food. Remember to remain bear-wise and keep food sources secured and out of your cars. We love the bears and don't want to get them in trouble or euthanized.





AN OLD FRIEND HAS PASSED ON...

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

James Stuart Carpenter, a former neighbor and highly regarded member of the community, passed on January 20th, 2026. Earlier in his life, he had earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Engineering as well as Master's Degrees in both Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. As an engineer, Stuart worked at Hughes designing state-of-the-art satellite systems. In 1985, he changed jobs and moved to the mountains above Littleton, Colorado where he worked for Lockheed Martin. He chose rural life, buying a cabin, remodeling and growing a garden. There Stuart took up bicycling and running, competing in many 10ks, marathons, and the "Escape From Alcatraz" triathlon. In 2017 Stuart retired and surprised everyone by purchasing a small farm in Rothville, Missouri where his paternal grandfather was raised! He thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Carpenter side of the family. Stuart was in his element! Joyful in his retirement. He savored working the land, driving his tractor, building gardens, remodeling and socializing with newfound friends. He leaves behind his beloved kitties: Cat Rocket Mouser and Skeeter-the Bomb 2.0. He is survived by his siblings Andrew, Jeannette, Richard and his wife Michi, their daughters Sakura, Kana and Chikara, and Carrie with her daughters Ellanora and Emmawynn. Throughout his life, Stuart was cheerful, enthusiastic and full of wit! He will be missed.

WITH GENUINE GRATITUDE

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who contribute their time, energy, and resources to the Sampson Community Club. Your efforts strengthen our community and ensure its continued growth and vitality. Throughout the year, so many of you step up to help with maintenance and countless other tasks, and we are deeply grateful. Special thanks to Wesley and other Sampson Road residents for keeping our parking lot clear of snow—it makes a huge difference with all the events we host. Noemi and Ken Bartlett, your behind-the-scenes efforts, from weed-eating to shoveling, and hosting set-up never go unnoticed. Don Coenen for your entertaining music during the Annual Ice Cream Socials! Your music always makes the day more special! We are grateful to Kari and Trevor Vernon for your many years of stewardship and service to the Club and its residents, and to Bryn Shepeck for your steady guidance and leadership as Vice President. Amanda Dougherty, thank you for being our Secretary and for being such a fun Bingo-caller! To everyone who has given their time, enthusiasm, donations, firewood, muscle, music, shoveling, hosting, planning, and more, thank you. Working together not only helps our community thrive, but it brings joy and fulfillment to all involved. We are forever appreciative to our event hosts, coordinators, volunteers, attendees, and Board members for weaving this community together. Your support and encouragement keep the Sampson spirit alive. Because of you, our community is stronger, brighter, and better. Thank you!

NEW RESIDENTS

Lots of people don't realize that the Sampson Community Club is for everyone. It's a community center and isn't exclusive to Sampson Road residents like many have thought. It's for you and serves as a main hub where folks can gather for fun events, make new friends, learn about the area, volunteer, exchange important information, carpool opportunities; just too many perks to list! Remember, this community hub is here for you! And don't forget, you can rent the building for your own personal use. Lots of people have been renting the building this past year realizing just how handy it is! Another bonus is, you can borrow tables and chairs to use at your home for events. Sampson Community Club Members will pay \$30.00 per day to rent the schoolhouse, and nonmembers will pay \$50.00 per day. We also offer special weekly rates, as well. If you would like to rent the Sampson School House Building, contact any of the Board members as they would be happy to get you on the schedule. The Club is tax exempt as a 501(c)(4) organization. According to the IRS, all donations to the Club are not tax deductible by the donor. As always, all are welcome to attend the Club functions! We look forward to meeting you! C'mon and join the fun!



FIREWISE REMINDER: OUR DRY WINTER MEANS EXTRA VIGILANCE

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

After an unusually dry winter, our canyon is heading into spring with grasses and brush that can ignite and spread fire quickly. Now's the time to get Firewise: clear out dead leaves and needles, trim low branches, remove flammables within at least 10 feet of your home, and keep access routes open for emergency crews. It's also a good idea to keep important documents, medications, and other essentials in an easy-to-grab spot in case an evacuation is ever needed. A little preparation goes a long way—and it never hurts to be ready.

Also, I've included an email, below, that we received from Katrina Stevens, one of our Community Ambassadors.

“Hi everyone,

I'm excited to share a new opportunity to help property owners address the impacts of Mountain Pine Beetle in our community. In response to the current outbreak, Jefferson County is providing a Mountain Pine Beetle Landowner Assistance Program to help protect our forest, reduce wildfire risk, and support landowners in managing active infestations. Up to 50% reimbursement for eligible mitigation with a maximum annual amount of \$7,500 per owner is available to landowners who participate in this program.

If you believe you may have infested trees on your property or would like more information about eligibility, requirements and next steps, more information is available this link: <https://www.jeffco.us/5153/MPB-Landowner-Assistance>

I've also attached the Guidelines and Instructions document.

Please note: this assistance program applies only to green pine trees that are currently infested with mountain pine beetles. Dead trees are not eligible for this program.

The application deadline is April 23, 2026. However, funds are limited, and the application window may close earlier if all funds are committed before that date. If you are interested, please apply as soon as possible.

Thank you Mitch, for alerting me to this.

--Katrina

Katrina Stevens

Maxwell Area Community Ambassador

Conifer Fire & Elk Creek Fire District

maxwellareacap@gmail.com”



FUTURE IDEAS...

Anyone interested in painting classes at the Sampson Club? Water Color, oil, acrylic? Anyone interested in teaching as well? Or, do you have another talent you would like to teach? If so, write to us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com!

The Sampson Community Club is here for you; it's your hub! If you have any information you'd like to share, a story, or any suggestions and feedback, we would love to hear from you! sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com.



COMING SOON...STILL...FOR REAL!

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

Coming Spring of 2026, the Sampson Community Club will have on site, our own Puzzle Exchange! It works just like the Free Tiny Library, except it's with **PUZZLES ! ! !** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com.



FREE TINY LIBRARY

Is there for you! It's located by the ramp at the Sampson Community Club. Come anytime and trade out, or just take home books waiting for your spring and summer reading!



We have a full lineup of fun events planned for this spring, summer, and fall! And while people may wonder why we do what we do, the answer is simple: community centers are the heartbeat of a neighborhood. They're where we can learn important information about the area, and where people gather, connect, and become a part of something meaningful. Our events bring folks of all ages together to share food, laughter, stories, and traditions — building and strengthening friendships that make this place feel like home. At the Sampson Community Club, we create opportunities for neighbors to meet new friends, support one another, and build lasting memories, all while keeping our historic spaces active, welcoming, and full of life. From fundraisers and potlucks to game nights and celebrations, every event helps weave a stronger, more connected community.



Well, that's all for now! Thank you for reading and for being a part of this great community!