



SEPTEMBER 2026 ELECTRONIC EDITION #7

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

IT'S PIG ROASTIN TIME!

The Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser will be at the Sampson Community Club on **Saturday, September 12** at noon. This is another date that's absolutely a day worth circling on your calendar. Bryn Shepeck and her family will be slow-roasting a mouthwatering pig until it's fall-apart perfect, and everyone's invited to bring a favorite side dish to help round out this long-awaited feast. Get ready for an afternoon filled with laughter, easygoing conversation, door prizes, games, and that unmistakable Deer Creek Canyon spirit that makes these get-togethers so special. Every donation helps keep our beloved schoolhouse thriving. Come hungry, leave happy, and enjoy a fun, feel-good community celebration that's simply too good to miss. *More important info in Calendar of Events on Page 2.*



2026 SAMPSON COMMUNITY CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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 \$25 per family or \$10 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 are interested in serving in an office, just speak up any time. If you've got ideas for future events, activities, or improvements for Sampson Community Club, bring them to the meeting or drop us an email! 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 if there are any changes or postponements. So, check often for updates & new events that may be added or cancelled!

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, doughertyschool@gmail.com 303-903-1918

www.sampsonclub.org -- facebook.com/sampsoncommunityclub - sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com



THIS IS OUR 7TH 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!

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 building, and nonmembers will pay \$50.00 per day. We also offer special weekly rates, as well. If you would like to rent the Sampson Community Club 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!



FUTURE IDEAS...

Anyone interested in painting classes at the Sampson Club? Water Color, oil, acrylic? Anyone interested in teaching as well? Or, if you have another talent that you would like to teach, feel free to reach out to us and we'll get you started! Email: sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com!

3 FUN AUTUMN AND HOLIDAY PUNCH RECIPES

It's never too early to start thinking about the holidays!

Cranberry Citrus Sparkling Thanksgiving Punch (Crowd Favorite)

It's ruby-red, refreshing, and pairs perfectly with turkey and all the sides.

Ingredients (serves ~10–12):

- 4 cups cranberry juice
- 2 cups fresh orange juice
- 1 cup apple cider (optional but very Thanksgiving)
- 1 cup sparkling water or ginger ale (for fizz)
- ¼ cup lime juice
- ¼ cup sugar (optional depending on sweetness)
- Fresh mint leaves
- Orange slices, lime slices, cranberries for garnish

Instructions:

1. Stir cranberry juice, orange juice, apple cider, lime juice, and sugar until dissolved.
2. Lightly muddle mint leaves to release flavor.
3. Add sparkling water or ginger ale right before serving.
4. Serve over ice and garnish with citrus slices + cranberries.

To spike it: Add vodka, rum, or prosecco for a bubbly adult version.

Cozy Spiced Apple Cider Punch (Hot) Serves: ~10–12 Total volume: ~1 gallon

Ingredients:

- 1 gallon apple cider (128 oz)
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 4 whole star anise
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced
- ¼ cup maple syrup (adjust sweeter or less sweet)
- Optional: 1–2 cups dark rum for a spiked version

Instructions:

1. Add cider, cinnamon sticks, star anise, cloves, orange slices, and maple syrup to a large pot.
2. Simmer on low for 30–40 minutes — long enough for the spices to bloom without boiling off flavor.
3. Taste and adjust sweetness.
4. If adding rum, stir it in after removing from heat.
5. Serve warm with a cinnamon stick in each cup.

Cold Spiced Apple Cider Punch (Chilled Version) Serves: ~10–12 Total volume: ~1 gallon

Ingredients:

- 1 gallon cold apple cider
- 1 orange, thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 1 cup cranberry juice (adds color + tart balance)
- ¼ cup maple syrup (optional, depending on sweetness)
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 4 whole star anise
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 cup sparkling water or ginger ale (added right before serving for fizz)
- Optional: 1–2 cups dark rum or spiced rum

 Instructions:

1. Add apple cider, cranberry juice, maple syrup, cinnamon sticks, star anise, cloves, and citrus slices to a large pitcher or drink dispenser.
2. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours (overnight is even better). This cold-infuses the spices without heating.
3. Right before serving, add sparkling water or ginger ale for a bubbly finish.
4. Serve over ice with extra citrus slices and a cinnamon stick.

A LITTLE DEER CREEK CANYON HISTORY

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

The story of Minister Sampson's gold discovery is one of those remarkable moments where a single find reshaped an entire landscape. In the mid-19th century, an African-American minister named Sampson (or Samson) uncovered rich veins of gold and silver in Deer Creek Canyon, transforming a quiet stretch of wilderness into a lively frontier community.

In 1874, while exploring the rugged terrain of southwestern Jefferson County, Minister Sampson made his discovery on the southeast face of a peak that now carries his name, Sampson Mountain. Rising above 8,000 feet, the mountain remains a defining feature of the canyon and a lasting tribute to the man whose find set everything in motion. His discovery also explains the origin of the Sampson School name, tying local education to local history.

The Rise of Phillipsburg—Word of the minister's discovery spread quickly, drawing miners, prospectors, and homesteaders into Deer Creek Canyon. Among them was Wiley Phillips, a homesteader who seized the opportunity by establishing a new mining town, Phillipsburg. At its height, Phillipsburg grew to more than 500 residents, complete with homes, a general store, and eventually the lively Lone Pine Dance Hall. For a time, the canyon buzzed with the energy and optimism typical of Colorado's mining boom era.

From Boomtown to Ghost Town—As with many mining settlements, Phillipsburg's prosperity was tied to the depth of its ore. The gold and silver deposits on Sampson Mountain proved relatively shallow, and once they were exhausted, miners moved on to larger strikes elsewhere in the state. By the 1930s, little remained of the once-busy town. One resident, Ben Cook, the general store owner, stayed behind and lived out his life in Phillipsburg. When he passed away in 1974, the town officially slipped into ghost-town status. Today, however, a friendly local named Tom keeps Phillipsburg's spirit alive, residing in what remains of the historic town.

The site of Minister Sampson's discovery is now preserved within the 1,700+ acre PLANJeffco Deer Creek Canyon Park. While the mines have long since vanished, hikers exploring the park's eastern trails can still look up toward Sampson Mountain and see the rugged slopes that once ignited a gold rush.

An Earlier Era—Long before miners arrived, Deer Creek Canyon served as a frequent camping area for Ute and Arapaho tribes. Over time, the canyon also saw visits from notable historical figures, including Jesse James, Chief Colorow, and Alfred Packer, adding layers of legend to an already storied landscape.

{Information gathered from PLANJeffco, PeakVisor, official government records, geographic databases, and regional historical preservation groups.}



WITH GENUINE SINCERITY

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. Damon and Devin Robertson, (Bryn's sons), thank you for your tremendous efforts replacing the long-needed stove pipe! It's beautiful!!! Noemi and Ken Bartlett, your behind-the-scenes efforts, from weed-eating to shoveling, and hosting set-ups never go unnoticed. Don Coenen for your entertaining music during the Annual Ice Cream Socials! Your music always makes the day more special! Virginia Temmer and Robert Manzaneras, thank you for repairing and sealing the bridge; Ted Nowak, thanks for your hand in the effort as well! The bridge looks great! Bryn Shepeck, thank you for always making us laugh and 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! And, to everyone who has given their time, smiles, words of encouragement, enthusiasm, donations, firewood, muscle, music, shoveling, hosting, planning, clean-up 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! ❤️

Robert Manzaneras at the other side of the improved bridge!



The Sampson Community Club is your go-to gathering place — your community hub!

Got news to share? A story? Ideas for future events? Suggestions? We're all ears. Send anything our way at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com because we genuinely love hearing from you.

And don't forget to stay connected. We update our website and Facebook page often with new events, announcements, and community happenings.

Facebook: [FACEBOOK.COM/SAMPSONCOMMUNITYCLUB](https://www.facebook.com/sampsoncommunityclub) Website: WWW.SAMPSONCLUB.ORG

BINGO

Contributed by Kim Vantrease

Bingo night was a hoot! The room was packed with neighbors ready to test their luck and dive into some laugh-out-loud fun together. Cards were filling, the numbers were flying, and the door prizes added an extra spark of excitement.

A big thank-you to **Amanda** for calling the numbers with just the right mix of fun and mischief. She kept us all on our toes and added that perfect touch of Bingo magic we love.

If you missed it, don't worry... we're doing it again. And trust us, your future self will be glad when you show up next time. Come join the fun — you might even walk away with bragging rights, a door prize, or at least a cookie.

Keep an eye on the Facebook Page and the SampsonClub.org website **for the next Bingo Night announcement**. Thanks to everyone who came, it truly was a lot of fun.



Contributed by Kim Vantrease

The free puzzle exchange is onsite and ready for you to enjoy! It works just like the Free Tiny Library, except it's with **PUZZLES!!!** Feel free to donate your used/verified-no-missing-piece puzzles and grab one for yourself! When you're done with that, just bring it back for another...and so on! Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have at sampsoncommunityclub@gmail.com. Enjoy! Puzzle donations always welcomed!



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 fall and winter reading!



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

