

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

"You can overlook Tucson, but you can't overlook Mt Lemmon"

Message From The Pres.

By Debbie Fagan

It's late at night, Sept. 23rd, and I'm in Tucson munching on Halloween candy (already on sale at Walgreen's), hoping it will inspire an "October Message" but it's not happening. Remembering the rain and cold from last weekend helps. . We had a little over 3 inches and the temperature dipped into the 40's overnight. I went walking early and spent the time trying to remember where my hat, coat, scarves, and gloves were, all the while amazed at how many wildflowers are still in bloom. I remember one particular October, around Halloween, when the pumpkins on the mountain started disappearing without a trace. Ever since my sons were small, we carved pumpkins and put them outside at night without any problems but even ours disappeared without any sign of vandalism. Cabins and Cookies had decorated their property with about ten to twenty pumpkins and theirs turned up missing also. Shortly after the culprits were caught red handed or should I say orange handed! Three javelin's had relocated in the village after taking a wrong turn somehow at the bottom of the mountain. They stayed for over a year until they mysteriously disappeared, never to be seen again.

This October there are a couple of events scheduled where I hope to see all your smiling faces. Ski Valley has Oktoberfest festivities planned for the first two weekends. On Oct. 17th, The Maple Festival will take place on the Alpine Lodge property from 1:00 to 6:00. Also, that morning, we have a cleanup of the creek area planned, starting in the village and ending at the school. We need all the help we can get. Just bring a pair of gloves and meet at Bob and Fran's at 9:00 am for donuts and coffee. The cleanup will start at 9:30 am

In closing, I'm sad to say this will be the last Echoes until next year. Also two of our board members submitted their resignations and will be greatly missed: Chip Delay and David Ostapuk. Happy Holidays!



Fire District Updates

By the Barnella's

Interagency Relations... This is a very important topic for not only the Fire District, but to the **whole** Community of Mt. Lemmon. The coordination of members from organizations such as the Mt. Lemmon Fire District, the Arizona State Land Department, the USDA Forest Service, Pima County, the Trees for Mt. Lemmon, the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association, the Loma Sabino Pines Homeowner's Association, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club, Willow Canyon Homeowner's Association, and the Mt. Lemmon Water District continue programs like the FireWise Committee, and the hazard fuels abatement/treatment projects for Mt. Lemmon.

We would like to thank these members again for all of their assistance and **volunteer** hours committed to rebuilding a safer community for Mt. Lemmon. Recent accomplishments include: the adoption of the Urban/Wildland Interface Code 2003, the completion of the Wildland/Urban Interface Plan (which was the final criteria to become a recognized FireWise Community), and the continued financial support from Grants and donations toward the hazard fuel abatement programs.

We would also like to send special thanks to our Fire Board Members for their continued support and dedication of our relationship with these agencies; Chip DeLay, Chairman; Dani Hayhurst, Clerk of the Board; and Carol Mack, Member.

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District and The Mt. Lemmon Water District "Working Together to Serve our Community"

For many years now, Mt. Lemmon Fire and Mt. Lemmon Water have been working together utilizing equipment, personnel, and technical expertise. Most of the residents of Mt. Lemmon are not aware of the benefits of this relationship.

Communications between both entities is a necessity, during emergency and non-emergency situations such as fire suppression, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, water leaks, public assistance, flooding, snow removal, and right-of-way clean up. Mt. Lemmon Fire and Mt. Lemmon Water utilize repeaters strategically placed on Mt. Lemmon for a shared radio communication system. This capability as-

sists in providing the most efficient internal and external customer service without duplicated efforts. This saves all parties involved additional expense and adds interface between agencies saving response time.

Cross Training between Mt. Lemmon Fire and Mt. Lemmon Water has proven to be invaluable to the residents of Mt. Lemmon. Firefighters are trained in the location and operations of water mains, and available water sources. All members keep current with water availability for fire suppression and contractor usage. This prevents water loss from the domestic system, which is reserved for our residents. In return, Mt. Lemmon Water personnel are trained in fire suppression activities, medical support, hazardous materials, and fire apparatus operations.

Community Support and Assistance is provided by both agencies to the residents of Mt. Lemmon. Both Mt. Lemmon Fire and Mt. Lemmon Water are working together to assist with the infrastructure and rebuilding of our community. This includes: increasing the number of fire hydrants, improving water storage and delivery systems, cutting and/or removing debris and hazard fuels.

Mt. Lemmon Fire and Mt. Lemmon Water are working together to provide the best service possible to our residents on Mt. Lemmon, 24-hours, 365 days each year. So if you have ever wondered why you see a fire truck at water leaks, or water personnel on a medical call at your home, it is because of our continued dedication and support to our community. To those who would like to join the Tuesday morning "Fire Support" class at the Fire Station, please contact DeAnna Barnella or Harry Findysz at 576-1201. We have 13 dedicated members who train each week in medical, fire, and rescue from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. If you have any questions regarding water supply to the community, you may also contact the Mt. Lemmon Water District at 576-1538.

Mt Lemmon Helipad

By Chip DeLay
Mt. Lemmon Fire District Chairman

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District congratulates Larry Raley, the Santa Catalina District Ranger, and his staff for their decision to convert the old sawmill site (adjacent to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station) into a Helipad. Mt. Lemmon Fire and Rescue teams have already used the site 5 times since July 4, 2004 to fly injured people off the mountain. The first flight actually occurred as Governor Napolitano was speaking in Summerhaven! This sawmill site is far superior to the previous tactic of shutting down the Catalina Highway at Loma Linda Picnic Area for extended periods of time on busy weekends.

The plan is to eventually bring water to the site from a spring below the sawmill (Sawmill Spring) so that a dip tank can be permanently mounted for firefighting helicopters to dip in should we have another fire on the mountain, and to improve the surface so that rotor wash does not impede ground crews with dust and debris. Thanks, Larry.

Mt Lemmon Woman's Cub

By Linda Mulay, President 327-4615

Mt Lemmon Woman's Club had a rainy meeting September 18th at the mountain home of Linda Benziger. It rained the entire meeting, so the trees and seeds we planted should do well. Lindy Brigham was our speaker and educated us on the wild flowers of Mt Lemmon. She is a great recourse for our mountain, with lots of information and books. She gave us all seeds to plant and taught us how to plant them.

October 2nd we will be going to Bisbee for the GFWC-AZ Southern District meeting. We hope to plan a luncheon at Tohona Chul and visit the fire exhibits the end of October.

It is so encouraging to see more homes being built on the mountain. If you have not been up lately you should make the trip as our community is beginning to come together again.

Our next meeting will be in Tucson on Monday November 1st, 6:30pm at the N.W. home of Lisa Jackson (887-6553). We are planning to have Chuck Autrey speak to us on investing.

Mark you calendar for Saturday December 4th for our annual Christmas brunch to be held at Ginny Durham's Tucson home. Birthdays are good for you; the more you have the longer you live!

Fire Severity Ratings

By Chip DeLay

Mt. Lemmon Fire District has been providing property owners with "severity ratings", which are a required attachment to your plans when submitted to Pima County Development Services. If your "severity rating" is older than 60 days, you will need to have it updated on a new form before you submit your plans. Call Harry Findysz or Dean Barnella at MLFD (576-1201) for this simple procedure, but **no sooner than 30 days before you submit your plans.**

The Pima County Board of Supervisors this morning (09/21/04) unanimously passed Resolution # 2004-269, relating to the endorsement of the Mt. Lemmon Wildland-Urban Interface Plan to fulfill Section 405 of the International Urban-Wildlife Interface Code and meet the Healthy Forests Restoration Act requirements.

This was the last endorsement MLFD needed to send the plan off to Firewise Communities, USA for formal recognition. We have previously acquired endorsements for the Plan from MLFD, Trees for Mt. Lemmon, Coronado National Forest, and Arizona State Land Dept.

Copies of the Plan will be available at MLFD on CD. Be aware this is a large piece of work, about the size of a ream of paper in hard copy.

Many thanks to Steve Plevel for creating this document for the Community. He was formally recognized for his efforts today by Supervisor Ray Carroll at the BOS meeting.

Many thanks to Bill Jones for pushing the International Urban-Wildland Interface Code through the County last fall, and introducing the Steve Plevel Plan to the BOS today.

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley

By Jay Davies

Oktoberfest keeps right on swinging. Ski Valley has been doing this for 30 years and we definitely know how to have a good time. The Norm Seiss Band is here again from Michigan and the Tucson Ethnic Dancers, dressed in dirndls and lederhosen, have a great time getting everybody on the deck to do the Chicken Dance. The German food, including brats, German potato salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut, and brotchen is served on the deck, so bring a blanket and enjoy the food and music sitting out on the slopes. Strudel is, of course, available with the German special at the Iron Door.

Check out the great selection of German steins in the Motherlode and the great German chocolate fudge. Oktoberfest will continue through October 10th. Food is ready at 11:00 and the music and dancing start at noon and go 'til 5:00 P.M. There is a \$4.00 parking charge, but the entertainment is free and remember there is no Road Fee when coming to Ski Valley.

After Oktoberfest, the colors should still be spectacular. Fall in it's full glory really shows itself from the chairlift. See you soon.

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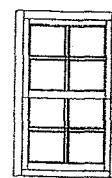
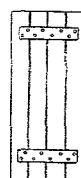
Construction Equipment "borrowing"

By Chip Delay

I have been increasingly aware that people are "borrowing" very expensive construction equipment on Mt. Lemmon when the owners are not around. This is Grand Theft, folks, and if the equipment is being used on your property you have received the benefit of unjust enrichment. In addition, there is a huge liability if the operator hurts someone or damages property.

I have contacted the owners of equipment that I know have experienced this, which include Pima County, Hunter Construction Co., The Cozzetti Co., Mike Dowers Backhoe Service, and Mt. Lemmon Fire District. Everyone without exception is prepared to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law both anyone who is found to be operating and/or benefiting from "borrowed" equipment. Pima County Sheriff's Office is also in the loop on this issue.

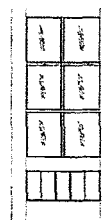
Make sure you know who you hire, and where they got their materials and supplies. This is becoming a big problem and an increasing liability, and we are going to make an example out of someone. Don't let it be you.



REBUILDING DISCOUNTS FOR MT. LEMMON PROJECTS

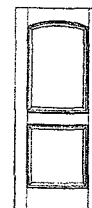
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THE MAPLE TREE FESTIVAL

Please join us for an afternoon of fun for all ages! Trees for Mt. Lemmon and the new owners of the Alpine Lodge Site are hosting

THE MAPLE TREE FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1 - 6 PM
at the ALPINE LODGE SITE

Admission-Donation of \$3 per person to enjoy the entertainment without a meal or admission is included in the price of the meal.

FOOD - BBQ Beef & BBQ Chicken Meals \$10
 Hot Dogs & Chips \$4, Beer & Wine \$3.00 -
 Soft Drinks \$1.00

MUSIC - Tim O'Connor and the boys will perform from 1:00 - 3:30 followed by the Desert Cadillac's from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

LOCAL ARTISANS include Watercolors by Karen Shunk, Beaded Jewelry by Delight Edgell and Custom Embroidery by Shelley Lawson
 other Festivities include Face Painting, Snow cones, Balloons, etc.

I love Mt. Lemmon T-shirts and License Plates will be on sale. Wildflower Seeds will be available at the event for Mt Lemmon property owners.

All proceeds will go to the
TREES FOR MT. LEMMON

Trees for Mt Lemmon

By John Jones

Ponderosa Pine Project

Over 2000 native ponderosa pine trees have been planted in 2004. Our thanks to the Federal Highway Administration and the US Forest Service for making this possible. Trees from last year's pine cone harvest will be delivered in mid-October.

Trees for Mt Lemmon has contracted with Northern Arizona University personnel to direct the pine cone collection effort this fall. After the cones are harvested, the seeds will be extracted and prepared for planting. The trees will be ready for planting after the rains start in July 2005. Lindy Brigham will be managing this project. Please watch our website www.treesformtlemon.org for more information on how you can help.

Aspen Tree planting.

Trees for Mt Lemmon and the US Forest Service will once again assist in an aspen tree root and shoot harvest. The trees that were planted last year have done very well in their new locations. Aspen trees are a colonizer that naturally expand into sunny areas after forest fires.

Please meet at 9 AM on Saturday, November 13 across from the public restrooms in Summerhaven. Steve Hensel will provide information on where to dig up aspen tree roots and how to plant them. In preparation for the event, please locate and dig an 18" deep hole for each tree on your property in a sunny spot. Bring a sharp shovel and plastic bags for the collection of root balls. Volunteers are also needed for those property owners who are not able to participate in the harvest. Please sign up on the volunteer page of the www.treesformtlemon.org website.

WHO'S ON THE MOUNTAIN?

By Barbara Welsh

Many of the seeds we planted last year have given us some lovely wildflowers to enjoy. The birds also seem to enjoy the extra flowers and grass seeds to add to their diet. I usually put out water when we are there and that seems to attract birds to drink and also to bathe. The juncos especially seem to enjoy splashing in the birdbath. The juncos are the little birds that stay close to the ground and have gray, brown and a reddish color on their feathers and a lighter colored beak. The Mexican junco has a yellow eye while the American one has a dark eye. Both kinds are on the mountain. There have been more chickadees at our cabin than I've seen before. Usually we have lots of nuthatches and only an occasional chickadee but this year there are many of both. The chickadee looks much like a nuthatch but if you will look closely the chickadee has a black bib under his chin. He cannot go down the trees upside down like the nuthatches. You may see him clinging sideways but only the nuthatches can go down a tree head first.

The chipmunks have found their way back to our new woodpile and are all over the deck and yard, along with the lovely tassel-eared squirrel. There are three squirrels that are always chasing each other up and down the trees and through the branches chattering all the time.

Before this year I had not heard ravens although I knew they were up here. Along with the Stellar Jays they make quite a racket. The jays are beautiful and seem to call to the others as soon as I put out peanuts or seed. The jays always seem so proud and regal as they go through the trees.

Autumn has arrived and wasn't the cool weather a welcome change, but, sadly it's almost time to close down the cabin for the winter. Hope we get up this year for Thanksgiving.

Fire District Update

By Chip DeLay
Mt. Lemmon Fire District Chairman

On August 26, 2004 Linda Currin (Loma Sabino HOA), Tom Warfield (Arizona State Land Fire Management) and I were touring unburned areas on Mount Lemmon for the purpose of determining priorities for fuels treatment projects. We noticed that in many previously all green areas some trees were fading, browning out, and dying. This appeared to be occurring primarily in white pines.

Tom and I contacted Bob Celaya, Arizona State Land's Forest Health Specialist in Flagstaff, and arranged for a site visit to some of the affected areas on September 8, 2004. Unfortunately, 100% of the trees we inspected had bugs in them. The following is Bob Celaya's report.

Tree mortality observed recently (9/8/04) in the area is a direct/indirect result of the affects of the "Aspen Fire".

1) *The principal tree species dying in the area is Southwestern white pine. This pine is not a fire-adapted species mainly due to the thin bark in young trees. Many of these pines were either scorched at the base by a ground fire, or were heavily burned on the main trunk by a more intense burn. In addition, many of these damaged white pines are also infested with Ips bark beetles. These bark beetles are highly attracted to weakened & damaged trees. Symptoms include noticeable red sawdust present somewhere on the damaged trunk along with small reddish pitch masses. Some of the white pines also had very large reddish pitch masses at the base caused by Turpentine beetles. Some of these bark beetles may have been present on these trees prior to the fire due to the overgrown conditions of the forest. They normally do not cause mortality but are indicators of an unhealthy tree.*

2) *The second most common tree species dying in the area is small diameter ponderosa pine. Even though this is a fire-adapted species, these smaller trees have not developed the thick bark that protects them from ground fires. These small ponderosa pines, along with the younger white pines, would have been removed by the frequent, low-intensity fires that used to occur on the mountain about every 2-10 years about 100 years ago. These fires helped to maintain larger, healthier, open-grown & fire-resistant pines. Bark beetles identified on the white pines were also found on ponderosa pine.*

Even though many of the damaged/infested trees in the area are still green, they will probably be dead in the next few months. It is not unusual to see this kind of post-fire mortality 1-3 years after a major forest fire.

3) It is highly recommended that you examine all your pine trees for evidence of bark beetles, and consider removing & disposing of the infested trees ASAP. Use of the Air Curtain Destructor is an excellent way to dispose of the material. This will help to reduce the local beetle populations, & hopefully keep them out of your remaining trees.

4) *This information is a simplified explanation of what is occurring on the mountain. There are many other variables involved that are not understood or discussed due to their length & complexity. We're experiencing unnatural conditions on the mountain due to the fact that we have been suppressing forest fires for the last 100 years. Climatic change may also be involved. If you would like to pursue this subject matter further, the following websites should satisfy your curiosity: "Insects & Diseases Associated with Forest Fires" at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06309.html> & "Forestry Images" at <http://www.forestryimages.org>.*

5) *If you still have questions or concerns, contact Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Arizona State Land Department at: bobcelaya@azstatefire.org or call (602) 255-4059.*

I want to add that you need to be prepared to limb the trees and cut them up into manageable pieces as soon as you cut them down. Do not leave them on the ground. These trees are not good candidates for saving for firewood-you will have to seal them in 6 mil plastic for a year if you choose to keep them. There are certainly plenty of other down and long dead trees around Summerhaven that can be used for firewood. If you need assistance in dealing with recently killed trees on your property, call Deanna or Harry at MLFD (576-1201) or fax in your request (576-3095).



Mt. Lemmon attendees at Tohono Chul Park Gallery reception for "Wildfire!" exhibit." (Lindy and Stephen Brigham, Helen Quigley, Judy Epstein, Jan Stevenson (in back), and Sharon Thomas

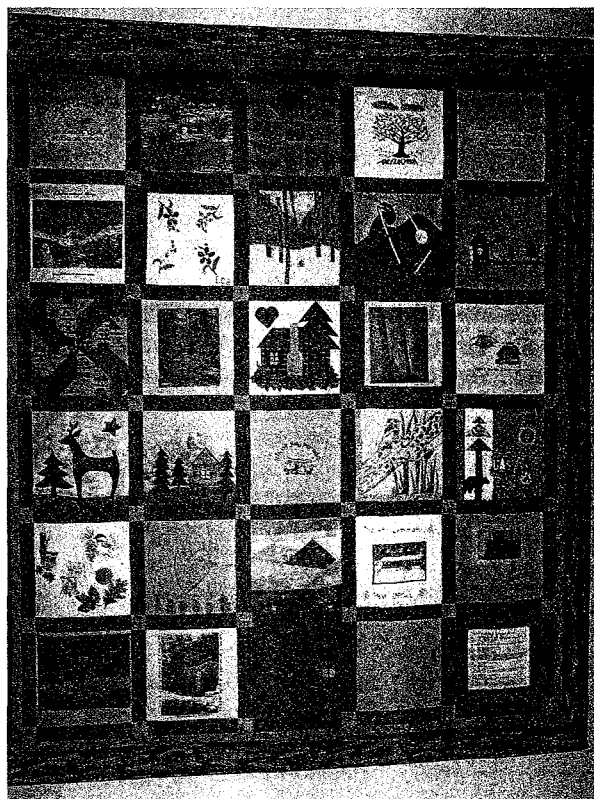
To Bee or not to Bee or The Stinging Truth:

By Mike Stanley

Today, I had one of the most frightening experiences in my entire life. The day started out as most with my work centered on getting water to everyone. I filled the Loma Linda Big Tank with water from the Miners Ridge Tank. We had a possible leak causing water to flow out at the Loma Linda Extension area south of Florence Avenue. There is a spring that normally flows in the area but we needed to make sure there wasn't a water line leaking. To do this, we need to pressurize the 6" main from Miners Ridge to the Loma Linda Big Tank. I was in the process of filling Big and checking Miners Ridge with an outflow of 650 gallons per minute. The next stop was Loma Linda Big to shut off the inlet valve and allow the main line to stabilize. With the Miners Ridge valve open and the Loma valve closed we could use the Miners master meter to see if there was water escaping via a main line leak

I made my way to the Loma Big with the Honda ATV and parked at the control valves on the west side of the tank. Wild flowers and grasses covered the area so I had to push the flora down around the control box with my boots. The valve I needed to close was in a buried concrete box that is covered with a metal lid. There were several bees working the flowers around the immediate area but only a few. I didn't want to get my head down close to the flowers so I used a 3' long valve wrench to open the box. Mind you, we do this 5 to 10 times a day. When the customer meters are being read we open 60 to 100 boxes per day. The box I was opening is called a number 4-box it is about 2' by 3' with a metal lid. The only opening is the small keyhole used to lift up the cover. I inserted the small metal end of the valve tool and lifted the lid. As the lid rose I saw a bees' nest about the size of a soccer ball connected to the underside of the lid. The quick look only lasted for a second or two and then I let the lid drop. The bees were really angry and swarmed out of the box. The lid closed but it seemed several hundred bees were out and wanting to get revenge. I stepped back three or four steps, stopped, put my hands on my knees, and stood there hunched looking directly at the ground. I remained perfectly still with only my shaking knees moving. The bees swarmed all around me. The box hummed with an eerie, mad sound and hundreds of bees flew around my hunched body. I wanted to run but through training knew that would cause the bees to follow and start stinging. I stayed in one place and waited. I could only see bees as I raised my eyes up towards the box. I felt them hit and bounce off the unprotected parts of my body. I could feel their wings as they flew around the hair on my neck. Within the group, there were a few bees that I would call the fighter bees. They sounded like F-16's. As they buzzed close to my eyes and checked for movement, they hovered just outside my glasses and buzzed wildly. It seemed the same fighter bee came back and checked on my movement every few seconds. The bees didn't land on my body; they buzzed and moved all around me. I wanted to move and call for help on my radio

but I remained in the same spot. My knees continued to shake and sweat began pouring out. I was sure I would be stung at any second. I knew that once the bees started stinging, there would be many, many more to come. I sweated and thought; if I get stung it would be very hard to remain still. I gritted my teeth and waited for the worst to come. It is funny the things that run through your mind when you are that close to a panic situation. I was concerned that I might lose body functions as the bees moved around my head and face. It took about four or five minutes for the situation to change. First, the mad humming from the box smoothed out and seemed to return to normal. The bees were still swarming around me, but in a few minutes the number was down to half, then less and less. After a minute or so there were only ten or twenty bees still checking me out. The F-16 bees still came to check my face and would still hover about 3 inches from my eyes. One more minute and they too were gone. I waited several minutes longer then slowly moved away from the area. Miraculously, I did not get stung. I was so surprised and quite happy to get through the ordeal without one sting. Several more minutes passed and it was time to see if I could get the Honda moved away from the location. Slowly I moved to the machine, released the brake and allowed the thing to roll back down the hill. I made it. At home, as I crossed the door, I asked if I was white from fear. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE.



Mt. Lemmon Memorial Quilt (1 of 3). On display at the "Wildfire!" exhibit at the Tohono Chul Park Gallery.

Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board Member Candidates Carol Mack

Two Mt. Lemmon Fire District Fire Board positions have become available, and I have committed myself to running for one of the positions. Whether I get elected is in your hands as voters.

I'm comfortable running for the Fire Board, because I have been a resident since 1997, and operated three successful businesses on the mountain. I feel I have a clear understanding of the needs of the community and the Fire District. I have been a member of the Women's Club since Phil and I moved to the mountain.

After the Bullock Fire in 2002, I became a charter member of the Fire District's volunteer Fire Support Program. This has since given me an opportunity to become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Technician, and a Certified Wildland Firefighter and Sawyer.

I fully intend on using my above experience as well as my 25 years of financial/accounting background to continue to keep Mt. Lemmon Fire District the professional outstanding district that it is.

Attending Fire Board meetings for the past year has enlightened me to the vast knowledge and wisdom of the previous and current fire board members. This gave me the confidence to accept the interim Board Member position.

As a full time resident I see what a privilege it would be to serve Mt. Lemmon as a Fire Board Member.

Stephen Brigham

This summer I was honored to receive an invitation to run for the Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board. Since this important post requires your vote in the November 2nd election, you may want to know who I am and why I have decided to run.



The responsibilities of the Mt. Lemmon Fire district board are succinctly summarized in the Arizona Revised Statutes 48-805. The duties of fire district board members include responsibilities for the fire district's public meetings, budget, finances, and the amendment, adoption and enforcement of the district's fire codes. Of course, the most important role for the Fire District Board is to ensure that all of you have a highly effective fire department that can provide fire protection, life safety services, and ambulance transportation.

Lindy and I have been cabin owners on Mt. Lemmon for

only a short time, but over the past couple years, it seems like we have lived through a lifetime of experiences on the mountain. We have directly experienced how important the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department is for both fire protection and life safety. We have also joined our neighbors, friends, and colleagues to work together as a very diverse but lively community to ensure the continued success of the Fire Department in providing these services. When I was told that I could help the Mt. Lemmon Fire District, I welcomed the opportunity to repay this community that has been so helpful to us on the mountain.

My background as an architect and planner includes more than 30 years experience working with local fire departments, negotiating with fire marshals, and interpreting national and local fire codes. For the past seven years, I have served as the director of planning for one of Arizona's leading hospitals, which also demands a thorough understanding of building codes, fire codes, and emergency preparedness for disasters. On Mt. Lemmon after the Aspen Fire, I helped organize the Mt. Lemmon Restoration Committee, which was a critical volunteer group that developed amendments to the International Urban-Wildland Code (IUWIC) and the Pima County Zoning codes for Mt. Lemmon. The Mt. Lemmon Fire District and Pima County adopted these amendments, which were essential for a safer and more Firewise community (while removing existing obstacles to rebuilding on Mt. Lemmon). I also have experience working with other volunteer community boards, including serving as past president of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Board and currently as a board member of the Loma Sabino Pines Homeowners Association on Mt. Lemmon.

Living on Mt. Lemmon is a special experience. We have been through a lot in the past few years, but we have an opportunity to make the Mt. Lemmon community an even better place. The Mt. Lemmon Fire District is central to our community, and I would like an opportunity to assist.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding my candidacy for the Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board, please email me at sbrigham@umcaz.edu, or call me at 955-2601.

Dennis Cozzetti

Dennis is originally from Pueblo, CO and has been a resident of Tucson since 1967. He has been building on Mt. Lemmon since 1986 and has been a homeowner on Mt. Lemmon since 1997.

After the Bullock Fire in 2002, Dennis became a charter member of the Fire District's volunteer Fire Support Program as well as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Technician, and a Certified Wildland Firefighter and Sawyer.

Dennis is committed to the Mt. Lemmon community and is willing to serve Mt. Lemmon as a Fire Board Member.

Water District

By Mike Stanley

Hurray, we are a Water DISTRICT. The final Corporation Commission approval was issued on 8.31.04. The Co-op transferred the assets to the District. We are in the process of setting up the operating procedures including Service Establishment documents, Main Line Extension Agreements, and Personnel Policies. It will take us a little time to get all of the organizational procedures in place. We are working on getting an office and the FEMA funding will replace some of the Aspen Fire losses.

Winter is on its way. Remember to winterize your water system. Those of you that have been watering and have timer systems need to be especially careful with the freezing temperatures to come. The safest way to prevent water loss is to shut off your meter every time you leave for an extended amount of time. Those with homes and cabins need to follow your draining procedures to prevent broken plumbing. Again, remember to shut off your water meter.

We are into several projects that will continue throughout the winter season. The Carter Canyon Project is underway and we hope to have the dirt work done in October and the new tank delivered by the end of that month. We are in the process of obtaining the approval from the Forest Service for the Sabino Canyon Site work. It looks like we will not start this project until next year in September. Delay is due to the Endangered Species Habitat located in the canyon. FEMA and the State Emergency Management Agencies are working on approvals for two mitigation plans that were submitted last year. The first project will involve installation of a 6" ductile iron mainline from the Sabino Tank System to the Village. This will allow water for protection of the mostly unburned Sabino Canyon down Turkey Run Road. The other project is the installation of a 6" ductile iron main from the Loma Linda Tank south to the Middle Sabino area. Again, this is an area mostly unburned and protection is needed.

We continue to have problems getting to and reading many of our customers' meters. There are several reasons these meters are giving us problems. The first is that rain has washed dirt into and over the boxes making them hard to locate and dig out. Another factor is construction projects that have covered or destroyed the meter set. These situations demand considerable time and effort just to read the meters. We hope to get the problems taken care of by the springtime to make this task more efficient and capable of producing better data.

Again we want to thank all customers of the water system for continuing their support. All of you are keeping the water system afloat. Remember to vote in November.

STACY TOOL

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