

The Mount Lemmon ECHOES

Volume 46, No. 10

November 2019

MLFD water line project moves forward

Many residents were surprised to learn that there is no pipe to draw water from Summerhaven's water system to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station or helicopter pad, the two facilities crucial for fighting structure and forest fires on the mountain. All that is about to change.

The design contract for a new water line was awarded to The WLB Group of Tucson, which has completed the necessary field work for design and is currently developing construction drawings.

According to Ed Roll of The WLB Group, once the plans are reviewed and approved by the US Forest Service and various Pima County agencies, the project will be sent out for bids, hopefully in August of 2020.

Because the Forest Service mandates a 7-month (March through August) moratorium on construction activity during the Mexican Spotted Owl breeding season, actual construction of the water line cannot begin before September 2020.

The project is funded by a \$750,000 allocation from the State of Arizona, resulting from legislation sponsored by District 14 State Representative Gail Griffin.

Volunteer for Firewise 2020

This annual effort is one of our most important community activities, mobilizing property owners residents and to create defensible space on their lots, thereby reducing the risk of damage from catastrophic wildfire.

Sally Crum, chairperson of the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Committee, is looking for people to serve on the committee in 2020 to help with event planning, reporting, and/or be a neighborhood Firewise captain. The first meeting will be scheduled for sometime in January or February. Email sbc602@gmail.com or call (520) 576-1008 if you are willing to get involved.

Should you take down hummingbird feeders?

The USFS recommends that cabin owners take in feeders at this time of year in order to discourage migrating hummingbirds from staying over the winter. Website Humming-bird.com states that the rationale is a myth, and that the birds' own endocrine system cues them to head south, triggered by changes in the length of day and other factors—but not food availability. And not all types of hummingbirds migrate.

The greater danger might be leaving feeders up and filled while you are away from your cabin for long periods. The nectar can turn rancid, which can be harmful to hummingbirds passing through on their way farther south.

USFS sells permits to cut firewood for personal use

Individuals interested in obtaining fuelwood permits in the Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District, can purchase a permit from the US Forest Service for \$20 per cord, with an eight-cord maximum per household.

Permits are available now through February 25, 2020, at the District office at 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Rd. in Tucson from 10:00

a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays). There might be a few days when permits are sold at the Palisades Visitor Information Center, but these dates have not yet been announced.

Permit applications require a driver's license, vehicle year, make, color and license plate number. Call the District Office at (520) 749-8700 if you need more information.

SAVE THE DATE

NOV DECEMBER	SAT 16	Mountain Meetings	MLWD Water Office 8 am MLHOA Board MLCC 10 am MLWC MLCC 1 pm
	SAT 7	MLWC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON	The Lodge at Ventana Canyon 10:30 am – 1:00 pm [See details p. 9]
	WED 11	Catalina Village Christmas Celebration	Catalina Village Assisted Living 9:00 am – 12:30 pm [See details p. 9]
	SAT 17	WHITE ELEPHANT HOLIDAY PARTY	Sawmill Run Restaurant [more details when available]

That's all, folks.

This is the last issue of *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes* for 2019. Bernadette Blatt also departs as editor.

Deepest thanks to everyone who contributed articles, photos, news, ideas and encouragement throughout the year.

The next issue of the Echoes will be February 2020. If you or someone you know is interested in leading or helping with the Echoes next year, please contact Linda Currin, lcurren@q.com, or Bernadette Blatt, bernablatt@gmail.com.

Have a lovely winter.

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Beth Moore

MLHOA

How can we thank you enough?

by Jeff Haskell

Oscar Hammerstein II once said, "Collaboration is the biggest word in the theatre." Collaboration is the reason why "The Concert in the MLCC" had a nice run for the last four summers. Quite a few folks got involved offstage and helped greatly in order to make the magic happen. Frankly, if community collaboration hadn't been involved, the show probably wouldn't have gone on.

As I recall, it all started with the "Two Lindas," Currin and Mulay, asking me for some assistance with the MLCC acoustical treatment. This would have been in the summer of 2015. And when the Two Lindas ask you to do something, you do it, as they are to be obeyed.

Soon thereafter came a suggestion that we put on some sort of a show or concert, the proceeds of which would go towards improving MLCC acoustics. Mike Stanley and Carol Niehoff got involved with the MLHOA, and Linda Currin became my concert accomplice. Without her help and guidance along with her interaction with the county, we'd have been lost before we even started.

Meanwhile down in the heat, I started working on the show while Pam helped organize me, truck rental, photography, publicity blurbs and set design, and even got Ed Allen to agree to help us with transportation and manpower.

Before the first concert in June of 2016 and throughout most of the run, Fran Zimmerman assisted in a big way with lodging and support. Doug Mance became a labor organizer and stagehand extraordinaire who got on a tall ladder to focus lights and take extra care of the light bulbs. Laura Mance hosted the grateful performers to several meals, helping us to relax. The eastside Gaslight Theater gave us the stage each year, gratis. Thank you, Katherine Byrnes—how did you pull that one off?

The group of volunteers who really should have won a "Mt. Lemmon Community Spirit trophy" were the "roadies" who helped us not only load in and set up chairs but also load out. The stage may have been free but it was really heavy.

The first concert went well and the community wanted a repeat performance. We organized three more, the last

one in late June of this year. The cabin the Concert singers had used was now sold. John and Diana Osborne came to the rescue big time with the magnanimous gift of their cabin for the weekend for the singers. Plus, thanks to Diana Osborne and Dennis Cozzetti, we now have an intelligible result in the MLCC every time there's music or speech. Brava and Bravo!

Over the four-year run of The Concert, the four very talented ladies who performed for you were Katherine Byrnes, Crystal Stark, Janée Page and Julie Anne Boos. Katherine worked as leader and organized all the rehearsals.

Finally, there wouldn't have been a show without you, the audience. So, *thank you* for being so kind and gracious to the performers. We all enjoyed performing for you very much indeed. Many, many thanks to all!

We are looking for active new MLHOA board members who want to be champions for the neighborhoods on the mountain.

Contact Michael Stanley at
lemmonh2o@aol.com or (520) 576-1505.

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MLHOA**An end-of year thanks from your MLHOA treasurer**
by Linda Currin

Being the MLHOA treasurer these past few years has been rewarding, challenging and fun! Thanks to each member of the association for sending in yearly dues promptly. Your \$35.00 enables the HOA to publish ten months of the *Echoes* and promote activities and educational opportunities. Many advertisers also support the *Echoes*, providing the Summerhaven community with helpful information and invaluable services. Thanks for supporting them.

Dues for next year will be payable February 1, 2020. Check the address panel on the back of this November issue for your expiration date.

If you are interested in becoming treasurer for the MLHOA, please contact Michael Stanley, president, or Linda Currin, treasurer. The pay is excellent and contribution to our community worthwhile. Happy winter and Happy 2020!

MLFD**Staying warm this winter: Play it safe**
by Dan Leade, captain, MLFD

Winter is traditionally when the Mt. Lemmon Fire District experiences our greatest call volume of the year (see sidebar, "Typical Winter Calls to MLFD"). Some of the calls that concern us the most are incidents stemming from residents/visitors trying to stay warm in their cabins. The U.S. Fire Administration states that "from 2013 to 2015, an average of 45,900 home-heating fires occurred in the United States each year, and 29 percent of the non-confined home heating fires (fires that spread past the object of origin) happened because the heat source (such as a space heater or fireplace) was too close to things that can burn."

Mt. Lemmon Fire would like to make a few suggestions to help keep you safe and warm this winter:

- Keep all flammable materials away from heating sources.
- Make sure your chimney is clean and that you only burn fuel that the fireplace/stove is intended for.
- Know the location of gas shutoffs and the electrical panel in your cabin.
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. (Change batteries as necessary.)
- If you have an alarm monitoring company, check that you are up to date.

- Know where your fire extinguishers are and be sure they are operational.
- Sleep with your bedroom door closed—it saves lives. (Visit www.closeyourdoor.org.)

Mt. Lemmon Fire wants all our residents and overnight visitors to stay safe this winter. Please be cognizant of your heating practices so you can enjoy another one of our amazing seasons.

Typical Winter Calls to MLFD

The cold weather and rapidly changing, adverse weather conditions lead to numerous calls to Mt. Lemmon Fire District, making it MLFD's busiest season. These are the most common types of calls MLFD responds to:

- Slips/trips/falls on icy streets and sidewalks
- Sledding/skiing injuries
- Downed power lines from tree fall or significant wind
- Tree removal from roadways to open emergency access
- Traffic control for rockslides blocking Catalina Highway
- Motor vehicle accidents due to adverse weather conditions

CHILI CHALLENGE



1st Place: Laura & Doug Mance



2nd Place: MLFD Volunteers



3rd Place: Carol & Phil Mack

The 3rd Annual Mt. Lemmon Fire Volunteer Chili Challenge, sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Business and Economic Association, was held on Oct. 19 at the MLCC. The community turned out to show its support, donating \$700 to the MLFD Volunteers, and eleven entrants to the challenge provided delicious chili to feed the crowd. Thanks to all who made the event possible.

All photos courtesy P. Thomas



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MLWC MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN

September 28, 2019, Dorothy & Henry Johnson's Cabin

|All photos courtesy H. Johnson



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FEATHERED FRIENDS

Our late-season COFL nester by Chuck Huber, Greater Soldier's Camp Association

Early this summer in Lower Soldier's Camp, we found a paper flyer stuck into the window on our cabin porch.

"Grrrrr," I growled, then wondered who might be bugging me with offers for low-rate mortgages.

But no! The flyer discussed the research into Cordilleran Flycatchers (COFL) on Mt. Lemmon, with the contact information of the scientists who were conducting the investigation.

I didn't think much more about it. In June we began construction work on our cabin, tearing out the "atrium" around our front door. Amazingly, within days we found a newly constructed nest behind our previously inaccessible light fixture.

I called the phone number on the flyer—which we had kept—and within a day or two, on a mid-week visit to my cabin, I met Dr. Harrold Greeney (of the Cordilleran Flycatcher Observation Network) scoping out the nest behind the light fixture. He was quite amazed at the "late season" nesting behavior of our bird-mother. There was a single egg in the nest.

While I have no pictures of the full-grown fledgling, or of the baby bird's first flight, here are a few pictures of the development of the nest and the hatchling.

It was quite a nice experience to monitor the baby's growth. Hopefully we will see more next year on the two specially designed COFL nesting platforms I have purchased!



All photos courtesy C. Huber

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MLWC

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club News

by Connie Taylor, president

At our October 19 meeting many of us wore the color purple. This was to show support of GFWC International's Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Even the Arizona State Capitol Building had a purple light shining in its tower.

This is the month we start talking about the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Holiday Luncheon, which will be held at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon again on December 7, starting at 10:30 a.m., with the Brunch Buffet at 11:30 a.m., and concluding at 1:00 p.m. This event was a delight last year. We hope many members will be able to come and enjoy the beautiful ambiance and delicious food.

Another event we have in December is "Christmas at Catalina Village Assisted Living." This will occur on December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There are about 97 residents that will enjoy all of the goodies that we will bring for their enjoyment (see the list of desired donations in Linda Mulay's article below). It is so much fun seeing the surprised looks on residents' faces. I hope many of the ladies will be able to work and enjoy this event. We also need some husbands to help set up tables for us.

Just a reminder: Our last official meeting in 2019 for the MLWC will be November 16, 1:00 p.m., at the MLCC.

I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and Joyful Holidays, which will be here before we know it!

Participate in Catalina Village holiday project

by Linda Mulay

MLWC is doing our annual Holiday Celebration for the residents of Catalina Village Assisted Living on Wednesday, December 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We would love to have you join us and/or donate items to the celebration. If you have any questions, please call me at (520) 576-1417 or (520) 327-4615.

PIMA COUNTY

From the Desk of Steve Christy

District 4 Supervisor, Pima County

It's hard to believe that another year has all but come and gone. As we write this last column for the 2019 *Mt. Lemmon Echoes*, we look to the past with thanksgiving and to the future with excitement.

We were again blessed this year with no major issues of fire on our mountain. This comes even though we did not receive the same level of rainfall that we need and expect. Because our mountain community takes care of not only each other but also our visitors and our area's natural gifts, we survived the summer quite successfully. This is an example and homage to working together, staying together and living together.

Now as winter approaches, my District 4 office is working to develop public service programs and announcements for winter mountain visitors, much as we did for fire prevention during this past non-Stage 2 fire season. There is a certain visitors' etiquette that must be conveyed from season to season and your District 4 office thinks we can play a vital role. If we don't tell visitors, they won't know.

In the meantime, enjoy the fall colors and soon-to-come snows. And, oh yes, I love being your Pima County Supervisor.

Donate items for the Catalina Village Celebration

- Candy—buy the after-Halloween sales (residents especially love chocolate)
- Snacks that they can keep in their rooms—individual packets of cookies, crackers, granola bars; microwaveable soups, mac 'n cheese, and popcorn (Costco is a good source)
- Shoes, slippers, clothes, jewelry, cosmetics
- Hair conditioner—get big bottles at a dollar store (the Village provides them shampoo)
- Fresh fruit from your fruit tree, if you have one
- Reusable cloth tote bags for residents to fill with items they select from among the donations

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USFS

Reminders from the US Forest Service

Deer hunting season is underway

October through December mark the deer hunting seasons in the Santa Catalinas, with archery season extending into January. Please be alert to the presence of hunters if you are hiking or camping on USFS lands during this time.

Keep food away from large mammals

Do not leave out table scraps or any bits of food that might attract *predators*—bears, bobcats, mountain lions—*or their prey*—deer, javelinas, etc.,—even if you think they might be deprived of adequate food supplies during the cold winter months.

Predators habituated to human food pose a threat to residents, the public and USFS employees, and they can quickly become problem predators that must be killed. It might help to remember that A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR—that applies to other predators as well—and wildlife feeding is *illegal*.

About MLHOA

Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association (MLHOA) was formed in 1969 to protect the welfare of the Mt. Lemmon community and to be involved in all aspects of its improvement. The concerns of the organization are not limited to private property owners. Full membership with voting rights is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues. Being organized, having a legal fund and having active local voice participation enables the Association to accomplish most of its goals. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles, enabling owners to mingle. The Annual Dinner & Meeting is held on the first Tuesday after taxes. Pima County has called the MLHOA the strongest and most respected HOA in the entire county.

Members of the board of directors are Mike Stanley, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Linda Currin, treasurer; Sally Crum, secretary; Bernadette Blatt and Barbara McLean, Echoes co-editors; and members-at-large John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Debbie Fagan, Glen Schager, Mike Bernstein, Tom Thomas, Bill Piatkiewicz and Matt Grossman.

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes, the MLHOA's primary communication arm, is published monthly, from February to November. Advertising in the Echoes for one year is \$100 for a business card, \$250 for a quarter page and \$500 for a half page.

Mt. Lemmon Community Center

The Mt. Lemmon Community Center (MLCC) is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) department. The center is located in Summerhaven. The facility is dependent upon local volunteers to staff and support the visitors center. The mission is to welcome all who visit the facility and to promote Summerhaven, Mt. Lemmon and Pima County, Arizona. To reserve the MLCC, call Kelly Cheeseman, Pima County Parks and Recreation, 520-724-5208, or email Kelly.Cheeseman@pima.gov.

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Prepare for traffic delays on Mt. Lemmon Highway during Nov. 2 Marathon

The REVEL Mount Lemmon Marathon & Half will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Special traffic patterns will be in place on Mt. Lemmon Highway from **5:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:**

- The **southbound** lane of Mt. Lemmon Highway will be **closed** and reserved for runners.
- The **northbound** lane will remain open, but all vehicles traveling up and down the mountain must follow behind a Pima County Sheriff **pilot car**.

Additional traffic restrictions will be in place on Melpomene Way, Fort Lowell Rd. and Houghton Rd. along the race route.

If you are interested in being a course marshal or a volunteer for the race, please email mtlemmon@runrevel.com.

**RACE
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- Full marathon: Whitetail Campground.
- Half marathon: Gordon Hirabayashi Campground.

**RACE
FINISH**

Both races finish at La Mariposa Resort on Houghton Rd. south of Tanque Verde Rd.