

Photo taken by Task Force Leader Hugh Fairfield-Smith

Incredible Resources Battle Bighorn Fire

Courtesy of Greg Heule, a Public Information Officer with the Forest Service
and Linda Currin

Mt. Lemmon residents and the entire Tucson community have watched in wonder and awe as hotshot crews, trucks, tankers, tenders, pumpkins and all manner of other equipment descended to battle the Bighorn Fire beginning June 5th. The SW Area Type I Incident Management Team under direction of John Pierson and the MLFD headed by Chief Joe Gunia, led the following:

Hotshot crews: Crane Valley Hotshots; Lone Peak Hotshots; Utah County Hotshots; Bonneville Hotshots; Helena Hotshots and the Diamond Hotshots

Many engines (ENG) arrived to support the firefighters: Hellsgate ENG 3; Shilo ENG 231; CNF ENGs 351, 652; CIF ENG 642; FRI ENG 3654; Green Valley ENG; Superstition ENG; Sunnyside ENG; Sun City ENG; Three Points ENG; Avondale ENG; Elfrida ENG, Sunsites ENG 307; Sonoita ENG; Maricopa ENG; Christopher-Kohls ENG; Tubac ENG

Water tenders (WTT) are critical in supplying essential support for the air resources: Jake Lovato Trucking WTT; Green Valley WTT; Salt River WTT; Dynamite WTT; Fort Valley WTT; Pinetop WTT

Initial attack (IA) contributed by the following: Twin Peaks Type H IA; SRV12 Type II IA

And a Module 6-person crew

{Some resources may not have made our list-they've had a lot to deal with}

It is difficult to imagine the contributions made by these wonderful men and women. As of June 23, the Northern Rockies Incident Management Team, headed by Mike Goicoechea, has transitioned to assume command of the Bighorn Fire. Before this is over we will have even more resources to thank. Hopefully as you read this, the monsoon appears, and the results of the dedication and resolve of all those listed will persevere. Deep gratitude and thanks from the Tucson community and Mt. Lemmon.

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July 2020



Independence Day!

Look for the link to our celebration on YouTube. It will be published on Nextdoor and possibly the Arizona Daily Star.

5th Full Moon

15th Tax Day

18th Board meetings via ZOOM
Water District - 9AM
MLHOA - 10AM

Millicyn E. Kossow
Sales Associate

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The Mt. Lemmon Community Center is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) department. The center is located in the heart of 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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Mt. Lemmon Fire Report

By Dan Leade, Capt/A-Shift

As the Bighorn Fire continues to burn in the upper ranges of the Santa Catalina Mountains, the protection of Summerhaven, Willow Canyon, Upper and Lower Soldier's Camp, Bear Wallow, and Mount Bigelow remains a major focus of the Incident Management Team. Initially, the Structure Protection Group focused on gaining situational awareness and information about the communities and values-at-risk. Their resources scouted and triaged private property and subdivisions to be as prepared as possible for the potential of an immediate fire threat. This paid dividends on June 17th when Summerhaven was heavily impacted with fire. Every resource atop the mountain engaged in the firefight, and although the landscape will look different, no structures were lost.

MLFD would be remiss if we forgot to thank all the parties that have assisted thus far. We would like to express our gratitude to John Pierson's Southwest Area Type I Incident Management Team, our local Coronado National Forest staff, the Pima County Sheriff's Department (especially our own deputies, Dave and Lee), TRICO, and the countless others we have surely missed. We would also like to thank our community members, as well as those outside the community, who have taken the time to send your well wishes to those working this incident...your thoughts have been well received, appreciated, and have boosted morale.

While we can happily report that this incident has been successful in protecting life and property as of this writing, we are not "out of the woods" yet. Fire is dynamic, and there is always a possibility to be further threatened. It is imperative to remain positive and support our neighbors as this fire is mitigated. MLFD will not waiver in our mission, but everyone can play a vital role by supporting each other. We have already witnessed how strong this community is!

On a final note, your Firewise efforts must be applauded. We are not tallying lost structures because each of you put the effort into preparing your properties. It cannot be understated, however, that this is an ongoing process. Remaining Firewise will only help us in the future. Living in the Wildland-Urban Interface, fire will always be a part of your ecosystem, and Arizona now has a year-round fire season. Keep up the GREAT work!!



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About your Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's 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 and Meeting is traditionally held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes. Unfortunately, this event was canceled this year due to the current health crisis.

Pima County has said the MLHOA is the strongest and most respected homeowner's organization in the entire county.

Members of the board of directors are: Michael Stanley, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Linda Currin, treasurer; Sally Crum, secretary; Pamela Selby-Harmon Echoes editor; and members-at-large John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Debbie Fagan, Mike Bernstein, Tom Thomas and Matthew Grossman.

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is the primary communication arm of the MLHOA. It is published monthly, from February to November. Advertising in the Echoes for one year (10 issues) is \$100 for a proportional business card, \$250 for a quarter page and \$500 for a half page.

Membership dues for the MLHOA are \$35 annually. To join or renew, clip the form below, fill out all the information and send it, along with a check to the MLHOA. If you have questions or concerns regarding your membership status, contact Linda Curin, treasurer at 520-247-2582 or lcurrin@q.com.

Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association
Annual Membership \$35 (payable to MLHOA)
Mail this form and your check to MLHOA, PO Box 699,
Mount Lemmon, AZ 85619

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Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mt. Lemmon street address _____

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Email address _____

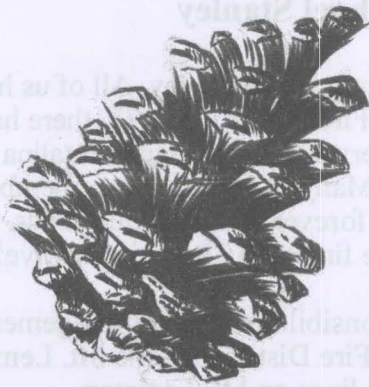
Check one:

Property owner Renter Friend of the mountain



The MLHOA website provides access to information about a variety of issues concerning the mountain community as well as archives of The Echoes, history, current events,, and instructions on how to join the Association, Nextdoor Summerhaven and the Mt. Lemmon listserv. Check it out at mtlemmonhoa.org

It is a work in progress, so leave suggestions and/or volunteer to help with its development.



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Message from MLHOA President Michael Stanley

Somehow “Howdy” or “Wow” does not seem quite appropriate for an introduction today. All of us have major situations that our hearts are feeling, and the most recent is the Bighorn Fire. As of June 27th, there have been no structures lost and over 95,000 acres burned, fire reaching almost every part of the Santa Catalina Mountain Range. We seek information and shudder to think it might be negative. Many of you vividly remember the Bullock, Aspen, Burro and even the recent Busch fire whose flames are forever etched in our minds, while others new to our wonderful mountain are experiencing these scenes for the first time. Remain positive!

The SW Incident Command Type I Team handed off the awesome responsibilities of fire management to the Northern Rockies Type 1 Team without a hitch. Our own Mt. Lemmon Fire District and the Mt. Lemmon Water District are doing their very best jobs in protecting both property and lives on Mt. Lemmon.

Your prayers help, so continue to do just that. Prayers are the way to comfort our hearts, encourage the grateful efforts we are receiving and the hope those efforts continue. As with other situations, we are reminded, “We Are ALL in This Together.” It has never been a more correct statement. Remember that no matter what the outcome, we continue to supply support and will provide anything to perpetuate the community. Please remain SAFE and know the Mt. Lemmon Community is strong, and we have proven that our residents remain resilient. Don’t forget to do your rain dances or whatever will bring those monsoon storms.

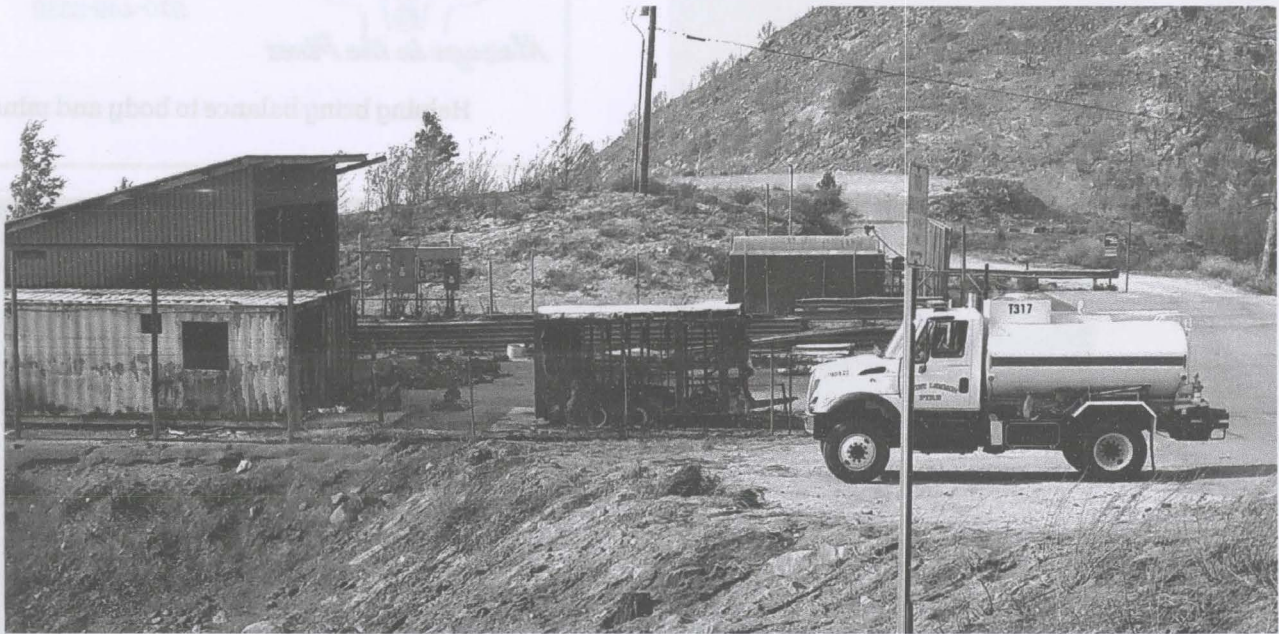


Photo taken by MLFD volunteer Lou Crum



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From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

As we go to press this month, we are looking forward and hopeful that the Bighorn Fire will soon be yet another 2020 event now in the rear-view mirror. We were told when the fire started that it would burn until it ran out of fuel or it rained. I don't think anyone expected it to burn almost the length of the Santa Catalinas.

We owe huge thanks to the US Forest Service and Department of Agriculture for their heroic efforts to keep the fire out of Summerhaven, Soldier Camp and Willow Canyon, to preserve the U of A Sky Center, and the communications and observatory assets on Radio Ridge and Mt. Bigelow.

Additional thanks are due to the 35 firefighting agencies that assisted with the efforts. Almost 1,000 firefighters were on or near the mountain when the fire grew to 60,000 acres.

We must acknowledge the Pima County departments that aided our federal and state partners: Pima County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers, the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Transportation.

The Mt. Lemmon Fire Department has worked around the clock with partner agencies as hot spots were identified in the village. More than 30 fire engines patrolled, and hand crews put out spot fires as they popped up. Fortunately, injuries sustained by firefighters were minimal.

The efforts of your Mt. Lemmon Firewise Team are to be commended. The clearing of brush from around properties in Summerhaven, Soldier Camp and Willow Canyon is always an important precaution, and it was made especially challenging this year by COVID-19.

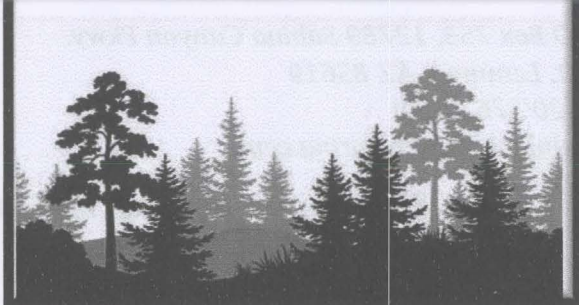
There are no adequate words to express our appreciation. Thank you, all.

Relevant Phone Numbers:

Emergency —911

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- ML Realty 576-1333
- MLPO 576-1427
- Sawmill Run 576-9147
- General Store 576-1468
- Living Rainbow 575-1519
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- Shrine to Mary, 576-9653

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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

Connie Taylor, president

Carol Niehoff and I had talked about having the new officer's installation outside, so... Carol and Tina Hanks took the reins and decided where and when to have the small event. We had a little gathering of ladies outside on the front and side yard of the D-1 Cabin on June 13, 2020. It was very pleasant, cool and shady. We began the meeting at 11:00 AM, had chairs spaced six feet apart, a couple of tables with chairs for the current board, and Carol provided a long white table with beautiful red roses in a vase to add to the ambiance.


Those attending included (current board) Connie Taylor, president, Teresa Wilson, 2nd vice-president, Karen Burrows, secretary and Carol Niehoff, treasurer. A welcome was given along with the "Collect" and "Pledge of Allegiance," then Fran Zimmerman, a member of the Nominating Committee, introduced the New Board of Officers for the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club. We then proceeded with the installation with Jennifer Shacter presiding. Jennifer used different colored roses to represent each office along with the meaning of each rose and office.

Our new officers for the new 2020-2022 term are co-presidents Carol Niehoff and Tina Hanks, 2nd vice-president Teresa Wilson, secretary Karen Burrows, and treasurer Katie Ammon. Other attendees present included Sandi Triplett, Mary Hunter, Diana Osborne, and Ginny Durham.

This is my last Echoes report! Thank you to all the officers and members who have played a tremendous part in making the last two years truly enjoyable and memorable. It could not have been done without you.



Frances E. Zimmerman
Sales Associate / Property Management

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Another Test for Mt. Lemmon, Bighorn Fire Marches Through the Santa Catalinas

Heidi Schewel, Public Affairs Specialist, Coronado National Forest

Anyone who has been around awhile is probably thinking along the same lines, the scare of the Bullock Fire in 2002 followed by the reality of the Aspen Fire in 2003. Those fires brought some hard times to our beloved mountain and residents and business owners who call it home. Then the Burro Fire shook us up again in 2017.

All illustrate the fact that wildfire is a part of this landscape we love. We experience wildfires many months of the year, both-human and lightning-caused. And every time we hope homes, businesses, and places special to us will be protected.

The Bighorn Fire began June 5 with a lightning strike near the west end of the mountain range. It is similar to Aspen in that it's burning for a relatively long time and covering a lot of ground. While Aspen burned from the top of Lemmon to the bottom, then back up again, Bighorn is burning not just up and down, but is also marching from the west to the east end of the range, bouncing around as it progresses.

It's too early to tell what the aftermath of Bighorn will be as active burning is still taking place. Based on observations we can see that a lot of excessive brush was cleared from bighorn sheep habitat in the wilderness early on. And we know communities at both the higher and lower elevations have been threatened. But what will things look like when the fire is out? That can't yet be predicted.

We can talk about the here and now. As of June 22, the fire was 58,553 acres, not yet the size of Aspen, with 969 personnel assigned. Among those were 21 hand crews (seven of them hotshot crews), 77 fire engines, and eight helicopters along with water tenders, bulldozers, and an impressive air show utilizing a variety of airtankers including the DC-10 with a retardant capacity of 12,000 gallons.

When lightning ignited the fire in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, we immediately began fire suppression, even though it was a natural ignition. We are in a fire environment which is hot and dry, favoring wildfire growth. We are also in a changed firefighting environment, with special considerations and precautions needed to prevent exposure and spread of coronavirus.

During this incident we have used strategies, tactics and tools that have proven tried-and-true for success. We are also practicing flexibility and innovation to meet our objectives as we work in this changed human environment. Our goals include striving to minimize wildfire threats and impacts to what we call "values at risk" which include firefighters and the public, communities, infrastructure, and more, and to minimize fire effects and undesirable suppression effects on values of wilderness, Sonoran desert, waterways and riparian areas, wildlife resources, and archeological and cultural resources. And, most importantly, to do all of that safely.



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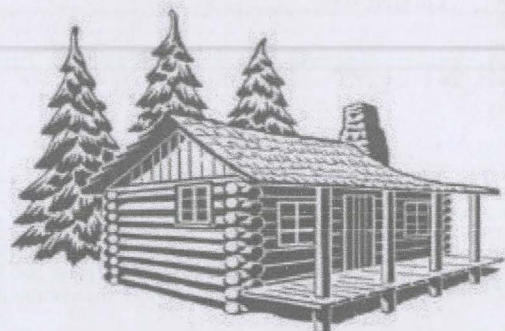
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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MT. LEMMON FIRE DISTRICT

by Sally Crum, Firewise chair

By now many of you have seen the YouTube video of the Bighorn Fire on June 17th as it suddenly raced around the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dist. If not, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdMHoyqvQXA> The thought of losing our station isn't comforting.

As the fire progresses, we are all constantly checking for updates and attending Zoom meetings; questions are being asked about how to say 'thanks' or who we could donate to. As a neighbor who loves our community and what it represents (and also the one quite often seen selling raffle tickets), I'd like to ask that you consider donating to our VERY OWN Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation (MLFF), a 501(c)3.

The MLFF supports and provides things that are not covered by the annual MLFD budget. The MLFD funding is based on a % of assessed property values, not actual tax amount. Assessed values dropped during the last 2 years, causing the MLFD budget to be reduced by \$8,000 and \$32,000 respectively, making the MLFF even more critical to the support of our Fire District. Training, equipment, and Firewise expenses are some of the items that the foundation has been able to provide from individual donations, donations from the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club and the various Mt. Lemmon community homeowner's associations, the Jim Click 'Millions for Tucson' raffle tickets, Firewise and proceeds from other fundraisers.

We have been successful in recent years with securing grant funding for new Firefighter equipment, but competition is intense, and many of them require a community match. Right now, we need a replacement for the generator at the Fire Station. (This is not the Trico generator below the station.) Parts are no longer available for the current WWII era generator whose warranty expired over 50 years ago!!! The generator is needed to keep critical communications and equipment working during power outages, which we are all familiar with. The estimated cost for replacement is \$40,000. They also need a pickup truck for use by staff and volunteers doing patrols and responses.

Donations can be mailed directly to: MLFF, P.O. Box 759, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. Another way to donate is to purchase 'Jim Click' raffle tickets at a cost of \$25 each or 5 for \$100. ALL proceeds stay with the foundation. For more details see: <http://www.millionsfortucson.org/> Contact me at scrum@mlfdaz.org or 520-419-8204 and I will make arrangements to get the tickets to you. Just think how many tickets you could buy for a donation of \$5000.00, and you would seriously increase your chances of WINNING one of 3 awesome prizes!

Robert T. Zimmerman
Broker

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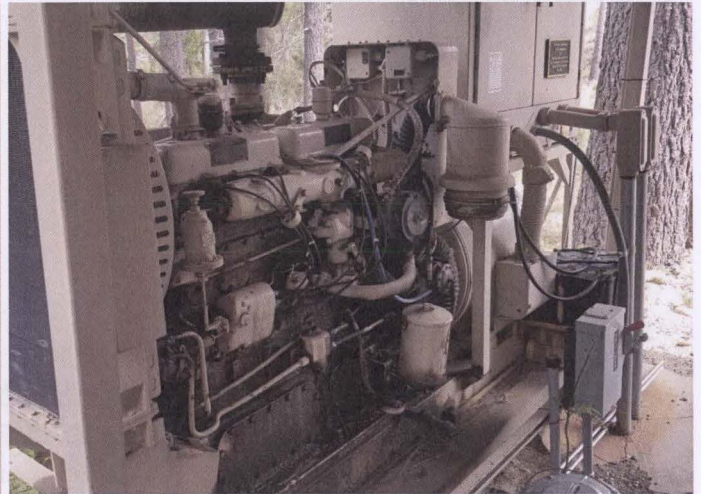
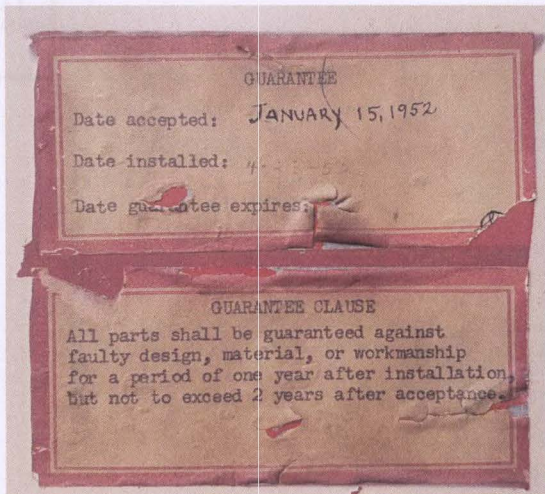
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Sally and Lou Crum shared these two photos showing the condition of the Fire Station's generator .



A Message from your Mt. Lemmon Water District Board

While we are all emotionally consumed by the Bighorn Fire and all things COVID-19, our precious mountain water and the MLWD system are all in great shape for WHEN we return. Anxious uncertainties every day make us recognize and appreciate as never before, the qualities that keep us together as "people of the mountain." We share, laugh, chat, and give... we always have, always will. Now we Zoom, Nextdoor, e-mail, text. In all those ways, both old and new, we love and support each other as only mountain people can do.

As far as water goes, we have 2 million gallons stored; all we want is more water from the sky. Yesterday was my first harvest day of saguaro fruit (for a wonderful, sharable ale) which is now ripening on the desert floor. For thousands of years that ripening has signaled the peak heat of summer and the countdown to the Sonoran monsoon flow. It cannot come too soon. Water is truly the essence of life.

I have attached one of the dramatic photos from the Bighorn Fire. It's Mike and Carol's new mountain home taken around 3:30 PM on Wednesday, June 17, 2020; 17 years to the day after the Aspen Fire started. Let us always remember that we partner with Mother Nature, and she demands our respect and continuous partnership. Yes, we should always listen to our Mother.

Best regards,
good will and
warm wishes to
all.

Doug Mance,
Chairman,
Mt. Lemmon
Water District
Board



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Smoked turkey?

Michael Stanley took the photo on the left and Carol Mack took the one on the right.
Isn't it nice to see some signs of normalcy on the mountain? And especially nice to have neighbors
and friends volunteering with the fire department, staying on the mountain to help,
and keeping an eye on the neighbors wandering the neighborhood!

