

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Sunrise photo by Michael Stanley

MLHOA Welcomes You and the New Season

by Michael Stanley, president MLHOA

Welcome to March, Spring is here. Soon, hot weather will be knocking on our doors. The mountain will be getting busier, and traffic will increase as hotter temperatures fall upon the city. During our snow days, the traffic this winter was backed up to Houghton with people who wanted to enjoy the snow-covered mountains. The sheriff was able to keep all things under control, and those that made it up had a great time.

We see the pandemic numbers are going down along with more and more of us getting vaccinations. Hopefully we will have a little normalcy in our lives. Until then we will continue to follow the guidelines to remain safe. That means our homeowners' functions remain on hold to be safe. Nextdoor, The Echoes and the MLHOA web site continue providing information, and you can always call or email us to check on the status of our community. Thank you for sending in your dues, and be sure to support our advertisers and the wonderful businesses on the mountain.

Thank you for your continued support. Be safe and healthy, and we'll see you on the mountain!

A few ramblings from your editor

Winter isn't quite gone; spring is trying to sneak in early. Things are moving in the village, at least a lot of dirt is being moved around in many big trucks. This is all from the Lodge construction getting underway. Then there have also been Trico Electric trucks in the village lately; they are running the wires for the Hotel. The Mount Lemmon Hotel is set to open in April. They have most weekends booked for the month of April and a few in May. Summerhaven is definitely becoming more active.

Several of us have been wondering about the Fourth of July Parade. Will an in-person parade be possible? Are people interested in creating digital content? (Last year there were a small number of entries, but they were VERY creative!) Planning takes time, so talk with your groups and get the creative juices flowing! The pandemic has changed so much about our day to day lives, but our traditions need to continue. Let's see what this awesome community can come up with!

On a personal note, my husband is healing well. He has been walking at least a mile a day, and he is driving short distances. The only visible scarring is one horizontal one on his forehead. Frustrating him most is the slow healing of his jaw and the sheer exhaustion from healing in general. We are immensely appreciative of all the prayers and well wishes. He'll be back on the mountain before long! Pamela Selby-Harmon

March



- 14th Daylight Savings Time begins
- 17th Saint Patrick's Day
- 20th First Day of Spring
Board Zoom Meetings
MLWD 8:30 am
MLHOA 10:00 am
- 27th Passover begins (sundown)
MLWC 10:30 Zoom
- 28th Palm Sunday
Full moon

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS, RESIDENTS AND GUESTS

The winter season is upon us, and it is extremely important for homeowners, residents, guests, and renters to take precautions once snow arrives. If you live on a paved, Pima County-maintained road, it will be plowed, so please park your vehicles in your driveway if possible. Most roads are narrow, and snowplow drivers will plow around vehicles on the roads which may cause icy conditions and hazardous traffic situations, and your vehicle might be unable to get out of the snow. As you know, temperatures drop during the nights which can cause problems until snow and ice melts.

Please practice being good neighbors and guests to make this a safe winter. We all look forward to much-needed moisture and a Happy 2021! Thanks to all for your cooperation.

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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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Thank you to the many members who have sent in their annual dues!

If you have not already done so, please renew your HOA membership as soon as feasible.



Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association
Annual Membership \$35 (payable to MLHOA)
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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, but the mountain community in general. Full membership with voting rights is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues; renters and friends of the mountain can be non-voting members. 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, most of these events have been 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, Currin, treasurer at 520-247-2582 or lcurren@q.com.

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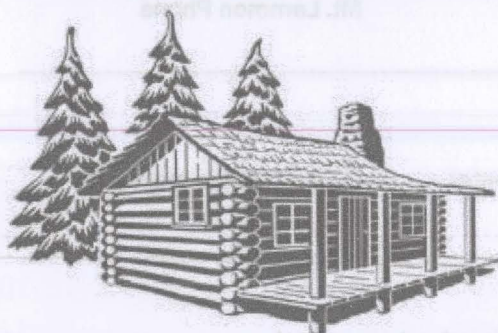
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From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

As we enter the month that tends to come in like a lion and out like a lamb, we recently had a slight roar near the Santa Rita Mountains with the 162-acre Mulberry Fire that started in the Mt. Fagan area. As the fire drew close to Corona de Tucson, another fine community in District 4, Sally Crum posted photos on Nextdoor and sagely observed, "It's never too early to begin Firewising." How true. While we all hope for additional snow-fall, this winter was predicted to be warm and dry and so far, that's been the case.

We look forward to hearing more about this year's community-led Firewise efforts. Currently, we are working to secure additional funding from Pima County for your Mt. Lemmon Fire District. Four years ago, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a five-year/\$75,000 contract with the District, which is in its final year. Given the uncertainty of the next Pima County budget - all departments took a 5% cut due to COVID-19 this fiscal year - getting the contract renewed and increased won't be a slam-dunk. Know that we are exploring every opportunity to support this community asset, so vital to mountain residents and visitors alike.




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JOIN US FOR TRICO ANNUAL MEETING: ZOOM EDITION!

The 2021 Trico Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held virtually on **April 24, 2021 at 10 a.m.**



How to vote for your Board of Directors

Three seats on the board of directors are up for election. Online voting is available at www.trico.coop. Members who vote will be entered into a raffle for prizes. There will be a separate raffle for Members who attend the Annual Meeting online. Watch for information on how to attend the meeting at www.trico.coop.



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Mount Lemmon Woman's Club

by Carol Niehoff, president

Recently, I read a letter from a group that develops memoirs. They focused on this past year and the unusual circumstances we all lived with over these "too many" months. They provided an extensive list of memory jogs such as: searching for toilet paper, missing celebrations, checking alcohol content before buying sanitizer, shopping for groceries at 7 AM, learning how to Zoom, cancelling hair appointments for a year, cutting your own hair, and 23 more... We have such a brief time before the real details of 2020-2021 disappear.

For the MLWC, the unusual Installation in June of 2020 was the start of a series of unique "meetings" for the club. Zoom has certainly allowed us to remain in contact with many of our members electronically. With the addition of some of Dorothy Johnson's decorative slides, I hope to create a MLWC electronic scrapbook for the year. This is our chance to cement the memory in words and capture our unique individual experiences as well!

On Saturday, March 27th, please join us for another Zoom Meeting at 10:30 AM. The plan is to expand on the tales of mountain critters and flora, along with books we hope to share for possibly starting a book club. So be prepared with stories of your experiences and observations to include in our digital scrapbook.

Let us conclude with wishes for good health, more available vaccines, and snow or rain.

Carol Niehoff and Tina Hanks ☼ co-presidents

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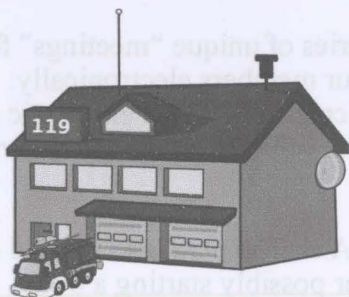
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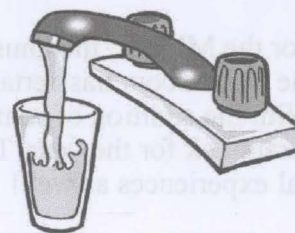
MLFD Water Line Complete!!

by Dan Leade, Captain/A-Shift

The Mount Lemmon Fire Station is now officially connected to the community water system! With the incredible help of Arizona State Representative Gail Griffin, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Eiffel Construction Inc., and the United States Forest Service, the fire station is finally connected to a source of potable water. MLFD would like to extend a very special thank you to the Mount Lemmon Water District. Without their efforts, planning, and diligence, this project certainly could not have been accomplished with the speed and efficiency that was witnessed.



Thanks to a 2016 letter to the Mt. Lemmon Water District from former Fire Chief Randy Ogden, the water line will now deliver safe water directly to our station. This eliminates the need for water tender deliveries to be pumped into the tanks directly above the station, an unnecessary risk during the winter months where slick roads present a dangerous situation. In addition to water that is safe for drinking, dishes, and laundry, the water line will provide a water source at the fire station



and helipad for firefighting activities. Fire apparatus will be able to connect to these fire hydrants for firefighting operations (this need was certainly apparent during the Bighorn Fire's final push up-canyon to directly impact the fire station), firefighter training, as well as getting apparatus back in-service post incident with ease. The hydrant at the helipad will allow for water "pumpkins" to be rapidly deployed for aerial fire operations such as helicopter bucket drops. Thank you again to everyone who made this dream a reality!!!



For those who are unaware, the Coronado National Forest has already experienced a fairly significant fire to start 2021. The Mulberry Fire was reported on February 13 and was approximately 25 acres as crews arrived. The fire grew to 162 acres and is a stark reminder as to the importance of Firewise for the overall safety of our community. MLFD thanks you for your continued efforts.



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Is Spring About to Arrive?

By Michael Stanley, MLWD

March is here! In like a lion and out? Something like a lamb as we continue to hope for more moisture on the mountain. In the meantime, please continue to conserve water. The season is upon us, and our residential usage will increase. Stay informed about our water status. We are in Stage 2 of voluntary 50% conserving of your usage. If we continue to receive snow/rain, there will be less of a problem. Our driest months will be May, June and possibly July. Our monsoons usually arrive the first week in July, but as we saw last year it might not get here. Make sure you have extra water on hand. Although winter was relatively mild, there was freezing on both main lines and at residential meters. To be safe, remember to shut off the water supply to your home any time you leave. We lost many thousands of gallons of water that caused large water bills and damage to structures. Several people provide services to shut off the water if you need assistance. If necessary, you may want to contact them to add protection to your home. Contact the MLWD if you need names.

The water main to our MLFD and helipad is completed. This major improvement can supply water for the helicopters and engines during a fire emergency. We also installed water service to the fire station. This is the first time since it was built in the 1980's that water is available without hauling it from Summerhaven!

Your MLWD has a few projects planned for the summer. We're working on the installation of a 6" main line on Tucson Avenue. The engineering and survey are in progress, and we hope to start construction later this year. We will continue to keep you updated with our changing water conservation status and projects via Nextdoor, the MLHOA web site and the Echoes. Please call 520-576-1538 with any questions.

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Think Snow, and Think Firewise!

by Sally Crum, Firewise chair

We survived the Bighorn Fire of 2020, now what do we do to prepare for the next big one? This year is expected to be another big year for fires. Let's hope we get a little more moisture than we did in 2020!

With COVID restrictions still in place, it is difficult to plan for community events, although we'd sure like to do that, so stay posted. I'm still planning on another successful **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** on **May 1st**. Last year we were able to complete a lot of work, while maintaining all of the safety protocols. While planning and funding isn't complete at this time, it IS time for YOU to think about what you, as an individual cabin owner, can do to create 'Defensible Space' around your property, while maintaining a healthy forest. The work that has been done in past years was credited with helping to save our community. Let's keep up the GREAT work!

Important News You Can Use

by Matt Grossman

Three online resources are available to keep Mount Lemmon residents up-to-date between Echoes editions:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association maintains a website at <https://mtlemmonhoa.org/>. Check it out, get informed, and contribute.
3. A neighborhood group has been set up on Nextdoor.com. Sign up using your cabin street address to be connected to the Mount Lemmon group. If you already use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, be sure to sign up for Mount Lemmon under a different email address, since only one neighborhood is permitted per email address at this time. This venue is important for general information and worthwhile educational benefits and communication, but especially during critical concerns such as fire danger and road closures.



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Turkey Run DFFM Grant Progress

by Sally Crum, Firewise chair

While the pandemic delayed forward progress on completion of the Hazardous Fuels Grant last year, due to unavailability of DOC crews, we received a 6-month extension on the deadline to August 2021.



In the interim, MLFD was able to begin burning some of the slash piles in February. After a review by DFFM of the areas already thinned, they recommended that further thinning be considered. With that in mind, crews will begin revisiting the area, looking for opportunities to create a healthier forest, not just for fire protection, but to improve bird and other wildlife habitat as well as to create a more diverse, sustainable forest.

I recently met with crews from DFFM to begin marking 'KEEP' trees, to help determine what other fuels can and should be removed. Trees will be marked with orange tape, with a paint mark at the base of the tree, since tape is frequently lost/destroyed. We will be happy to meet with any property owners included in the grant to discuss further fuels treatment.

If you are a new property owner in the Turkey Run area, please feel free to contact me at scrum@mlfdaz.org or 520-419-8204, or Chief Gunia at jgunia@mlfdaz.org or 520-576-1201 for information on this critical project.

Right now, there is a Healthy Forest Initiative before the Arizona State Legislature (HB2440 and SB1442), which could substantially increase the grant funding available for more hazardous fuels treatment. If it is successful, we may be able to compete more of this type of work on the mountain.



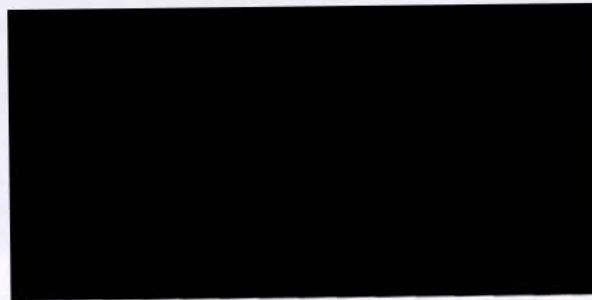
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Contribute to the MLBEA and Mask Up Today!

by Matt Grossman

The Mount Lemmon Business Economic Association (MLBEA) was founded in 2018, at the urging of the Pima County Small Business Commission and as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The MLBEA is open to all businesses operating on Mount Lemmon, as well as those having a vested interest in promoting Mt. Lemmon. It was instrumental in the efforts to obtain a Federal Lands Access Program grant to improve parking in and around Summerhaven (with construction to begin in 2024-25). The MLBEA worked closely with Pima County to ensure prompt reopening of the General Hitchcock Highway to the public after the Bighorn Fire and today actively promotes Mount Lemmon to visitors near and far.

Ongoing projects include promoting redevelopment of the commercial lots that have remained vacant since the Aspen Fire, organizing events to draw visitors during off-peak times and working to address issues created by visitor traffic, including public-area trash collection.

To further these goals, the MLBEA is currently selling reusable cloth masks which were generously donated by a Mt. Lemmon cabin owner. These attractive masks are only \$8.00, all money going to the MLBEA for funds for summer events. Masks are available via mail on the MLBEA website (<https://www.mlbea.org/>) or in person from Jenni Zimmerman, MLBEA president, at the Mount Lemmon Real Estate office. **Please check out the MLBEA website and order your mask(s) today!!** We appreciate your support. Questions? Please contact Jenni at 861-0161 or 576-1333 or her email, at jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com

