

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

MLWD Announces Stage 3 Water Restrictions

We are entering into Stage 3 of the Curtailment Plan where all customers are required to curtail 50% of their normal usage.

Mt. Lemmon Water District is asking all the customers and visitors to the mountain to reduce 50% of their use of water wherever and whenever possible. The source flow rate has dramatically decreased over the last weeks due to lack of rain, which makes it increasingly difficult to keep the tanks full and water flowing. The Curtailment Plan is available by email and is on the website. Request a copy at mtlemmonwateroffice@gmail.com Our website, mtlemmonwater.org, will keep everyone informed as curtailment conditions change.

Some ideas are to conserve water by not using outdoor or construction water. Use paper plates and cups, do laundry in Tucson and flush toilets only when necessary. Change shower heads, faucets, and toilets to low flow.

Please repair water leaks and remember to shut off your water at the meter whenever you are away for 24 hours or longer. Be sure to have extra drinking water on hand and store 5 gallons in the event of an outage. For more conservation ideas see the restrictions in the Curtailment Plan. The extended drought has not only caused low flow but has increased the FIRE DANGER. PLEASE be careful with fire! We have all pulled together in past years when we weren't blessed with rain and still have had enjoyable times on the mountain.

Please Conserve Water Now!

Chili Cook-Off and Trunk-or-Treat are Twice as Nice

by Susan Miller-Cochran

The annual Mt. Lemmon Chili Cook-Off was held on October 14, 2023, in conjunction with the second annual Trunk-or-Treat. Both events were held at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.

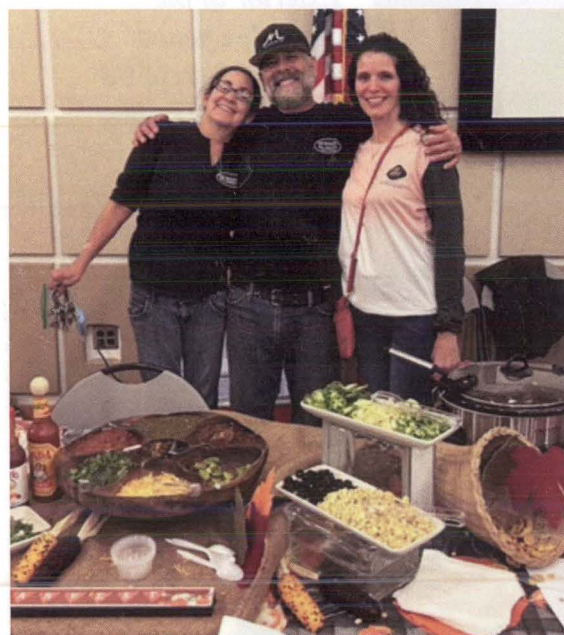
The Chili Cook-Off had twelve different entries, and attendees were given a vote for their favorite chili of the night after sampling the range of offerings. Around fifty people came to try the chili and spend time with their neighbors.

The winners of the Chili Cook-Off were:

1st place: Susan Miller-Cochran, Turkey Chorizo Chili (recipe on page 8)

2nd place: Sean and Barb Magee, Mt. Lemmon Two Alarm Brisket Chili

3rd place: Wendy Resisinger, Beef and Bacon Chili



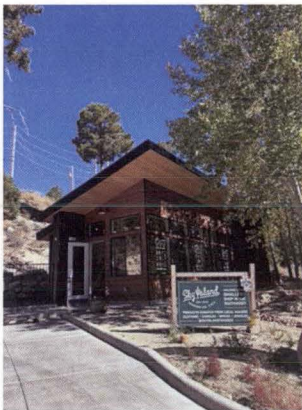
Barb and Sean Magee, Wendy Resisinger (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

A Mount Lemmon Guide to Holiday Shopping

by Jenni Zimmerman and Susan Miller-Cochran

The holidays are around the corner, and you can do much of your holiday shopping on Mount Lemmon! Several newly-opening businesses have added to the wonderful variety of shops already available in Summerhaven. If you're wondering where you can do some holiday shopping while also supporting local businesses and the local economy, here are some shops you can stop by:

- ◆ Sky Island Trading Co.
- ◆ Palisades Visitor Center gift shop
- ◆ Ski Valley gift shop
- ◆ Ugo's on Sabino Canyon Pkwy.
- ◆ The Mt. Lemmon General Store
- ◆ The Mt Lemmon Lodge gift shop
- ◆ The Living Rainbow
- ◆ The Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter gift shop at Tanque Verde and Bear Canyon
- ◆ The Mt. Lemmon Coffee and Tea Co.
- ◆ Sawmill Run, Cookie Cabin, Iron Door (gift certificates)



Exterior of the recently opened new location of the Sky Island Trading Co. on Sabino Canyon Parkway (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



Interior of the Sky Island Trading Co. on Sabino Canyon Parkway (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

Mt. Lemmon Coffee and Tea Co. Grand Opening

by Harper Cochran

The Mt Lemmon Coffee and Tea Co. had its grand opening on October 11, 2023, in the location of the former Mt. Lemmon Coffee Bean. This new addition to the Summerhaven community is operated by Nick Avram and Sam Mason, and they have set their business apart by using locally-sourced products. Their coffee comes from Decibel Coffee Works, their milk is from Willcox-based Tirrito Farm, and their syrups are from Tucson-based Cuppa Gogo. The Mt Lemmon Coffee and Tea Co. is also pet friendly, selling homemade dog treats that would make a wonderful stocking stuffer for your pup. They also sell homemade pastries made with Hayden Flour Mills grains to enjoy with your handcrafted drinks. Come by for a drink and welcome this new business to the mountain! You can find more information at mtlemmoncoffeeandteaco.com.



Sam Mason and Nick Avram at the grand opening of the Mt. Lemmon Coffee and Tea Co., October 11, 2023. (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

MLHOA Membership Dues

by Michael Singervalt, MLHOA Treasurer

The value of your Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association (MLHOA) membership lies in the ways it connects you to the community and supports local events. Membership entitles you to a year's subscription (10 issues) to the *Mt Lemmon Echoes* and supports activities such as Bunko, 1st Friday Movie Night, the Chili Cook-Off, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Ice Cream Social, many of which are fundraisers for the MLFD and other worthy causes. Behind the scenes, the MLHOA is also working to find solutions to some of the major issues on the mountain such as parking and trash collection.

But as much as we like to think of Mt. Lemmon as a place to get away from the stresses of everyday life, prices continue to rise--even on the mountain. For years, the MLHOA kept the annual membership fee at \$35.00, but because of increasing costs, \$35.00 no longer covers the cost of printing and mailing the *Echoes*.

Because of this, the MLHOA has decided to raise its annual membership fee beginning in 2024. Membership dues are payable in February, and they will be \$40.00 if you pay by or at the 2024 Annual Dinner. After the Annual Dinner, the fee will go up to \$45.00. If the annual fee is not paid by the end of May 2024, the *Echoes* will no longer be delivered to you until the fee is paid.

If you look at the mailing label on your *Echoes*, you will see that your subscription begins and ends in February. This is regardless of when you actually pay your membership. Our goal is to get as many paid memberships as possible in February to create a more accurate budget and eliminate unnecessary waste.

Please send your annual membership fee by February 2024 with the coupon below.

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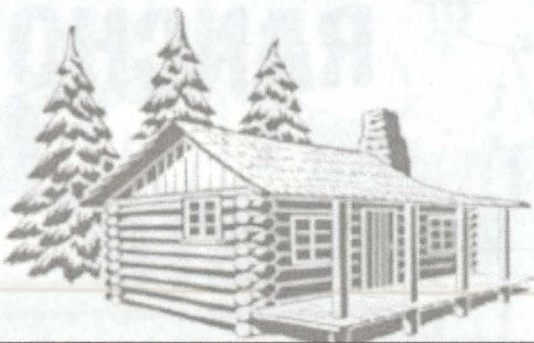
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Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2024

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA

(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA

P.O. Box 699

Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

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City/State/Zip _____

Mt Lemmon Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mt Lemmon Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check One

____ Property Owner ____ Renter ____ Friend of Mountain

End-of-Year Calendar

November 2023

11/18 - ML Water District Board, Zimmerman School, 8:30 AM

- MLHOA Board, Zoom, 10 AM

- ML Woman's Club, Wilmot Library, 1 PM

11/20 - ML Fire Board, Fire Station and via Zoom at mlfdaz.org, 4 PM

December 2023

12/2 - MLWC Holiday Brunch, 10:30 AM, Ventana Canyon Lodge (see page 5)

12/16 - White Elephant Holiday Party, Mt. Lemmon Lodge, 5 PM (see page 7)

Note: January 16 is the deadline for submitting items for the November issue of the *Echoes*.

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information

By Matthew Grossman

Here are online resources to keep Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of *The Echoes*:

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 Homeowners' Association maintains a website at mtlemmonhoa.org. Get informed and contribute to the community.

3. Sign up at Nextdoor.com, using your cabin street address. If you use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a new email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This offers general information and important communication, especially with wildfires and road closures.

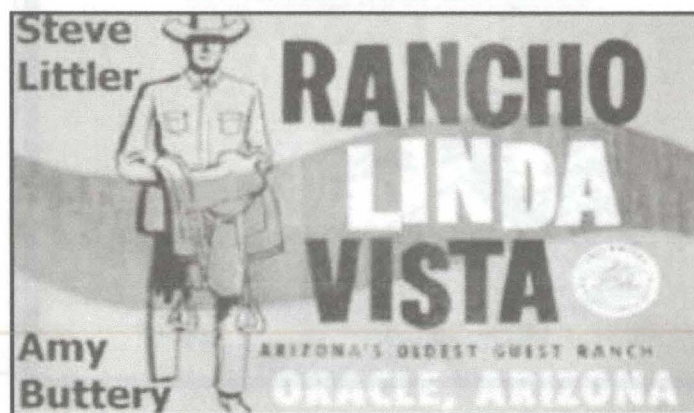
4. MLFDaz.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the home page, under the Resources tab, is Firewise. This takes you to important information and forms, including an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published 10 times a year, February through November, by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association.

To contribute stories, photos and calendar items, or for additional information about the *Echoes*, email Editor Susan Miller-Cochran at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

To get advertising rates and reserve ad space in *The Echoes*, email mjsintuc@gmail.com.



Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club


by Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

Mt Lemmon Woman's Club was represented at the Southern District Conference by Luann Waldron, Linda Mulay, Connie Taylor, and Sandi Triplett. We were delighted to receive three awards at the conference on behalf of MLWC: 50 years of service in our community, Civic Engagement and Outreach, and Advocates for Children.

Thank you to all the women who donated to our Done in a Day project for October. We collected new, unwrapped toys for the Christmas party for More Than A Bed, a non-profit organization that supports foster children. We will collect items at our November meeting to support Santa Rosa Care Center for their Christmas Party for underprivileged men and women. We are requesting donations of gently used clothing (sizes large and extra-large). They would also like items for goodie bags such as pretzels, cookies, granola bars, fruit snacks, cheese crackers, chocolate candies, and hot chocolate mix.

Terry Wilson updated the membership on the progress with our signature program, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. We are hoping to have information available in several locations on Mt Lemmon by 2024.

Watch for our Evite for the Holiday Brunch, which will be held at Ventana Canyon Lodge on December 2. November and March meetings will be at the Wilmot Library in Tucson, and we will have coffees at Coffee XChange on Tanque Verde in January and February.



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Winter Driving Tips

by Dan Leade, MLFD

Winter is right around the corner, and similarly to last year, the National Weather Service is predicting a warmer, wetter winter; El Niño. Any mountain road can be perilous, but the addition of snow, ice, and inexperienced drivers can certainly increase the risk.

Thankfully, the American Automobile Association (AAA) has put together some tips for driving in adverse weather. First and foremost, stay home if you do not need to be out in unfavorable conditions. But if you must, remember to drive, accelerate, and decelerate slowly. Know your brakes, but do not stop completely unless absolutely necessary, especially when traversing uphill to preserve momentum. Also, do not attempt to power uphill because your tires may spin and lose traction. Ensure tires are properly inflated and in good condition before leaving, the 4x4 is operational and chains/snow tires functional.

It is best practice to be prepared for emergencies in advance. AAA recommends that "if visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout that you should pull off the road to a safe place and remain there until conditions improve, avoiding the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency."

AAA explains that "Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder." This is a very important recommendation since we have lots of blind curves and heavy equipment. Learn where pullouts are and prepare to use them if an emergency occurs.

Understanding basic preparation is paramount for survival if you get stuck in the snow for an extended period of time. AAA states, "keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, like food, water, warm clothing, flashlights, glass scrapers, blankets, medications, and more." Consider a shovel to keep your exhaust pipe free from becoming packed with snow (carbon monoxide poisoning) and make sure to start your trip with at least half a tank of fuel.

<https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.X2KirvZKi01>

MLHOA President's Report

by Sally Crum, MLHOA President

The leaves are changing color, and it's fall on the mountain as we publish our final edition for 2023. We have so much to be thankful for as we say goodbye to friends and neighbors for the season, although I am sure that there will be opportunities to get together throughout the winter.

◆ Bunko finished up the season on the 20th with one of the largest groups of the year. Several new neighbors and visitors enjoyed another evening of fun and food. Thank you to Linda and John Mulay for continuing to lead this activity.

◆ The annual Chili Cook-off, combined with the Sky Islands Kids Halloween event was enjoyed by many and raised over \$600 for our MLFD. Article on page 1.

◆ Pima County Health Dept. provided the 2nd Shot Clinic at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center/MLCC on Sept 21. Thanks to PCHD for providing the personnel and resources to help keep our community healthy. Many took advantage of the opportunity to get their flu and Covid vaccines.

◆ Pima County DOT provided an update on the Federal Lands Access Program/FLAP Grant update on Oct 21, at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Thanks to Beth Boroza for providing lunch for all those attending. The plans for the FLAP grant construction are 90% complete. There will be another meeting scheduled in the spring, with many of the agencies involved available to answer questions. Watch NextDoor and the listserv for more information. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024.

◆ As we prepare for winter (!), Pima County D.O.T. has assured us that our roads will be promptly cleared. If any issues come up during the winter, please contact our POC, Mitch Cusolito @ 520-409-8368.

◆ I am reaching out to our membership for anyone interested and able and willing to assist us in seeking solutions to diminishing access to homeowner's insurance on the mountain. Please contact us at MLHOA@gmail.com if you are interested.

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White Elephant Party to be held December 16th at Mt. Lemmon Lodge

Join us for the first White Elephant Party on Mount Lemmon in a while!

- ◆ Mount Lemmon Lodge
- ◆ Saturday, December 16th at 5:00pm
- ◆ Soup & Salad Bar and cookies for dessert
- ◆ Beer & Wine are available for purchase

To make reservations:

Contact Diana Osborne via email or text message
diana@mtlemmonlodge.com or (520) 907-2634

Reservation FAQs:

- ◆ Include in your message how many will attend.
- ◆ Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance (tickets not available at the door)

Mail checks to:

Diana Osborne
P.O. Box 723
Mount Lemmon, AZ 85619



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT!

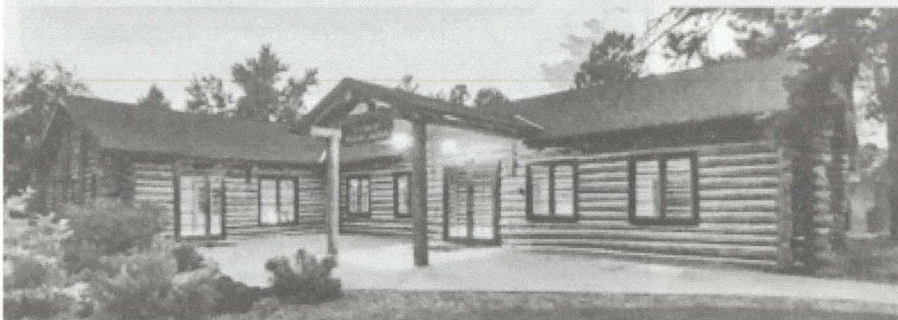
Image courtesy of Zazzer.com

Other important details:

- ◆ We are limited to 100 guests.
- ◆ Please bring only one white elephant gift per family or group.
- ◆ Carpooling is strongly advised.
- ◆ If you would like to stay at the lodge, please contact the Lodge Reception at (520) 201-1471. Mention White Elephant for a 10% discount for a one- or two-night stay!

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Susan's Turkey Chorizo Chili

First place winner at the 2023 Chili Cook-Off

Ingredients:

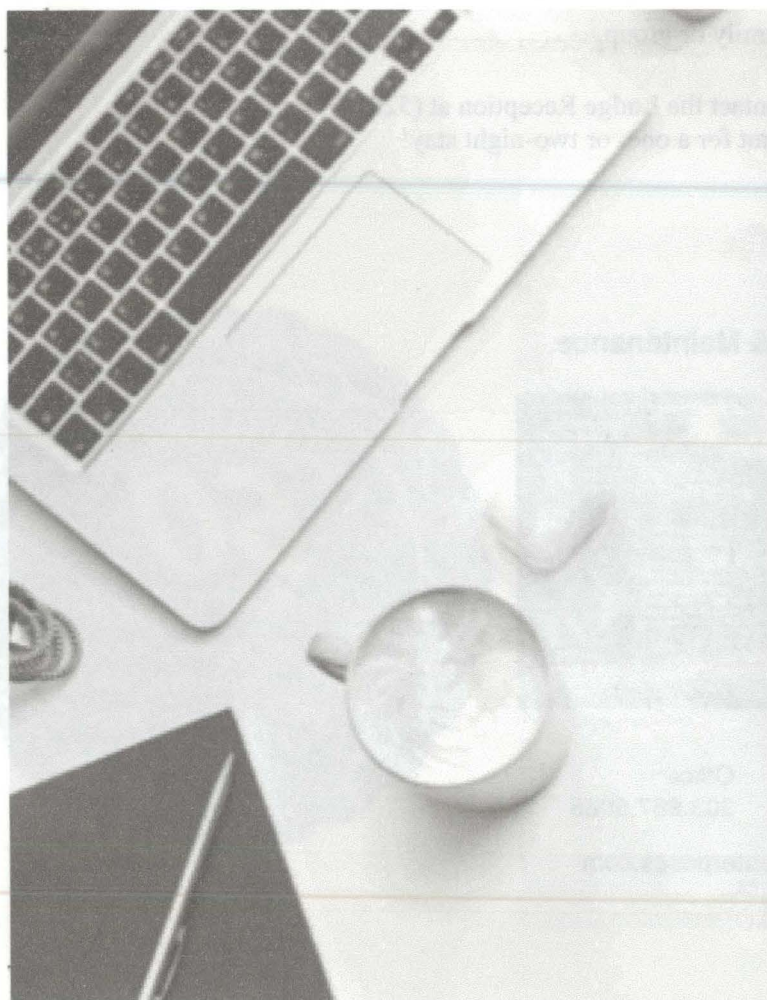
- 1 lb. 97% fat-free ground turkey
- 1 lb. reduced fat turkey sausage (I used a chorizo turkey sausage)
- 16 oz. chili beans
- 28 oz. crushed tomatoes
- 16 oz. tomato sauce
- 10 oz. Rotel tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. onion flakes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. smoked paprika
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper (or crushed red peppers)
- ¼ tsp. ground black pepper

Instructions:

1. Brown turkey and turkey sausage in skillet with garlic. Break meat up to be finely ground.
2. Put browned meat in slow cooker with remaining ingredients on low for 8 hours.



Susan Miller-Cochran with her award-winning Turkey Chorizo Chili (photo courtesy of Stacey Cochran)



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Fire Season CONTINUES

by Sally Crum

At the October 21st MLHOA Board Meeting, Don DelMastro, Ranger for the Coronado National Forest, told us that our forest is in the same dry condition that it was in June, due to the lack of monsoon rains.

As many of you are closing your cabins, shutting off your water and locking up for the winter, please remember to remove ALL flammables from near your cabins. Put all furniture cushions, brooms, etc. inside the cabin and remove all firewood from within 30', and clean up any accumulated pine needles from gutters and around the base of the cabin.

Pine needles can still be dropped off at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. If the needles are in plastic bags, they must be dumped from the bags into the trailer for them to be accepted at the green waste dumpsite.

We are completing our 2023 Firewise Community recertification. When I review all the work that we did as a community, both in time and money spent, as well as the amount of hazardous fuels removed, I am once again amazed at what we can accomplish when we work together. THANK YOU!!

Have a safe and healthy winter, and if you run into Dorothy Johnson or any of our Neighborhood Captains, please take a minute to thank them for all their hard work. And think about volunteering next year for this fun, yet critical work!

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Coronado National Forest Thinning

by US Forest Service

Thinning in the Catalinas started in September of this year. Crews have already thinned some in Willow Canyon and around Mt. Lemmon, and they have started around Lower Soldier Camp. Thinning will proceed to Upper Soldier, then Ski Valley, and finally back to Willow Canyon.

The intent of the thinning is hazardous fuels reduction. Tree density in some areas on the top of the Catalinas is too high, increasing the risk for a fast moving wildfire. The thinning is designed with a "prescription," which outlines for the thinning the crews what to cut and what not to cut.

Primarily, we are creating space between the canopies of the trees and removing smaller trees that could help transfer a ground fire into a canopy fire taller trees. Creating gaps between canopies slows the fire and forces it back to the ground where it cannot jump from one tree canopy to the next. While doing that, we still want to retain natural clumps of trees, particularly oaks, and preserve all of the large healthy trees that are still thriving in the area.

So what does this look like when the crews are thinning? They will be removing the lower limbs of conifer trees and removing smaller conifers within denser pockets. Small oaks will be cut or thinned, with some patches being left untouched to retain biodiversity and wildlife habitat. All of the material being cut will be piled, and the piles burned as soon as 1 year later, provided the piles have had enough time to cure.

We will inevitably have another large fire in the Santa Catalinas. Our hope is that when we do, and firefighters are on the mountain protecting infrastructure, homes, telescopes, and businesses, that they have the highest probability of success. We appreciate everyone's understanding and support as we work to get our forest back to a healthier and more fire-resilient condition.

From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

It was great to see Mt. Lemmon residents on Saturday, October 21, so engaged during a meeting with Department of Transportation, Planning and Engineering Division Manager Jana Potvin. The discussion centered on Pima County's portion of the USFS Federal Lands Access Program grant Marshall Gulch improvement project.

We learned recently that the federal portion of the project is delayed for about a year due to an inability to secure a contractor. Ms. Potvin fielded a number of questions, several outside of the scope of her work on the project.

Your MLHOA President Sally Crum noted these concerns and the remaining questions, and our office will be working with Sally to schedule a Spring meeting which will include speakers from Transportation, Natural Resources/Parks & Recreation, Regional Wastewater, and others. Updates to follow in the New Year.

Speaking of the New Year and as we roll headlong into the holidays, the District 4 team hopes we can all slow down a bit to truly enjoy the company of family and friends, and a have joyous holiday season!




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Pictures from Oct. 28 Halloween Party at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge

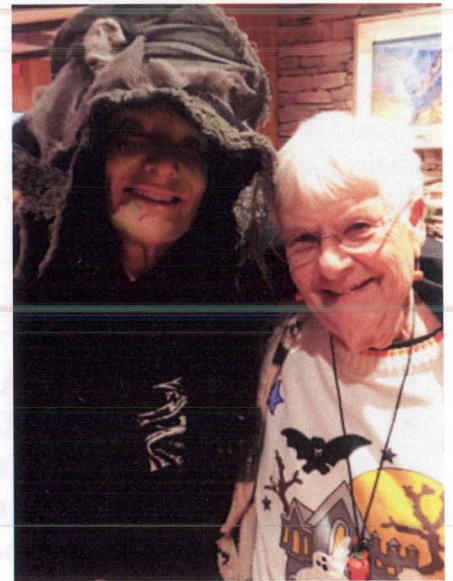
Photos courtesy of Patty Thomas



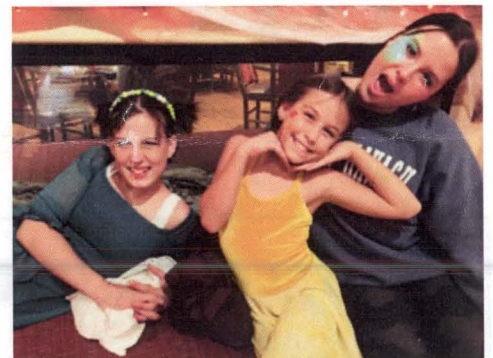
Tom Thomas and John Mulay



Tom Tom at the front desk



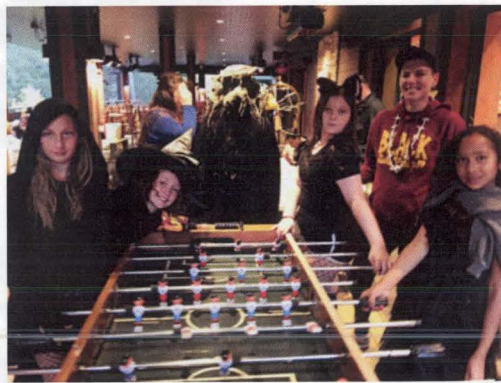
Diana Osborne and Linda Mulay



Children were able to decorate
pumpkins, and many came in
costume to enjoy the fun



Music was provided by Paul
Opocensky



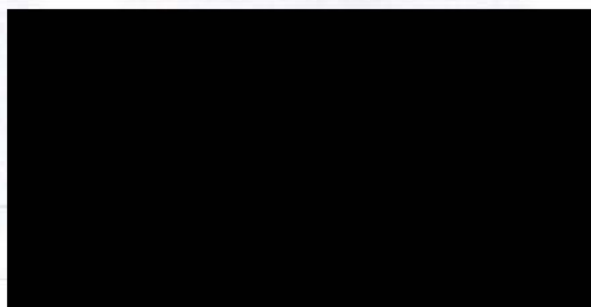
Osbornes' children and grandchildren



Ashleigh and Jessie Thomas, just
married and honeymooning on Mt.
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