

The

# Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

## Updates from the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association Annual Dinner

by Susan Miller-Cochran

The annual Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association dinner took place on April 23, 2024 at the Doubletree Reid Park in Tucson. Local superhero Lou Crum was announced as the 2024 Summit Award winner by last year's winner, Jenni Zimmerman. The Summit Award is given annually to a community member who has provided a remarkable amount of service and made a difference to the mountain.

Community members also received updates on a range of plans for the mountain and upcoming events. Here are a few highlights:

- **Firewise** efforts are beginning! See pages 2-3 in this issue for more information.
- **Marshall Gulch Project:** Don DelMastro from the USFS explained that the parking loop project will begin on August 1, and it will restore natural water flow to the Marshall Gulch area. It will also add additional parking and picnic areas.
- **Traffic Safety:** Pima County Sheriff's Deputy Dave Conto reminded everyone to "never be in a hurry up on the mountain," especially as summer visitors create more traffic.
- The **Mt. Lemmon Fire District** shared plans for the remodeling of the fire station.
- The **Mt. Lemmon Water District** urged cabin owners to turn off water when leaving your cabin for more than 24 hours. They also shared that Christina Grossman helped the MLWD receive a nearly half million dollar grant to update the water meter system.

### Upcoming Events

- 4th of July Parade (see page 6)
- Bunko returns! (see page 7)
- Movies and Music at Mount Lemmon Lodge (see page 7)
- Summer Speaker Series returns! (see page 7)
- MLWC Cabin Tours on June 1 and Luncheon on June 8 (see page 11)

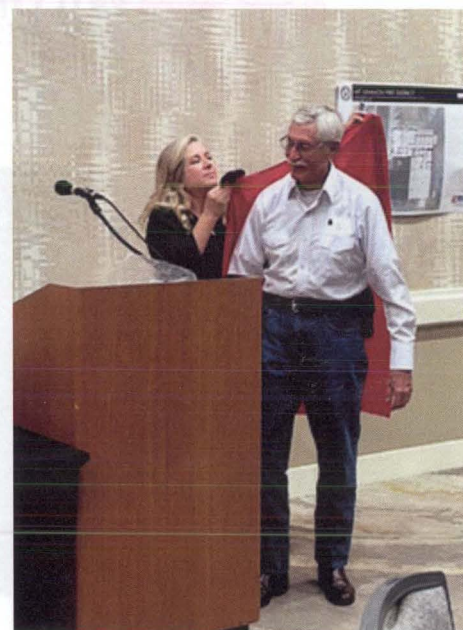


*Mt. Lemmon community members gather for the annual MLHOA dinner on April 23, 2024 (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)*



*(right) 2024 Summit Award winner Lou Crum is given a superhero cape by 2023 Summit Award winner, Jenni Zimmerman at the MLHOA Annual Dinner on April 23, 2024 (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)*

*(left) John Mulay, Linda Mulay, and Hazel Rugg welcome guests to the MLHOA annual dinner on April 23, 2024 (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)*





## Firewise Hazards to Address When You Open Your Cabin

by Dorothy Johnson

(below) Locusts next to a pine tree should be cleared to prevent fire from spreading (photo courtesy of Dorothy Johnson)



(above) Needles caught in the crevice between deck and siding, an example of what needs to be cleared within the first 5 feet of your cabin. (photo courtesy of Dorothy Johnson)

(below) Flammables within 10 feet of a propane tank must be cleared (photo courtesy of Dorothy Johnson)



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## It's the 2024 April-May Mt Lemmon Firewise Spring Clean!

by Dorothy Johnson

It's time to get your cabin ready for summer, and that includes some important spring cleaning! When you open your cabin for the summer season, you can expect some typical first encounters with fire hazards. Use the photos on page 2 as a guide to identify what you need to clear around your cabin.

### Mission:

1. Clear anything flammable from the first 5 feet around structures and 10 feet around fuel. See photo on page 2 for examples of what to clear.
2. Clear cheatgrass from the first 10 feet around structures and fuel.
3. Remove slash and locusts from within a 10-foot perimeter of desired tall trees. (Delay trimming or thinning pines until cold weather returns, so we don't attract active bark beetles with pine sap.) *To keep locusts from returning, spray Roundup on the locust leaves when new sprouts emerge.*

### With the produced green waste:

- Empty bags of pine needles into the trailer at MLFD.
- Seal cheatgrass in a plastic bag and put it in the trash.
- Put locust saplings/branches, vines, bushes, roots and small branches on a green recycle pile. \* (There is no burn pile this year.)
- Put other tree branches <5" and limbed saplings that are not locusts on a chipper pile. \*

### \* Where are these piles?

- Slash piles will be on the chipper route. To see the route and to email your neighborhood Captain for specific location of both types of piles see [mlfdaz.org/Firewise/SLASH\\_PILES--](http://mlfdaz.org/Firewise/SLASH_PILES--).
- Work with your Firewise Captain and Chief Gunia ([jgunia@mlfdaz.org](mailto:jgunia@mlfdaz.org)) to determine the location for any green recycle pile. Note: Chief Gunia will transport the green recycle but owners must pay the dump fee (about \$30).

### Important Dates to Keep in Mind

#### Sat, May 4, National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

- Volunteer with a pickup truck who could help neighbors get their green waste to slash and green recycle piles? Please email [dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com).

#### Sat. May 11 Summerhaven Chipper day.

- Volunteer who could help the chipper "feeders"? Please email [dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com). Volunteers will meet Sally Crum ([sbc602@gmail.com](mailto:sbc602@gmail.com)) at MLFD Fire Station at 8:00 AM May 11.

#### Sat May 25 Firewise Block Party, at MLCC

- 10:00-1:00. Facts, Fun, Friends and Food!



Community Firewise volunteers attend training at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center on March 30, 2024 (photo courtesy of Sally Crum)



Community Firewise volunteers receive on-site training on March 30, 2024 (photo courtesy of Sally Crum)



## May Calendar

**5/4** Firewise Spring Cleaning Day (see pg. 3)

**5/11** Summerhaven Chipper Day (see pg. 3)

**5/18, 8:30 AM:** ML Water District Board,  
Zimmerman School

**10 AM:** MLHOA Board meeting, Community  
Center

**1 PM:** ML Woman's Club meeting,  
Community Center (see pg. 11)

**2:30 PM:** Speaker Series: Don DelMastro  
(USFS), Community Center (see pg. 7)

**5/19, 1-4 PM:** Memorial for Bob Zimmerman,  
Community Center (see pg. 6)

**5/20, 4 PM:** ML Fire Board, Fire Station and  
via Zoom at mldaz.org

**5/25, 10 AM-1 PM:** Firewise Block Party,  
Community Center

Note: May 20 is the deadline for submitting items for  
the June 2024 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](mailto:mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com).
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowners' Association maintains a website at [mtlemmonhoa.org](http://mtlemmonhoa.org). Get informed and contribute to the community.
3. Sign up at [Nextdoor.com](http://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](http://MLFDaz.org) is the web address for our Fire Department's website. Its **Firewise** tab takes you to the **Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community** website, the doorway to important information and forms to get connected (Connections, Neighborhoods and Request Assessment), plan your firewising (an invaluable 13-minute video and Firewising Your Mt. Lemmon Cabin), access support, understand bark beetle and cheatgrass, and provide information to your overnight guests.

## 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](mailto:mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com).

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MLHOA Members who have not paid their dues by **May 20, 2024** will no longer receive the *Mt. Lemmon Echoes*. Get your dues in right away so that you don't miss an issue!

### Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2024

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA

(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

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## Response to "Preserving Climbing Safety and the Environment Are not at Odds on Mount Lemmon" (by Steven Davis and Erin Whittig, published in the April 2024 *Mt. Lemmon Echoes*, Vol. 51, No. 3)

I have to agree with the authors of the article regarding another "stretch" by the National Forest Service (NFS). I do a lot of hiking in the Mount Lemmon areas, and have found Mount Lemmon climbers to be very conscientious and respectful partners on the mountain. The climbing areas are always spotless – never a scrap of trash. The climbing areas are off of the beaten track, and even though they are popular with the climbers, they are well away from the main crowds of visitors.

The NFS cannot / does not even maintain the more heavily used areas on the mountain – for example, the Sunset Trailhead "unofficial" sledding area. There are no trash cans at the Sunset Trailhead, and in the spring, trash is strewn all along the parking lot and the hill. It is known that this area gets heavy winter usage from visitors, but the NFS is resistant to even the most rudimentary improvements (a trash and recycle can setup).

I would much rather have the NFS focus on supporting and maintaining heavily trafficked visitor areas than to kick off a new unfunded, uncoordinated mandate regarding rock climbing areas. Rock climbers have shown themselves to be a benefit to the area. Some of our more casual visitors are somewhat less so.

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# MT. LEMMON 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>th</sup> PARADE

Thursday, July 4, 2024– 12:00 Noon

Maybe it is a bit too early to get out the grill, but it is not too early to think about your entry for the Mt. Lemmon Fourth of July parade!

Get the family together and cook up your best ideas for creating your personal tribute for celebrating Independence Day 2024. Find all your banners, balloons, flags, streamers and more to decorate your bike, car, truck, skateboard, ATV, wheelbarrow, dog, goat, horse, donkey or children, and let your imagination run wild to make your special entry for one of the mountains most treasured and fun traditions. Times a-wasting, don't delay, get busy now to submit your entry!

**Deadline is June 17, 2024.** Please return the entry form on this page to Hazel at [4thjulyparademtlemon@gmail.com](mailto:4thjulyparademtlemon@gmail.com) or to the P.O. Box on form to allow sufficient time for entries to be organized, scripts formatted and order of entries finalized. Thank you so much for your cooperation and support. Get ready for a good time!

## MT. LEMMON FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ENTRY CONTACT INFO

Title of entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor (Entity/club/group/family): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

## MT. LEMMON FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ENTRY FORM

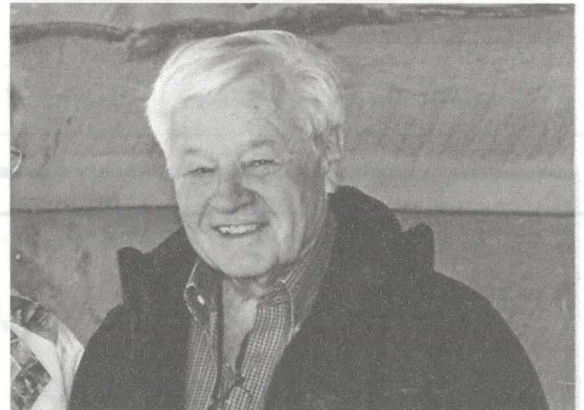
Title of entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of group: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of participants in group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Entry category: ☐ Patriotic ☐ Humorous ☐ Creative  
Mode of transportation (check all that apply): ☐ Walking ☐ Walking dogs ☐ Riding horse  
☐ Dancing ☐ Walking donkeys ☐ Driving a tractor ☐ Driving a car ☐ Driving a truck  
Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
If you will provide your own music, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Parade emcee script (What you want the emcee to announce about your entry): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to Mt. Lemmon's Club, P.O. Box 673, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619



Bob Zimmerman (photo courtesy of Michael Stanley)

The Mt. Lemmon community lost an invaluable, treasured member earlier this spring. We will publish a more detailed tribute to Bob Zimmerman's legacy in the near future, and please contact [mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com](mailto:mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute a memory of Bob. A memorial will be held for him on Sunday, May 19 from 1-4p at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [Jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com](mailto:Jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com) for a head count for appetizers and drinks.

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## Movies and Music on The Mountain!

The Mount Lemmon Lodge will be hosting several wonderful events in May:

- 5/4 – Music on the Mountain with Marc Thomas (Acoustic guitar singer/songwriter and soft rock)
- 5/4 – Kentucky Derby Day at the Lodge with \$165 prize basket for best hat!
- 5/11 – Music on the Mountain with Jay Faircloth (Country Western)
- 5/18 – Music on the Mountain with Susan Artemis (Jazz)
- 5/25 – Music on the Mountain with Southern Comfort Band (Jerry Talor – one of our local residents, and many of us will be playing the washboards!)

And starting in June, the Mount Lemmon Lodge will host **Movies on the Mountain** on the first Friday of the month! Diana Osborne says it will be the full movie experience. They will have a popcorn machine and butter stand, and a variety of candy and snacks will be available as well as beer, wine, soda, and charcuterie boards. And if that isn't enough: they plan to show the movie in the café and on the deck simultaneously! So if you need a bathroom break, you can even catch more of the movie on the way there...even *better* than a theater!

### Summer Speaker Program

by Robin Kirk

The Summer Speaker Program is getting ready to kick off! All events are free and open to the public. Join us at the MLCC at 2:30 PM

**May 18:** Don DelMastro, US Forest Service

**June 15:** Butch Farabee, Search and Rescue information

**July 20:** Don Hickman, on Heritage Mt. Lemmon apple trees and Jesús Garcia, Mission Garden

**August 17:** Terry Wilson, RN, "Preventing Domestic Abuse"

**September 21:** Mt. Lemmon Artists Panel and Exhibition

## What's That Noise?

by Dan Leade, Mt. Lemmon Fire District

As the warmer months arrive, those of us that reside in the desert southwest often are reminded that rattlesnakes are emerging from their hibernation. While not unexpected at lower elevations, did you know that rattlesnakes are living within our mountain communities? Of the 17 types of rattlesnakes in Arizona, the Arizona Black rattlesnake is the most common that MLFD encounters. Existing at elevations from around 3000 to over 9000 feet, there is plenty of opportunity to come across one of these reptiles. We have even found them right outside our station!

Per the CDC "7,000-8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the U.S." with Arizona having the most per capita rattlesnake bites nationwide. The Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center suggests precautions to take to avoid being bitten by a rattlesnake as well as what to do if you are. To avoid a bite, leave wild animals alone. Over half of bites are considered provoked. Be aware of peak movement times. Rattlesnakes are most active in warmer months. They are active at night during the hottest months (consider installing outdoor lighting) but may be more active during the day when it is cooler. Be careful where you put your hands and feet. Finally, dead snakes can bite, so never handle a venomous reptile.

If you are bitten, don't use ice, tourniquets or suction devices as these can increase tissue damage. Don't give alcohol or medication, and don't wait to see if you get symptoms. Don't try to catch the snake as treatment will be delayed and the snake could bite again. You should try to relax, move as little as possible, remove tight clothing, shoes or jewelry from the bitten limb, and seek immediate medical attention or call 911.

For more information and statistics: <https://azpoison.com/venom/rattlesnakes>

### Bunko will return in June!

Friday, June 14, 6:30 PM  
at the Mt. Lemmon Community



## From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

Each year, our team works to identify innovative ways to help our communities throughout District 4. Implemented initiatives for the mountain community have included the successful Stage 2 Fire Safety Restrictions program - be sure to thank the SAVs! - and the Pack It In, Pack It Out trash bags available at the Palisades and Summerhaven Visitor Centers.

Last year, the US Forest Service did not order Stage 2 Fire Restrictions – a first in several years. Given this year's abundant precipitation, resulting brush growth, and valley temperatures hitting 90+, we are confident fire safety restrictions are right around the corner. This makes taking Firewise preparedness measures critically important for year round and seasonal mountain residents, as well as owners of vacant land.

Our staff teamed up with your Mt. Lemmon Firewise Team leaders to update and compile a comprehensive listing of mountain property owners and worked with Pima County Communications to develop an informative mailer, sent to you all. Please scan the QR code on the mailer or email your Firewise Neighborhood Captain to request an assessment to help prioritize preparing your property.

To further call attention to the importance of getting ready for a potentially active fire season, **Pima County declared May 4 as Community Wildfire Preparedness Day.** On April 16, I presented proclamations to Mt. Lemmon Firewise Team Leader Stephen Brigham and Mt. Lemmon Fire District Chief Joe Gunia, as well as Firewise leaders from Green Valley, where four neighborhoods joined Firewise last year.

The Mt. Lemmon Firewise Team has been protecting the mountain community for 20 years now, and is the gold standard for the new Green Valley and Catalina Foothills Firewise Teams to emulate.



*Supervisor Steve Christy presents a proclamation for Community Wildfire Preparedness Day to Mt. Lemmon Fire District Chief Joe Gunia and Firewise leaders from Green Valley on April 16, 2024 (photo courtesy of Steve Christy)*

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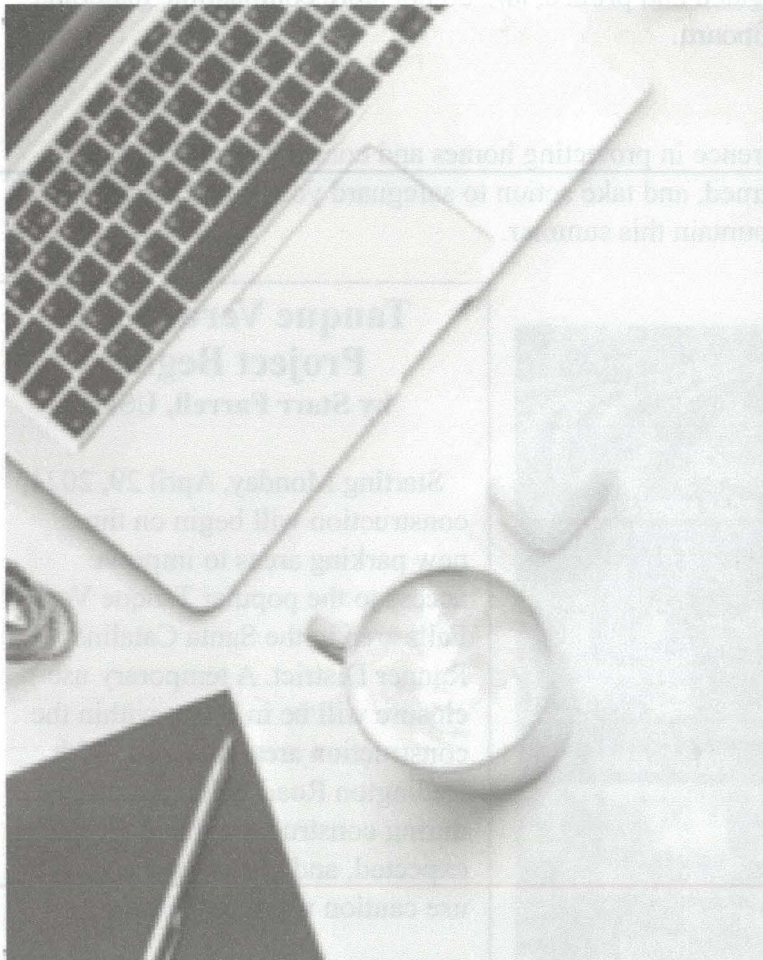


## Coronado National Forest Featured on Tucson Buses

by Starr Farrell, USFS

Starting April 4, 2024, residents and visitors to Tucson, Arizona will see something new on the back of the city buses. Four newly back-wrapped buses, two in English and two in Spanish, will be on the city streets. The buses showcase two different views, one of Sabino Canyon Recreation Area and the other of the Windy Point on the General Hitchcock Highway, commonly referred to as Mount Lemmon Highway. Both locations are within the Santa Catalina Ranger District and within a day's commuting distance from anywhere in Tucson. This is the newest way of helping to invite visitors to the Coronado National Forest.

"We look forward to helping share the beautiful scenery and uniqueness of the sky islands within the Coronado National Forest while also fostering a lifelong love of the area," shared Forest Supervisor Kerwin S. Dewberry. "We are committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is the first of a series of steps we are taking to make sure everyone knows they are welcome in the Coronado National Forest."



  
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## Preparing for Fire Season

by Amanda Adams, USFS

Greetings from the US Forest Service! Spring has arrived in southern Arizona and so has the heat. As the temperatures rise, visitors will ascend the mountain to escape the heat. On the mountain, the snow is melting and we are heading into fire season.

Snow melt means that higher elevation roads, gates, and campgrounds are opening. Rose Canyon, Showers Point, Whitetail, and Spencer Canyon Campgrounds are all currently open and will remain open through mid-October. General Hitchcock Campground is also open and will be open through December 15th. Molino Basin and Gordon Hirabayashi Campgrounds will close May 1st. All gated roads are currently open for the summer season.

As we head into fire season there are some things you can preemptively do to help protect your property in the event of a wildfire. These tips come from Megan Smedley of the Santa Catalina Ranger District and our friends at the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands in New Mexico, and they align with the tips and support you receive from your Firewise community volunteers and neighborhood captains:

- ◆ Maintain a defensible space of at least 100 feet around structures by creating horizontal and vertical space in vegetation. This involves removing some trees or brush to increase the horizontal spacing as well as removing lower branches to increase the vertical spacing from the ground.
- ◆ Remove debris from your property by cleaning up dead vegetation around fence lines, under porches, off your roof, and against your structures.
- ◆ Create a fuel-free safety zone within 5 feet of your home's perimeter where you remove fine fuels like pine needles and dead leaves, keep plants irrigated and pruned, and do not store combustible materials such as firewood, gas, lawn mowers, and cardboard.
- ◆ Above all, do not ignite on red flag days.

Being Firewise can make a significant difference in protecting homes and communities from the destructive force of wildfires. Start early, stay informed, and take action to safeguard your community! We look forward to seeing you out and about on the mountain this summer.



## Tanque Verde Falls Project Begins

by Starr Farrell, USFS

Starting Monday, April 29, 2024, construction will begin on three new parking areas to improve access to the popular Tanque Verde Falls area in the Santa Catalina Ranger District. A temporary use closure will be in effect within the construction area until June 15th. Redington Road will remain open during construction, but delays are expected, and visitors are asked to use caution when in the area.



## Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

by Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

Ladies who are new to Mt Lemmon: the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club is the place to be! We meet the third Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Mt Lemmon Community Center. The MLWC is a wonderful place to meet neighbors, learn about events on the mountain, and give back to the community.

### Updates from some recent and upcoming MLWC events:

- On March 23 Luann Waldron, Linda Mulay, Mickie Gelsinger, LeighAnn Thrasher, Cyndy Wilson and Sandi Triplett represented MLWC at the GFWC Southern District Spring Convention in Tucson.
- On April 26-28 Sandi Triplett, Luann Waldron, Donna Schotter and Cyndy Wilson represented MLWC at the GFWC-AZ State Convention in Mesa.
- At our April 20 meeting, The Woman's Club held a very successful diaper drive for More Than A Bed, a charity that supports foster families. (see photo on this page)

At the April 20 meeting, we also elected officers for the 2024-2026 term. We elected Sandi Triplett, President; Luann Waldron, First Vice President; Terry Wilson, Second Vice President; Donna Schotter, Secretary; and Karen Burrows, Treasurer. These officers will be installed at our May 18 meeting.

Come to the May meeting to learn more about our summer speaker program, the upcoming cabin tour, our membership luncheon, the Fourth of July parade and so much more. We look forward to welcoming you to the mountain!



(above) Members of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club conduct a diaper drive for the local charity More Than a Bed on April 20, 2024 (photo courtesy of Sandi Triplett)

### STAY COOL STAY EFFICIENT

As temperatures rise, it's essential to stay cool without draining your energy resources. Here's how you can create a more efficient and comfortable living environment.

- Replace dirty air filters to improve air circulation.
- Use fans to keep air circulating, allowing you to raise your thermostat set point.
- Seal leaks around doors and windows to prevent AC from working harder and longer than necessary.

For more tips, visit [www.trico.coop](http://www.trico.coop)



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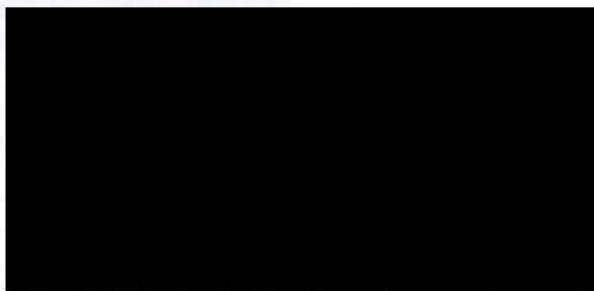


(above) Jerry and Connie Taylor join Linda and John Mulay at the Trico Annual Meeting (photo courtesy of John Mulay)



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## **Firewise means Fire Safe**

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