

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

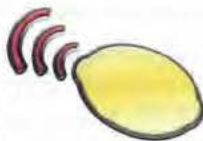
A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Grossman Family Launches KLMN-LP FM Station

Submitted by Christina & Matthew Grossman

Before social media and streaming, radio and TV offered people a source of connection. We believe radio is an essential resource that should be accessible to all who live on or visit our mountain. After years of patience and planning, our low-power community station is on the air!



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accepts applications for low power stations once every decade. Filing the application involved hiring a consultant from Seattle to navigate the bureaucracy on our behalf and provide required radio frequency modeling to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations.

A hurdle presented itself when a Tucson-based entity, with no apparent tie to the mountain, filed a competing application. We had to request a different, less desirable, frequency, file a formal protest against the competitor, then request a switch back to our original frequency once their application was denied. Fortunately, there were deficiencies in their application. Thanks to some research, along with documentation from local lot owners, the FCC found in our favor.

Along with federal licensing requirements, legal agreements were signed, music licensed, hardware purchased and installed, and automation software configured. Our son, David, designed the logo in time for hats and shirts to be ready for the July 4th parade. As with any passion project on the mountain, we had to accept it would take over 10 years to develop. This passion project began much earlier.

Matthew's interest in broadcasting began in high school and continues today. I have been involved in education and outreach for 20+ years. Both of us are licensed amateur (ham) radio operators to be of service to others for safety and communication. Our organization, the Mt. Lemmon Radio Club, is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit, focused on improving communications. The radio repeaters we operate provide an extra measure of safety for ham operators traveling to and from Mt. Lemmon. The LPFM station expands our reach to the public, by providing education, emergency safety information, updates, announcements, and music as a means to connect visitors and residents. As a neutral community resource, we will avoid political and religious content.

Information including a community calendar will be posted at <https://www.klmn-lp.org/>. Contact Christina Grossman at programming@klmn-lp.org to provide event info or announcements.

**To listen to KLMN-LP set your radio to FM
and tune to 106.9 FM**

Great Music, News, Updates, Alerts, Announcements!

*Because we are a low power station, only Summerhaven is guaranteed reception.
Parts of Soldier Camp may also be able to pick up a signal.*

Water Board Addresses Current Water Crisis

The Water Improvement District Board met Saturday, August 16. Many community members attended. The first hour was devoted to our water crisis and what is being done. Here are the important points to know.

System Status

- Overall system performance is steady. No new leaks detected, regulators on Guthrie/Phoenix have been replaced; our monitoring system is accurate.
- Storage tanks remain more than half full, which is encouraging given low spring flow. This means we have time to plan and avoid immediate emergency measures.
- Stage 3 Curtailment is working. Flows are low but steady; the system is not worsening compared to previous weeks.

Supplemental Water Opportunities

- Local businesses proposed trucking in water at their cost. This would: ensure continued operations for restaurants, lodging, and shops; free up spring-sourced water for residents by offsetting business use; and provide a buffer to reduce the risk of going to Stage 4 curtailment.
- The district would provide the infrastructure—accepting the trucked water into existing tanks and distributing it. This avoids a patchwork of private tanks and ensures water quality, accountability, and fairness.
- Attorneys for the MLWD, businesses, and individual stakeholders are reviewing the agreement to ensure compliance with AZ statutes for public entities. The goal is a transparent, equitable, and legally sound structure. We will regularly update you.

Water Quality Assurance

- Side-by-side testing of mountain water with Tucson-sourced water found them highly compatible. Key measures such as pH, chlorine levels, and bacteria counts are within safe ranges and not expected to damage pipes.
- Community members raised concerns about "foreign water" affecting old pipes. The district pledged no water will be introduced until qualified experts verify compatibility and testing protocols are in place.
- The AZ Department of Environmental Quality will review and approve any plan. This assures we follow tested, safe standards.

Long-Term Opportunities

- Work continues on an additional water tank to expand capacity. This would give us more flexibility.
- The district has access to natural spring sources not currently in use. These could be developed to diversify supply and reduce reliance on a single source.

CONSERVE WATER! EVERY DROP COUNTS!



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

As you know, we heard your concerns and this office spurred the development of a Pima County Wildfire Danger Mitigation Plan to explore the County's capacity to reduce and respond to wildfire risks.

In parallel, the process to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is underway, with an initial meeting took place in August, and anticipated completion in June 2026. The CWPP effort will create an updated Wildland Urban Interface map, which will replace the one currently in use. Work is progressing with both Pima County's Office of Emergency Management and Information Technology Department collaborating on a pre-developed evacuation zone map. This will define geospatial zones to facilitate efficient evacuations during wildfire and other hazards.

Additional resources to focus on defensible space in high priority areas that are in discovery include:

- Piloting a defensible space voucher program would encourage residents in high or moderate wildfire risk zones to create defensible space by piloting a program for those in need, for waived dump fees applications (up to the budget allocated) for the disposal of eligible brush and vegetation at local landfills and transfer stations;
- Expanding a brush and bulky removal initiative to support vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, individuals with functional limitations, and limited financial means, by providing direct assistance with vegetation removal, brush trimming, and debris disposal;
- Creating a Community Chipping Program to offer mulching or chipping services at pre-designated community drop-off sites for residents in WUI areas.

The Wildfire Danger Mitigation Plan will be in place as the CWPP takes shape and the intent is that the measures will be braided into the CWPP for ongoing work on wildfire prevention and response for our mountain community, as well as those vulnerable in the Valley.



President's Corner
Sally Crum

After more than 60 years of coming to the mountain, I can finally say it... I saw a bear! It was thrilling to watch such a magnificent creature in its natural setting. But as exciting as it was, it's important to remember that bears are wild animals and they need to stay wild. Please practice smart "bear aware" behavior: keep your distance, store food securely, and never feed wildlife. Let's help keep our bears (and our community) safe.

August was a big month for us here on the mountain. Trico shared long-range plans for the area—important information as we look ahead to our future needs. Our Firewise celebration was another success, with great attendance, good conversations, and yes... plenty of tacos enjoyed by all! The Speaker Series educated us on how the land responds to repeated, intense fires, and The University of Arizona's Steward Observatory Catalina Station presented their Master Development Plan and shared with us some exciting projects proposed for the future! The two presentations by UofA scientists were really great. Very interesting and educational! There is such enormous talent here!

We also held our beloved annual "Freeze Off," where community members showed off their ice cream-making skills. This event never fails to bring smiles (and a few brain freezes) to young and old alike. Karen Waldron took home the Gold with her yummy butter pecan; the Grossman took Silver with Coffeeholio; and Bronze went to Madelin Lind and her Honey Lavender ice cream!

To wrap up, the annual pancake breakfast was the last day of the month. We had already gone to press by the time it happened, but we're sure it was terrific. A huge thank you to all of you who helped make our August events so great! A special thanks to the Cookie Cabin, Lodge, and General Store for providing desserts for the Firewise Celebration!

Now the kids are back to school and—suddenly—it's September. Thank goodness we've had some rain! But keep praying! Fall on the mountain brings a welcome shift: cooler temperatures, changing colors, birds beginning to migrate, and fireplaces offering cozy warmth. And of course, one of our favorite autumn traditions is just around the corner—the annual Chili Challenge, a true sign Fall has arrived.

Here's to a September filled with crisp air, bright leaves, and more great memories together—just maybe without any more surprise wildlife encounters!



Every night, astronomers from the University are up on Mt. Lemmon using telescopes to better understand our solar system and find asteroids that could collide with Earth.

To help them, turn off all outside lights at night!

Not too much to ask to save the planet from destruction and advance science.



MLFD News
Dan Leade

Be Bear Aware!

As I am sure most of you are aware, our mountain has had significant bear activity this year compared to recent years. Two juvenile males and at least one sow with cubs have been documented in the area. While certainly an interesting sight and a sign of a healthy forest, interactions with humans always have the potential to end poorly as bears are unpredictable animals. So what can you do to avoid an unnecessary encounter?

Arizona Game and Fish has some excellent recommendations to avoid a problem that pertains directly to our community:

- Don't feed or give water to black bears. Be aware that human behaviors, such as feeding other animals, can attract black bears.
- Feed your pets inside or remove uneaten pet food between feedings, and remove garbage regularly or store in secure buildings.
- Place trash containers outside at the last possible time on the day of pickup.
- Hang bird feeders at least 10 feet above ground and away from buildings, including porches, and use a tray to catch spills. Discontinue feeding if a bear is in the area.
- Remove brush and cover around homes and corrals, creating a 50-yard barrier, to reduce hiding cover and resting places.
- Clean barbecues and store in a secure area.
- Clean up food and garbage around campsites, and never bring food, drinks, or anything that smells like food (deodorant, lotion, soap, shampoo, etc.) into your tent.
- Bears are good climbers, so to reduce a bear's ability to get over a fence, it should be at least 6 feet tall and constructed of non-climbable material.

For more in depth information, search Arizona Game and Fish Living with Bears.

A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the:

**Firewise Block Party
Dress a Girl Sewing Project
Ice cream Freeze Off
Pancake Breakfast**

Without your help, none of these events could happen!

We  our volunteers!

September Calendar of Events

1	LABOR DAY!
6	1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain (Lodge) Porch Rockers
7	2 pm Paint & Sip (Lodge)
9	2 pm Paint & Sip (Lodge)
13	1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain (Lodge) Tesoro 2 pm Paint & Sip (Lodge)
14	1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain (Lodge) Marc Thomas
19	7 pm BUNKO!
20	8:30 am Water District Mtg. 10:00 am MLHOA Mtg. (Comm. Ctr.) 1:00 MLWC Mtg. (Comm. Ctr.) 2:30 Speaker Series (Comm. Ctr) 2 pm Paint & Sip (Lodge) 4 - 6 pm Dave Conto Farewell Potluck (MLFD)
21	1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain (Lodge) After 7 Tucson
22	First Day of Fall!
27	2 pm Paint & Sip (Lodge)
28	1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain (Lodge) Donny Russell

MLHOA Meeting Updates

The August HOA meeting opened with approval of last month's minutes and a brief financial update. The association's account remains strong with a balance of just over \$10,000. After discussion, members agreed to keep the account at BMO with a 3% interest rate, noting that switching banks for a slightly higher return would require unnecessary paperwork.

Restroom availability and water conservation were key topics. With the community restrooms closed, four porta-potties have been placed at the Community Center, saving approximately 7,000 gallons of water each month. Members voted to fund two additional porta-potties for September and October, with proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast raffle covering the September unit and the HOA covering October if needed.

Bear activity continues to be a concern on the mountain. A representative from Arizona Game & Fish reported two bears have been captured and relocated. Residents are urged to remove birdseed and hummingbird feeders, secure trash indoors, and supervise pets at all times. Bears creating a nuisance or behaving aggressively should be reported to the 24-hour Game & Fish dispatch line at 623-236-7201. Signs and door hangers are being distributed to raise awareness, and residents are reminded not to approach or photograph bears in the village.

The Bob Zimmerman memorial White Fir will be planted this Fall. Volunteers are needed to help transport and plant the tree.

The HOA Board knows the water situation and the porta-potties are a cause for concern for residents and businesses alike. We encourage residents to attend the next MLHOA meeting (September 20 at 10 am in the Community Center) to ask any questions or raise any concerns.



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

How Will You Know? Emergency Alerts on the Mountain

In an emergency, like a wildfire, how will you be notified? At a recent Firewise Committee meeting, Joey Kosiorowski, an emergency management official explained alert systems. Here's what you need to know:

MyAlerts – Pima County's Opt-In System

What it is: A mass notification service run by Pima County.

How it works: You choose how you want to be contacted (text, email, landline, or mobile call) and your locations (your cabin, your Tucson home etc.).

Important: You must sign up at myalerts.pima.gov; it's your responsibility to keep contact info up to date.

Who runs it: Pima County Office of Emergency Management.

What You Can Do

- Sign up for MyAlerts
Check settings regularly—especially phone number or address changes
Have everyone in your family sign up.
- Get a NOAA weather radio, they're cheap and don't need cell service.
Amazon has many beginning as low as \$10
- Download the Pima County Sheriff Dept. App.
Good for highway closures and other non-emergency alerts
- Download and sign up for NextDoor.
Choose Summerhaven as your neighborhood. Set filter to nearby
- Know your neighbors and be ready to spread an alert.
Do you have phone numbers for neighbors?
- Buy a portable phone charger to charge to use if power goes out.
Amazon has many beginning around \$20.



Preparedness is personal. The systems are already in place and free to your to use, but they only work if you stay informed and ready.

BE SMART! STAY SAFE! SIGN UP!

Keep your calendar open!

The 2025 CHILI CHALLENGE
is right around the corner!

MLWC Updates

The August 16 meeting of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club opened with the approval of minutes and the treasurer's report, followed by a thank-you note from More Than a Bed for the club's \$855 donation, which provided essentials for foster children. Members heard an update on the Dress a Girl project, which has produced 310 completed dress pockets, with one final sewing day planned to finish the work.

Orders are being taken for new club apparel, including t-shirts, vests, and denim shirts embroidered with the club logo, with prepayment encouraged. Jewelry orders are being coordinated by Robin K.

Plans and preparations for the December 6 Holiday Brunch have begun! Invitations will be sent in early November, and volunteers are needed to help with follow-up calls to confirm reservations and payments.

The MLWC is accepting donations of checks and gift cards all month for Aviva Child Services, and organization that supports periodic reunions for foster children and their siblings.

The September Done in a Day project will be Hope Rising, a new faith-based shelter in Tucson for survivors of human trafficking. Members were asked to bring cash or checks to the next meeting to support this important new initiative.

We have heard (but not confirmed) that 4 bears have been taken off the mountain this season.

Two were euthanized.

Please bring in bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, dog water dishes, trash..... anything that attracts bears.

Remember: A fed bear is a dead bear.
Protect our bears. It's the right thing to do.

CONSERVE
WATER

Public Safety Report

The MLFD responded to 14 calls last month:

- 8 medical calls
- 1 smoke/campfire
- 1 public assist
- 3 canceled
- 1 training



The Sheriff's Department reported 55 calls last month:

- 12 in Summerhaven
- 2 vehicle accidents, one involving a pedestrian (no injuries)



Nearly all damaged guardrails around the village have now been repaired, improving road safety.

Deputy Conto Farewell Party

Bring a potluck dish and stories to share as we prepare to send off one of Mt. Lemmon's finest!



Deputy Conto Farewell Potluck
Saturday September 20th
4-6 pm
Fire Station

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520-576-1116 Fax

****New email****

SelbyHarmon@aol.com



Mt. Lemmon's "Good Humor" Man



Michael Stanley was recently seen driving around the neighborhood and handing out yummy home-made ice cream samples to drum up business for the annual Freeze-Off! The gang looks happy!

Carol Bender Receives Fulbright Specialist Award

Carol Bender, a cabin owner and Professor Emerita at the University of Arizona, has received a Fulbright Specialist Program award. Carol previously was the university's Undergraduate Biology Research Program for 30 years



Carol will complete a project at Széchenyi István University in Hungary to exchange knowledge and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities in the U.S. and overseas through a variety of educational and training activities in public/global health.

Carol is one of over 400 U.S. Citizens who share expertise with host institutions abroad and through the Fulbright Specialist Program each year. Award recipients are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, demonstrated leadership in their field, and a potential to foster long-term cooperation between institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

Trico Holds Annual Town Hall on Upcoming Improvements

Every year, Trico Electric Cooperative makes the trip up the mountain to meet with our community and share updates about its work and plans for the future. This annual town hall has become a valuable tradition, giving residents the opportunity to hear directly from the co-op that keeps our lights on and to ask questions about the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This year's presentation highlighted Trico's ongoing investments to modernize the electric grid and expand its renewable energy footprint. The cooperative is working to strengthen reliability in remote areas like ours while also preparing the system for a future that relies more heavily on clean power. Solar projects, battery storage, and new technologies are being integrated to make sure members have dependable service while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Trico emphasized these improvements are not just about sustainability, they also stabilize costs and ensure the long-term resilience of the system.

Building on that foundation, Trico also shared its tentative (and secret) plans to bring fiber optic broadband internet to the mountain. While the project has yet to be formally announced, the cooperative sees fast, reliable internet as an essential service for rural communities. If implemented, this initiative would provide members with the kind of high-speed connectivity many city residents take for granted would be transformative for full-time residents, part-timers, and local businesses alike.

Trico's commitment to innovation is rooted in a long history of community service. Founded in 1945, the cooperative was established to bring electricity to rural Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz Counties at a time when large utilities had little interest in serving sparsely populated areas. Over the decades, Trico has grown with its members, maintaining its nonprofit, member-owned model while adapting to new technologies and evolving needs. The Co-op's presence on Mt. Lemmon each year is a reminder of that cooperative spirit—neighbors working together to ensure a brighter future.

Trico needs to measure customer interest in fiber broadband service. Use the QR code below to send your feedback/opinion. The more people who respond, the better our chances of getting this service.



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BACK IN THE DAY..... 1970



Deputy Morse

Deputy Sheriff Jim Morse and Frosty, a Siberian husky, patrol the more than 650 cabins in the Mt. Lemmon area daily. Work such as this keeps Morse, a six-year Summerhaven resident, busy most of the time.



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Cody the Curious Coati: The Fox's Test

The pine needles were damp from last night's rain as Cody crept toward the stone ledge that overlooked the canyon. His whiskers twitched with nerves. This was the final part of his test—a test to prove he was ready to explore beyond his home range and chart new paths for his band. But first, he had to cross the log bridge spanning the narrowest part of the canyon...and the fox was out there.



Cody's heart thudded in his chest. He remembered when he was a kit, tumbling through the underbrush with his sister. They'd been playing near the meadow when a flash of red darted from the shadows. Cody froze. His sister did not. The elders found him hours later, still crouched behind the log, shaking and alone.

"Face the fear," his mother told him. "Not every shadow has teeth." Now, as the wind rustled through the ponderosa pines, Cody stood at the edge of the bridge. A twig snapped behind him. He turned sharply. There. Orange fur, a bushy tail, and sharp eyes. The fox.

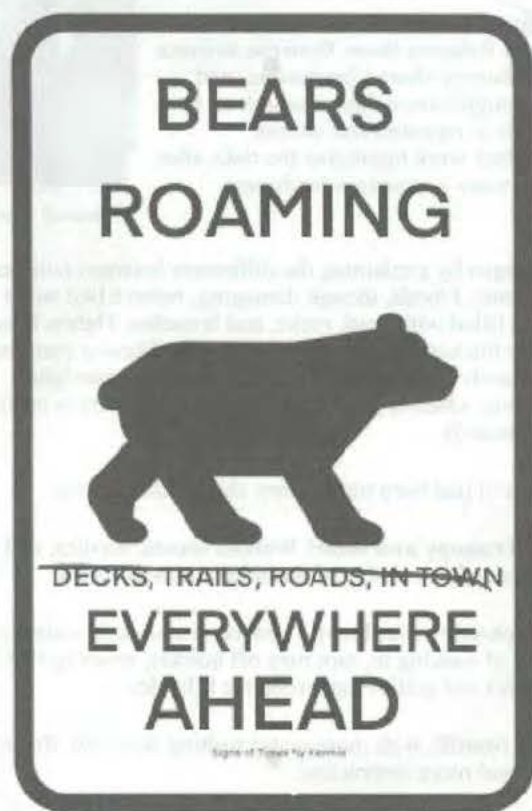
Cody didn't run this time. He didn't freeze. He turned slowly, climbed onto the log, and began to cross. Step by careful step, he moved forward. The fox padded closer but did not follow. It sat back on its haunches, watching.

When Cody reached the other side, he turned. The fox was gone. He'd done it. His chest swelled with pride. Not because he was the fastest or cleverest—but because he had faced what had once made him small.

The forest opened before him now, full of mystery and new stories.

And Cody? Cody the Curious Coati was ready.

To be continued... because curiosity never truly ends.



Welcome to the team!

We are honored to announce that Doug Mance, AWM, CFP® has joined the Schaefer Present Corte Mance Investment Group as a full partner and financial advisor. Doug has distinguished himself as a top industry wealth advisor for 43 years, a community leader and a friend. Together, we offer diverse talent and perspectives, providing our clients with decades of experience and knowledge. We remain focused on creating lasting relationships built on trust, commitment and integrity.

Join us in welcoming Doug to the team.

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24-TU-02340 (08/24)

Speaker Series Presents Research on Recovery After Wildfires

At the August Speaker Series session, Ann Youberg and Rebecca Beers from the Arizona Geological Survey shared fascinating, and sobering, insights from their research on how soil responds to repeated and intense wildfires. Their work highlights the risks after fire and the ways a mountain landscape recovers.



Beers & Youberg

The team began by explaining the difference between two destructive post-fire events. Floods, though damaging, behave like water – fast-moving and filled with mud, rocks, and branches. Debris flows, by contrast, are thicker, heavier, and move more like wet concrete. They can carry massive boulders and destroy structures outright. Understanding which type of flow is likely after a fire is critical for predicting hazards.

Wildfires don't just burn trees – they change the ground.

- **Loss of canopy and litter:** Without leaves, needles, and ground debris to soften raindrops, water hits the soil harder.
- **Hydrophobic soils:** Intense heat can make soils water-repellent. Instead of soaking in, rain runs off quickly, creating rills (shallow channels) and gullies that erode the hillsides.
- **Faster runoff:** With more water rushing downhill, floods grow bigger and more destructive.

A striking video showed how quickly small rills can form on a burned slope, carrying sediment into channels that eventually trigger larger flows.

Beers led a three-year study in the Catalinas to see how soils and vegetation were recovering after the Aspen, Bullock, and Bighorn Fires. The team tracked dozens of sites across different burn severities. They found:

- **Encouraging resilience:** Many soils regained healthy water-absorbing properties within one to two years, faster than expected.
- **Forest recovery in patches:** Some areas showed strong regeneration, with new conifers sprouting.
- **Reorganization in other spots:** Such as Radio Ridge; repeated high-severity burns wiped out seed sources. Instead of pine forests returning, those areas are transitioning into grasslands or shrub-lands.

The research underscores that not all fire is bad – low- to moderate-intensity fires can maintain forest health. The real problem comes from large, repeated, high-severity fires, which make recovery harder raising the risk of dangerous floods and debris flows.

Youberg and Beers stressed as fires grow larger and more frequent, we must better understand how soils and watersheds respond. Their work helps the National Weather Service and land managers predict when floods or debris flows are likely, improving safety for communities downstream.

UofA Astronomers Present Sky Center Master Plan

The University of Arizona's Sky Center recently held a public meeting to present its long-range master plan for future projects. Because the Sky Center operates under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), these public forums are required to keep the community informed about proposed developments. Representatives from the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest and the Sky Center were present to discuss the plans and answer questions.

A World-Class Institution

The Sky Center is recognized internationally as one of the premier institutions for astronomy. Its facilities on Mount Lemmon include the 61-inch Kuiper Telescope, the Schulman 32-inch Telescope, and several instruments dedicated to tracking asteroids and monitoring satellites. These resources have contributed to groundbreaking discoveries in planetary science and astrophysics, including work with NASA on near-Earth object detection and space missions. The site also supports national security by partnering with the U.S. Space Command to track satellites and orbital debris, ensuring space situational awareness. This unique blend of cutting-edge research and strategic monitoring makes the Sky Center a global leader in astronomy and an essential national resource.

Proposed Projects

The master plan outlines several improvements designed to enhance both the research and educational missions of the Sky Center. Key elements include:

- **Telescope and Facility Upgrades:** The plan calls for modernization of existing telescopes and support infrastructure, ensuring continued cutting-edge astronomical research.
- **Expanded Visitor Facilities:** Enhancements to the visitor complex will create additional space for educational programming, school groups, and community stargazing events.
- **New Educational Infrastructure:** Plans include improved classroom and laboratory space, designed to support hands-on learning in astronomy, astrophysics, and space sciences.
- **Improved Access and Utilities:** Upgrades to roadways, power systems, and communications infrastructure are part of the plan, ensuring safe, reliable access to the mountaintop site.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** In partnership with the USFS, the Sky Center intends to adopt new practices to minimize environmental effects and support long-term ecological stewardship of Mount Lemmon.

Education and Outreach

The Sky Center is more than a research hub; it is also a vital educational resource. Each year, thousands of visitors, from local schoolchildren to international astronomy enthusiasts, participate in programs that bring the wonders of the night sky to life. The Center's outreach efforts include hands-on telescope experiences, public viewing nights with the Schulman Telescope, astrophotography workshops, and collaborations with schools and educators across Arizona. In this way, the Sky Center serves not only the scientific community but also the broader public, inspiring curiosity and discovery under the dark skies of Mount Lemmon.

**Deadline for submission to the October issue of
The Echoes is September 20**

Mt. Lemmon Echoes is a publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association, and is published monthly Feb-Nov.

Reader submitted stories, letters, photos, ideas, and comments are welcome.

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