

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Fire Hydrant Fund Seeks Supporters: \$20K Needed

The Mt. Lemmon Water Improvement District (MLWID) plans to install three new fire hydrants on Guthrie Lane. These hydrants will greatly improve fire protection on the mountain.

MLWID is using a combination of reserve funds, a low-interest government loan, and grant money. Even so, resources are limited. The challenge is cost. The MLWID estimates the total project will exceed \$20,000.

Fundraising got a strong start thanks to the Mount Lemmon Women's Club, which stepped up early with a generous \$5,000 donation to launch the project. Unfortunately, the broader public fundraising campaign in late fall and winter has not gained traction. To date, only an additional \$1,780 has been raised—leaving us well short of the goal and unable to proceed with this essential project.

Why hydrants are expensive

Installing a hydrant isn't as simple as dropping one in the ground and hooking it up. The work typically includes:

- Confirming there is adequate water flow and pressure
- Securing needed permissions and permits
- An engineering plan
- Designing the connection and installing isolation valves
- Excavation, installation, and site restoration
- Inspection, pressure testing, flushing, and commissioning

All of this requires skilled talent and professional consultation and is what contributes to the project final high cost.

How you can help

If you've ever wondered what a community project looks like in real time, this is it. We have momentum, a clear plan, and a meaningful lead gift—but we need broader participation to get it over the finish line.

- Every donation helps (large or small)
- Consider donating in honor of a neighbor, family member, or firefighter
- Please spread the word to other property owners and friends

Let's rally around this practical, high-impact investment in safety and get these hydrants installed!

Use Zelle to contribute, the address is:

Fire-hydrants-for-summerhaven
In the memo space write "Fire hydrant fund"

Or send a check to

Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation
P.O. Box 652
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

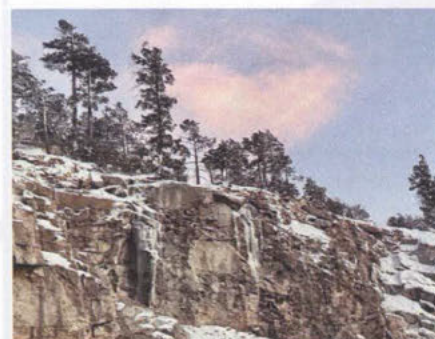


Photo credits: Michael Stanley & Susan Miller-Cochran

Thank you both!



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

As your District 4 team begins its 10th year of service to the Mt. Lemmon community, the first order of business is to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

With the new year comes the start of the 2026 Arizona Legislature session, and I am writing to give you an update on a District 4 initiative recently introduced and, I am pleased to report, passed unanimously by my Board colleagues.

There has been growing concern over home title theft and fraud, especially as these bad actors prey upon our most vulnerable communities. What transpires is chilling. Criminals who are technically talented with high internet acumen scour various publicly available records for residences where the property is held free and clear of mortgages or the amount of the loan is dwarfed by the homeowner's equity. Armed with this data, the crooks file a false title transfer, take out new mortgages using the equity in the targeted homes, pocket the money proceeds (often hundreds of thousands of dollars) and leave the original homeowner responsible for the new falsely-created debt.

This is devastating to our friends and neighbors who have paid off mortgages after years of sacrifice only to be faced with the repugnant task of losing their homes due to foreclosure or unplanned legal expenses to reclaim their clear home titles.

Our County Assessor Suzanne Droubie has made this crime a top priority and is hosting forums at Pima County libraries to discuss this and other programs available through her office. While one can register on the County Recorder's site to receive a title change notification, therein lies the problem – the notification is after the fact.

Home title theft prevention measures require state legislation to focus fully on policy with teeth to stop this activity, and the sooner, the better. We directed our state legislative lobbyist to add Home Title Theft Protection to Pima County's 2026 legislative agenda, and our office is working with him and state agencies to craft and introduce such a bill.

This effort joins District 4's recent successful initiatives: the Wildfire Danger Mitigation, Homeowner's Insurance Availability and Affordability, and the Remote Area Safety; all issues facing our district's constituents that we will carry on and fight for. And, oh yes, I love being your Supervisor.



President's Corner
Sally Crum



Hello neighbors!

Whether you're brand new to the mountain or a familiar face returning for another season, welcome to our special corner of Mt. Lemmon. I hope your holidays were joyful, restful, and filled with the kind of moments that remind us why we love it up here. And if you were lucky enough to catch some of our recent snowfall—what a gift. Snow on the mountain, these days, always feels like a blessing.

That said, living in a beautiful place like this also reminds us that we can't take anything for granted. Even in winter, it's important to stay mindful of two things to protect our community year-round:

- Conserve water whenever you can.
- Firewise your property by clearing a 5-foot noncombustible perimeter around your home and removing fire fuel like low-hanging limbs.

Small steps, taken together, make a big difference.

Speaking of making a difference, the FLAP grant project is well underway. While it was unfortunate that so many trees needed to be removed, the additional parking is desperately needed and be a big improvement for visitors and businesses alike!

Looking ahead, we have a important first event coming up: **our Annual Membership Dinner in April**—and this year it will be held at **Skyline Country Club**. See all the details on page 4. Mark your calendar now. This meeting is especially important because this year the Board will elect a new MLHOA president. Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Our community is strongest when members show up, listen, share ideas, and take part in decisions that shape the year ahead.

Before then, I hope you enjoy a love-filled Valentine's Day. I know my plan: I'll be snuggled up next to Lou, in front of the fire, with a mug of hot chocolate—grateful for this mountain life and for all of you who make it feel like home.

P.S. Time to pay your annual dues! Only \$40 if you pay before the Annual Meeting!

FOREST SERVICE CABIN OWNERS

Recent snow and ice have caused lots of limbs and branches to fall. We recommend checking your cabin and surroundings.

We will sponsor a chipping day **FEBRUARY 27** to handle the downed wood.

Chipping will start at Willow Canyon at 10 am. Then move to Upper Soldier, (10:45) Lower Soldier (11:15) and Fern Ridge (11:30).

To volunteer to help at your location:
text Tim at 641-455-8832

LAST CHANCE TO CHIP BEFORE MSO SEASON!



MLFD News
Dan Leade

Even though we have received some much needed moisture this winter, Mount Lemmon still remains very dry. This is why it is important to discuss **ways to protect your cabin from wildfire threats**. The communities atop Mount Lemmon exist in the wildland-urban interface; an area where homes are located within wildfire prone areas. Because wildfire will always exist to some extent in this environment, it is imperative that homeowners make a concerted effort to make their homes as survivable as possible.

Creating defensible space refers to “hardening” a structure while also treating or removing vegetation that can serve as fuel to an approaching wildfire. Steps to harden a structure are numerous, but many can be completed on a regular basis to keep the task manageable. Keeping roofs, gutters and decks free from pine needles and leaf litter makes it less likely that embers from an approaching wildfire can spark an ignition. Sealing gaps in a structure also resist ember intrusion. Clearing to mineral soil an area of at least 5 feet around the structure will reduce radiant heat from a ground fire. Combustibles, such as firewood, should be kept away from the structure, and flammable fuels should be stored in safety cans far from occupied structures. Spacing vegetation to reduce continuity and eliminating ladder fuels may reduce the wildfire’s growth potential, thereby reducing the intensity of heat transfer to a structure.

While this all may sound overwhelming, our Firewise website identifies numerous resources to assist you. We encourage you to visit mlfdaz.org and click on the *Firewise* tab. There you will find a wealth of information that can assist you in protecting your cabin from potential wildfire threats.

If you’re a NEW HOA member, please use the form so we capture your contact info.

If you’re renewing your membership - use Zelle. Send to:

MLHOATRES@gmail.com

February Calendar of Events

11	10 am MLWC Coffee Hour Kirk Bear Canyon library
14	VALENTINE'S DAY!! Romance on the Mountain Dinner - Lodge
15	12- 2 Hats off to Rodeo Paint Party - Lodge
16	Presidents' Day
17	Lunar New Year
	Ash Wednesday First Night of Ramadan
21	8:30 am Water Board meeting 10 am MLHOA meeting EVERYONE WELCOME
27	Forest Service Cabins CHIPPING DAY

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association Dues 2026

Annual dues are \$45. Only \$40 if paid before Annual Dinner.
Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA
P.O. Box 699
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name_____

Mailing address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Mountain address_____

Cell phone_____ Home phone_____

Email_____



Best looking bunch of gals in Tucson!

SAVE THE DATE!

MLHOA Annual Dinner

April 21, 5:30 pm

Skyline Country Club

\$60 per person

Connect with your community!

**Prizes, Raffles, Door Prizes,
Valet Parking
More fun than a barrel of monkeys!**

ZELLE: MLHOATRES@gmail.com
write Annual dinner in the memo

MLWC News

The Mount Lemmon Woman's Club ended the year with its traditional Holiday Brunch at Ventana Golf & Racquet. It was a wonderful event with great food, lots of fun, and recognition of member contributions during the year.

The Club is charging into 2026 starting with coffee hours in both January 13th and February 11th at 10 am at the Kirk Bear Canyon Library on Tanque Verde. Coffee and pastries will be provided. We especially encourage women new to the mountain this season to join us – we'd love to meet you!

Regular Saturday meetings at the Community Center will begin in March, when a slate of candidates for officer positions will be presented. New officers will be elected in April and installed in May.

Because the MLWC is a service organization, 2026 will find club members busy donating needed items and gift cards to many organizations in the greater Tucson Community. This work by the Club is especially important this year as the need for many is great.

The MLWC has over 100 members. We are the largest Club in Arizona – from the smallest community! We look forward to another year of fun and fellowship. See you soon!

Listen to the Lemmon!
KLMN-LP 106.9 FM



Let us Firewise for you!

McBride Landscaping & Yard Maintenance is on the mountain weekly.

Our Firewising Services include:

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Limb trimming	Sapling removal
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Water Improvement District Update

Good news from our Water Improvement District. The recent snowfall and rain has allowed us to move to **STAGE 2**.

Stage 2 exists when the District's water storage or water source production is less than 80% but at least 50% of capacity for at least 48 consecutive hours or the District has identified water supply issues - such as a steadily declining water table, increased draw down threatening pump operations, or poor water production - creating a reasonable belief that the District will be unable to meet anticipated water demand on a sustained basis over the next 30 days.

2.2 Restrictions: Under Stage 2 customers are asked to **voluntarily** reduce water consumption. Keep conserving water! It's a year round effort!

Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 9

- 5 - EMS/Rescue
- 3 - Fire/Hazmat.
- 1 - Public Assist

PCSD calls for the month: 46

- 6 - Search & Rescue
- 25 - USFS calls
- 11 - Summerhaven calls
- 4 - Accidents.



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We were delighted to be the pilot site for the County's mitigation initiative. Crews came up to the mountain on December 12 with an industrial-size chipper and made short order of all the slash collected. We sure hope this continues!

Our Steering Committee read the Final Report of the Resiliency & Mitigation Council with great interest. We hope County and State officials follow up with concrete actions based on the strategies, tools, and model policies investigated over 10 months. The report emphasizes the role of individual homeowners and communities in mitigating wildfire risk - all of us who Firewise year-round agree! But we also know there are legislative solutions that would go a long way to encourage the insurance industry to meet us halfway on this important effort! We applaud Carmine DeBonis, Jr. from Pima County for proposing decisive legislative actions!

We hope that if you made just one New Year's resolution, it was to completely clear an area 5 ft. around your cabin. Just 5 feet. Time and again, the research demonstrates this REALLY makes a difference in the event of a wildfire. We look forward to seeing everyone on the mountain this season!

**Greater Soldier Camp & Willow Canyon
Cabin Owners**

**Just a reminder: the Mexican Spotted Owl
season begins March 1!**

**No outdoor power tools (including battery-
operated) allowed.**

ROMANCE *on the Mountain*

VALENTINE'S DAY

Menu

Bubbles & Brie

Baked Brie Topped with Harris Apricot
Jam, Toasted Coconut & Pecans
Served with Assorted Warm Bread

Panzanella Salad

Hearty Wild Greens, Fire Grilled Bread
Strips, Roasted Red Peppers, Zante
Currants, Oven Roasted Tomatoes
Tossed with Walnut Balsamic
Vinaigrette Topped with Shaved
Parmesan Cheese

Pasta Bar

Papardelle Pasta Freshly Tossed with
Extra Virgin Roasted Garlic Oil, Served
with Choice of House Made Marinara or
Saffron & Herb Alfredo

Fire Grilled Rosemary Crusted Steak
Served Thinly Sliced & Room
Temperature on a Bed of Wilted
Spinach

Scampi Prawns Sauteed with Lemon,
Herbs & Garlic Butter

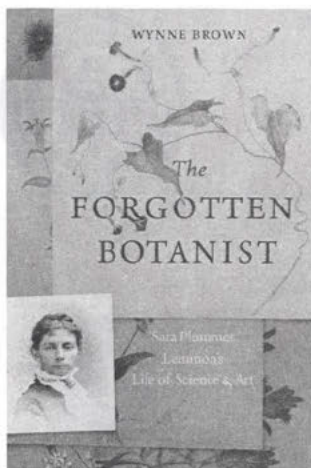
Grilled Vegetables

Asparagus, Mini Bell Peppers, Chipollini
Onions & Baby Carrots Served with
Roasted Red Pepper Coulis

Sundae Bar

Featuring a Selection of Ice Creams,
Decadent Sauces, and an Assortment of
Toppings and Treats

MOUNT LEMMON LODGE



Book Review: The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science & Art by Wynne Brown (University of Arizona Press, 2021 \$27.95)

Submitted by Carolyn Niethammer

In the spring of 1881, two newlywed botanists decided it would be a great idea to travel from their home in California to Arizona and investigate plants in the Catalina Mountains. Sara Plummer Lemmon was 45 and John Gill (JG) Lemmon was 49 and both were in fragile health. They travelled by railroad to Tucson, a town of around 10,000 inhabitants. They then hired a wagon to

take them to the base of the southern flank of the Catalinas where they camped in a deserted cabin.

Every day they scrambled up and down cliffs and followed ravines delighted with discovering new-to-them plants. They collected seeds of a bush that was later named *Tagetes lemmonii* or Lemmon's marigold. Nurseries today sell plants from that original seed collection. They also collected yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*). After two weeks of rugged hikes in increasing heat, finding no way to get to the higher reaches, and nearing the end of their supplies, they returned to Tucson.



Lemmon

They were advised that they would have more luck getting to the higher altitudes if they were to go to the northside of the range, through Oracle Camp.

Taking the locals' advice, the couple hired a stagecoach to drive them to the north of the Catalinas where they borrowed a mule to haul their collecting and camping supplies. They continued up the mountain, carrying an introduction to rancher Emerson Oliver Stratton and his wife.

Stratton admitted he'd never been to the top of the mountain but offered to accompany them as well as lend them horses and pack animals. It was an exhausting climb, but they made it to the top in one day.

"We christened it Mount Lemmon," wrote Stratton, "in honor of Mrs. Lemmon, who was the first white woman up there." The name was regularized when Stratton's daughter Edith married George Kitt, whose uncle was George Roskrige, the early Pima County surveyor. Stratton went on to write, "When Mr. Roskrige made a map of the country about 1904, he put in the name Mt. Lemmon." (Of course, the mountain was not unnamed. The Tohono O'odham had long called it Babad Du'ag, or Frog Mountain.)

The Lemmons went on to collect in other areas of the Southwest and Sara immortalized many of the plants with beautiful watercolor paintings, some of which are included in the book. The tales of their work in other parts Arizona which included dodging Apaches makes for entertaining and instructive reading.

BACK IN THE DAY.....Arizona Daily Star, Nov. 1928

**\$500,000
Won't
Build
the
21 Mile
Winding
Road
to
Mt. Lemmon**

**It
Will Cost
Over
\$1,150,000**

**Vote
"No"**

Remember when a million dollars was a lot of money?

KLMN-LP 106.9 FM: Your Best Source for Up-to-Date Information

Submitted by Christina Grossman

Snow days, the early Post Office closure, road conditions, and prescribed burns have been in the news for Mount Lemmon this Winter. It has been quite the learning curve to keep both the Mount Lemmon Community and surrounding areas informed. To keep up-to-date on information, please check Nextdoor, <https://www.klmn-lp.org/index.php/alerts/>, or follow us on Facebook at Mount Lemmon Radio Club K7TUS. To keep us informed of any updates, closures, or emergencies, email me at programming@klmn-lp.org, message me on Nextdoor, or call to leave a message. Please make sure that you provide your name and contact information, in case I need to reach out for a follow up.

We are also happy to announce our collaboration with the Mount Lemmon Woman's Club in recording the MLWC Speaker Series for 2026. The goal is to provide this on our website and on air to offer a resource of connection and education to our community! One of the speakers will also debut in June with an interview and reading of their children's book, *Generation Mars: Prelude – Scratching the Surface*.

Our organization, the Mount Lemmon Radio Club, is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit, focused on improving communications on Mount Lemmon. To help defer our music licensing costs, you can donate directly on our website <http://www.klmn-lp.org>. Look for the "Donate" button on the top right corner. From all of us at KLMN-LP 106.9FM, thank you for your continued support!

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11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Casino del Sol Resort

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- 9-11 a.m. – Informational booths and Workshops
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- Bring a copy of your bill for fast check-in
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- Trees will be available for purchase



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Cody 's First Kiss

Cody the Curious Coati had never thought much about Valentine's Day—until he found a heart-shaped sprinkle stuck to a pinecone outside the Cookie Cabin..

He sniffed. Strawberry. Fancy.

From behind the Ponderosa Pine, a sleek coati with a flower tucked behind her ear stepped into the sun as if she'd been waiting for the light to hit just right. "Looking for this?" she asked, nodding at the sprinkle.

Cody's tail popped straight up. "I—uh—was just... inspecting the pinecone for... science."

She laughed, a quick, warm sound that made the squirrels pause mid-scold. "I'm Luna."

They padded along the trail toward the little overlook, where the mountain air smelled like cold bark and sunshine. Cody pointed out his favorite places: the best rock for sunbathing, the safest log to cross the creek, and the spot where chipmunks always dropped crumbs.

When a breeze lifted Luna's flower and spun it toward the water, Cody sprang—caught it midair—and placed it gently back behind her ear.

Luna leaned closer. "That was brave."

Before Cody could answer, she gave him the tiniest kiss on the nose.

Cody froze—then grinned so hard his whiskers wiggled.

And that's when he heard footsteps... coming their way



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Trees or Pavement**

Signs of the Times by Kermie

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)

Resiliency & Mitigation Council Releases Final Report

The Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI) and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) have published the Final Report of the Resiliency and Mitigation Council.

The Council included representatives from cities and towns, counties, fire districts, fire chiefs, DIFI, DFFM, and the property insurance industry. Ten public meetings were held December 2024 - September 2025, with presentations from subject-matter experts in many fields.

Here are the key takeaways:

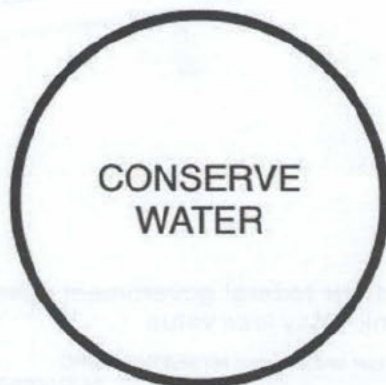
- Insurance premiums increase for a variety of complex, inter-related reasons.
- There is value in FireWise and similar programs for homeowners. Clearing 5 feet around your home is your single best defense.
- Newer models for assessing risk are available and are more reliable (e.g. catastrophic versus historical modeling).
- Other states have a variety of policies and programs to address the cost of property insurance
- The Council's mandate was investigatory and did not offer recommendations or solutions.
- The primary responsibility for reducing wildfire risk lies with the homeowner.

To review the entire 60-page report, use this QR code:



Carmine DeBonis, Jr., the Pima County Deputy County Administrator, and the only County-level representative on the Council appended a letter to the final report; he proposed lawmakers consider::

- *Supporting Wildfire Risk Modeling Transparency*
- *Creating a Statewide Wildfire Risk Disclosure and Inspection Program*
- *Establishing a Statewide Wildfire Resilience Retrofit Tax Credit*
- *Prohibiting Future HOA Restrictions on Defensible Space Mitigation Activities*
- *Exploring Creation of a Specialty Wildfire Insurance Option*



Why We Celebrate Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day traces back to St. Valentine, a name shared by more than one early Christian martyr. The best-known legend (and the one that fuels the romance) says a priest named Valentine lived in 3rd-century Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. According to later stories, Valentine performed secret weddings for couples when marriage was discouraged for young soldiers—an act of compassion (and defiance) that ultimately led to his arrest and execution.

Another popular tradition says Valentine, while imprisoned, befriended (or healed) the jailer's daughter and sent her a note signed "from your Valentine." Historians can't verify these details with certainty, but the legends stuck because they connect love to bravery, loyalty, and choosing one another even under pressure.

So how did a martyr's feast day become a day of romance? In medieval Europe, especially in England and France, people believed mid-February marked the start of birds' mating season. Poets—most famously Geoffrey Chaucer—linked St. Valentine's Day with courtship. Over time, the religious observance blended with popular customs: love notes, tokens, and eventually the modern Valentine—less about the saint's biography and more about celebrating affection.



Clubs, organizations, and annual events all depend on volunteer effort.

Please consider helping out this year - even if only for a couple of hours at the Firewise Block Party, the 4th of July Parade, the Ice Cream Freeze-off, the Chili Challenge, or our Pancake Breakfast.

The MLHOA is looking for volunteer Board members! Come join us!

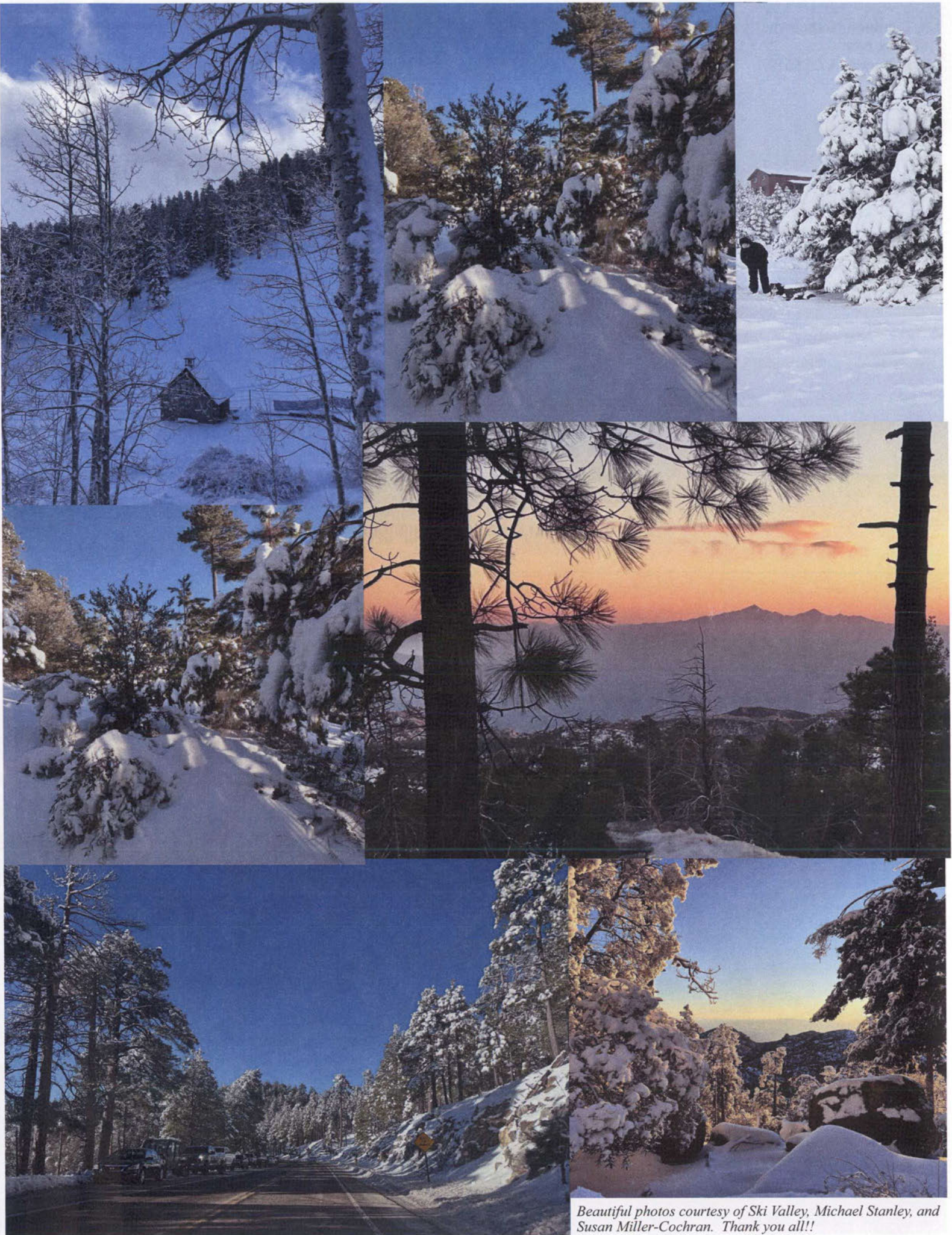
Deadline for submission to the MARCH issue of The Echoes is FEBRUARY 19

The *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* is a publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association. *The Echoes* is published monthly February through November.

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

You may submit submissions or comments to:

mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com



Beautiful photos courtesy of Ski Valley, Michael Stanley, and Susan Miller-Cochran. Thank you all!!

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HAPPY

Valentine's day

