

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

MLWC Cabin Tour Draws Full House

Beautiful cabins, good company, and good food made the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Cabin Tour a memorable event again this year.

Approximately 80 attendees spent the afternoon exploring three of Summerhaven's unique and inviting mountain homes. Visitors were welcomed at the host cabin by Rose Mary and Brett Hinsch before touring the homes of Dorinda and Chris Rife, Sieglinda and Michael Welsh, and Barbara and Dave Earnest. Each cabin offered its own distinctive style, architecture, and mountain charm, giving guests a chance to see the many ways residents have created their special retreats in the pines.

Following the tour, attendees returned to the Hinsch cabin for a potluck. Good food and conversation capped off the afternoon as guests shared their impressions of the homes and enjoyed time with friends.

A special thank you to Sally Crawford, who has been the driving force behind the Cabin Tour for many years. Through her planning, organization, and attention to detail, the tour has become one of Summerhaven's most anticipated annual traditions. The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club also extends its appreciation to the homeowners who graciously opened their cabins and to everyone who attended and made the event such a success.

And a BIG thank you to Tami Arthur for providing all the beautiful photos of the Cabin Tour and potluck reception!

MLFD Receives TRICO Grant

The Mt Lemmon Fire District recently received a \$1,500 grant through Trico's POWER grant program.

Trico Electric Cooperative awarded a total of \$35,000 to six non-profit organizations providing critical services in Southern Arizona. Non-profits are selected through an application process and reviewed by a seven-person committee made up of Trico employees, Members, and Board Members.

Other grant recipients were: Arivaca Coordinating Council/Human Resource Group, Inc. and Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona both received grants of \$10,000. Youth On Their Own received \$5,000. Friends of the Arivaca Schoolhouse & Historic Townsite, and United Community Health Center both received \$4,250.

Since 2008, the POWER Grant program has awarded more than \$1 million in grants.





From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

I'm sure I wasn't the only person experiencing Deja Bighorn when a lightning strike sparked the recent Table Mountain Fire. Fortunately, the skilled Type 3 Incident Management Team firefighters and Mother Nature contained and subdued the blaze. Unfortunately, the Type 3 IMT then was immediately dispatched to fight the Pocket Fire in Sedona. We are so grateful for their efforts here.

Our office just received the Road Pavement Repair and Preservation Plan for this fiscal year from the Transportation Department, and while we are disappointed that only 14 miles of District 4 roads are listed, Sabino Canyon Park is scheduled for repair from Turkey Run, down through the village to Upper Goat Hill Rd.

The Marshall Gulch project continues, and we look forward to the day (hopefully soon!) the restrooms there open to the public.

On the Legislative front, all attempts at insurance industry reform, including increasing the notification for cancellation of policies and greater transparency in underwriting, were blocked. Progress was made with the Department of Finance & Insurance to strengthen the fire response plans submitted by various utilities.

Due to the overall budget shortfall, the Department of Forestry & Fire Management did not receive any material increase in funding. However, the base appropriation, which includes just over \$10 million for wildfire management, was included in the approved state budget.

All of these will remain top legislative priorities next year and Pima County will continue to work with the coalition of cities and counties that are all supportive of these measures.



**Moving forward with
 Kim & Joey**

One thing that has struck us during our first months as Co-Presidents is the number of great ideas that exist throughout our community. As we've talked with neighbors, attended meetings, and participated in local events, we've heard countless suggestions for improving and enhancing life on Mount Lemmon. The passion people have for this mountain is inspiring, and there is certainly no shortage of ideas for making our community stronger.

The challenge isn't a lack of ideas. The challenge is finding enough people willing to bring those ideas to life.

Like many volunteer organizations, the Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association relies on a relatively small group of dedicated individuals who give generously of their time. We are grateful for everything they do, but the future of our community depends on broad participation. Many hands truly do make light work.

You don't have to join a board, chair a committee, or commit to hundreds of hours each year. Sometimes helping for a few hours at an event, serving on a short-term project, sharing a particular skill, or simply attending a meeting can make a meaningful difference. Every contribution matters.

As we head into one of the busiest and most enjoyable times of the year, we encourage everyone to think about how they might become involved. Together, we can accomplish far more than any small group working alone.

And speaking of community, we hope to see all of you at the 4th of July Parade, sponsored by the MLWC. It is one of Mount Lemmon's favorite traditions and a wonderful reminder of what makes this community special. Whether you're marching, riding, volunteering, or cheering from the sidelines, we look forward to celebrating with you.

Thank you for your support of the MLHOA and for all you do to make Mount Lemmon such an extraordinary place to call home.

Kim & Joey

See You at the Parade!

Newer residents: Please join us at an upcoming MLHOA meeting. All meetings are open to the public and we would appreciate your feedback and ideas!...and we'd like to meet you too!



MLFD News
Dan Leade

As many of you are aware, we have seen our first wildfires of the season on Mt. Lemmon. As I am writing this, we have already had the Molino Fire (4 acres), the Stratton Fire (0.1 acres), and the Sycamore Fire (27 acres) on Mount Lemmon so far. So far, all three have been outside of MLFD's district, but they are a stark reminder that we are in the thick of the summer season. Information gathering and dissemination can be challenging during an emergency. Because of great working relationships, we have been exceptionally fortunate to have Fire Chief Gunia provide accurate and up-to-date information for these incidents. But, as incident sizes grow and become more complex, it can become more difficult to get information out through an increasing number of channels. The Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association created a Google Group to provide accurate and up-to-date information to all members. *See below*

Finally, regardless of where you get your information, it is unlikely that you can get it fast enough in the event of an immediate evacuation scenario. With that in mind, PLEASE also sign up for the Ready, Set, Go! application through the Arizona Emergency Information Network. You can do so by visiting ein.az.gov/ready-set-go. Not only can you sign up for the county emergency notification system there, but the site also contains valuable information on emergency preparedness, and Firewise.

To subscribe to the MLHOA Google Group, simply send an email to:

mtlemmonhoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

You will receive a confirmation email.

Now you'll get up-to-date emails on important mountain matters and reliable information from MLFD when there are wildfires nearby.

July Calendar of Events

3	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike** 7:30 PM. Movies on the Mountain - MLL
4	12 pm 4 th of July Parade! 1-4 pm Music on the Mountain 5:30 - 7:30 Music at The Sawmill
10	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike**
11	5:30 - 7:30pm Music at the Sawmill
12	1-4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL
17	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike** 6:30 pm BUNKO! - Comm. Ctr.
18	8:30 am Water Board meeting 10:00 am MLHOA Board meeting 11- 3 Meet the Artist Monsoon Monkey 1 pm MLWC meeting 2 pm MLWC Speaker Series- Comm. Ctr. 6 pm BINGO! - Sawmill
19	1-4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL
24	8:00am Naturalist-led hike**
25	1-3 pm Paint your own pottery - Comm.Ctr. Sponsored by Monsoon Monkey 5:30-7:30- Music at SawMill Run
26	11- 3 Meet the Artist - Monsoon Monkey 1-4 pm Music on the Mountain -MLL

**** See page 9 for details**

MLHOA Report

The June meeting of the Mount Lemmon Homeowners Association covered a range of topics, with wildfire preparedness, community communications, and future community projects taking center stage.

A member of the public asked about how to alert the county to downed trees blocking roadways. The answer is to use the app SEE CLICK FIX. This application allows you to take a picture of a downed tree, pothole, drainage problems, etc. and will automatically send a message, *with the exact location*, to the county so the problem can be addressed.

Firewise leaders attended the meeting and announced the need to reorganize and strengthen the community's Firewise program. Volunteers to serve on the Firewise Steering Committee are urgently needed.

District Ranger, Don Del Mastro gave an update on the Table Fire and the use of hot shots to attack any hot spots that may be lingering. He also cautioned the public about false information on social media about fires.

Beth Borozan, representing the county, gave an update. A notable achievement was facilitating the permit process for the Great Soldier Camp Association Water Committee.

The Friends of Mount Lemmon nonprofit organization has received its federal nonprofit status and is moving forward with organizational development, including establishing a bank account and recruiting board members. The group's goal is to support projects benefiting both residents and visitors while helping preserve and enhance the unique character of the mountain community.

Several long-term community projects were discussed, including potential future uses for the historic one-room schoolhouse, possible improvements to the vacant lot near the Community Center, and opportunities to partner with the Mount Lemmon SkyCenter on future educational and fundraising events.

The next MLHOA meeting is July 18th, 10:00 AM at the Community Center. The public is always welcome to attend. If you are interested in learning more about the Friends of Mt. Lemmon, we encourage you to attend the July meeting.

MLWC Happenings

Submitted by Christina Grossman

As we approach closer to the celebration of 250 years as a nation, leadership has always been the woven strength of the Mount Lemmon Woman's Club.

An essential foundation of leadership is caring about people regardless if we agree, or disagree in any given day. We are leaders as members in voting for the issues that are important to us and to the organization. We are leaders as chair women in programs and events. We are leaders as board members and leaders in our Mt Lemmon Community in a multitude of avenues.

Together, we have been 52 years going strong as a woman's club that sponsors and operates the Mount Lemmon 4th of July parade. It is one of our biggest events, especially in our 250th anniversary of our country.

To begin the parade, we have our Grand Marshall, Dennis Cozzetti. He has been an important member of our community for many years that far extends building cabins. He is about heart. Becoming a volunteer fire fighter, taking leadership positions, and taking time to help our neighbors is what made this any easy decision. We also honor Maggie Cozzetti, one of our own members, in keeping everything together, allowing the work and heart to continue all these years. You are a strong woman.

Remember, there is no whole if there are no parts. There is no organization, or community without all of us. We all represent different hats of responsibility, different visions, different ethnicities, and different walks of life. It is important to continue to do the work that needs to be done, to bring our voices to the table, and bring our hearts and minds to align with the gifts we offer to our mountain. Happy 4th of July!

Important Road Closure Information for the 4th of July!

The entrance to Summerhaven, near mile marker 24, will be closed July 4th, 2026 at 11:30am until approximately 12:30pm, for the parade.

Staging for the parade begins at 11:00 am on side roads.

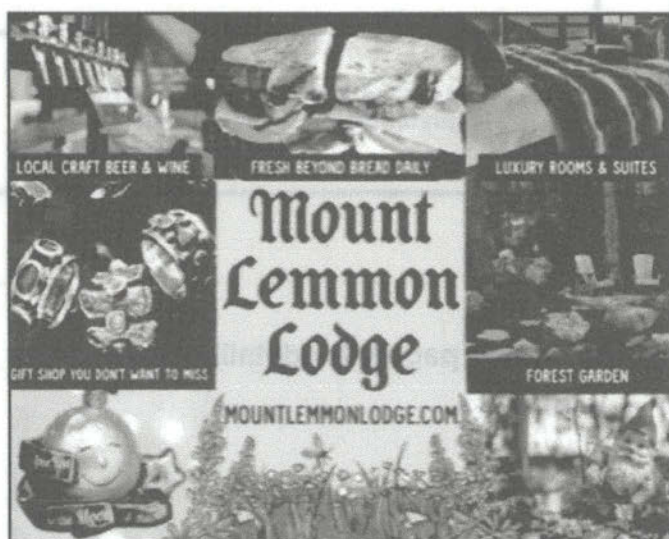
The Pima County Sheriff's Deputies will have a barricade at the intersection of Ski Run Rd and General Hitchcock Highway. Loma Linda/Middle Sabino Road from the highway will also be barricaded.

To avoid any issues, please have friends and family arrive in Summerhaven before 11:00 AM.

Be advised that this information is subject to change, via the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Thank you for your patience.

If there are questions, please email:

4thjulyparadentlemmon@gmail.com.



Water Improvement District Updates

The Mount Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District received encouraging news at its June meeting as reports showed water storage tanks remain near capacity despite another year of low spring flows.

According to the manager's report, the district's major storage tanks are currently between 83% and 99% full. While spring flows from Sabino and Carter Canyon remain lower than normal, the strong tank levels suggest that conservation efforts by residents and businesses are making a meaningful difference. Board members noted that reaching mid-June with tanks nearly full is a positive sign and puts the mountain in a stronger position than at the same time last year.

The board emphasized water conditions can change quickly and it will continue to monitor tank levels and source flows throughout the summer. Stage 2 conservation measures remain in effect, and residents are encouraged to use water wisely.

The board also continued its discussion of a commercial water curtailment policy that would apply during severe water shortages. Last year's drought raised questions about how businesses should share in conservation efforts alongside residential customers. To help answer that question, the board reviewed water usage data from local businesses and discussed a proposal that would require commercial customers to reduce water consumption by a given percentage during future Stage 3 restrictions.

No final decision was made. Board members agreed that additional historical data is needed before establishing firm reduction targets. The goal is to create a policy that is fair, practical, and recognizes businesses have different water needs while ensuring everyone contributes to conservation efforts when water supplies are critically low.

Progress continues on several major infrastructure projects as well. Design work for the new Upper Loma Linda water tank is moving forward, and easements needed for the Guthrie Road waterline project have been completed. The board expressed optimism that both projects will continue advancing through the engineering and permitting process in the coming months.

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Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 12

EMS: 6

FIRE: 4

Public Assist: 1

False: alarm 1



PCSD calls for the month: 7

Accidents: 3

SAR: 2

Suspicious persons/activity: 1

Vandalism: 1



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The Firewise Committee met recently to discuss the challenge of reaching both full-time and seasonal residents. Committee members reviewed existing communication channels, including email lists, Google Groups, neighborhood networks, and community websites. The consensus was improving and simplifying communications remains a priority, with efforts underway to better coordinate information between community organizations.

The committee also reviewed the annual reporting requirements necessary to maintain Mount Lemmon's recognition as a Firewise USA® community. Residents were reminded that property owners can help by submitting reports of Firewise work completed on their properties, including vegetation removal, defensible space projects, and other wildfire mitigation efforts. These reports demonstrate the community's ongoing commitment to wildfire preparedness and routinely exceed the minimum standards required for Firewise designation.

Looking ahead, committee members discussed the future of Firewise outreach activities. While the annual Firewise Block Party continues to satisfy an important educational requirement, there was interest in exploring additional hands-on projects that could directly assist property owners with wildfire mitigation.

The committee will continue evaluating outreach and education efforts as it works to strengthen wildfire preparedness across Mount Lemmon neighborhoods.

**The Firewise Steering Committee needs volunteers.
Not a big time commitment. Learn new stuff and meet
new people!**

Contact mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com

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Wildfire Support and Air Quality Reports Available to Mount Lemmon Residents

Submitted by Christina Grossman

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality provides a resource of wildfire support as part of their community outreach and engagement platform. AZDEQ provides this through air quality monitoring, forecasts, and provides education regarding wildfire smoke and your health. AZDEQ also provides a map that locates current wildfires across our state, using InciWeb. All of this information is now located on our website, www.klmn-lp.org under "Weather". The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a resource called AirNow.gov that shares data on the air quality in your area, especially on Mount Lemmon. Pima County also provides detailed information and hourly concentrations of air pollution. Both of resources are now located on www.klmn-lp.org under "Weather". At KLMN-LP 106.9 FM, our mission is to serve the Mt Lemmon Community by providing education, safety information, updates on community events, and be a source of connection for our visitors and residents. Stay connected with us via our website, www.klmn-lp.org, our FB page "Mount Lemmon Radio Club-K7TUS", and on the radio at 106.9 FM. Our organization, the Mount Lemmon Radio Club, is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit, focused on improving communications on Mount Lemmon. All members of our organization serve as volunteers. To donate, go to www.klmn-lp.org. Locate our Donate button at the top right of the website. All donations go toward the cost of hardware, software, and license fees, which provides the Mount Lemmon Community with music, programs, updated alerts, and the broadcast of the 4th of July Parade. Thank you for your continued support!

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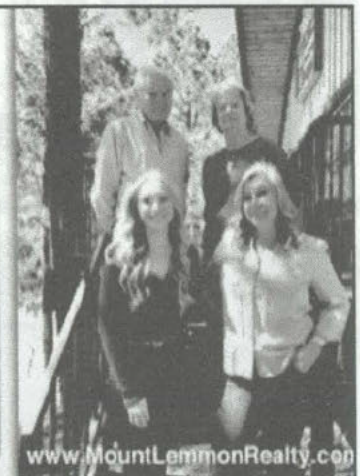
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More than the Mail

I recently stopped by the Mt. Lemmon Post Office to interview Postmistress Pam Harmon. My plan was simple: learn about the history of the post office and find out about Pam and her job. That never happened.

Within minutes, it became obvious that interviewing Pam was going to be a challenge. Not because she wasn't willing to talk, but because *everyone else* was.

Keeping out a watchful eye was Bowie, Pam's faithful dog and the unofficial mascot of the post office. Bowie is the official greeter, supervisor of conversations, and inspector of lunches, all done with the calm professionalism expected of a longtime mountain employee.



People came and went. Among them was Leigh Anne Thrasher, who stopped by hoping to find both mail and a haircut. She left with neither, but she certainly livened up the conversation. Before long, the discussion had wandered from local businesses to water bills, bears, and who might be available to cut Leigh Anne's hair before the Parade.

Then Captain Dan Leade happened to walk by and was promptly lassooed into the conversation, and talk quickly turned to the recent Ventana and Table fires. Dan explained not all lightning strikes are created equal. Some carry a negative charge, while others carry a positive charge that can be significantly more powerful and more likely to ignite a wildfire. Who knew there were positive and negative lightning strikes? I certainly didn't. Good thing I happened to be at the post office for an impromptu science lesson!

The conversation continued to shape-shift. A question about a vehicle parked along the highway led to news about a local business. We covered bears, wildfires, mountain weather, community happenings, who was selling their cabin and how they'd be missed, and how the recent rains were a blessing.

The stories shared during my visit were entertaining and informative, but they also reinforced what we already know about our little mountain village: people here pay attention to one another.

A flat tire rarely stays a one-person problem for long. A wildfire sparks dozens of calls. A missing child is everyone's concern. Someone recovering from an injury can count on neighbors to check in. People look out for one another here.

When so much of life happens online, places where neighbors still gather face-to-face are increasingly rare. Yet every day, on a small corner of Summerhaven, residents stop in to pick up their mail and reconnect with their community.

That may not appear in Pam's official job description, but it might be the most important service she provides.

And if you happen to learn a little wildfire science, find out where to get a haircut, be greeted by Bowie, and hear Pam call out "love you!" as you head out the door, well, that's just part of the service.



Left to right: Pam Selby-Harmon, Bowie, Dan Leade, Leigh Anne Thrasher

Cody the Curious Coati and the Ant Hill

One sunny morning, Cody the Curious Coati stopped beside an ant hill.

Hundreds of ants marched back and forth, carrying tiny specks of dirt. They climbed to the bottom of the hill, dropped their load, and hurried back for more. Again, again, and again.

After watching for a while, Cody asked one of the ants, "Don't you ever get tired of doing this? Wouldn't you rather go exploring?"

The ant looked surprised. "Exploring?" she replied. "We don't do that. Every ant has a job. We work for the good of the colony. We carry dirt, gather food, and care for the hill. That's what we do our whole lives."

"Every day of your whole life?" Cody asked. The ant nodded and returned to her work.

For a long moment, Cody sat quietly and watched the endless line of ants. They worked together, and their hill was impressive. But Cody couldn't imagine spending his whole life doing the same work, day after day, all for the good of some colony, whatever that exactly was.

As he continued down the trail, he thought about how fortunate he was. He could decide where to go, what to discover, and who to spend time with. He could explore a new trail, visit a friend, or simply sit beneath a pine tree and watch the clouds drift by.

That afternoon, Cody was grateful for something he had always taken for granted: his freedom.

The Lesson: Freedom is a precious gift. It allows us to make our own choices, pursue our dreams, and live our lives according to our values. It's something worth appreciating and protecting.

Happy Fourth of July!



HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY AMERICA



Still Brave & Beautiful!

Sign of the Times by Kermie

Upcoming Mt. Lemmon Hikes Guided by Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists

All hikes start at 8 am from the stated trailhead. Hikes are not nature walks; rough and often steep terrain can be expected. Hikes are free and guided, with no reservations required. Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes. We will stop for a short lunch break. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking poles, and rain gear are recommended.

Friday, July 3: Bigelow Trail to Scenic Rock from the Bigelow Trailhead. Meet at milepost 19.5. A 3.4-mile hike up to the Bigelow towers and beyond to an interesting rock overlook. Even though this hike goes to the second highest Mt. Lemmon peak at 8550 feet, we will only have an elevation gain of approximately 600 feet.

Friday, July 10: Old Ski Run from Sunset Trailhead Meet at milepost 22.9. A 3.0-mile hike through beautiful old growth trees, then up a steep climb to the top of the original Mt. Lemmon ski run (optional). We'll stop at the bottom to learn a bit of 1940s history about the ski run. Elevation gain minimal or 800 feet if going to the top.

Friday, July 17: Turkey Run, Aspen Draw from Summerhaven Meet at milepost 24.7. A 5.2-mile hike starting on the paved Turkey Run Road past cabins, then up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of the ski lift. Elevation gain of 1100 feet makes this hike great exercise along with the beauty of nature.

Friday, July 24: Fire Lookout and Meadow from Ski Valley Turn right at milepost 24.6. A 6.4-mile hike up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of ski lift, then on to the Mt. Lemmon fire lookout and a beautiful alpine meadow. Elevation gain of 1200 feet makes this quite a workout, but it's well worth it.

Friday, July 31: Mint Spring Trail from Carter Canyon Road Turn right at milepost 25.2. A 3.4-mile hike to Marshall Saddle. This trail was heavily burned in the 2003 Aspen Fire but has come back with new Aspen trees and great views. We'll try to locate the spring just off the trail. Elevation gain of 850 feet, then downhill on the return.

Monsoon Monkey Foundation Helps Resident Get "Back on his Feet"

The Monsoon Monkey Foundation has gotten off to a strong start fulfilling its mission to help local residents in need.

Recently, the Foundation helped mountain resident Randy Ryan who was struggling with turning his water off at the meter. Randy explained that he was able to get down to turn off his water, the problem was he couldn't get back up! The MMF founders knew there had to be a solution. They helped connect Randy with local resources and thanks to the kindness and ingenuity of Reuben Herrera from Mt. Lemmon Water, a simple but life-changing fix was found. Reuben installed an electrical switch that eliminated tLearn more at monsoonmonkeyfoundation.org

Trico District Meeting in August

Trico is holding a District 7 Mt. Lemmon Meeting on August 7 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Community Center.

Join Trico for a presentation on its history and current operations, and get answers to the questions that matter most to you. Some of the topics we will cover are: Current/Future projects; Rates; Important updates about the Cooperative; the Fiber backbone, and Q&A.

We encourage you to attend and play an active role in the cooperative. Refreshments will be served.

Where: Mt. Lemmon Community Center | 12949 N. Sabino Canyon Park, Tucson, AZ, 85619. **When:** Friday, August 7, 2026, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Prescribed Fire Update for Summerhaven and Soldier Camp

Submitted by Ford Burkhardt

Most days, residents of Summerhaven and Soldier Camp walk past piles of oak, pine, and other kinds of branches, wondering when they might be burned.

In fact, their fate depends on the next rain or snowfall that creates good burning conditions. These isolated piles are created during forest thinning projects aimed at reducing wildfire risk, says Starr Farrell, US Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the Coronado National Forest.

The public is not allowed near an active burn for both their safety and the safety of the firefighters, Farrell said.

Piles are burned two to three years after they have been created. The last pile burn on Mount Lemmon occurred in the winter of 2025-2026. "The winter is when we primarily burn," Farrell said, "but the window may open during the fall or spring."

The timing of burns lets the Forest Service reduce the risk of fires spreading beyond the pile areas. "All prescribed burns run the risk of spreading," Farrell said. "We do everything we can to mitigate risks including having water tenders and performing test ignitions."

Although it seems the piles have been there for quite a while, Farrell said that this year's burn "isn't taking any longer than normal."

This June fire season, the USFS was busy. It most recently responded to the Table Mountain Fire with the Arizona Southeast Zone Type 3 Incident Management Team. Last year, the Southwest Incident Management Team 4, a more complex team, responded to the Cody Fire.

BACK IN THE DAY: Tucson Citizen, April 16, 1953

Mt. Lemmon Season Opens

The Mt. Lemmon Improvement association has set its summer program almost a month ahead of schedule this year due, it said, to increased public interest in mountain activities.

In the past, most of the Mt. Lemmon facilities were not ready for use until June, but 1953 will find almost all vacation activities in full swing by the first part of May.

Lee Reid's Summerhaven stables will have horses available then. Bob McKeehan opens a series of summer dances at the Mt. Lemmon lodge the second week in May.

Rubin's cabins will open Monday, almost six weeks earlier than usual, and Hurst B. Amyx, owner of the Mt. Lemmon lodge already has put his recreational program into action.

According to the association, all resort operators on the mountain will offer special preseason rates until May 25. This will mean a general cut of 25 per cent in room and cabin accommodations out of the desert dust and pollen region.

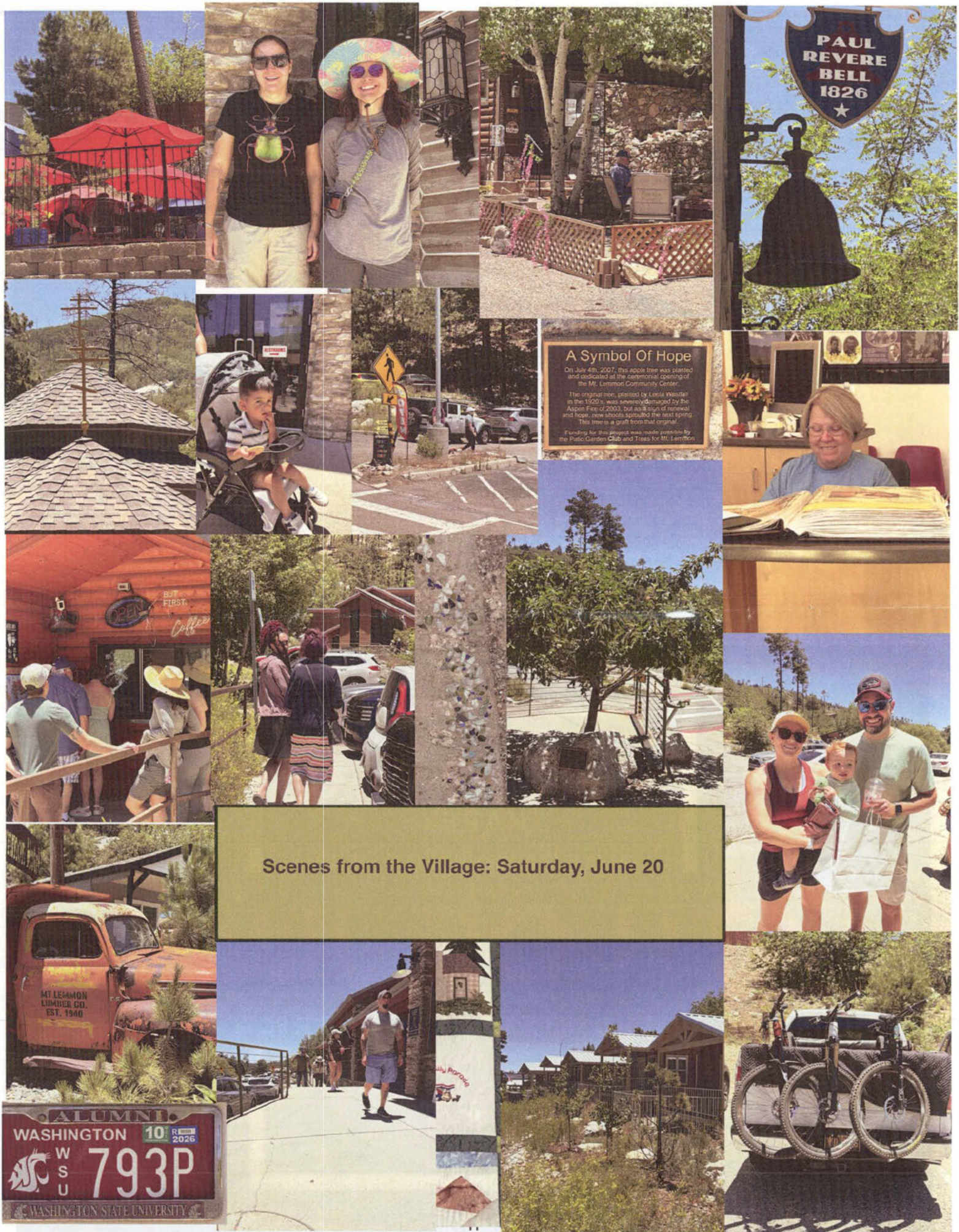
Deadline for submission to the August issue of *The Echoes* is July 21st.

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.

Submit submissions or comments to:

mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com



Scenes from the Village: Saturday, June 20



Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association
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