

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Pancake Breakfast a Sweet Success!

There were buttermilk pancakes. There were blueberry pancakes. There were scrambled eggs, sausage links, perhaps the sweetest watermelon anyone had ever tasted, whipped cream, maple syrup, orange juice, lemonade, and plenty of coffee.

And there were people, lots of people and lots of kids. It was a terrific turnout

Just over 250 hungry residents, friends and visitors turned out for what was the biggest Mt. Lemmon Pancake Breakfast in recent memory. They came to eat, try their luck with the raffles, bid on silent auction treasures, enjoy the late-summer sunshine and, spend a morning visiting with neighbors and friends.

By noon, about a million pancakes had been served (well, maybe not quite a million) the eggs were gone, the last sausage link had disappeared, and \$9,000 had been raised for the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department and the Fire Hydrant Fund.

It was, by any measure, a tremendous community success.

The work began the afternoon before, when the great guys at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department hauled out and set up all the tables. Thank you, Joe, Dan, and Logan! Tablecloths went on, supplies were organized, and approximately another million (see above) raffle items were tagged, sorted and arranged for eager ticket holders.

Individuals, businesses and community organizations donated an extraordinary assortment of beautiful raffle baskets. There truly was something for everyone, and the tables of prizes quickly became one of the morning's biggest attractions.

The centerpiece of the silent auction was a Blackstone griddle donated by Joleen and AJ Emani, accompanied by a basket loaded with essential cooking utensils, coolers, and more. Other auction items included a night at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge, vintage wines, aged whiskey and bourbon, tequila in a bottle shaped like a soccer ball, and beautiful framed hummingbird photographs by Henry Johnson.

The Pancake Breakfast was co-chaired by Kim McNurlin and Joleen Emani, who put together an amazing event. Their husbands did their parts as well: Tom McNurlin served as Master Scrambler, while AJ Emani earned the title King of Raffle Tickets.

The kitchen was ably managed by Jeff Kennedy, a world expert on mixing pancake batter. Pancake flippers Tom Partridge, Greg Halvacs and Merle Triplett were extraordinary!

Linda Currin greeted everyone and took tickets, announcing this was her "last hurrah." (See you next year, Linda.)

Food was served up by Jenni Zimmerman, Julie Halvacs, Diana Osborne, Jill Kennedy, Dennis Cozzetti and pretty much anyone who stopped by to visit or lingered too long in line.

Todd Canale manned the coffee and juice stations, Lou Crum worked his magic trying to get two chainsaws up and running, Tim Wright sold tickets, and Joey Medina emceed the festivities and drew the raffle winners.

Somehow, with all those moving parts, it all went like clockwork. And everyone pitched in to help clean up.

There is always a risk in listing the people who helped with an event this large; you never quite manage to name everyone. So, if you pitched in and don't see your name here, please know it is entirely *The Echoes* fault you were left off the list!

We appreciate every single person who donated, cooked, served, sold tickets, carried tables, assembled baskets, cleaned up, bought raffle tickets, bid on auction items or simply showed up to support the cause.

More than \$9,000 raised. Over 250 people fed. A mountain full of neighbors spending a beautiful late-summer morning together and lots of fun for a great cause.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING OUR FIRE FIGHTERS!

The 2026 Pancake Breakfast raised a record



Monies will go to the Mt Lemon Fire District and the Fire Hydrant Fund

THANK YOU everyone who so generously supported this effort. What a great community!

Next up!





From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

As you know, Pima County District 4 spans from Mount Lemmon, south through the Tanque Verde Valley and Tucson's east side down to Vail and Corona de Tucson, and west to Green Valley. Our team frequently meets with various county departments, addressing issues across the district, and our Mt. Lemmon community remains top of mind.

For instance, for several years we have been working with New Tucson and Green Valley constituents who have non-county-maintained dirt roads in their communities and urging the Transportation Department to review its courtesy grading and repair policy. During our recent quarterly check-in with the Transportation team, we learned that the county's "Standard Operating Procedure for Roadway Maintenance Requests for Unimproved County Right-of-Way" (or SOP) has been updated following a six-month review by the department and the County Attorney's office.

While we are awaiting an outline of the updates, one notable change that impacts some Mt. Lemmon roads is that the county will now consider a non-county-maintained dirt road to be impassable when vehicles traveling in opposing directions have to share one lane, and alternate use of the road. When this occurs, the road condition should be reported to Transportation by a resident, law enforcement, and/or emergency responders for attention via "See/Click/Fix" or our office.

We also learned that the Transportation crew on the mountain recently completed snow plow training ahead of what is forecasted to be a precipitation-laden El Nino winter.

During a Green Valley waste water discussion, we also inquired about long-term water solutions for Summerhaven and Pima County's water consumption, which the director agreed should be explored. Unfortunately, Jackson Jenkins, who the village has worked with for 20+ years, then retired and we await the appointment of a new department director to continue the water use, treatment, and conservation discussion.



**Moving forward with
Kim & Joey**



What a Pancake Breakfast!

First and foremost, we want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Pancake Breakfast the most successful in history. Together, we raised an amazing **\$9,000** in support of the Mt. Lemmon Fire District!

Clearly, we're doing something right.

The Pancake Breakfast is our signature fundraising event of the year, and in 2027 we're going to start building excitement early. You can expect to hear about the Pancake Breakfast in practically every issue of the *Echoes*. We want everyone to have an opportunity to contribute, whether pledging to donate a raffle item, buy a big bag of frozen blueberries, a sack of pancake mix, or a gallon of orange juice. Every contribution we receive means more of the money raised can go directly to supporting our local heroes at the MLFD.

Meanwhile, the Chili Challenge is happening this week! We hope to see everyone there for one of the mountain's most entertaining traditions. Come taste the competition, cheer on your favorite chili maker, and see who takes home the revered bejeweled Ladle. Don't miss it!

At our September meeting, we also spent some time discussing how we can better organize ourselves for the future.

The conversation began with a proposal to move *The Echoes* from traditional display advertising and toward a sponsorship model. Currently, advertising revenue covers only about 40 percent of the annual cost of printing and mailing the newsletter (annual cost is close to \$5,000), with MLHOA funds making up the difference. In a perfect world, the *Echoes* would be self-sustaining. That would free up HOA funds for other village priorities: garbage cans, signage, and projects to benefit us all.

That discussion naturally led to a broader conversation about the MLHOA itself and how it is structured. We really aren't an HOA in the traditional sense. We have no CC&Rs, membership dues are voluntary, and the organization is not currently structured as a tax-exempt charitable nonprofit. This structure has worked well for years: the question is it the best structure moving forward?

These are much bigger questions than simply how we pay for *The Echoes*. They deserve careful thought, plenty of discussion and, most importantly, participation from the entire community.

No decisions have been made. We will keep everyone abreast of future discussions, and at some point if the conversation progresses, it is likely we would hold a town hall so residents can ask questions, share ideas, and help shape the direction we take together.

Kim & Joey



MLFD News

Dan Leade

As we enjoy the autumn activities like hiking, watching the colors change and maybe even Oktoberfest, it is clear the nights are getting cooler. While this is a welcome reprieve from the oppressive summer heat, it also means many of us will begin to heat cabins for additional warmth and comfort. For folks with wood-burning fireplaces, we are often asked how to safely deal with hot ash.

The U.S. Fire Administration has recommendations to assist homeowners and renters discard of ashes safely. First, always allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. While this may seem obvious, MLFD responds annually to incidents where ashes thought to have been cold have reignited. To allow for cooling, place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other buildings. It should be noted this includes decks, garages, woodpiles or anything flammable. Plastic bins, cardboard boxes and paper bags are unacceptable for ash collection. Also, do not use vacuums to collect ash, as their containers can melt or catch fire. Never put ashes that are not completely cold directly into the trash. This may require multiple days of cooling in the tightly covered metal container. Pouring water on the ashes in the container is recommended to expedite cooling.

If interested, the U.S. Fire Administration has pictographs that may be downloaded at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/gallery/pictographs/pictograph43.html>. This may be especially helpful for renters.

MFLD Gets "New" Truck

Chief Joe Gunia takes possession of the MLFD's "new" 2015 Chevy Silverado 2500 from Leonard Boswell, director of Pima County Fleet Services



October Calendar of Events

3	Oktoberfest at the Lodge! 1 - 4pm Music on the Mtn - MLL Oktoberfest at Ski Valley 5:30-7:30- Music at Sawmill Run 7:30 pm Stargazing on the Mtn! - MLL
4	1 - 3 pm Chili Challenge - Community Center Oktoberfest at the Lodge! Oktoberfest at Ski Valley
5	1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL
7	1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL
10	Oktoberfest at the Lodge! Oktoberfest at Ski Valley 5:30-7:30- Music at Sawmill Run 1 -4 pm Music on the Mtn. - MLL - POLKA!
11	Oktoberfest at the Lodge! Oktoberfest at Ski Valley 1 - 4pm Music on the Mtn. - MLL
12	Columbus Day
17	8:30 am Water Board meeting 10:00 am MLHOA Board meeting 1 pm MLWC meeting 2 pm MLWC Speaker Series - Comm. Ctr. Oktoberfest at the Lodge! 6:30 pm BINGO! - Sawmill
18	Oktoberfest at the Lodge! 1-4 pm Music on the Mtn. - MLL
24	1-4 pm Music on the Mtn. - MLL 6 - 8:30 pm ENCHANTMENT ON THE MTN - MLL
25	1-4 pm Music on the Mtn. - MLL
31	Halloween! Haunted on the Mtn - MLL

MLHOA Report

The September MLHOA meeting covered everything from the pancake breakfast and fire hydrants to the future structure of the organization itself.

The Board reviewed the very successful Pancake Breakfast, including \$2,695 raised through the silent auctions alone. In total, \$9,000 was raised. Members discussed ways to make next year's event run even more smoothly, including advance ticket sales, better tracking of cash and credit-card transactions, separate tickets for children, improved signage and starting much earlier to solicit donations and sponsorships. The Board agreed to keep \$5,000 of the proceeds earmarked for a future fire hydrant on Guthrie Road and provide \$1,500 to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department for the purchase of PPE. There was also discussion of buying equipment so the MLHOA can Zoom its meetings more efficiently. Technological difficulties have plagued the last couple of meetings.

Fire Chief Joe Gunia reported 13 calls for the month and said community chipping sponsored by Pima County is expected during the last two weeks of November.

A lengthy discussion focused on the future of the MLHOA, the Echoes and the newly formed Friends of Mt. Lemmon. Topics included moving *The Echoes* from display advertising to sponsorships, whether the MLHOA's name and organizational structure still make sense in these changing times, nonprofit status and the possible future use of paid professional services. No decisions were made, and the Board agreed these larger questions require considerably more discussion.

The next MLHOA meeting is Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 in the Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

Mount Lemmon Woman's Club

Submitted by Christina Grossman, President

We are strong and sustainable because of our members. We are practicing the model of mentoring the next chairwomen who will lead in committees and projects. As a club of multi-generational women, we wear many hats in our own lives and we should support each other for our own sake and wellness at MLWC. The result is providing the cabin tours, the holiday brunch, the parade, Dress a Girl, the Ice Cream Freeze Off, and continuing to make a positive impact on our community. We decided to sponsor the Ice Cream Freeze Off for next year with Jennifer Schacter as chairwoman!

Relating to impact, there will be an electronic form sent out to our members and the community to recruit for volunteer participants in Dr. Combrink's research of the Cordilleran Flycatchers. This is a continuation of the late Dr. van Riper III's research on Mount Lemmon. It is important to us to help with the conservation of the flycatchers who call our mountain home.

Literacy is also important, as we had Douglas Meredith as our September speaker discussing his children's series "Generation Mars". The series elevates the capabilities of children in a world of science-fiction that is too close to what reality could hold in the future. If you have gifted young readers, this will not disappoint.

The next meeting is set for October 17th, 2026, both in-person and Zoom. The entire community is invited to attend our October Speaker Series at 2:30pm at the MLCC. Dr. Henry Johnson will present on the Birds of Costa Rica.

For questions, or to learn about membership, email us at mountlemmonwomansclub@gmail.com.

Don't miss the 51st Annual Oktoberfest at Ski Valley!

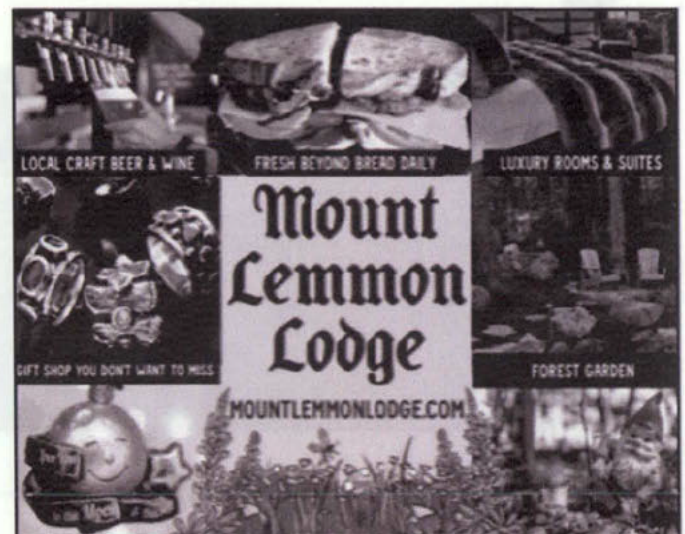
Music

Games

Food

Beer!

Come join the fun!



Water Improvement District Updates

Recent rains brought some welcome relief to the Mt. Lemmon water system, Water District Manager Nathan reported at the September meeting. Spring flow, which had dropped to about 11 gallons per minute, has rebounded, and the system is currently operating well. Stage 3 restrictions have been lifted.

Several major infrastructure projects are moving ahead. Engineering drawings for the new Upper Loma Linda water tank are roughly two-thirds complete, with the mechanical, civil and structural plans expected to be ready for review soon. The Guthrie Road water-line project is awaiting State approval to construct, a process that could take up to 55 days. Once approved, the project can go out to bid.

The Board continued the discussion of new fire hydrants. An initial quote came in at just over \$15,000 for the hydrants themselves. Community fundraising, including proceeds from the MLHOA Pancake Breakfast, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club and the Firefighters Foundation, is helping support the project. A possible fourth hydrant near Wynn and Guthrie may be considered separately.

Work also continues on revisions to the District's water-curtailment policy, including rules for businesses, leaking water lines and a clearer Stage 4 emergency plan.

An important note: residents can expect more information soon about customer-owned shut-off valves to avoid accidental damage to District water meters and electronic reading equipment.

Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 16

EMS: 7

Fire: 8 (3 smoke, 1 power line, 3 campfire)

Public Assist: 1



PCSD calls for the month: 13

Accidents: 3

Suspicious persons/activity: 6

SAR: 3

Theft: 1



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The Mt. Lemmon Firewise Steering Committee is working to make Firewise more accessible, more useful and a little easier for the community to participate in

One immediate priority is improving the annual reporting of Firewise work done by individual property owners. Those reports are important because they help Mt. Lemmon maintain its status as a recognized Firewise community. The committee is working to simplify the current form and turn it into an easy online form that can be completed in just a few minutes.

The committee is also looking ahead to the next county-sponsored chipping program, planned for late November. With seasonal spotted owl restrictions ending September 1, property owners can again begin mitigation work. Residents should begin piling slash in the usual neighborhood locations.

Another major topic was how to address abandoned, deteriorating or heavily overgrown properties that may pose a fire risk to their neighbors. The committee is working with the Mt. Lemmon Fire District to develop a more formal process for evaluating these properties and determining what action may be possible.

Finally, Firewise wants more community participation. Plans are being discussed for educational Zoom programs on defensible space and home hardening, as well as volunteer projects that could help older or physically limited residents clear defensible space around their cabins.

Firewise meetings are open to the community, and residents with questions, concerns, or simply an interest in helping, are encouraged to participate.

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KLMN-LP 106.9 FM: The 2026 Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test

Submitted by Christina Grossman

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and FEMA coordinate a nationwide test on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). FEMA is required by law to conduct this test every three years. This will be conducted on Tuesday, November 17th, 2026 at 2:20pm EST.

What you hear as a monthly Emergency Alert System test on TV, or the radio, is what is provided for the state. This year, there will be an additional EAS test nationwide. This enables FEMA and the FCC to ensure that all communication systems are working, in case there should be an actual emergency in the area. The mission of our radio station is to provide the necessary communication for our Mount Lemmon Community. We rely on these assessments to make sure you get the alerts.

If you are listening to KLMN-LP 106.9 FM, you will hear an Amber alert, Silver alert, flash flood warnings, and EAS tests, etc. on air from time to time. However, if you are listening to the radio station via streaming, you will not hear it. It will be provided in text on our website and on social media.

It may be good idea to go "old-school" to have a battery-operated AM/FM radio at your cabin. It is recommended, when you are staying in Mount Lemmon, that you listen to the broadcast of the radio station with your radio at home when the mountain is experiencing inclement weather. It also provides a bit of nostalgia to listen to your favorite music as well!

For questions, or comments, please email me at programming@klmn-lp.org.

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A Cabin in the Woods: A Mountain Tradition

Editor's Note: Teri Inman suggested that it might be interesting to have some articles on the history of the USFS cabins. Happy to oblige!

Those charming cabins tucked among the trees at Soldier Camp, Willow Canyon and Loma Linda are remnants of a fascinating chapter in Forest Service history.

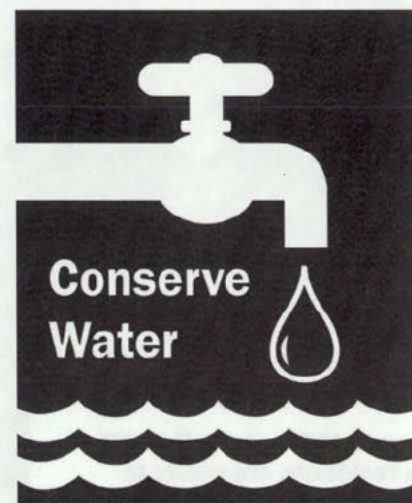
In 1915, Congress passed the Term Occupancy Act, allowing the U.S. Forest Service to designate areas of national forest for private summer homes. At the time, the Forest Service was actively encouraging Americans to use and enjoy the nation's public lands for recreation. The government provided the land—not the cabin. Families received permits to use a lot and built and owned their own cabins, while the land itself remained federal property.

Mt. Lemmon got an early start. Although a few summer cabins already existed on the mountain by 1910, the first permits for summer homes on Forest Service land were issued at Soldier Camp in in the early 1900s. Early permit holders could lease parcels as large as five acres for just \$10 to \$25 a year. By 1930, lots were generally smaller and leased for about \$15 annually. Willow Canyon opened for approximately 50 additional recreation residences around 1948, with more lots later offered at Loma Linda.

Despite what many of us may have assumed, the Forest Service never actually sold these cabins. A cabin itself has always been private property. When one changes hands, the owner sells the structure to another individual, while the Forest Service continues to own the land beneath it and issues the new owner a special-use permit.

The Forest Service eventually stopped creating new recreation-residence tracts, but the communities already established remained. More than a century after those first Soldier Camp permits, the arrangement survives, an unusual piece of public-land history and an important part of Mt. Lemmon's story.

Today, there are approximately 130 privately owned cabins remain on Forest Service land on Mt. Lemmon: 55 at Soldier Camp and 75 at Willow Canyon. One of original cabins, with a 1915 date still on it, is owned by the Greer Family. You can see the cabin from the Sunset Trailhead. It still has the original big log walls. A real beauty!



Cody and the Monsters

Cody was wandering through the village one early evening when he saw something that stopped him cold: A ghost.

It floated down the road, followed by a witch in a crooked black hat. Behind them came a mummy wrapped head to toe in white bandages, a green-faced monster with bolts in its neck, and Cody could hardly believe his eyes, two tiny skeletons carrying orange buckets.

Cody's fur stood on end. The village was under attack! Someone had to warn the cabin owners and visitors.

Cody tore down the road, darting between cabins, chattering and screeching at the top of his lungs. He raced up one driveway and down another, sounding the alarm to anyone who would listen.

More monsters appeared: vampires, zombies, a werewolf...and, most terrifying of all, a six-foot-tall banana.

Cody ran faster. Finally, panting and exhausted, he collapsed at the base of a pine tree. A soft flutter came from above, and the old owl settled calmly onto a nearby branch.

"What," the owl asked, "are you doing?"

"MONSTERS!" Cody gasped. "Everywhere! We have to save the village!"

The owl blinked slowly. "Cody," he said, "it's Halloween."

He explained costumes. Trick-or-treating. Candy. Children pretending to be scary things for fun.

Cody stared at him. For a very long time. Then he got up, dusted off his tail, and slipped quietly into the darkness.

"Humans," he muttered. "Absolutely bonkers."



BE AWARE Fungi Fruiting Bodies

(also known as
Mushrooms)



May be Poisonous

Signs of the Times by Kermie

Explore Mt. Lemmon's Mystical Side

You've always known Mt. Lemmon is a magical place. Now you can explore its mystical side at an upcoming special event hosted at the Mt Lemmon Lodge

The Lodge is sponsoring *Enchantment on the Mountain*, a candlelit evening on the Lodge terrace featuring guided chakra toning, a soothing sound bath with quartz singing bowls, group tarot, and a communal song circle. Gather fireside beneath the mountain sky for an immersive evening of sound, reflection, connection, and perhaps a little magic.

Come curious, come open-minded, and enjoy a very different kind of night on the mountain.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from the Beyond Bread Café.

ENCHANTMENT ON THE Mountain

An evening of sound, spirit and connection
beneath the mountain sky

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Women

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1955 SECTION C - PAGE ONE

Varied Activities Offered In Nearby Pine Country

By KATHARINE BULL
High Country Editor

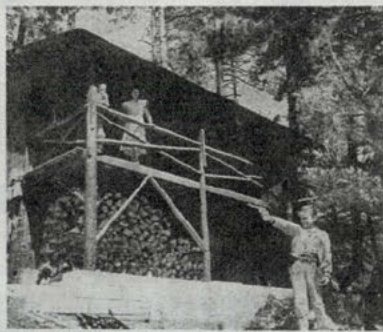
From the Mt. Lemmon Lodge area, a variety of activities are offered for the enjoyment of visitors. These include hiking, picnicking, and sightseeing. The area is known for its scenic views and cool climate. Visitors are encouraged to explore the natural beauty of the region.



PICNICERS ENJOY WATERMELON IN CAMPING AREA.



"BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN!"



ONE OF MANY MOUNTAIN RETREATS.

(Photos by Tommy Wong)

We know the text is too small to read, but we love old black & white photos! And the picnicking nuns was too precious!

Friends of Mt. Lemmon Is Ready to Roll!

Mt. Lemmon welcomes more than a million visitors every year; people who hike our trails, picnic beneath the pines, ride their bikes up the highway, visit Summerhaven, play in the snow, watch wildlife and return year after year simply because they love the mountain.

While cabin owners have been represented by MLHOA for almost 6 decades and the business community has formed its own association, we now have a new way for all of those mountain lovers to become involved.

A new charitable nonprofit organization, Friends of Mt Lemmon, has been formed to bring together people who care about this very special place and we're ready to roll!

Friends of Mt Lemmon is now looking for enthusiastic people who would like to serve on its inaugural Board of Directors and help shape the Organization from the beginning.

The possibilities are wide open. Friends of Mt Lemmon hopes to promote and celebrate the mountain, sponsor activities such as hikes, picnics and educational events, support projects that help keep Mt Lemmon clean and safe, and create new ways for everyone who loves the mountain to become involved in its future. It will facilitate volunteerism and fundraising, while offering partnerships with the Forest Service and Pima County.

And when we say everyone, we mean it. You don't have to own a cabin or live on the mountain. If you hike here, bike here, birdwatch here, picnic here, visit here, or simply love Mt Lemmon you are welcome.

Interested in serving on the board? Prefer to join as a member and participate when you can? We'd love to hear from you. Email membership@friendsofmountlemmon.org and tell us you're interested.

Not a lot of work, just a lot of fun, and a chance to help take care of place we all love.

Founding Board members are Kim McNurlin, Matthew Grossman, and Ade Anast.

Come join them!

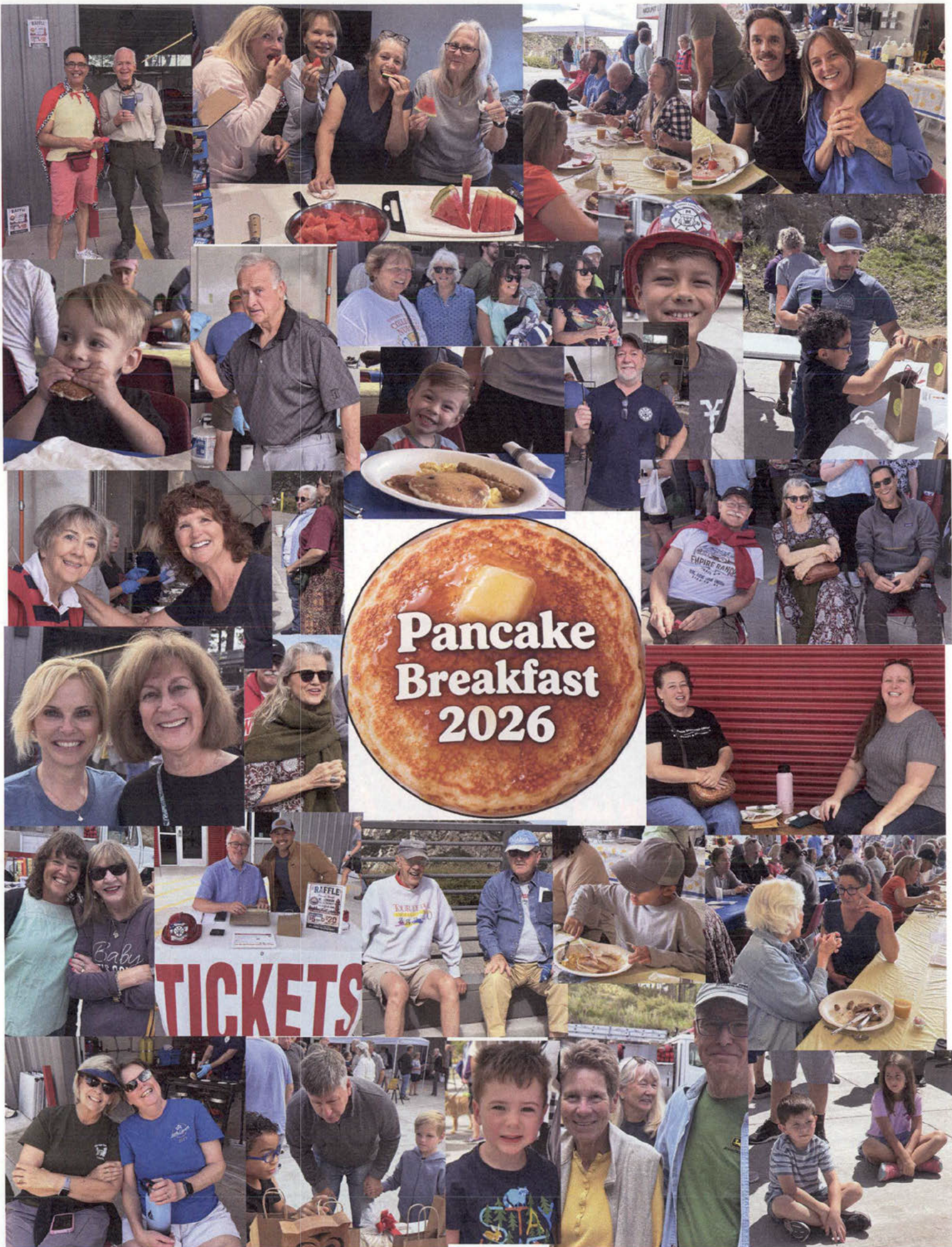
Deadline for submission to the November issue of *The Echoes* is October 21.

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



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MT. LEMMON CHILI CHALLENGE

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Donation: \$10
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FREE!

Taste a variety of mountain-made chilis!

Proceeds support our volunteer firefighters

Bring the whole family!

The poster features a scenic background of a mountain peak, evergreen trees, and autumn-colored leaves. In the foreground, several bowls of chili are displayed on a wooden surface, garnished with cheese, jalapeños, and green onions. A red chili pepper is also visible. The text is arranged in a clear, bold font, with the event details and donation information prominently displayed.