

TOWN OF CAREFREE SEATS NEW COUNCILMEMBERS



Carefree Mayor, John Crane



Swearing in of Town Councilmembers

The official swearing in ceremony of the new Mayor and councilmembers took place at the December 6, 2022 Council Meeting. The new councilmembers were introduced and each took oaths for their positions. Council Members Vince D'Aliesio, Tony Geiger, Stephen Hatcher, Mike Johnson, and Cheryl Kroyer and Council Member Elect Sheila Amoroso were sworn into office. Among the council's first items of business, Cheryl Kroyer was selected to serve as the Vice Mayor.

Voters approved 4-year staggered terms during the August Primary Election (Proposition 474). With the new terms in place, Mayor Crane, Vice Mayor Kroyer, and Council member Amoroso, and Council member Geiger, will serve in their roles through 2026. Councilmember D'Aliesio, Councilmember Hatcher, and Councilmember Johnson will serve in their roles through 2024.

Forthcoming in 2023:

The Town of Carefree will hold a Special Election on May 16, 2023 to allow citizens an opportunity to vote on a primary property tax to offset the cost to provide fire and emergency services and to qualify for regional automatic aid. The "Fire Service Report", A report and findings regarding the costs and recommendation can be found at the top of the Town of Carefree website at www.carefree.org or by going to:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tuaMnoTnXKfyUIQe_eVpo49GrYBCwnzIM/view.

Ballots will be mailed to residents beginning April 19, 2023 and a ballot drop box will be available at Town Hall during normal business hours until May 16th. An in-person location for replacement ballots will be available from May 8 through May 16, 2023. If you are not a registered voter, the last day to register to vote in this election is April 17, 2023.

Watch for additional dates and information.



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE:



The Town Council at its December meeting accepted the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the General Plan Update. Acceptance of this plan in essence represents the Town's "kick off" of the General Plan Update process. Through an inclusive and equitable community engagement process, the updated General Plan will allow the Town to set the course to meet its growth objectives while preserving the character and quality of life that makes Carefree a unique and special place to live.

One of the most critical aspects to this update is to effectively involve the community in the decision-making process. This PIP outlines a transparent process across multiple outreach platforms and activities. It's important that all interested community members and stakeholders be involved in the planning process to share their experiences and knowledge of the Town and offer input and direction that will help shape the future of Carefree.

The Public Involvement Plan includes strategies for engaging and informing citizens in a timely and comprehensive manner. The PIP also outlines how the process will actively solicit for feedback from all aspects of the Carefree community with techniques and tools used today in a transparent public engagement process. Furthermore, the Plan outlines a phased and thorough engagement process, describes engagement techniques, and finally the timeline for this outreach effort.

This is an exciting time for the Town of Carefree. If you are interested in being involved in the General Plan Update process, feel free to reach out to:

Contact:

Stacey Bridge-Denzak
Planning Director
stacey@carefree.org

VILLAGE CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE



Photo Credit: Michael Nally

For the past several months, the Town of Carefree has been editing the historic Village Center Master Plan to incorporate the necessary elements to turn this document into an official Redevelopment Plan. The revised document, the Village Center Redevelopment Plan, is in final draft for recommendation and approval. The document has been through multiple edits. The scope of these edits did not fundamentally change the Vision or Goals, but addressed:

- The statutory requirements of a redevelopment plan.
- Updated completed tasks (like the hotel)
- Updated the market analysis
- Made implementation modifications based upon input from the public, businesses and property owners.

A Town Council Public Hearing is scheduled for January 3, 2023 at Council Chambers.

You can view the document at:

[Redevelopment Plan Process | Town of Carefree](#)

Please feel free to call or email with any questions:

Contact:

Steve Prokopek
Economic Development Director
623-694-2605 | steve@carefree.org

TOWN OF CAREFREE RECRUITING FOR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION



The Town of Carefree is accepting applications for the Carefree Planning and Zoning Commission. Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission also serve on the Development Review Board and Board of Adjustment as needed.

Persons interested in being appointed must be at least 18 years old and a qualified elector (registered voter) residing within the Town boundaries. Commission members serve without compensation. The Town is looking for someone who:

- Contributes to meetings in a constructive way;
- Timely and consistent attendance of meetings;
- Keeps an open mind and treats their fellow board/commission members, staff and everyone who comes before you with respect;
- Listens;
- Always seeks to ascertain the public interest and how best to further the interests of the community as a whole.

Additional information regarding the role and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission can be found in Section 3.02, Section 3.03, and Section 3.4 of the Town of Carefree Zoning Ordinance available online at www.carefree.org or by contacting the Town of Carefree at 480-488-3686.

Please send a letter of interest to include a statement of qualifications and resume to:
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk,
Town of Carefree
P.O. Box 740, Carefree AZ 85377

Submissions due: Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 by 4:30 PM

The appointment will be made by the Town Council on or about February 7.

BUILDING PERMITS: FAQ



Looking to make some changes or upgrades to your home or business in Carefree? We've provided a few tips to help navigate the process:

All structural improvements to a property requires a permit.

- Property owners must submit 2 sets of completed plans that include the legal description, zoning district, contractor's name and license number, engineered site survey, topographic survey and drainage study prepared by a civil engineer or registered land surveyor.
- All proposed and existing improvements are to be plotted on the topographic survey showing proposed and existing floor elevations.
- Plans also must show setbacks, utilities, exterior colors, landscaping, disturbance areas, etc. A pre-grading inspection is required after the permit is issued and before any grading work commences. Protected plants should be moved to the designated temporary nursery. Please call the Carefree Building Department to arrange for a pre-grading inspection.

- A plan review fee is payable at the time building plans are submitted and it equals 65 percent of the building permit fee which is calculated on construction valuation.
- Complete Residential Building Packets are available for pickup at the Town Hall.
- Construction noise is limited to 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sundays and holidays.

Learn more on our website at:

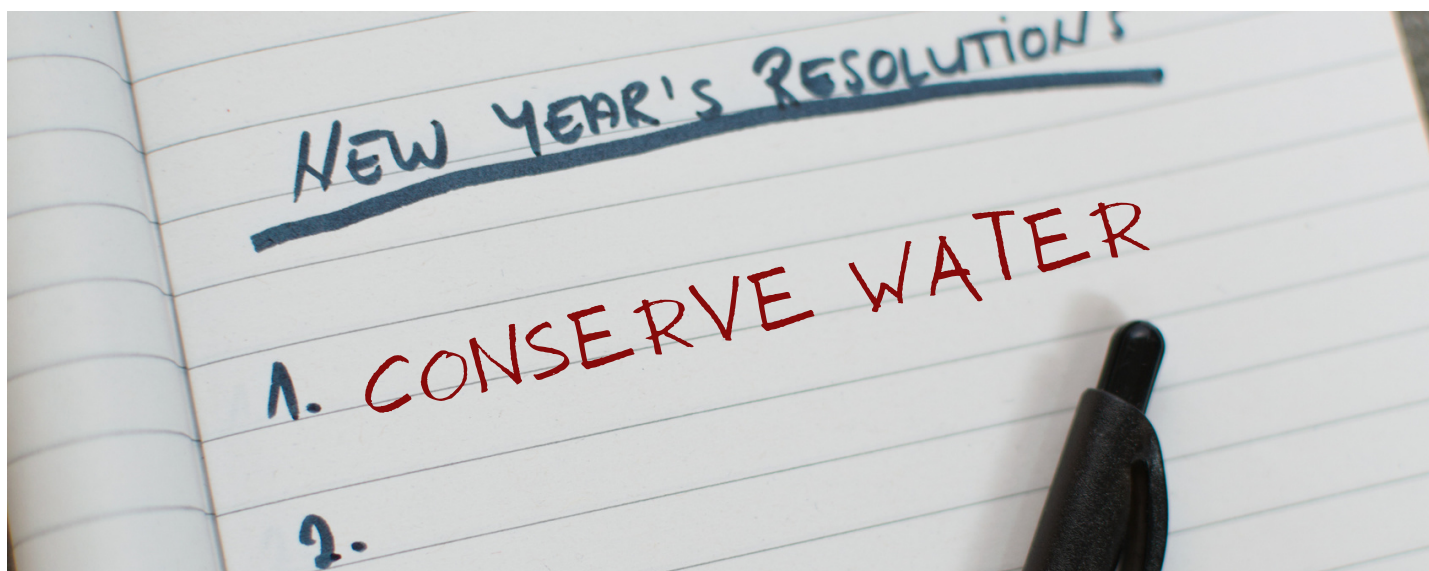
<https://www.carefree.org/building-department>

CONTACT:

Joshua Rison
Building Official
O: 480-488-1471
joshua@carefree.org



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: CONSERVE WATER



Along with all of your personal goals, water conservation should be at the top of everyone's New Year's Resolutions.

The long-term drought conditions in the West, and the continued deterioration of the Colorado River system, has prompted the Carefree Water Board to elevate the Town's Drought Condition to Stage 2 (Intermediate Drought Conditions). This change was approved by the Board on December 6th after hearing a presentation that both of the major lakes on the Colorado River, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, are at only 25% capacity. The Town relies heavily on Colorado River water, transported to us by the Central Arizona Project (CAP), as the major part of our potable supply.

The Stage 2 declaration requests that all customers achieve a voluntary 10% reduction in water use. In its initial phase, Stage 2 emphasizes reductions in outdoor water use.

In order to keep your New Year's Resolution for Water Conservation, the Water Company suggests that you get to know your irrigation timer. Outdoor watering should occur every third day or every other day at the most. Watering every day is not necessary. Switching from every day watering to every other day watering alone can save you 50% on your outdoor water use.

Another outdoor watering tip that can help you achieve your 10% reduction goal is reducing your watering times. If your irrigation timer is normally set to water for 20 minutes, reduce that to 18 minutes. Your plants will never know the difference and your water bill will reflect a 10% reduction in use, putting money back in your pocket!

For more water conservation tips, visit:

www.wateruseitwisely.com,

or

Carefree Water Company's newly upgraded website www.carefreewaterco.com.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM RURAL METRO

Rural Metro Fire would like to remind everyone that the holidays are a great time to relax and enjoy. However, the holidays can also be a dangerous time to relax safety precautions. Staying safe should always be a priority. Rural Metro Fire is ready at a moments notice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, No matter what the emergency! Yes, even if Santa gets stuck in the chimney! Rural Metro Fire wishes everyone Happy Holidays!

Carefree Fire Station 1

Phone: 480-488-0347

Non-Emergency & Snake Removal

480-945-6311

Emergencies Dial 911

SAFETY TIPS: HOLIDAY SAFETY



The winter holidays are a time for celebration and that means cooking, home decorating, entertaining and an increased risk of fire and accidents. Rural Metro Fire offers these guidelines to help make your holiday season safer and more enjoyable:



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in the U.S. - remember to keep an eye on the range
- Test your smoke alarms and let guests know your fire escape plan



INDOOR DECORATIONS

- Choose decorations that are made of non-leaded materials
- Place candles away from live plants or decorations



HOLIDAY LIGHTING

- Use caution with holiday decorations and, whenever possible, choose flame-resistant, flame-retardant and non-combustible materials
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials and only use certified lights for outdoor decorating



TREES

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "fire-resistant"
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness - a fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break

ruralmetrofire.com | 800.624.5835



RURAL METRO



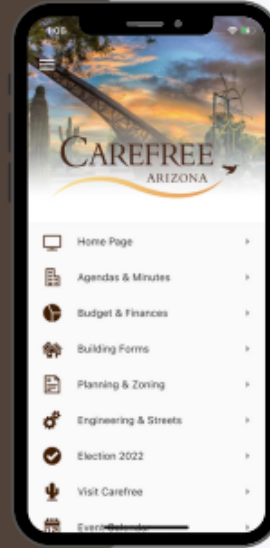
NEW! CAREFREE CONNECTION PHONE APP

Download Carefree Connection

- Receive Notifications
- Access Information
- View Latest Updates
- And more...

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

Powered by GOGov



The Town of Carefree has been hard at work upgrading its communications systems. Recently launched this fall is the Town's new website: carefree.org. This new site allows for easier navigation and hosts both town government information as well as tourism & local business information.

We are excited to announce our newest communication tool, the Carefree Connection Phone Application.. Available for both Apple and Android products, residents can quickly find information and receive news & notifications from Town directly on their phone. Simply scan the QR code above or visit the Apple or Google Play store to download.

Coming soon....

The Town has completed updates to the audio/visual equipment in Council Chambers. Going forward,, council meetings will be recorded with quality video/audio and posted to our YouTube channel for public view: [Town of Carefree YouTube Channel](#) (click to view)

Final touches are being established for the purpose of live broadcasting - stay tuned for this next level of service.

Thank you for your patience as we roll out these new communication tools.

Contact:

Erica Shumaker
Director of Communications
erica@carefree.org

GET TO KNOW YOUR CAREFREE COMMUNITY

Meet The Ink Spot:

Trese and Dave are passionate artists who love helping people bring their unique vision to life: "Whatever's on your mind, let's get it on a shirt".

The Ink Spot is located in Mariachi Plaza. This locally owned and operated business is a family affair; and that's exactly the type of warm reception you will get when you visit their shop. Whether you're looking for one shirt or a thousand, they've got you covered!

Graphic Designer and co-owner, Dave Buksar, is available to create or recreate your custom logos, designs, graphics and more. What makes this shop unique is Dave manually prints and adds that personalized touch to each and every garment. As artists, they have an eye for detail and placement; ensuring your garments meet high expectations - every time.

Flow Manager/owner, Trese Bukar, shows great appreciation for the support they have received since opening their business one year ago, "We have such passion for what we do; I just want to say how grateful we are for the loyalty of our community and customers, both small business and residential. The word of mouth and google reviews shared are directly supporting our success!"

Plans for the future....

You can't help but notice and be inspired by Trese and Dave's vision for the future. They pride themselves on offering small town friendliness, with world-class service. "If you can think it, we can ink it!" With goals to expand to a second location, Dave's nephew, an up and coming graphic designer, is apprenticing at the shop and has plans to keep the business in the family for years to come.



Business: The Ink Spot

Location: 7171 E Cave Creek Rd. (Mariachi Plaza)

Hours: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Owners: Trese Buksar and Dave Buksar

Products/Services: Screen Printing, Graphic Design, Logos, Vinyl, Embroidery, Fine Art Prints, and more!

Years in business: 1 year (est. 2021)

Contact: theinkspotcarefree@gmail.com

<https://theinkspotcarefree.wixsite.com/my-site-1>



LOCAL PRESS

December 2022 press mentions and news articles are linked here for your reference (click title to read):

[20 Things to Love about Carefree](#)

[10 Most Expensive Zip Codes in AZ](#)

[Valley Cities Cancel Holiday Events due to Weather](#)

[Carefree Announces Holiday Celebration Schedule](#)

DESERT GARDENS SEMINAR SERIES RETURNS

Returning for its 20th season, the Town of Carefree is pleased to welcome the return of its popular annual garden seminars, to be held monthly from Jan.-April 2023 on various Saturdays of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion 101 Easy St.

The quiet beauty of Carefree Desert Gardens has been enchanting and educating visitors and residents to the wonders of the desert landscape since its creation in 2002.

Each seminar focuses on a gardening topic of interest and features an expert speaker.
No registration needed, \$5 donation.

2023 Schedule:

Jan 14 | Garden Insects: Friends & Foes

Feb 11 | Landscapes for Responsible Water Use

Mar 11 | Year-Round Color from your Landscape

Apr 15 | Beautiful Design for Small Spaces



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Holiday Closures at Town Hall

Jan 2 | New Year's Day (observed)

Jan 16 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Carefree Town Council Meeting

Jan 3 | Council Chambers

5K Benefit Run: CCUSD Run the District

Jan 7 | Cactus Shadows Football Field

Desert Gardens Seminar: Garden Insects-Friends & Foes

Jan 14 | Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion

Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival

Jan 20-22 | Town Center

2023 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES



- January 3, 2023
- February 7, 2023
- March 7, 2023
- April 4, 2023
- May 2, 2023
- June 6, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- August 1, 2023
- September 5, 2023
- October 3, 2023
- November 7, 2023
- December 5, 2023

SEMINAR SERIES

CAREFREE 
DESERT
Gardens
2023



GARDEN INSECTS: FRIENDS & FOES

Sat., Jan. 14, 9:30 AM | Speaker: Carol Stuttard

Location*: Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion 101 Easy Street

Join popular gardening educator, Carol as she discusses the vital role insects play in our local ecology. She will introduce us to the wonderful and fascinating world of insects and help us discover who our gardens' allies and enemies are.



SENSIBLE LANDSCAPES FOR RESPONSIBLE WATER USE

Sat., Feb. 11, 9:30 AM | Speaker: Kirti Mathura

Location*: Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion 101 Easy Street

It's crucial we each do our part to conserve water. Kirti will show us that through water-efficiency, sensible planning, and proper all-around maintenance, we can still have beautiful landscapes in times of extreme drought and continue to enjoy thriving outdoor spaces.



YEAR-ROUND COLOR FROM YOUR LANDSCAPE

Sat., Mar. 11, 9:30 AM | Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Soule

Location*: Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion 101 Easy Street

Local garden writer Dr. Jacqueline Soule will discuss low water plants that will help your landscape look colorful, lush, and inviting to you – especially in the cooler months of our winter when we want to use our yards.



BEAUTIFUL DESIGN FOR SMALL SPACES

Sat., Apr. 15, 9:30 AM | Speaker: Katie Coates

Location: Council Chambers 33 Easy Street

Explore ideas to help create your own oasis in smaller spaces whether a small yard, courtyard, balcony, patio, or several smaller areas within a larger space. Knowing the right plant for the right place is essential to creating the ideal space to bring more success and enjoyment to how you live outside.



CAVE CREEK UNIFIED
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
CCUEF.ORG

SATURDAY
JANUARY 7, 2023

RUN THE
DISTRICT

5K

START AT
8AM



CACTUS SHADOWS FOOTBALL STADIUM

MUSIC • VENDORS • FOOD • DRINKS • FUN

A CAVE CREEK UNIFIED
EDUCATION FOUNDATION EVENT
WWW.CCUEF.ORG

\$25 PER RUNNER
OR WALKER
KIDS 5 & UNDER ARE FREE!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - REGISTER HERE:

<https://ccuef.org/run-the-district-5k/>





Desert Hills Community School of Music

www.deserthillsmusic.org



Now Enrolling for January 2023!

Group Classes

- Group Piano (Ages 10-16)
- Group Piano (Adult)
- Group Guitar
- Saxophone Ensemble
- Music Exploration (Ages 6-10)

Private Lessons

- Piano
- Guitar
- Saxophone
- Flute
- Clarinet

World-class music instruction at the foot of the boulders

What people are saying about our teachers . . .

- "Talented, creative and approachable."
- "Brings out the best."
- "Outstanding." "Amazing."
- "Wakes up the passion for music."

Where to find us . . .

34605 N. Tom Darlington Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

SchoolofMusic@deserthills.org
www.deserthillsmusic.org



Desert Hills
COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC