



LOCAL PRESS

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

Carefree house designed by architect Gerry Jones sells for \$3.4M (ktar.com)

Memorial Day weekend 2022 events in Phoenix (azcentral.com)

Carefree Restaurant Week

Desert Wildland Fire Safety

New location for Revital-AZ Med Spa offering fresh appearances for clients

Celebration of Giving

The community of Carefree was dreamed up over a luncheon

Carefree water rates and fees set to increase

Carefree Cocktail: Mom's Champagne Cocktail

Mother's Day 2022: Where to Take Mom This Sunday

Airport Open House and Car Show supports Foothills Caring Corps

For the Love of Story

Town of Carefree to recognize veterans on Memorial Day



CONTACT US:

INFO@CAREFREE.ORG

(480) 488-3686

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

In 2015, after an extensive citizen participation process, the Town adopted a revitalization plan for the Town Center, the Village Master Plan. Throughout the past seven years, the Town has been executing the goals and objectives of this Plan. In part, this Plan recommended further analysis regarding parking, circulation, signage and tools to assist in revitalization of aging buildings. To assist the Town in this analysis and utilize industry best practices that are scalable to the Town's needs, the Town hired specialized consultants. As part of this process, the Town is seeking input on parking, circulation, signage and aesthetics.

To participate in the conversation and contribute your thoughts please join us on:

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy Street

Please review the draft information produced by the consultant, Comprehensive Sign and Circulation Plan and Village Master Plan at: <https://www.carefree.org/189/Economic-Development>

If you are not able to attend the meeting in person, you may submit your thoughts to Economic Development Director, Steve Prokopek at: steve@carefree.org or to the Town's Planning Director, Stacey Bridge-Denzak at: stacey@carefree.org.



FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2022-2023:

Do you have questions regarding how the Town is funded and how the public money is spent?

Learn more by clicking and reviewing the Fiscal Year Budget 2022-2023 <https://www.carefree.org/DocumentCenter/View/4007/FY-22-23-FINAL-BUDGET>

Still have questions?

Contact Carefree's Town Administrator,

Gary Neiss: gary@carefree.org

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MARKS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



The Town of Carefree is proud to recognize Town Administrator, Gary Neiss, as he celebrates twenty years of service with the Town. Neiss was hired by the Town of Carefree in 2002 as the Town's first Planning and Zoning Administrator and in 2009 went on to become the Town Administrator.

Mr. Neiss never anticipated a career in government; however, a chance meeting with well-known Scottsdale icons, Herb Drinkwater, and Guy Stillman, would change his anticipated path. While pursuing his master's degree at Arizona State University, Mr. Neiss had a meeting with Scottsdale's City Manager and unknowingly was greeted by Drinkwater and Stillman. The two gentlemen were in a spirited discussion about signage for the McCormick Stillman Railroad Park. Mr. Neiss offered a suggestion, the two handed him one of their napkins being used as they ate lunch and Mr. Neiss provided them with a quick sketch. Impressed with Mr. Neiss' suggestion (minus the ketchup stain) they had him meet with the Parks Director who offered Mr. Neiss an internship.

Mr. Neiss quickly ascended within Scottsdale's organization and worked on numerous initiatives including but not limited to parks planning and capital improvements, creating foundational documents for Scottsdale's desert preservation efforts, numerous community character area plans, scenic corridor guidelines, and numerous ordinances such as Scottsdale's industry leading wireless communication ordinance.

Through Mr. Neiss' work in Scottsdale, he became well versed with the Town of Carefree. In the early 2000's, the Town began looking for an individual who had deep knowledge of the area and the complex world of land entitlements. With his in-depth experience and background, Mr. Neiss was a natural choice for Carefree's first Planning and Zoning Administrator. In his first several years serving the community Mr. Neiss assisted in writing the community's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Design Guidelines. In fact, Mr. Neiss' Mountainside Standards & Guidelines Ordinance was recognized by the State of Arizona Planning Association for the "Best New Innovative Ordinance" in 2004. In 2009, based upon Mr. Neiss' in-depth knowledge of the community and solid foundation in municipal government, Mr. Neiss was promoted to the Town's chief administrative officer, Town Administrator, where he has been serving in the role ever since. As Town Administrator Mr. Neiss oversees the daily operations of the Town, policy development, staffing, and finances.

Not one to boast about his accomplishments, Gary humbly says he appreciates getting to work hands-on with our residents to build a quality, solvent, and sustainable small Town. He notes, "community building is about cultivating solutions that are scalable and provide resources the citizens support." Mr. Neiss' conservative financial perspective has helped the Town navigate through two generational economic downturns in the Great Recession and COVID shutdowns. He has sought collaborations which provide organizational savings such as the Consolidated Municipal Court which is being used as a model court around the state.

Looking towards the future, Neiss states, "collectively, the community will need to reconcile desires to enhance municipal services such as fire and emergency services while continuing to maintain its aging infrastructure and ensure future community solvency and sustainability."

When asked what advice Neiss would give his younger self, he replied, "Take more time to smell the roses. There is so much beauty in this community and all around us in the world. We all need to stop and appreciate that a little bit more."



2022 ELECTION

The last day to request a ballot in the mail is July 22, 2022. Ballots will be mailed by the Maricopa County Elections Department on or about August 2, 2022. Voters must mail ballots back to the County Election Department no later than July 26, 2022 so the ballot is received by August 2nd. Ballots can be dropped into ballot drop boxes up through August 2nd. Voters may also drop their ballots in the ballot drop box in the lobby of Town Hall, 8 Sundial Circle, during regular office hours, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. beginning July 6th. A ballot drop box will also be available at the Council Chambers located at 33 Easy Street beginning July 22nd through August 2nd.

BALLOTS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED BY THE POST OFFICE.

Arizona law does not allow official election materials, such as ballots, to be forwarded by the Post Office. If you would like to have your ballot mailed to a temporary mailing address, make your request by calling the Elections Department at (602) 506-1511 or send an email to EVreq@isc.maricopa.gov. If emailing, please provide your Full Name, Residence Address, Temporary Mailing Address and Date of Birth for verification purposes. If you are in the military or a military family member stationed out of the county, or you live overseas, please find out more information at MilitaryOverseas.Maricopa.Vote.

Voters may register to vote online. Hard copy voter registration forms may be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk's Office or at the Maricopa County Recorder's offices during regular business hours.

Election Information and voting hours are listed on our website: <https://www.carefree.org/342/2022-Election>



HEALING OF MEMORIES WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN VETERANS

A safe place for participants to explore personal histories and gain insight and empathy for themselves and others.

This Institute for Healing of Memories workshop is a response to the emotional, psychological and spiritual wounds inflicted by war, human rights abuses and other life-changing traumatic circumstances. This life-changing workshop is proven to help participants learn ways to overcome anger, loss, grief and guilt. Not only is it a step on the journey to personal healing, but also it contributes to the healing of interpersonal relationships.

RAVES FOR HEALING OF MEMORIES

"I met a woman veteran who lives close to me. I can't wait to [connect] so we can support each other's emotional needs."

"I felt ... compassion, comradeship, community, non judgment."

"I got in touch with some deep emotions in the drawing session."



Graciela Marroquin served 14 years in the military, beginning in 1992, as a plane captain in the U.S. Navy. She then transferred into the Army National Guard, and in 2004 served in Baghdad, Iraq, as a combat medic. As a post-traumatic-stress "Victor," she is pursuing her doctoral degree in clinical psychology, with an emphasis on trauma, stress, resiliency, and moral conflict/injury. She has been a Healing of Memories facilitator in the Phoenix area for two years.



Homeowners National School



COVID PROTOCOLS WILL BE FOLLOWED ENSURING SAFETY FOR ALL

WHEN

June 10 - 12, 2022

Friday 6:00 pm - Sunday 2:00 pm

WHERE

Spirit in the Desert

7415 E Elbow Bend, Carefree, AZ 85377

COST

FREE to Women Veterans

REGISTER

Call (651) 687-9767

Mike Wold

U.S. Navy vet & workshop coordinator



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday Farmers Market

Weekly | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | Town Center

Carefree Restaurant Week

May 30 - June 5 | Carefree, AZ

English Rose Tea Room

Platinum Jubilee Celebration

June 2 - June 5 | Reservations 480.488.4812

Brix Wine Bar & The Meat Market Pop-up Event

June 8 | 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Spirit in the Desert Healing of Memories Workshop for Women Veterans

June 10 - June 12 | Free | Register (651) 687-9767

Foothills Caring Corps Virtual Silent Auction

June 13-17 | foothillscaringcorps.com/silent-auction



WILDFIRE DANGERS HEATING UP...

Contributed by Carefree Rural Metro Fire Department

Wildfires can ruin homes and cause injuries or death to people and animals. A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. Wildfires are becoming more prevalent in the Urban Interfaces. An 'Urban Interface' are location where housing and urbanization adjoin wildlands and unmaintained areas.

Wildfires can:

- Often be caused by humans or lightning.
- Cause flooding or disrupt transportation, gas, power, and communications.
- Happen anywhere, anytime. Risk increases with in periods of little rain and high winds.
- Cost the Federal Government billions of dollars each year.



IF YOU ARE UNDER A WILDFIRE WARNING, GET TO SAFETY RIGHT AWAY

- Leave if told to do so.
- If trapped, call 9-1-1.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Use N95 masks to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

Prepare NOW

- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Know your community's evacuation plans and find several ways to leave the area. Drive the evacuation routes and find shelter locations. Have a plan for pets and livestock.
- Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks that filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including and updated asthma action plan and medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.
- Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air. Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof, safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.
- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.
- Review insurance coverage to make sure it is enough to replace your property.
- Pay attention to air quality alerts.
- **Sign up for alerts at <https://ein.az.gov/ready-set-go>**

(continued)



Wildfire Dangers Heating Up...

(Continued from previous page):

Survive DURING

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped, then call 911 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use an N95 masks to keep harmful particles out of the air you breathe.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities to find out when it is safe to return, and whether water is safe to drink.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.
- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Document property damage with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.
- Wildfires dramatically change landscape and ground conditions, which can lead to increased risk of flooding due to heavy rains, flash flooding and mudflows. Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored—up to 5 years after a wildfire. Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect the life you've built and to assure financial protection from future flooding.

Carefree Fire Department, staffed by Rural Metro Fire is prepared for wildfire season. We encourage all residents to do their part in making this a "No Fire" season. Preventing wildfires is a community wide effort. As we prepare with added equipment and refreshed training, we ask all resident to do their part by cleaning properties of fire fuels, creating defensible space, avoiding fire starting activities, and immediately reporting any hazardous conditions or situations to the proper authorities.



FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Do you have questions about the delivery of Fire and Emergency Services within the Town of Carefree? Are you familiar with the history and potential future changes to the Fire and Emergency Services within the Town of Carefree? If so, please review this citizen report by clicking this link: <https://www.carefree.org/DocumentCenter/View/3798/PSAC-Final-Report-1-5-22>.

Still have questions?

Contact Carefree's Town Administrator, Gary Neiss: gary@carefree.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES:

Maricopa County Sherriff's Office (MCSO)

Non-Emergency
602-876-8477

Rural Metro

Non-Emergency & Snake Removal
480-945-6311



Traffic restrictions are in place on Tom Darlington Drive between Stagecoach Pass and Carefree Highway to accommodate construction for the Carefree Water Consolidation Project. This work is expected to be complete in mid-July with the following information provided related to this work:

- Work began May 23rd on the west side of Tom Darlington Drive south of Meander Way. Tom Darlington will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Meander Way and Languid Lane/Boulder Pass with southbound traffic shifted to the east side of the median in this area. Left turns will be restricted to and from Meander Way.
 - Following this activity in mid-June, work will move south still one lane in each direction with southbound traffic between Languid Lane and Carefree Highway shifted to the east side of the median. Left turns will be restricted from Tom Darlington onto Languid Lane or Boulder Pass during this work.
 - As work approaches Carefree Highway, Tom Darlington traffic will continue to be reduced to one lane in each direction, with traffic now shifted to the respective curb lane and no left turns permitted for southbound Tom Darlington traffic into El Pedregal.
 - Roads will remain open for travel as work takes place daytime hours, weekdays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Traffic control will remain in place even during non-work hours to protect the work zone, and you will be notified in advance of any planned disruption to your water service.
- For project and construction information, visit our website or contact us. Thank you for your patience during this work.

Project Info:
www.CarefreeWCP.com | 480.898.4100

OWN A BUSINESS? TIME TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE



Current Carefree business owners will be receiving a letter for renewal of their business licenses which are due on July 1st, 2022. Current forms and more information are available at: <https://www.carefree.org/186/Business-Licenses>

TPT FILING FACTS

If you closed your business location indefinitely, you must cancel your license to avoid fees and penalties. Cancel your license on AZTaxes.gov or by completing a Business Account Update form.

File a \$0 TPT return for temporarily closed businesses and residential rental property owners with no sales/or tax due. Go to azdor.gov/transaction-privilege-tax-tpt for more information.

Verify the city code and name of the city/town match. Also, the deduction code matches the description.

Verify the business activity matches the business code. Also, be sure the region code and name of the region match.

