

CAREFREE'S SPECIAL ELECTION IS MAY 16TH - GET THE FACTS

On May 16, 2023 Carefree residents will have the opportunity to vote in a special election to determine the direction the Town will take in regard to fire and emergency medical services within the community. If voters approve this decision it will create a solvent and sustainable revenue stream to fund a transition to a more robust and dependable regional emergency response system called Automatic Aid.

[PDF: Carefree Fire & Emergency Services Report](#)

[Video Link: Carefree Fire & Emergency Services](#)

What's on the ballot?

Consideration of a limited primary property tax to support the long-term financial commitment to become part of Automatic Aid. By state law such special election can only occur in May.

- Should voters elect to approve a limited property tax to fund this service, Resolution 2022-19 restricts the funds collected with the primary property tax to fund the contract for regional Automatic Aid.
- If approved, Carefree will have seamless access to four neighboring fire stations. This same model in Cave Creek this past year yielded over 1,500 Automatic Aid dispatches into Cave Creek for fire and emergency medical assistance.
- Should voters elect not to approve a property tax to support an Automatic Aid contract, the Town of Carefree will continue its service contract with Rural Metro and inherit the risk of inadequate regional assistance during a time of need as a result of Scottsdale cancelling their mutual aid agreement with Rural Metro.



Proposed Tax Levy

- The proposed primary tax levy is capped at \$2.0 million and will never exceed this amount without a public vote as outlined in the Town's ordinance.
- This levy does not cover the entire costs of funding the contract with an Automatic Aid partner. The Town will balance the remaining annual costs with the Town's annual sales tax collection, to pay for the 25-year commitment.

Homeowner Impact

- Property taxes are not assessed on the market value of a home but a discounted valuation called Limited Property Value.
- A primary tax levy of \$2.0 million would translate to \$100 for every \$100,000.00 of Limited Property Value.
- For comparison, prior to the Town assuming the master contract with Rural Metro 20 years ago, residents were independently paying an average of \$750 annually to Rural Metro. In today's dollar, that annual subscription would exceed \$1,000 annually. In other words, one's cost under subscription service was higher than this proposal, however, under the property tax proposal there will be a more seamless and dependable regional support system.



INFORMATION REGARDING THE UPCOMING SPECIAL ELECTION ON PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX

- April 11 Publicity Pamphlets begin mailing to Carefree Residents, Copies available at Town Hall at 8 Easy Sundial Circle, Carefree
- April 17 Last day to register to vote for the May 16, 2023 election
- April 19 Ballots begin mailing to registered Carefree voters
- April 19 Ballot Drop Box available in Town Hall from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.
- May 8 - 15 In-person voting location opens at Carefree Council Chambers, 33 Easy St. 8:00am through 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Ballot Drop Box available at this location.
- May 16 ELECTION DAY -In person ballot open at Carefree Council Chambers at 33 Easy Street from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Ballot drop box available at this location.

QUALIFICATION TO VOTE

In order to vote in this election, you must have been registered to vote within the boundaries of the Town of Carefree on or before midnight, **Monday, April 17, 2023**. You may check your registration status, track your ballot, and more online at BeBallotReady.Vote or by calling the Maricopa County Elections Department at (602) 506-1511.



WATER COMPANY TRANSITION UPDATE

The Carefree Water Company (CWC) continues work on the reservoir project and transitioning Carefree residents previously served by Cave Creek.

CWC General Manager, Greg Crossman, provided a project update at the March 7th Carefree Water Company Board Meeting. Highlights include:

- 100% completion of the pipeline installation
- 75% completion of the underground reservoir
- 96% of meters replaced
- 65% customers transitioned

The Carefree Water Company is wholly owned by the Utilities communities Facilities District headed by water board members who are the seven elected council members of the Town of Carefree.

Learn more at: <https://carefreewaterco.com/home>





Carefree General Plan Update

HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY SURVEY

TOWN OF CAREFREE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Carefree is updating its community General Plan. The General Plan is the long-range planning document that seeks to implement the community's shared vision for the next 10-20 years and covers a variety of topics such as land use, transportation, water, and open space. Arizona State Law mandates that the General Plan be updated and ratified by voters every 10 years. The Town's last General Plan was ratified in 2012 by Carefree voters. The next Carefree General Plan Update is scheduled to appear on the November 2024 ballot. For more information, relevant project documents, and engagement opportunities, check out the General Plan web page on the Town's website at: <https://carefree.org/carefree-general-plan-update>

We Need to Hear From You!

Public outreach is the cornerstone of the General Plan, and we need your input! Please fill out this short survey to help us guide the development of the plan: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CarefreeGPCS>

Please Attend.

The next General Plan Community Workshop will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 5:00-6:30PM in the Town Council Chambers: 33 Easy St, Carefree, AZ 85377

Questions?

For any questions related to the General Plan please contact:

Stacey Bridge-Denzak
Planning Director & Zoning Administrator

8 Sundial Circle, P.O. Box 740
Carefree, AZ 85377
(480) 488-3686
stacey@carefree.org

HOMETOWN HEROES: VOLUNTEER PILOTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT 9TH ANNUAL ENDEAVOR AWARDS

Carefree residents, Stephen and Joanna Bobko-Hillenaar, of Angel Flight West (AFW) have been selected to be honored at the 2023 Endeavor Awards in Los Angeles, California on June 9, 2023. Selected by the public and event committee, recipients of the award are recognized for their personal contribution and commitment to charitable flying by volunteering their time, resources, and aircraft to help others.

“We’re thrilled to recognize Stephen and Joanna as this year’s event,” says AFW Executive Director Josh Olson. “Each year, volunteer pilots across the nation go above and beyond to help their communities through the gift of flight. This event sheds light on the impact made by volunteers like Stephen and Joanna.”

Hosted by Angel Flight West, the annual Endeavor Awards® gala celebrates and honors volunteer pilots and provides charitable support to the organizations that coordinate their gifts of flight to serve those in need. Every year thousands of donated flights save lives, provide access to medical care, transport veterans, rescue animals, map environmental data, aid in disaster relief and contribute to the public good in communities nationwide.

Splitting their time between Carefree, Arizona and Alpine, Wyoming, the Bobko-Hillenaars have donated 579 flights to help people across the West access their far-off medical care. “Angel Flight West gives us the opportunity to combine our love of flying with our passion for helping others in need,” says Stephen. “Being nominated is an honor as someone who appreciates what we’re doing for others.”



photo: Stephen and Joanna Bobko-Hillenaar

“Volunteer Pilot Shakeel Mozaffar of Angel Flight Northeast will also receive the Endeavor Award at this year’s event. Mozaffar has flown more than 45 missions and 58,230 miles over the past 27 years, including long-distance disaster relief flights to help those in need.

Angel Flight West’s volunteer pilots provide free medical transportation to help passengers reach their health care. This year, Angel Flight West will celebrate two milestones: 40 years of service and our 100,000th mission. To learn more about Angel Flight West, visit www.angelflightwest.org.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CAREFREE COMMUNITY

In today's fast-paced world, it's becoming increasingly important to find ways to relax and de-stress. One way to do this is through the ancient Chinese practice of Tai Chi, which involves a series of slow, deliberate movements that help to calm the mind and improve overall physical and mental health. And for this small business owner, teaching Tai Chi has become a way of life.

Meet Bina Bou, owner and lead instructor at Lifestyle Balance with Qigong Tai Chi. She has been teaching Tai Chi for over 8 years and has experienced firsthand the positive impact it can have on a person's wellbeing. Bina relocated to Arizona, after retiring from her career in insurance. Looking for ways to get stronger and healthier, she discovered the Ancient Chinese healing arts known as Tai Chi and Qigong.

"I've never stopped learning since I started practicing Tai Chi in 2006. My business doesn't feel like work, it is my mission to help folks take charge of their wellness; changing one life at a time."

Bina's classes take place outdoors on Thursday mornings in Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion, where she leads her classes through a series of Tai Chi movements that are adapted for the outdoor environment. Additional indoor classes are offered at locations in Cave Creek and Scottsdale.

Bina's classes have become popular with people of all ages, from young adults looking to improve their physical fitness, to seniors looking to improve their balance and coordination. And for those who may be hesitant to try Tai Chi, Bina encourages them to give it a chance.



CAREFREE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

氣功 太极

LIFESTYLE BALANCE
WITH
TAI CHI & QIGONG
101 EAST STREET, CAREFREE

"Tai Chi and Qigong "Mind-Body" practice is more than just stretching and strengthening the body." says Bina. "It's about inspiring the mind to heal the body."

For Bina, teaching Tai Chi outdoors has not only allowed her to connect with nature and share her love of the practice with others, but it has also helped her to build a successful small business. And for her students, it's a chance to improve their physical and mental wellbeing while enjoying the beauty of the Sonoran Desert.

Learn more and sign up for classes at:
<https://mindbodyfocusqi.com/>

GET TO KNOW YOUR CAREFREE COMMUNITY

Introducing Christine Nun, owner and lead instructor at [Carefree Yoga](#), which offers outdoor yoga classes for all levels. Launched in July 2021, Carefree Yoga meets for classes on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings at Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion in Carefree, AZ.

With an emphasis on wellness and connection, Christine has experienced how transformational yoga has been in her personal life and it is her passion to bring this to others. Christine previously owned and operated Yoga Breeze Healing and Wellness Center in Cave Creek, before bringing her practice to the Town of Carefree. She is also a passionate advocate for the Desert Foothills area, serving as an Ambassador at the Town of Carefree assisting travelers and visitors with area recommendations.

“I love the open space, botanical gardens, and communing with nature. The outdoor environment truly feeds my soul. I also like how supportive and attentive the town is to its residents.”

Carefree yoga class participants can feel good knowing that they are contributing to a greater cause while enriching their yoga practice at the same time. During each quarter, Carefree Yoga selects a 501c3 charity and a portion of all class fees are donated to the cause. This year Carefree Yoga donated \$600.00 to 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

“Most people think yoga is a physical practice. At Carefree Yoga, I integrate cultivating inner-peace and teach tools you can use off the mat to continue creating peace in your daily life.”



Practicing yoga outside can help you feel more grounded and connected to the earth. The fresh air and sunshine can also be invigorating and help to clear your mind. When practicing outdoor yoga, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a mat or towel to practice on. .

Carefree Yoga classes are available year-round, closing only during the month of August. Class times vary depending on seasonal temperatures. This Spring, look for Carefree Yoga's popular Sundial Sunset Yoga class. Participants meet up at the famous Carefree Sundial to practice yoga, guided meditations, and experience a sound journey with crystal bowls and gongs.

Learn more and sign up for classes at <https://carefreeyoga.net/>

GET TO KNOW YOUR TOWN OFFICIALS

MEET DEBBIE DOMENICO, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

April 26th is Administrative Professionals Day! In honor of the holiday, we're proud to introduce our Administrative Assistant for the Town of Carefree, Debbie Dominico,

Debbie is the friendly face behind the counter when you enter Town Hall. She joined the Carefree family in January 2022 after marking 25 years as a small business owner. Debbie's background is a huge benefit as she wears many hats to support the Town, serving as the Town's Permit Clerk and assisting with office management.

What are your goals for the next few months/years?
I'm working with staff to assist with administrative tasks and assisting with Town events.

What is your most memorable/favorite project you have worked on?
I enjoy helping Carefree residents and visitors make their time here more productive and enjoyable. I value this caring community and strive to be available to help when needed.

What do you like best about the Town of Carefree?
The beautiful desert scenery and small town sense of community. I also enjoy working with the Carefree Town staff. We are a cohesive group that works diligently to serve the Town of Carefree.

What do you like to do for fun?
I like hiking, spending time with my grandkids, and traveling.



Contact:

Debbie Domenico
debbie@carefree.org
(480) 488-3686





WILDFIRE DANGERS HEATING UP...

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 locations 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 on next page)

CONTINUED: WILDFIRE DANGERS HEATING UP...**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.■



The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey, also referred to as the Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey, is a comprehensive data collection effort to identify the strengths, challenges, and opportunities to address and improve public health. Every three years, Maricopa County Public Health, in collaboration with community organizations, municipalities, and healthcare partners, conducts a survey to develop a deeper understanding from residents about issues related to quality of life, availability of essential services, physical and physical and mental health, and more. The information gathered from the survey facilitates planning and guides the work toward making Maricopa County a healthier place for all.

Information collected in this survey will be kept confidential and used only in combination with others participating in the survey. No personal identifying information will be collected.

This survey is open to Maricopa County residents ages 12 and up and takes about 15 minutes to complete. The survey will be open from March 1 - May 31, 2023.

To learn more and participate in the survey visit: maricopa.gov/5707/Community-Health-Needs-Survey



LOCAL PRESS

March 2023 press mentions and news articles are linked here for your reference (click title to read):

[Perfect golf trip getaway spot if you hate crowds | The Manual](#)

["Love of Story" event brings local authors to Carefree | Things To Do | City Sun Times](#)

[This Arizona Town was Purchased for \\$44,000 ... Now it's an Idyllic Community with Hiking, Biking, and a Thriving Arts Scene | Travel + Leisure](#)

[Springing Onto the Stage | Images Magazine](#)

[Year Round Color from your Landscape | City Sun Times](#)

[Sonoran Arts League Represents, Supports Local Art Communities | City Sun Times](#)



HEALING OF MEMORIES WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Healing of Memories Workshop for Women Veterans

This workshop will provide the participants with a safe experiential and interactive way to address anger, loss, grief and guilt.

The workshop is offered free of charge to any woman servicemember or veteran.

For more info and to register, contact:

Mike Wold

US Navy Veteran and workshop coordinator

(651) 687-9767



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Desert Foothills Theater Presents: The Secret Garden

Apr 1-8 | Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion

Town Council Meeting

Apr 4 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Apr 10 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

Healing of Memories Workshop

Apr 14-16 | Spirit of the Desert Retreat Center

Desert Gardens Seminar

Apr 15 | 9:30 AM | Council Chambers

Third Thursday Art Walk

Apr 20 | 4:00 PM | Town Center

Earth Day Celebration

Apr 22 | Town Center

PUBLIC SERVICES:



Code Enforcement

480)-488-3686

Building Inspections

(480)-488-1471



Carefree Water Co.

(480) 488-9100

Emergency

(480) 252-7661



Fire Station 1

(480) 488-0347

Non-Emergency & Snake Removal

(480) 945-6311



Maricopa Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

(602) 876-1742

LOCAL RESOURCES:



The Holland Center

(480) 488-1090

[Event Calendar](#)



Kiwanis Club of Carefree

kiwaniscarefree.org

[Event Calendar](#)



Desert Foothills Family YMCA

(480) 488-1090

[Event Calendar](#)



Desert Foothills Library

(480) 488-2286

[Event Calendar](#)

March 30
through
April 8

COMING SOON

Join us under the stars at the

SANDERSON LINCOLN PAVILION

CAREFREE, AZ

**DESERT
FOOTHILLS
THEATER**



With an exceptionally beautiful score and inspiring story, a beloved classic musical returns.

TICKETS: DFTheater.org



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 was able to share my truth for the first time in an environment that understood and supported me."

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

"I was able to share my story, be understood, heard and believed."

"The highlights...were the commonality of the vets regarding abuse and the refreshing of purpose."

WHEN

April 14 - 16, 2023

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



Graciela Marroquin, BA, MSW, served 14 years in the military. In the U.S. Navy as a plane captain before transferring into the Army National Guard, and then activated Army and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, as a combat-medic. Graciela is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in psychology, with an emphasis on trauma, stress, resiliency, and moral conflict/injury. She is the Program Coordinator for Healing of Memories for Healthcare Workers.



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.

Third Thursdays

CAREFREE
ARIZONA

ART WALK
4 PM - 7 PM



An evening of art and culture in Carefree!

ADELANTE GALLERY

7212 E. HO HUM DR. #14

SONORAN ARTS LEAGUE

7275 EASY ST.

THUNDERBIRD ARTISTS GALLERY

99 EASY ST.

GALLERY MICHELE

100 EASY ST. #1

STEVE STENTO FINE ART

42 EASY ST.

VIRGINIA BROOKS ART

7402 E. SUNDANCE TRL.

GRACE RENEE GALLERY

7212 E HO RD.

STUDIO WEST & RC GORMAN

37555 N. HUM RD.

WILD HOLLY GALLERY

22 EASY ST.

LUCY DICKENS FINE ART

34820 WHILEAWAY RD

SUE BICKERDYKE INTERIORS

36889 N. TOM DARLINGTON DR.

ZUVA GALLERY

42 EASY ST.

M & E STOYANOV FINE ART

30 EASY ST.

THE MEDICINAL ART GALLERY

42 EASY ST., #3E

VisitCarefree.org | (480) 488-3686 | 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree AZ 85377

