

## UNDERSTANDING THE TOWN'S BUDGET

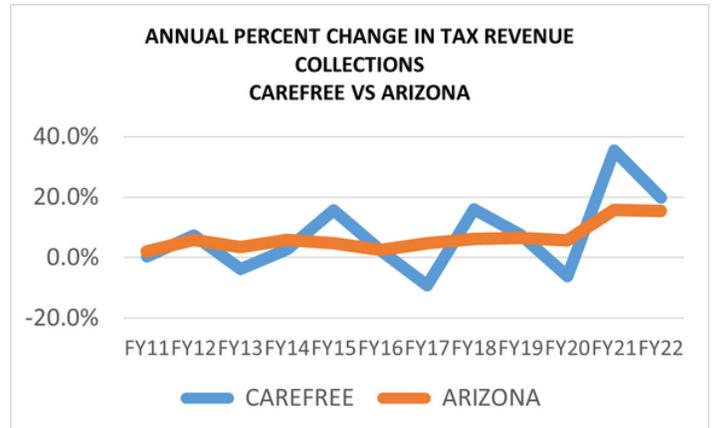
At approximately \$7 million dollars, Carefree has one of the smallest municipal operating budgets within the State of Arizona. In anticipation of the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1st ) the Town Council holds its annual public workshop in the spring/summer to review with Town staff its forecasted revenues and planned expenses. By law, municipal budgets must be balance - expenses may not exceed the forecasted revenues. Additionally, a statutory expenditure limit places a cap on the total operational and capital expenditures annual budget: In Carefree, that cap for total annual operations and capital expenditures is approximately \$12 million.

### CAREFREE'S REVENUES:

Carefree's revenues are generated by two sources: approximately 80% from local fees and approximately 20% from state shared revenues.

#### Local Fees:

There are two sources of revenue generated from local fees. The first are licenses, permits and user fees which make up typically between 20%-25% of this revenue and are collected to cover costs of services. The second local fee is municipal sales tax which contributes 75%-80%. Sales tax is subject to economic cycles and the performance of local businesses. Due to the limited number of businesses and small portfolio of large tax generating businesses within the community, there can be large variations in tax collections. This variation can be seen when comparing the states sales tax numbers with the town's sales tax numbers of the past 12 years (see chart at top right). Due to the states diverse tax base, there are less dramatic variations when compared to Carefree's sales tax performance. This is why economic development seeks complementary businesses to help diversify the Town's tax base and mitigate these large fluctuations.



#### State Shared Revenue:

State shared revenue are disbursed based upon a community's population. There are four contributors to state shared revenue: State Income Tax, State Sales tax, Highway User Fees and Vehicle License Tax. It is important to note that since state shared revenue is disbursed based upon a community's population, high growth communities will receive a higher proportional share of this revenue over time while communities with negligible growth such as Carefree will receive a reduction in revenue.

### CAREFREE'S EXPENDITURES:

From an annual operations perspective there are three main components to Carefree's operational budget: Public Safety, General Operations and Human Resources.

#### Public Safety:

Over 40% of the Town's annual budget is invested in public safety with contracts with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services and Rural Metro for Fire and Emergency Services. This past year, the Rural Metro Contract increased by over \$300,000 a 20% increase, while the Sheriff's contract increased by over 10% and is anticipated to increase by another 17% next fiscal year.

*(continued on next page)*

## CONTINUED... UNDERSTANDING THE TOWN'S BUDGET

### General Operations:

Approximately 30% of the Town's annual budget is invested in supplies, materials and equipment used to provide services to the citizens.

### Human Resources:

One of the most important elements of any organization is the people who represent the organization. The Town has a total of 17 full-time employees, like the Town's total budget, it is one of the smallest municipal staffs in the state. The staff provides the core municipal services required by law and share many responsibilities which are unique to the position due to the limited staffing model. Approximately 30% of the Town's annual budget is invested in the Town's human resources.

### Capital Reserves:

Much like a properly managed homeowners association, money is put aside to fund a savings account to maintain the community's infrastructure. Homeowner associations conduct reserve studies to determine required savings and maintenance schedules. Municipalities have capital improvement plans which mechanically operate the same manner. Over time, the Town's capital reserves have been invested in upsizing water lines and adding fire hydrants in the original Carefree water service area, maintaining streets, building a fire station, Council chambers and Town Center Improvements. Typically, \$4-5 million is budgeted each year in capital investments.

## PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT UPDATE

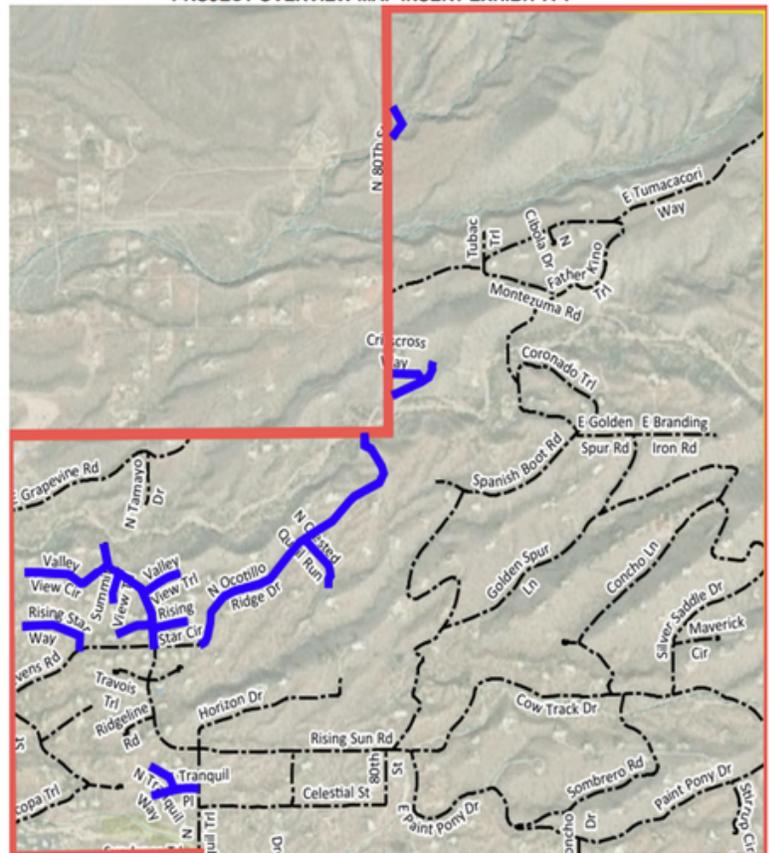
The second phase of the Pavement Maintenance Project will begin on March 6th as long as the weather is favorable.

The second phase is a chip seal which will be placed on top of the crack sealing completed earlier. The chips (small aggregate stones) may be movable until they successfully adhere to the asphalt emulsion. It is important to drive slowly through a newly chipped roadway.

The third (final phase) will follow the chip seal and is a slurry seal placed to add additional wearing surface to the roadway and extend the life to the pavement surface. The third phase is even more temperature dependent so there may be a slight delay for the commencement of that phase.

As always, please be careful when encountering construction vehicles on our roadways.

PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP INSERT EXHIBIT A-1



Roadways highlighted in blue above are NOT part of this project.

# CAREFREE ELECTS NEW PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS



Sharon Smith



Mary Roberts



Peter Burns



Tom Cross



Susie Dymoke



Ralph Ferro



Karen Dahlman

On February 7th, 2023, Town Council appointed new members to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

A record number of 17 applications were submitted. Candidates met with Mayor Crane and Vice Mayor Kroyer in the weeks prior to the Council meeting to interview for the position. Candidates then had the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes each in front of Council.

Council voted to elect the following Commission members: Sharon Smith, Mary Roberts, Peter Burns, Tom Cross, Susie Dymoke, Ralph Ferro, and Karen Dahlman.

The Planning and Zoning Commission serves as the planning agency for the Town to carry out the purposes of the Zoning Ordinance and State Statutes related to planning, zoning, subdivision, and land use.

The newly elected commission conducted their training on Thursday, February 9th at Council Chambers. The Planning and Zoning Commission also serves on the Development Review Board and Board of Adjustment.

They began their official roles at the February 13th, Planning & Zoning meeting. At this meeting Tom Cross was elected to remain as the Chairman and Mary Roberts elected as Vice Chairman.

Please join us in congratulating our new members and welcome them to the team.

Find meeting information, agendas and minutes on our website: <https://carefree.org/planning-and-zoning-commission>

# CAVE CREEK MEMORIAL CEMETERY RESTORATION

The Cave Creek Memorial Cemetery has a fresh look for 2023. In December of 2022, town officials enlisted the help of Desert Foothills Landscape to clear out overgrown brush and debris.

Samantha Gesell, Planning Clerk at the Town of Carefree, oversees the cemetery operations and takes great care in assisting residents with purchasing burial plots. Recognizing the grounds were becoming increasingly overgrown with brush and weeds, Gesell took action to restore the site to its original rustic charm.

Gesell explains, "Unfortunately, not everyone has local family members to maintain their resting place. It was important to us to restore these gravesites to their original glory." During the beautification project, crews rediscovered a few older gravesites that had been hidden by the brush. With the work completed, visitors can now easily stroll through the grounds in honor of those interred there while also gaining a glimpse of the past.

The Cave Creek Memorial Cemetery, located at 36400 North Pima Road, was implemented in May of 1955 by the Cave Creek Improvement Association, with land donated by the U.S. National Forest Service. The natural landscaping and rustic character of this pioneer cemetery was the vision of longtime area resident, Elmer Gillespie, who was the first resident interred at the site in April of 1956.

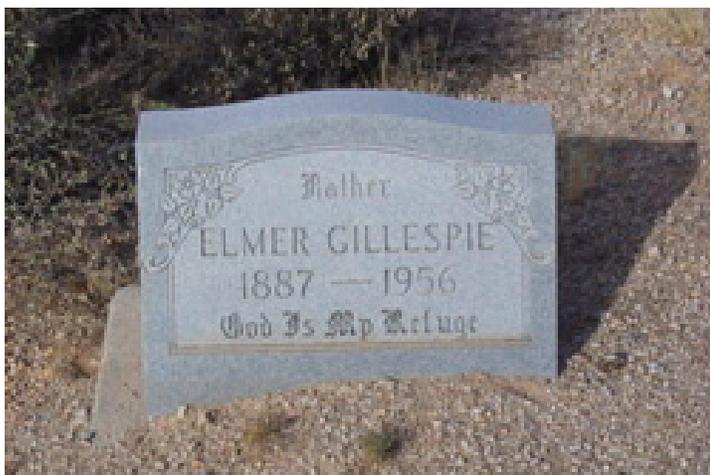
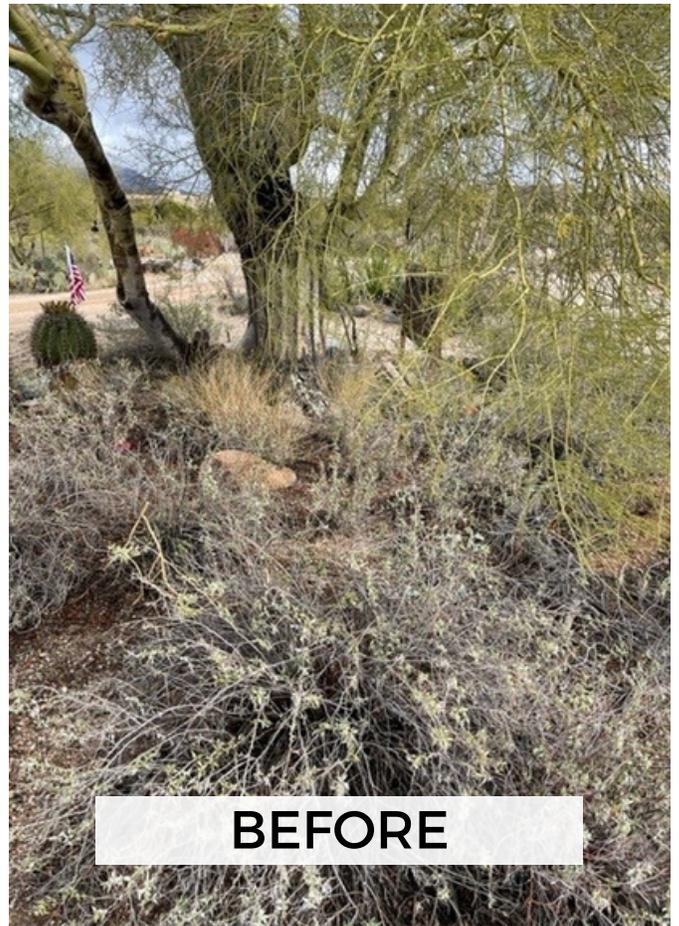
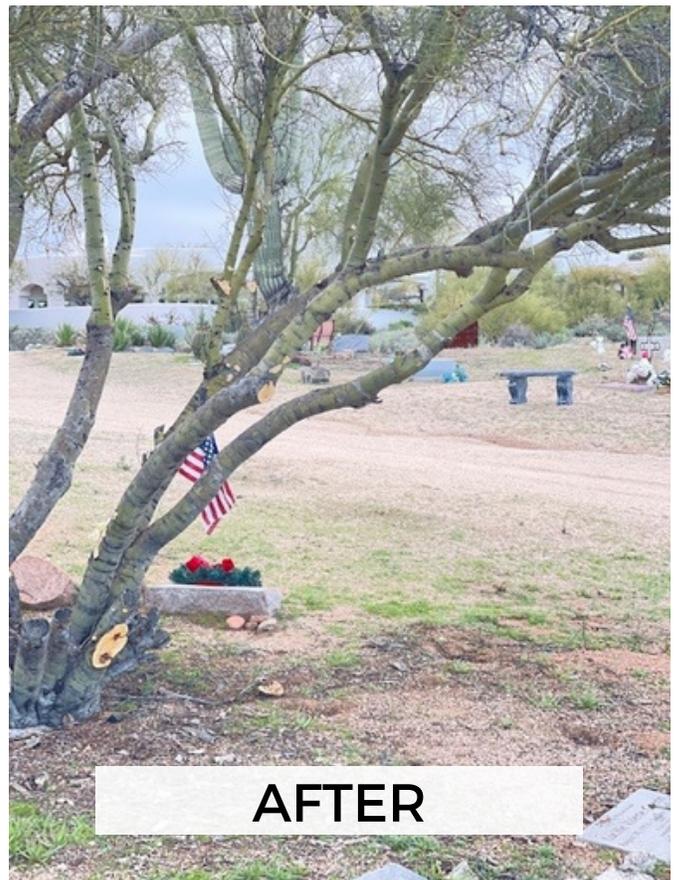


Photo: First gravesite at Cave Creek Memorial Cemetery  
Credit: Keith B Birkenmeyer



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

# GET TO KNOW YOUR CAREFREE COMMUNITY

## Meet Desert Moon Market:

Introducing Arizona native and Carefree local, Alexandra James, the owner and artist behind Desert Moon Market. Nestled into a tidy, little corner of Historic Spanish Village in Carefree, Desert Moon Market is an upscale, contemporary boutique brimming with curated finds you won't get anywhere else. Their body and skincare lines are made from all-natural ingredients. Open since 2021, Desert Moon Market brings a fresh, contemporary take on retail, giving residents another reason to enjoy their town.

Alexandra's background in interior design is evident when you step into her shop. Her free-spirited, desert-chic vibe invites you in with soothing color palettes, organic materials, and lots of natural lighting. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Sonoran Desert mountains and natural landscape, you'll definitely want to linger a little longer at this family-friendly, outdoor shopping center. If you're lucky, you might even get to meet her sweet little canine assistant, Perla!

When she's not in the shop meeting with clientele, Alexandra values her time building relationships and partnerships that strengthen our community. She notes, "I love to connect with other local artisans and makers to help elevate each other." Desert Moon Market has some exciting experiences planned in the next year with artist features, pop-up markets, and summer nights shopping events. Stay in touch with them on Instagram to keep up with the latest news and events.

Shop their line of goods in store and online at <https://www.desertmoonmarket.com/>.



**Business:** Desert Moon Market

**Location:** 7211 E. Ho Road #18

**Hours:** Mon/Tue Closed

Wed/Thu 10:00am - 4:00pm

Fri/Sat 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sun 11:00am - 5:00pm

**Owner:** Alexandra James

**Products/Services:** Lifestyle goods with an eclectic array of apparel, home goods, and body care.

**Years in business:** 2 years (est. 2021)

**Contact:** (480) 687-5484 |

[info@desertmoonmarket.com](mailto:info@desertmoonmarket.com)

<https://www.desertmoonmarket.com>



# GET TO KNOW YOUR TOWN OFFICIALS

## MEET STACEY BRIDGE-DENZAK, PLANNING DIRECTOR AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Introducing Stacey Bridge-Denzak, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator for the Town of Carefree. The Planning and Zoning Division oversees all aspects relating to both short-range and long-range planning and development in the Town of Carefree.

Certain developments require approvals from different review boards such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, Development Review Board, Board of Adjustment, and/or the Town Council, depending on the type of proposal. The members of the Planning & Zoning Commission also serve on the Development Review Board and Board of Adjustment. Prior to developing a property, applicants are encouraged to discuss the project with Town Staff to ensure the project and process comply with all applicable regulations.

Stacey began her career as a registered Landscape Architect in Boston, MA. While raising her children,, her family moved to Arizona where she reentered the workforce as a municipal planner. She joined the Town of Carefree in 2014.

*"I felt much of what I worked on in the private sector carried over into the public realm, but kind of in reverse. While I worked with architects and created site/landscape plans for development, I now was reviewing and critiquing them to ensure they met community expectations."*

**What are your goals for the next few months/years?**  
*My goal is to ensure a comprehensive and meaningful public engagement process for the General Plan Update. I love long range planning, and this is the "daddy" of them all for planners!*

**What is your most memorable/favorite project you have worked on?**

*They are all memorable, but I felt most accomplished with the approval of the rezone at the Northeast corner of Cave Creek Road and Carefree Highway. While this process is common in other larger municipalities, it is uncommon in Carefree. Interestingly, it was a complex process including consideration of a major wash, shared rights-of-ways with adjacent communities, and understanding the right type of commercial mix that fit within the area. Ultimately, this was an important change of entitlement due to the fact that the evolution of this area was changing as evidenced by the development of the other 3 corners. It was clear commercial zoning on the remaining corner in Carefree was relevant. This corner is now an important economic opportunity, which will hopefully soon benefit all Carefree residents.*

**What do you like best about the Town of Carefree?**

*Black Mountain - I think it is stunning! I like that it has spectacular views on all sides, from it and of it.*

**What do you like to do for fun?**

*I enjoy going to the movies again; nothing beats the smell of movie popcorn with melted butter. I also love spending time with my 3 boys, individually or all at once!*



**Contact:**

Stacey Bridge-Denzak  
stacey@carefree.org  
(480) 488-3686



## CAREFREE'S GARDEN SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES



The cooler temps couldn't keep away guests at the February Desert Gardens Seminar.

The seminar featured Horticulturist and Smartscape Program Coordinator, Kirti Mathura. Kirti worked at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix in different capacities for over 17 years, after serving six years as a Garden volunteer. She also worked as the horticulturist for César Mazier Landscaping & Consulting and Singh Farms, and taught Plant Materials for the Landscape Architecture Program at ASU's School of Design. Most currently she is the Program Coordinator for the Smartscape training with the U of AZ Cooperative Extension and teaches landscaping and gardening workshops for several municipalities in the Phoenix area.

She is involved in various local and national plant organizations and enjoys sharing gardening information in many different formats. Kirti authored *The Arizona Low Desert Flower Garden*, published by Gibbs Smith, Publisher, and contributed to other landscaping and gardening publications, including *Desert Landscaping for Beginners*, published by Arizona Master Gardener Press.



Join us for the next Garden Seminar:

Desert Garden Seminar Series Presents:

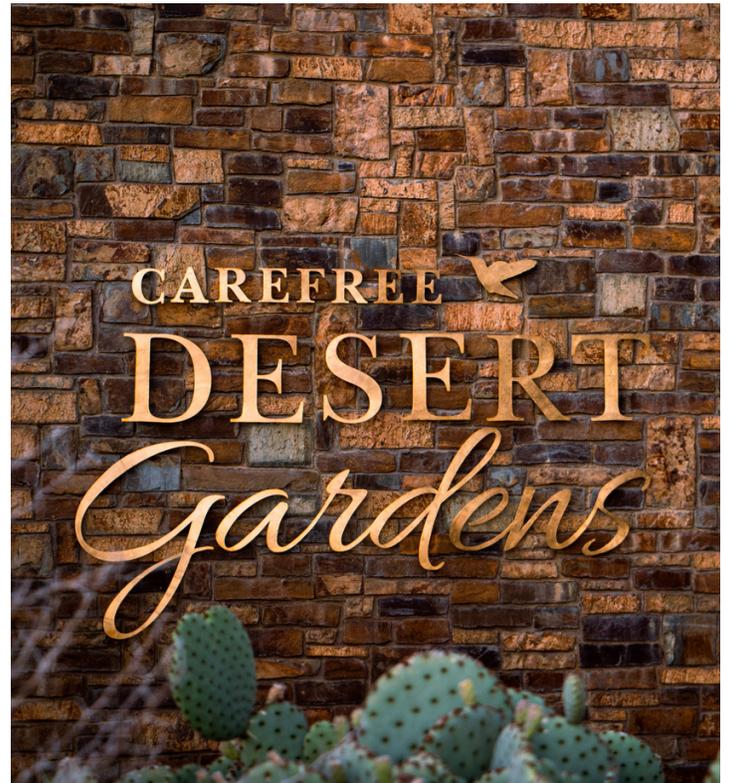
Beautiful Design for Small Spaces

Date: Saturday, March 11th

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: Council Chambers 33 Easy Street

<https://carefree.org/desert-gardens-seminars>





# SAVE A LIFE: LEARN CPR

By, Shawn Gilleland, PIO, Rural Metro Fire

January 2, 2023 millions of football fans and the millions who would watched after on the news and social media, saw the dramatic scenes that many first responders face routinely. Maybe not under the bright lights on national television in front of millions of people, but equally as critical. Damar Hamlin survived cardiac arrest, due in part to the skill and training of first responders. Arguably, also due to their immediate intervention.

According to the American Heart Association more than 350,000 people experience sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, annually. Since the turning of the New Year, Rural Metro Fire has responded to several cardiac emergencies. However, three such events stand out as the gold standard in pre-hospital care. Late December 2022, in the town center during the annual Carefree Arts Festival, crews responded within minutes to a patient suffering a sudden cardiac emergency. Crews stabilized the patient and delivered them to hospital. On January 22, 2023 during the same festival, Rural Metro crews from the Town of Carefree Station 821 responded to a sudden cardiac arrest. On scene within minutes, Life in the balance of time and expertise, crews were able to revive the patient who was delivered to the hospital with ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation). On February 3, 2023 at the Bank of America in Carefree, rapid response and highly skilled professional emergency medicine contributed to Rural Metro crews from Carefree station 821 again saving the life of someone who experienced sudden cardiac arrest.

Despite their advanced training and expertise, when life hangs in the balance as a result of sudden cardiac arrest some very basic skills can save a life.

## LEARN CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

The performance of CPR almost immediately during a cardiac event double or triples a person's chances of survival. You don't have to have advanced training to perform CPR.

**FIRST**- Call 9-1-1 or tell someone to call 9-1-1. If you're alone call 9-1-1 and put the phone on speaker. Dispatchers can also talk you through CPR. If there is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) available, get it or tell someone to get it.

**SECOND**- PUSH HARD and FAST in the center of the persons chest. Try to establish a compression rate of 100-120 compression per minute. The American Heart Association recommends timing your compressions to the beat of the song "Stayin' Alive." This method is called "Hands only" or "Compression Only" CPR and does not involve breathing into the person's mouth.

\*If an AED is present- activate the unit by turning it on or opening it. Don't worry, most units are "AUTOMATED" and will walk you through what to do and how to do it. If you are alone, you can stop CPR to activate the unit and place pads but resume as soon as possible. If someone else is present, continue compression as they prepare the unit and place pads.

Continue Compression only CPR until Advanced Life Support professionals arrive, and they tell you to stop.

## TAKE A CLASS

Still intimidated by CPR or the use of an AED? Take a class and get familiar with the application of CPR and the use of an AED. There are many organizations including Rural Metro Fire that can provide education for businesses, HOA's, Community groups or others at little or NO COST. [The American Heart Association](#) and the [American Red Cross](#) offer CPR and AED classes and blended learning options.

7 of 10 cardiac emergencies occur at home, meaning you may be the FIRST, first responder. CPR could save your life or the life of someone you love.



## LOCAL PRESS

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

[Desert Gardens Seminar](#)

[Carefree to Vote on Fire, Emergency Services](#)

[Hidden Gems to Discover](#)

[Pizzicata Serves Up a Little Slice of Italy](#)

[Who is the Mayor of Carefree?](#)



**Did you know?** In addition to viewing information on our website, you can view official meeting dates, upcoming events, and more at our kiosk located within the **Post Office lobby**.



Feb. 13, 2023 - Vice Mayor Kroyer and Mayor Crane presented the "Carefree Cares Award" to the recipients at the Cave Creek Unified School District Board Meeting.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR](#)

### All Porsche Grand Display

Mar 5 | 9:00 AM | Town Center

### Town Council Meeting

Mar 7 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

### Desert Gardens Seminar

Mar 11 | 9:30 AM | Council Chambers

### Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

Mar 11 | 7:00-11:00 AM | Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion

### Planning & Zoning Meeting

Mar 13 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

### Third Thursday Art Walk

Mar 16 | 4:00 PM | Town Center

### Thunderbirds Art & Wine Festival

Mar 17-19 | Town Center

### For the Love of Story: Carefree Cultural Series

Mar 25 | Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion

### Desert Foothills Theater Presents: The Secret Garden

Mar 31-31 | Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion

### ALL PORSCHE GRAND DISPLAY

March 5th, 9am-1pm



# PUBLIC SERVICES:



**Carefree Fire Station 1**  
(480) 488-0347

**Non-Emergency & Snake Removal**  
(480) 945-6311



**Carefree Water Co.**  
(480) 488-9100

**Emergency**  
(480) 252-7661  
[carefreewaterco.com/](http://carefreewaterco.com/)



**Maricopa Sheriff's Office (MCSO)**  
(602) 876-1742

**District 4:**  
37622 N. Cave Creek Rd.,  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331



**Code Enforcement**  
480-488-3686

**Building Inspections**  
(480)-488-1471

**Questions?**  
call: (480)-488-3686  
email: [info@carefree.org](mailto:info@carefree.org)  
visit: 8 Sundial Circle  
8:00am-4:30pm M-F



**Desert Foothills Library**  
(480) 488-2286

[Event Calendar](#)



**The Holland Center**  
(480) 488-1090

[Event Calendar](#)



**Kiwanis Club or Carefree**  
<https://kiwaniscarefree.org/contact/>

[Event Calendar](#)

Council Conversations





**Talk with your elected officials.**  
**Get answers to your questions.**

 **LOOK FOR THEM AT THE POST OFFICE ENTRANCES**

# Come Hungry



## All You Can Eat



## ...and Enjoy!

**Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast**  
**Saturday, March 11, 2023 • 7am-11am**

**Sanderson Lincoln Pavillion**  
**101 Easy Street, Carefree AZ 85377**

Sponsored by:

**Kiwanis Club of Carefree**

For the Kids – Helping our youth in the  
community and across the globe



SCAN FOR TICKETS

Adults \$10  
Children (14 and under) \$5  
Donations accepted



Special THANKS to HAROLD'S CORRAL and THE ROASTERY OF CAVE CREEK

SHOW GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY ANDREA MARKOWITZ AND PATRICK O'BRIEN

**BROADWAY'S GREATEST FARCE!**

**COMING SOON!**

**CLASSIC SONDHEIM!**

**DESERT  
FOOTHILLS  
THEATER**

**MARCH  
10-19**



**CACTUS SHADOWS FINE ARTS CENTER**

**TICKETS**

**DFTHEATER.ORG**



CAREFREE  
ARIZONA

*For the*

# LOVE OF STORY

**Featuring Arizona Authors & Writers**

**March 25**

**3:00 PM**

**Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion**

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**



Nancy Outfreund  
Director/Originator

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](http://DFTheater.org)

# 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

**LUCY DICKENS FINE ART**

34820 WHILEAWAY RD

**THUNDERBIRD ARTISTS GALLERY**

99 EASY ST.

**ARTISTIC DWELLINGS**

36600 N. PIMA RD #402

**M & E STOYANOV FINE ART**

30 EASY ST.

**VIRGINIA BROOKS ART**

7402 E. SUNDANCE TRL.

**CIOLIM**

7275 EASY ST.

**STEVE STENTO FINE ART**

42 EASY ST.

**WILD HOLLY GALLERY**

22 EASY ST.

**GALLERY MICHELE**

100 EASY ST. #1

**STUDIO WEST & RC GORMAN**

37555 N. HUM RD.

**ZUVA GALLERY**

42 EASY ST.

**GRACE RENEE GALLERY**

7212 E HO RD.

**SUE BICKERDYKE INTERIORS**

36889 N. TOM DARLINGTON DR.



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