

CAREFREE HOSTS TOWN BUDGET WORKSHOPS

On May 18th and May 25th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., town officials will host budget workshops for the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year.

Participants will hear from department heads, learn what goals and initiatives have been achieved, and what items are planned for the new fiscal year.

Join us to learn how the Town of Carefree fiscally plans, prepares, and executes its annual budget.

Can't attend in person? Join us on the [livestream](#).



STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR HOMETOWN DURING SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON AND BEYOND

It's no secret that life slows down a bit in Carefree during the summer months as many folks take the opportunity to escape the summer heat. It's a great time to relax and unwind. Here are some tips on how to stay connected with your town while out of town.

Subscribe to Town News

(Digital distribution via email and/or text msg)

Stay updated on local events, news, and meetings happening in Carefree. Subscribers will receive our Town Newsletter, *Carefree Connection*, on the first of each month. Additional town updates are provided on an as-needed basis. [Subscribe now!](#)

Download the Carefree Connection App

The app provides quick links to the Town's website and provides communication notifications, so you never miss a thing. Download for [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

Follow Us on Social Media

You can find the Town of Carefree on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Check out our website, [Carefree.org](#)

Find quick links to the info you need most:

- [Town Meetings Calendar](#)
- [Town Newsletter Archive](#)
- [Carefree Media & Press Mentions](#)
- [Town Events Calendar](#)

Staying in town for the summer?

It's a great time to explore and get to know your local businesses. Find restaurants, boutiques, shopping, wellness providers, services and more on our [interactive Visit Carefree Map](#):

WHAT'S UP WITH THE UPDATE?



The Town has been diligently working on its General Plan Update with the support of its consultant, Michael Baker International, a statewide leader in assisting communities with updating their General Plans. The project is currently wrapping up “Phase I - Recognize” (the first stage of a two-year long Update process that commenced late last year), which focused on collecting data that represents conditions in Carefree as they are today.

As outlined in the Public Information Plan adopted by Town Council in December of 2022, the goals of this initial phase were to:

- Recognize the value in what exists today and build on that foundation.
- Understand how the existing General Plan’s policies and goals guided growth.
- Investigate how residents’ needs will change as the community advances.
- Explore how the Town manages growth and mitigates impacts from growth.
- Investigate how policy changes will (if at all) affect residents and the Town.

At the conclusion of this phase Michael Baker International will deliver an Existing Conditions Assessment Report that lays the groundwork for how the General Plan Update will evolve.

So, how do we get there?

With continued public outreach and “Phase II – Engage” is how. In fact, this is a continuous phase throughout the entire Update process. The intent of every phase in the Update process is to engage as many residents as possible by providing multiple opportunities for the public to get involved and give input. To date, the consultant led two Community Workshops, engaged the Planning and Zoning Commission, and held one of many pop-up informational forums to come - this recent one located at the post office building (100 Easy Street).

Also, a community-wide survey which was available online and in a hard copy format was made available to all residents for over one month. Those results will be shared by Michael Baker International with the Town Council at its May 2, 2023, regular meeting. At this meeting the discussion will also include a comprehensive review of all forms of public outreach where feedback was solicited.

In Phase II, the consultant will begin to integrate all of this feedback that they have received to begin to establish goals and policies based on community concerns.

For more information on the phases of the General Plan Update, 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>



SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CAREFREE VOTERS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 16, 2023

The Town of Carefree is holding a special election on May 16th, 2023. Publicity Pamphlets and Ballots have been mailed to registered voters. Additional publicity pamphlets are available at Town Hall and will be available at the Carefree Council Chambers, 33 Easy Street, Carefree on and after May 8th.

If you do not receive your ballot in the mail or wish to complete your ballot in person, the Maricopa County Elections Department will staff a replacement ballot location at the Carefree Council Chambers from May 8th through May 16th.

Replacement Ballot Location: 33 Easy Street

- May 8 to May 15, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 16 (Election Day), 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ballots can be returned to the Maricopa County Elections Department by US Mail. It is recommended that ballots be mailed no later than May 9th to assure receipt by the Elections Department by the deadline May 16th.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS NO LATER THAN MAY 16, 2023. Post marks DO NOT COUNT.

In the alternative, ballots can be placed in a secure Ballot Drop Box at the locations below. Ballots are picked up daily by representatives of the Maricopa County Elections Department.

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Town Hall: 8 Sundial Circle

- April 19th through May 16th, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Carefree Council Chambers: 33 Easy Street

- May 8 through May 15, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- May 16, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

THREE WAYS TO TRACK YOUR BALLOT

You can check the status of your ballot by going to

<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/Elections/BeBallotReady/> or by calling 602-506-1511 or by texting "JOIN" to 628-683.

ELECTION RESULTS

Election results are posted at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The Election Department will post unofficial results until all the ballots have been tabulated. Results are not official until they are canvassed.

LICENSING NOW OPEN FOR SHORT-TERM & VACATION RENTALS

Carefree Ordinance 2022-03 was adopted unanimously by the Town Council in February of this year as a means to address common problems associated with short-term/vacation rentals. The Ordinance requires rental property owners/operators to obtain a Carefree Permit for each property and comply with several safety, health and neighborhood notification requirements. The annual license fee is \$250 per property.

Before offering for rent or renting a short-term/vacation rental within the Town, the Owner of that short-term rental, or that Owner's Representative, shall

- (i) register the short-term/vacation rental with the Town, (ii) obtain a valid Permit, and
- (iii) obtain a valid transaction privilege tax license under A.R.S. Title 42.

The Town's permit applies only to rentals of less than 30 days. Carefree desires to work with all hosts, guests, and neighbors to maintain the Town's attractive lifestyle.

Please see the Town's web page for an explanation of the permitting process and required forms:

<https://carefree.org/short-term-vacation-rentals>



ANNUAL FIRE HYDRANT TESTING AND INSPECTIONS

Annual testing and inspections of fire hydrants in Carefree will be ongoing through the end of May and into early June. The fire department and crews from Carefree Water are anticipated to begin on the eastern side of Carefree and work their way west. This annual inspection ensures that all the fire hydrants are functioning as designed and allows firefighters to become familiar with the location of the hydrants.

Please drive slowly through any standing water and drive with caution to protect our water crews and our first responders as they work to keep you protected. If you have any questions, please call the Carefree Water Company at (480) 488-9100.

MARICOPA COUNTY'S REGIONAL PARKS SET MAY 1ST AS THE START DATE FOR THE ANNUAL FIRE BAN

The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department will initiate its annual fire ban on Monday, May 1, 2023. The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department's annual fire ban goes into effect the same day.

The department's annual fire ban dates align with the county's Air Quality Department burn activity regulations. Under these regulations, outdoor recreational fires are prohibited within Area A's boundaries between May 1 and September 30. This area encompasses all of our regional parks.

"This winter, Maricopa County received an abundance of rain, which provided us with a beautiful super-bloom of wildflowers in the parks. As the temperatures begin to rise, this vegetation is drying out and quickly becoming an ideal source for wildfire ignition. Implementing a fire ban limits the possibility of starting a brush fire, which could cause severe damage to park resources, threaten park visitor safety, and pose a danger to homes near many of our parks," added R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

It is also important to note that during this time of year, the National Weather Service often issues red flag warnings across central Arizona to alert land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildfire ignition. Should this occur before the fire ban, park supervisors are authorized to issue temporary fire bans to ensure public safety and protect the park's resources.

When temporary fire bans are issued, the information is posted on the website, and visitors are notified upon entry to the park. The parks also stop selling firewood during this time.



Maricopa County Parks Annual Fire Ban: May 1 - Sep. 30

The fire ban does not allow campfires, fire pits, and charcoal grills; however, using gas/propane grills in designated areas such as semi-developed and developed camping sites is still acceptable. Campfires along the shoreline at Lake Pleasant Regional Park are prohibited. Those who violate the fire ban may be fined under Rule 314, Section 312.

Smoking in the parks is also discouraged due to the extremely dry conditions. Please be responsible and ensure that all cigarettes are properly extinguished and placed in trash receptacles if you must smoke.

While September 30 is the traditional fire ban lift date, an extension is possible. Park staff will monitor precipitation levels and vegetation conditions in the parks throughout the summer to determine if an extension is necessary.

Contact the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department at (602) 506-2930, or visit www.maricopa.gov/parks for additional information

CAREFREE SPRING RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS MAY 29 THRU JUNE 4, 2023

Announcing Carefree's Spring Restaurant Week.

As a result of the success of the Carefree Restaurant Association's (CRA) previous Restaurant Weeks the local restaurant group is proud to announce the return of their Spring Carefree Restaurant Week, beginning May 29 thru June 4, 2023.

Restaurant week is an opportunity for all participating restaurants to showcase their menus at discounted prices. Some restaurants will offer a special lunch menu, others a special 3 or 4-course dinner.

"2023 has been a good year for our local restaurants" says Carefree Restaurant Association President, Donna Lombardi "We are so grateful for the customers who have continued to support us during the ups and downs of the last few years, whether by dining in or picking up take-out. Finally, it is starting to feel as though things are back to normal again. Carefree Restaurant Week is our way of saying Thank You to our community for continuing to support us".

Prices for Restaurant Week (per person, excluding alcohol) as follows:

Lunch Menu (2-courses) \$18.00

Dinner Menu (3-courses) \$45.00

Dinner Menu (4-courses) \$55.00

Customers will have an opportunity to sample new and exciting menu offerings and in doing so, continue to support their local restaurants.

Carefree Restaurant Week follows Arizona Restaurant Week, giving loyal patrons and those that come for the first time, a chance to head north to Carefree for more culinary delights.

For a complete list of all Carefree restaurants and more details on Carefree Restaurant Week, including menus and participating restaurants visit www.carefreerestaurants.com



CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA AT THE ENGLISH ROSE TEA ROOM

This year, 2023 marks the Coronation of King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla. A monumental occasion not seen since the late Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953. At that time in history, most citizens did not have the ability to view the Coronation on television. With the advent of social media, this Coronation will be a very different affair and the whole world will likely be able to participate in the pomp and pageantry of this historical event.

In the UK, the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty the Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday May 6, 2023. The service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and will be expected to reflect the Monarch's role today while still being rooted in longstanding Coronation traditions and pageantry.

Their Majesties will arrive at Westminster Abbey in a procession from Buckingham Palace known as the "King's Procession" and after the service will be joined by other members of the Royal Family in a much larger "Coronation Procession" from where the newly crowned King and Queen will appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to conclude the day's ceremonial events.

Not to be outdone, Jo Gemmill Owner of the English Rose Tea Room in Carefree, Arizona will host her own celebration in recognition of the Coronation. Gemmill says, "As an ex-pat living in Arizona for the past 21 years, it has always been important for me to keep a strong connection with my British roots. Over the years we have hosted many Royal celebrations including Royal Weddings, Royal Baby Showers and a Platinum Jubilee. This Coronation celebration is a historic moment in British and Commonwealth history and we are honored to be able to play a small part in recognizing the new King & Queen."



Celebrations at the English Rose Tea Room begin Saturday May 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with an authentic Town Crier announcing the official crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, as he rings a hand bell along Easy Street in Carefree, Arizona. The Crier will continue to act as the Master of Ceremonies throughout the day. During the celebration, guests will enjoy a recorded viewing of the Coronation that would have taken place in the early hours of that morning, viewed in a specially erected 'Royal Enclosure' complete with a King Charles exhibition and many Royal artifacts. Musical interludes will be performed by Fountain Hills Saxophone Quartet and Coronation and British Iconic memorabilia will be available for purchase. A special tribute to the King and highlights of historical events during his life will be on display, together with a book for guests' comments and well-wishes which will be sent on to Buckingham Palace. A formal Royal Afternoon Tea will be served together with a commemorative brochure and gift bag for all guests of the English Rose Tea Room.

The English Rose Tea Room, known across Arizona, is a Carefree landmark. It is regularly voted Best Tea Room in Arizona and has a loyal following for more than 21 years. Serving Afternoon Tea or a traditional lunch, the tea room offers a selection of teas to purchase as well as a beautiful gift shop. A recent remodel to the interior and a newly installed British Phone Box outside adds to the atmosphere of a little Bit of Britain in the heart of the Sonoran Desert.

English Rose Tea Room

201 Easy Street #103, Carefree, Arizona
Reservations required: (480) 488-4812
www.carefreetea.com

PUBLIC WORKS WEEK IS MAY 21-27

National Public Works Week is May 21st-27th. In honor of the celebration, we want to recognize our amazing public works team: Travis, Phil, Dustin, and Erik. These dedicated, hardworking men maintain our town and roadways, ensuring a clean, safe, beautiful town for all those who reside within its boundaries.

Thank you to our Public Works team and all those who serve in the profession. We celebrate YOU!



KIWANIS HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY



Kiwanis of Carefree is pleased to invite the general public to the 2023 Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception on May 8th at 6pm to be held at the Cactus Shadows Performing Arts Center on 60th Street.

The Kiwanis Scholarship Committee will be presenting scholarships and merit awards to over 40 graduating seniors valued at approximately \$500,000. The Awards are based upon the student's contributions to the community as well as their grades.

The Awards ceremony will be followed by a reception with refreshments hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

Kiwanis of Carefree appreciates the support of the community with their donations, shopping and volunteering at the Marketplace.



LOCAL PRESS

Catch up on local press mentions on our website:

<https://carefree.org/media-and-press>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Planning & Zoning Meeting

May 1 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

Town Council Meeting

May 2 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers

Town Budget Workshop

May 18 | 3:00 PM | Council Chambers

Third Thursday Art Walk

May 18 | 4:00 PM | Town Center

Memorial Day Tribute

May 29 | 8:00 AM | Cave Creek Memorial Cemetery



Go Public Gardens Days
May 12-21

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



Foothills Food Bank

(480) 488-1145

Event Calendar



Foothills Caring Corps

(480) 488-1105

<https://foothillscaringcorps.com/get-help/>

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

