



TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

MESSAGE FROM TOWN OF CAVE CREEK MAYOR, BOB MORRIS



A **Short-Term Rental** is a home, casita, or room rented for short periods of time. A minority of short-term rentals have hosted large, raucous parties that have disturbed neighborhoods with drunken behavior, noise, and illegal fireworks. This has occurred in formerly quiet residential neighborhoods where peace and quiet is expected.

- I'm struck by the fact that 80% of the Short-Term Rentals in Town are NOT paying their taxes.
- Consistency is key - if we don't enforce this, everyone will come here and abuse the fact that we don't have any ordinance in place. Without being consistent, we will be a mecca and the problem will get worse.

I am in favor of this new ordinance and all Council Members voted in favor of it.

Some of my key thoughts on this issue are:

- This isn't a business or industrial area where you would expect noise - these are residential neighborhoods where people are raising kids, trying to sleep at night, and it's not like your neighbor has a party once a year - this could be every weekend.
- I've been deluged with videos from residents showing me the problems that go on at party houses in Town.

Beginning November 6, 2023, no person shall operate a Short-Term Rental in the Town without first having obtained a current Short-Term Rental license from the Town and paying the applicable fees. Three verified violations within a twelve-month period will result in suspension.

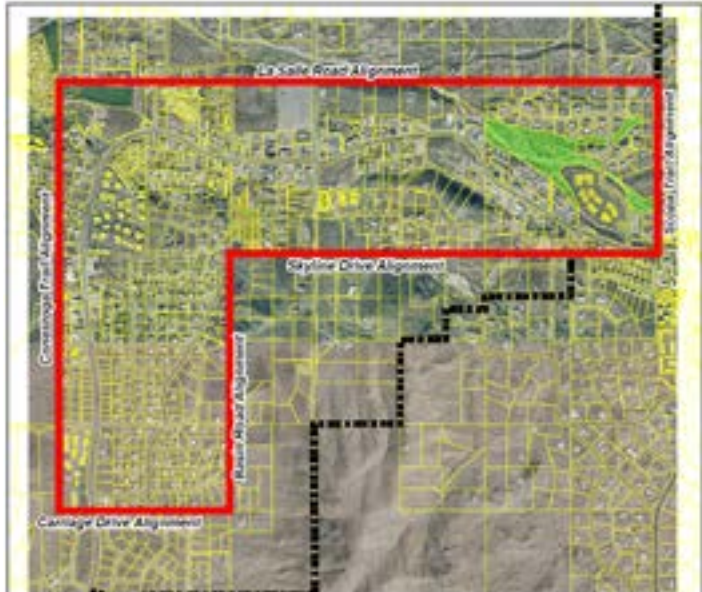
For more information and steps for obtaining a Short-Term Rental license, visit:

CaveCreekAZ.gov/Short-Term-Rental

TOWN CORE PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Cave Creek is soliciting your input to guide the upcoming update of the Town Core Plan.

This plan will be used to inform future policy and guide development which occurs within the Town Core (identified in red on the map below) consisting of the area of Cave Creek north from Carriage Drive, then east to Scopa Trail, where the jurisdictional boundaries of the Towns of Cave Creek and Carefree meet.



The Town Council adopted the current Town Core Plan on April 2, 2012. You can review the currently adopted Town Core Plan by following this link:

CaveCreekAZ.gov/CorePlan2012

Two public meetings were held in October and additional meetings are scheduled. Here is the meeting schedule:

- Planning Commission Kickoff: Oct 19 - 6 PM
- Public Input Meeting #1: Oct 26 - 5 PM - 7 PM
- Public Input Meeting #2: Nov 16 - 4 PM - 6 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting #1: Nov 16 - 6 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting #2: Dec 21 - 6 PM
- Town Council Meeting: To Be Determined

Other input sessions may be scheduled as needed. The Planning Commission will begin its review of the Town Core Plan concurrently with the public input sessions. You can also submit any comments you may have electronically by visiting the 2024 Town Core Plan page at:

CaveCreekAZ.gov/CorePlan2024

Your comments can include suggested changes, additions, or deletions, which will become part of the public record, inform the Planning Commission, and ultimately the Town Council on re-adopting this important document. If you have any questions about the Town Core Plan, please contact Luke Kautzman, Development Services Director, at:

lkautzman@cavecreekaz.gov or by phone at (480) 488-6633.

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CAVE CREEK EXCEEDS FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023



Great News! The Town of Cave Creek ended its Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1-June 30, 2023), exceeding its annual budget projections for revenues and under spending its budget for expenses.

"We're very proud of these results which enable us to fund our new fire department, maintain and improve our roads, manage our water resources and utilities, and preserve and protect the natural beauty of Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, among so many other important new and ongoing projects. Due to long range planning beginning in 2009, we're now receiving significant sales tax revenues from the Carefree Highway Corridor commercial district. An increase in visitors to our Town Core businesses also helped substantially contribute to our bottom line," said Mayor Morris.

Total preliminary unaudited revenues collected through the fourth quarter of 2023 were \$14,072,054, representing 116.0% of budget without surplus carryforward or transfers from other funds. This revenue is made up of local tax revenue, local fees and revenues, state revenues, and miscellaneous revenues. The Town collected \$9,785,007 in local taxes exceeding budget 107.9% mainly due to the collection of more Town sales taxes than budgeted. Local fees and revenues of \$1,055,776 were above budget at 113.6% mostly due to building permits and planning and zoning fees exceeding budget. State revenues of \$1,943,934 ended the fiscal year slightly over budget at 103.6%. Interest income revenue of \$971,861 was significantly above budget due to increased interest rates earned on Town investments.

For expenditures, all departments ended the fourth quarter of FY23 with total General Fund preliminary unaudited expenditures of \$9,408,688 or 76.8% of the expenditure budget without the contingency reserve and transfers to other funds. Of this total, operating expenditures are \$8,753,261 representing 68.9% of budget. Capital expenditures are \$655,427 representing 25.2% of budget.

Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer concluded, "Our FY23 Budget was a structurally balanced spending plan that provided necessary resources to deliver high quality public services to our community. As we move forward into our FY24 Budget, our Town government will continue to provide valuable services while also focusing on facilities and infrastructure. We have our very capable staff to thank for such excellent planning and execution of budgeted and approved programs."

CAVE CREEK TOWN MANAGER RETIRING



After more than 35 years of government service, the past 25 years with the Town of Cave Creek, Town Manager Carrie Dyrek has announced her retirement. Prior to being hired as Town Manager in 2017, Dyrek served as the Town Clerk for the first 19 years of her Cave Creek career.

"It has been my greatest pleasure, personally and professionally to serve the Town of Cave Creek as your Town Clerk and Town Manager for more than 25 years," said Dyrek. "I have worked with four Mayors and many Council Members who have entrusted me in my leadership roles. Together we have tackled difficult matters and succeeded in adding valuable services for the community. These efforts have increased public safety making Cave Creek an even more desirable place to work, live and allow our businesses to grow and thrive. I have been incredibly fortunate to build a team of dedicated professionals who provide quality governmental services to all who work or reside in Cave Creek."

Dyrek chose to announce her retirement now to allow time for a smooth transition of leadership. Dyrek's last day with the Town of Cave Creek will be set for some time in early 2024. The Town Council is working with an executive recruiting firm to select the next Cave Creek Town Manager.

NOVEMBER 2023

WATER QUALITY REPORTS



A Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or Drinking Water Quality Report, provides you with important information about the quality of your drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requires every community water supplier to provide a CCR to its customers. All community water systems must prepare and distribute a brief annual water quality report summarizing information regarding source water, detected contaminants, compliance, and educational information.

We're happy to report that there were no violations of water quality standards for the Cave Creek or Desert Hills Water Systems in the 2022 calendar year.

The 2022 Annual Water Quality Reports (the most recent reports) can be found here:

Cave Creek Water System
CaveCreekAZ.gov/cc/ccr2022

Desert Hills Water System
CaveCreekAZ.gov/dh/ccr2022

THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNING UP FOR CODERED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS



CodeRED®

Cave Creek knows of the chaos and danger of wildland fire. Since the 2020 Cave Creek fires, the Town has been working to ensure rapid and decisive wildland fire emergency response while they're small and controllable.

Our fire department and town has its own engine, brush truck, water tanker,

and the help of the entire automatic aid system if a brush fire breaks out.

Even though we are better prepared now than ever, prevention is the key! That's why we have electronic signs that are flashing warnings along roadways during fire season. Shoulders of roads with Town rights-of-way are sprayed to kill combustible brush and weeds, so that dragging trailer chains or careless disposal of cigarettes don't have fire starting fuel. The Town sponsors several annual brush cleanup programs before fire season. We also have a prohibition on fireworks and open flame during fire season. Permits are required ensuring work activities, like welding, can proceed safely after sufficient precautions are taken.

Further, the Town is currently constructing an emergency evacuation exit to the east along Arroyo Road for residents in the north and northeast portions of town. It will connect to Cave Creek Road at the eastern boundary. When finished, there will be directional signs. This will provide an escape route if Spur Cross or Schoolhouse Roads are blocked.

After the tragedy in Lahaina, Maui, the Town of Cave Creek reviewed CodeRED, which is our excellent system in place for evacuation and other emergencies. So far, over 5,300 local residents and businesses have already signed up for this early alert system and are called/texted directly by the Town in the event of an emergency. CodeRED is the fastest notification system we have. CodeRED recently notified residents to cut water usage when a power upset caused a reduction in water flow. The overwhelming response kept the short-term loss of water to about 20 customers. This same system will alert the community if an incident like wildland fire should occur. It is essential for every resident to sign up on CodeRED. That early phone warning saves lives and provides more time for evacuating animals and/or precious goods.

If you have not signed up for this alert system, it is highly recommend doing so and please encourage family and friends to also sign up. You and your loved ones can each sign up individually.

Please visit: CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED or use this QR Code to sign up.

You will not be barraged with calls. It is used only in emergencies! An Emergency Alert banner on the Town's website, CaveCreekAZ.gov, as well as the Town's social media channels are also good sources of information, but the *fastest* notification system is CodeRED.





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TOWN OF CAVE CREEK CONTACTS

Town Hall Main Line: 480-488-6600
Utilities Main Line: 480-488-6620
Utilities *after hours* (emergency line only): 602-667-4574
Engineering/Public Works: 480-488-6630
Development Services Department
Permits: 480-488-6622
Zoning: 480-488-6633

For Emergencies Dial 911

Public Safety (Non-Emergency) Numbers:

Town Marshal's Office: 480-488-6636
Maricopa County Sheriffs Dept: 602-876-1000
Cave Creek Fire Station: 623-465-7400
Cave Creek Fire + Medical Services Information: 480-437-3583
Maricopa County Animal Control: 602-506-7387
Snake Removal: 602-253-1191

NEW PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST PROCESS

In an effort to improve transparency by making public records easily accessible to the public, we have a new Public Records Request Portal! All you need to do is click on the hat icon on our webpage: CaveCreekAZ.gov



This will take you to an easy to navigate new portal where you can make a new request or track the status of an existing one.

