



CAVE CREEK PROSPECTOR

WINTER 2025

A publication by the Town of Cave Creek

CAVE CREEK DEDICATES NEW FIRE STATION

The Town of Cave Creek and the Cave Creek Fire Department held a special dedication ceremony on Tuesday, December 10, for the new Cave Creek Fire Station #1 and Daisy Mountain Fire District Station #147.

After the 2020 wildland fire burned approximately 2,700+ acres of Cave Creek property and impacted several structures, the Town Council worked quickly to find a solution to provide the community with the fire and emergency services it desperately needed. Beginning on January 3, 2022, the Town partnered with the Daisy Mountain Fire District. Through this partnership, the Town agreed to construct a new fire station, purchase a fire engine and a brush truck, and hire and train the firefighters/paramedics needed to staff the station and equipment. The station was built without new bonds or taxes.

Located at 37402 N. Cave Creek Road, the new station is 9,676 sq. ft. and has a three-bay apparatus room to hold a new 1,500-gallon fire engine, a 3,000-gallon water tanker, a brush truck, a trail ATV, and an ambulance. The Town of Cave Creek owns the equipment and the building, while the Daisy Mountain Fire District provides the firefighters.

With Daisy Mountain as a partner and Cave Creek having its firefighting resources, more emergency and fire resources are now available to respond quickly to fires and incidents in the Town. Wildland fires in our area are being attacked more quickly and extinguished before they become potential major incidents thanks to our expanded available emergency equipment and crews. Cave Creek Fire Department and Daisy Mountain Fire District are saving more property and potentially more lives.



Mayor Robert Morris cuts the ribbon for the ceremonial opening of Cave Creek Fire Station #1 / Daisy Mountain Fire District Station #147.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE

The Arizona desert is in a long-term drought, which means wildfire seasons start earlier than in years past. Desert living means tending to nature to ensure safety during a wildfire.

The primary wildfire fuel sources around our homes are dried non-native (or invasive) weeds and grasses. To help protect your property follow some of these simple actions:

- Create a 30-foot defensible space around your home, free of dried grass, heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris, and other highly flammable vegetation.
- Remove invasive species such as globe chamomile (AKA stinknet), buffelgrass, red brome, Malta starthistle, fiddleneck, and desert broom, which starve our native fauna of water and act as accelerants in the event of fires.
- Prune back tree limbs growing into other trees and remove branches from trees where the canopy is close to a roofline or window. Address the tree canopies in these areas by raising them to 4ft to 6ft and removing and disposing of any dead branches or limbs.

CCR SUPPORTS CHARITIES

The Cave Creek Rodeo Days organization is a non-profit philanthropic organization that organizes, sponsors and hosts the Cave Creek Rodeo Days in support of our western traditions. The Cave Creek Rodeo was originally started in 1977 to bring the town and community together to share in the pride and preserve our unique culture. We celebrate our western heritage by creating an opportunity for families and friends to come together through the exciting sport of a PRCA Professional Rodeo. The Cave Creek Rodeo Days continues to be a vital supporter of our culture through charitable support of the community.



Cave Creek Rodeo Days, March 27-30, 2025

Information/tickets: www.cavecreekrodeo.com/

Mike Poppenwimer, Cave Creek Rodeo Days President, believes in the importance of remembering and appreciating our American Western heritage. "Our western heritage is part of our American Identity" says Poppenwimer. "We can help to preserve and enjoy this heritage through honoring the tradition through our Cave Creek Rodeo Days. The Cave Creek Rodeo brings our community together to embrace the western way of life through volunteerism and western events."



JOIN US ...

For the annual Cave Creek Rodeo Parade, Saturday, March 22 at 9am on Cave Creek Road, starting at Town Hall and going to Harold's.



SPRING DEBRIS ROUNDUP

HOLD - DATES

Debris, such as weeds, leaves, brush, and small branches that are around your home, could be the primary source of wildfire fuel. To support the community in creating defensible space in their yards for fire prevention, the Town of Cave Creek is hosting two drop-off events for town residents to discard green waste and debris.

These events will occur in March and April. The exact dates will be posted on the Town's website at www.cavecreekaz.gov. Both events will take place at the Cave Creek Water Ranch at 4300 E Carefree Highway.

Please bring proof of your Cave Creek residence (driver's license, utility bill, addressed piece of mail) and be prepared to unload your debris in areas designated by Town staff once you arrive. Once unloaded staff will take care of the rest.

TOWN COUNCIL ROUNDUP

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL MEMBERS



Seated front row, left to right: Council Member Cynthia Driskell, Mayor Robert Morris and Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer. Back row, left to right: Council Member Thomas McGuire, Council Member Tom Augherton, Council Member Dusty Rhoades, and Council Member Joe Freedman.

To review previous and upcoming Town Council agenda items, go to www.cavecreekaz.gov/agendas.

NOTABLE TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

All meetings start at 6:00pm in the Town Council Chambers, 37622 N. Cave Creek Road

September

- Approved results of the User Fee Study and directed staff to post the proposed fee changes to the Town's website.

October

- Accepted the recommendations of the Morningstar Trail Taskforce and directed staff to bring forward the proposed non-motorized trail easement and make all efforts to acquire additional non-motorized trail easements.
- Memorandum of Understandings with the Cave Creek Unified School District and the Foothills Caring Corps, for the disbursement of the funding associated with the One Arizona Plan – Opioid Settlement Grant Funds.

November

- Accepted dedication of an Easement for a non-motorized trail easement located on a property owned by Morning Star Road Properties, Inc.
- Adoption of 2024 Town Core Plan Update
- Approved the new Integrated Utility Master Plan to become the planning framework for managing and improving the Town's utility systems.
- Approved Cave Creek Utility / Public Works Tenant Improvement Project contract not to exceed the amount of \$565,863

December

- Adopted Comprehensive User Fees effective February 1, 2025
- Mayor and Town Council take the oath of office and Kathryn Royer selected to be Vice Mayor by Town Council

All meetings may be watched live on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97966005071>.

You can see a recording of the meeting on the Town's YouTube Channel.

See the Town Council agenda at www.cavecreekaz.gov/agendas for more information on how to participate and submit comment cards.

YOU'RE INVITED

2025 STATE OF THE TOWN

Presented by Mayor Robert Morris
January 29, 2025
10:00 - 11:00am
Desert Foothills Library
(38443 N School House Road)



WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN CONSERVING OUR PRECIOUS WATER

Since we live in a desert, water is our most precious and limited resource, making it our continued responsibility to respect and preserve it. As we move to the future, we look to our community to play a proactive role in the Town's water conservation efforts.

By reducing the demand on our current water system, we can hopefully eliminate the need for any future usage restrictions.

Conservation Measures you can take outdoors:

- Check for leaks then fix those leaks.
- Have a pool or animals? Use auto-fill watering systems.
- Refer to native Arizona landscaping species and techniques for attractive and drought-friendly foliage. Perhaps a xeriscape garden is best for you.
- Water plants early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation.
- Regularly check your irrigation controller.
- Regularly inspect for leaks and valve adjustments.
- Follow seasonal watering guidelines.
- Repair leaks in faucets, hoses, and irrigation systems.
- Use water saving nozzles and fixtures.
- Fertilizers promote plant growth and increase water consumption. Use them sparingly.
- Trees and shrubs have different watering needs. Put them on separate valves.
- Remove invasive species and weeds regularly to prevent them from consuming water.
- Grass removal: Consider alternatives such as desertscape and artificial turf.

Conservation Measures you can take indoors:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures with water saving devices such as faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Run the dishwasher only when its full.
- Soak dishes before washing them.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Reduce shower times.
- Don't run water the entire duration when brushing your teeth.
- Turn off automatic watering appliances when out-of-town.



SEASONAL LANDSCAPE WATERING GUIDELINES

How Much & How Often Water to the outer edge of the plants canopy and to the depth indicated. Watering frequency will vary depending on season, plant type, weather and soil.	Seasonal Frequency — Days Between Watering				Water This Deeply (Typical Root Depth)
	Spring Mar — May	Summer May — Oct	Fall Oct — Dec	Winter Dec — Mar	
Trees	Desert Adapted 14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	30-60 days	24-36 inches
	High Water Use 7-12 days	7-10 days	7-12 days	14-30 days	24-36 inches
Shrubs	Desert Adapted 14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	30-45 days	18-24 inches
	High Water Use 7-10 days	5-7 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	18-24 inches
Groundcovers	Desert Adapted 14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	21-45 days	8-12 inches
	High Water Use 7-10 days	2-5 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	8-12 inches
Cacti & Succulents	21-45 days	14-30 days	21-45 days	If needed	8-12 inches
Annuals	3-7 days	2-5 days	3-7 days	5-10 days	8-12 inches
Warm Season Grass	4-14 days	3-6 days	6-21 days	15-30 days	6-10 inches
Cool Season Grass	3-7 days	None	3-10 days	7-14 days	6-10 inches

You can find more conservation resources online at www.cavecreekaz.gov/Save-on-Your-Water-Bill or visit Town Hall at 37622 N. Cave Creek Road

UTILITY INCREASE SET FOR 2025

Beginning with your February Utility Bill, utility customers who are part of the Cave Creek Water or Desert Hills Water Systems will see a slight increase in their utility rates. This rate increase is part of a five-year program to ensure the cost of providing critical water and sewer services is recovered through customer rates. The proposed utility rate increases will allow the Town to meet its ongoing operational and maintenance (O&M) costs, fund debt services on vital water assets necessary to serve our community and invest in capital projects to update and modernize existing infrastructure to ensure reliability. (Per resolutions R2022-19, R2022-20, & R2022-21).

To see your water & sewer rates for 2025, use the rate estimator tools found online:
cavecreekrateestimator.com/cave-creek-estimator/
cavecreekrateestimator.com/desert-hills-estimator/

UPCOMING CAVE CREEK LANDMARKS RECOGNIZED

On Thursday, Oct. 31, Cave Creek residents, Cave Creek Museum Board of Directors, and Cave Creek Town Council members honored Black Mountain Summit as the latest recognized Cave Creek Local Landmark. The Local Landmarks program started in 2020 to celebrate locations and destinations that are uniquely Cave Creek. The Town has identified 20 locations to date. Here are the upcoming Landmark celebrations.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area: Thursday, January 23rd at 10am
 Cave Creek Regional Park: Thursday, February 20th at 10am



FUN EVENTS FOR FAMILY AND VISITORS

The Arizona Gold Mining Experience™ – 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the Month at 10am

The Cave Creek Museum's AZ GOLD MINING EXPERIENCE™ is unique with its display of the complete hard rock ore extraction process, with the mine shaft, tramway, ore carts, crushing and extraction that are always on display, but operated only during these events. (Due to the popularity of this event, pre-purchase of tickets is required. Tickets may be purchased on the EVENT page at www.cavecreekmuseum.org).



Gold Fever Jeep Adventure – Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr 12, 1:00 - 4:30pm

Cave Creek Museum has partnered with Rackensack Canyon Tours to bring Arizona's first and only total gold mining experience to life. This first-of-its kind adventure tour is the perfect way to learn about Arizona's fascinating gold mining history while finding the "Gold Fever" within yourself.



Cave Creek Museum Presents: Black Mountain: A Study in Black and White January 18, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00pm

A layman's overview of the geology of the Desert Foothills. If the boulders at The Boulders aren't really boulders, what are they? Why is Black Mountain black – and why do saguaro mostly grow on the west slope?

Antique Appraisal Fair with Sean Morton – February 1, 2025, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Who knows what treasure lies within? Find out from professional antique appraiser Sean Morton who offers anecdotal assessments of your valuables! Sean has a remarkable knowledge of the history and value of antiques, from readily recognizable to obscure. Donation: \$20 per item Limit two items per session.

Cave Creek Museum Presents: "Lady Law: The Extraordinary Lorna Lockwood" with Kraig Nelson – March 8, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Lorna Lockwood was a woman ahead of her time. Born in Douglas, Arizona, she chose to follow in her father's footsteps and became the first woman to graduate from an Arizona law school. Lorna became the first woman Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Learn of her amazing journey!

SHRED-A-THON & COMMUNITY RECYCLING DAY!

Bring your documents to be shredded securely, and while you're at it, drop off gently used clothing and housewares, used books, computers, electronics and boxes to be recycled (and upcycled) by the local library and thrift store.

Monetary & non-perishable pantry item donations are always appreciated!

Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 9am – Noon | Free event!

4250 E. Carefree Highway, Cave Creek (One mile west of Cave Creek Road on our new food bank campus!)



WHO DO I CALL?

THREAT TO LIFE OR PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES – CALL 911

NON-EMERGENCY: (602) 876-1000

Town Hall

(480) 488-1400 – Monday through Thursday
 7am to 5pm

Cave Creek Fire Department

Cave Creek Town Administration – (480) 488-6600
 Daisy Mtn Fire Dept. Administration – (623) 465-7400

Town Marshal – (480) 488-6636

Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court
 (480) 488-1689

Desert Foothills Library – (480) 488-2286

Sheriff's Office – (602) 876-1742

Call 911 for Emergencies
 SouthWest Gas – Suspect a leak?
 Call 911 and (877) 860-6020

APS Customer Care Center – (602) 371-7171

Town of Cave Creek Utility Department (Water and Sewer)
 (480) 488-6620

After hours or weekend emergency water repairs
 (602) 667-4574

Garbage pick-up is provided by several companies, so residents need to contact their chosen service provider to establish service or service questions.

Area Disposal – (480) 515-4300

Republic / Allied Services
 (602) 237-2078

Waste Management Customer Service
 (602) 268-2222

SouthWest Gas – Suspect a leak?
 Call 911 and (877) 860-6020

Maricopa County Animal Control
 (602) 506-7387

Snake Removal (602) 253-1191



Town of Cave Creek
37622 N. Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

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COMING SOON! YOU CAN REGISTER FOR WATER USAGE ALERTS.

The Neptune My360 Portal is a water management resource available at no additional cost to utility customers. The Portal allows monitoring of hourly and daily water usage. My360 also lets you sign up for leak and high-use alerts. The more you know, the more money you can save!

Desert Foothills
LIBRARY est. 1954
enriching your community

Check Out some of our upcoming special events and featured programs!

Drive Electric Arizona – Saturday, January 25, 11:00am - 3:00pm

Join us on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 11:00am to 3:00pm, and have your choice to ride in or drive an electric vehicle! Presented to you by experienced vehicle owners, this is your opportunity to learn about everything an electric vehicle has to offer. In addition to the cost benefits of owning and electric vehicle (EV), driving one is exhilarating and fun! There will be several EV's on display, and a wide variety available to ride in and/or drive!

If Teacups Could Talk – Wednesday, February 12, 3:00 - 5:00pm

Join us for a very social literary tea with a taste of tea's social history! This is the library's first fundraiser of 2025! Registration is required. Please register at www.dfla.org or call 480-488-2286. Cost: \$50/person (includes tea and finger foods donated by Jo Gemmill/English Rose Tea Room). There will be a prize for the best hat, also donated by the English Rose Tea Room.

Jewish Cultural & Heritage Festival
Thursday, March 13 to Friday, April 11

Desert Foothills Library will offer dedicated arts and culture programming during its first Jewish Cultural & Heritage Festival in March and April 2025.

Looking Lovely!

Thursday, February 6, 4:00 - 5:30pm and
Kind Clean Beauty – Thursday, March 13, 4:00 - 5:30pm

Join renowned makeup artist Charlie Green for her upcoming makeup demonstrations at the library! Each event will feature different expert tips and tricks to help you glow throughout the year! Don't miss these chances to learn from the best!

ASU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Classes

Cost for the class: \$19.00/person | Registration required.
Go to www.asuolli.org to get started.

Transcending Loneliness – Tuesday, January 30, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Balancing Leisure & Quality of Life
Tuesday, February 18, 1:00 - 2:30pm

We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War – Tuesday, March 4, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Curry & Kreplach:
A Unique Look at Jewish Communities Around the World
Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Mission to Oslo – Tuesday, January 21, 2:00 - 3:00pm

Join former Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus for stories of the true and historic adventures he had as the U.S. Ambassador to Norway during the mid-1990s when NATO was expanding, Germany was reuniting, Norway was hosting both the Oslo Accords and the Winter Olympics – and Loftus was wining, dining, and most importantly, negotiating his way through it all! Free | Register at www.dfla.org. | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.

Staying Human in the Artificial Intelligence Revolution
Tuesday, January 28, 1:00 - 2:00pm

By most accounts, the revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has only just begun. What is the current state of AI and what does it mean for humanity? This presentation will provide a general introduction into what AI currently can and cannot do. We will also explore some of the philosophical questions that AI raises. Free | Register at www.dfla.org. | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.

There are so many more programs and featured presentations. Check them out at www.dfla.org, <https://desertfoothills.librarycalendar.com/events/month>

Also, check out our blog, the Foothills Footnote, to keep up to date with all the latest news from Desert Foothills Library!
<https://dfla.org/desert-foothills-library-news/>

SO HOW DO YOU REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS?

Stinknet/AKA Globe Chamomile – Manual removal prior to seed is the most labor-intensive method but also the most successful. Weed and Grass has shown success once the weed is visible and pre-emergent herbicide such as Milestone applied in early spring and/or fall after is effective.

Bufflegrass – String trimmer, rake and remove.

Red Brome – String trimmer, rake and remove.

Malta Starthistle – Hula Hoe or manual removal are the most effective method of removal. Root is hearty enough to grow back after treated with chemicals and herbicides.

Fiddleneck – String trimmer, hula hoe, manual removal or herbicides are effective. Fiddleneck is harmful to livestock and should be kept clear of any turnouts or livestock enclosures.

Desert Broom – Prune down to the ground, apply Round Up or similar herbicide directly to fresh pruned remains. After several months root will/should pry out of the ground.

