



CAVE CREEK PROSPECTOR

SUMMER 2025

A publication by the Town of Cave Creek

PAVING PROJECTS UNDERWAY

The Public Works Department recently completed either repaving or cape-sealing portions of 19 roads, totaling \$1,505,362.61. The August 2020 Pavement Management Plan identified these roads. It contributed to the completion and a measurable improvement in the overall inventory of Cave Creek roads, as identified in the Town Council's Strategic Plan Goals. An additional nine projects at an estimated cost of \$3,510,704 are planned in 2026.



TOURISM BUREAU RELOCATES

The Town of Cave Creek Tourism Bureau has relocated to a new location to serve visitors better. The new space is located next to the Dairy Queen at 6528 E. Cave Creek Road. In addition to helping tourists learn about fun things to do in and around the town, the Tourism Bureau highlights local merchants and non-profits, as well. The volunteer-run facility is the perfect starting point for town guests.

Summer Hours:

Summer hours begin July 4, 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through July and September. The Bureau is closed in August.

www.cavecreekaz.gov/Visit-Cave-Creek

KIWANIS AWARDS \$550,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree Benefit Foundation, a local non-profit dedicated to helping the youth in the community, hosted its 40th annual scholarship ceremony, celebrating 32 outstanding high school seniors as they pursue their higher education goals. These students, representing high schools locally and across Arizona, were awarded scholarships totaling \$550,000 to support their higher education endeavors at the colleges, universities, and trade schools of their choice. Kiwanis Club of Carefree has awarded over \$4 million in scholarships to date.

The event featured a motivational and energizing keynote address by former NFL Super Bowl winner and Pro Bowler Ricky Watters. Watters was a 10-year veteran of the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles, and Seattle Seahawks. He is a champion at all levels as a 5X Pro Bowler, XXIX Super Bowl Champion, and NCAA National Champion with the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.



IF YOU SEE SMOKE FROM A FIRE
DON'T ASSUME IT HAS BEEN REPORTED – CALL 911.



MY360 CONSUMER PORTAL SET TO BEGIN

A new secure online portal will be available to all Town water users in the second half of 2025, allowing water management to be directly in the hands of the customer. The new My360 portal is easy to use and gives customers the ability to create usage alerts, set a water budget, and view their own hourly consumption data 24/7. Users can set water thresholds and out-of-town alerts (text and/or email) for greater peace of mind. Water conservation is made simple when customers can see how much they use, thanks to easy-to-read charts and graphs. Users no longer have to wait for a monthly utility bill to detect possible issues, which means less water loss and fewer high bills. My 360 is web-based, allowing it to work on all internet-enabled devices. Registration is free.

MEETING DAYS MOVING TO FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

The Cave Creek Town Council will not meet again until Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. following a summer recess. The Town Council will hold special meetings if needed during the recess.

The Mayor and Council approved at the March 17, 2025, Town Council meeting changing the starting times for meetings to begin at 5:00 p.m. starting with the May 5 Town Council meeting. At its May 5 meeting, the Council approved moving the days of Council meetings from the current first and third Monday of the month to the first and third Tuesday of the month beginning in September.



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

March 2025

- Council approved amending Town Code to change council meeting days and regular meeting times
- Maricopa County Sheriff Jerry Sheridan appeared before council

April 2025

- Approved a contract between the Town of Cave Creek, Cave Creek Rodeo Days and Turquoise Circuit Pro Rodeo to host the Turquoise Circuit Finals at Cave Creek Memorial Arena and Rodeo Grounds
- Approved a contract to pave six roads and seal 13 others before the end of FY 2025.

May 2025

- Approved adopting the fiscal year 2025-26 Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Funding Policy
- Council declined to proceed with Cave Creek becoming a designated Dark Sky Community
- Council directed staff to look at the possibility of bonding and holding a community vote in 2026 for the potential acquisition of 4,005 acres of Open Space Zoned property currently owned and managed by the Arizona State Land Department.

June 2025

- Council approved the FY2026 Annual Budget

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.

Next scheduled Town Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 2 at 5:00 p.m.

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

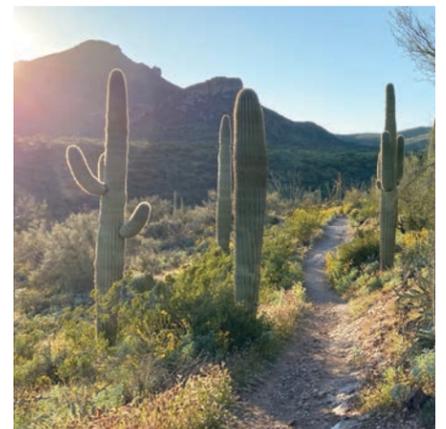
TOWN COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES FY2026 BUDGET

After multiple meetings and a public hearing, the Cave Creek Town Council unanimously approved its Fiscal Year 2026 Budget at its June 16, 2025, Town Council meeting. The total budget is \$75,621,547, an increase of \$18.2 million from the FY2025 budget. The \$18 million is being used as a "placeholder" for the acquisition of 4,005 acres of open space owned and managed by the Arizona State Land Department. Funding for the land acquisition would ultimately include revenues collected from portions of a half-cent sales tax targeted for open space, donations from residents and held in trust by the Desert Foothills Land Trust, a potential short-term property tax if approved by voters in 2026, and any other funding mechanisms created for the purchase of the land.

The operating budget totals \$37,205,543, which represents an \$8.1 million increase from the FY2025 budget. The increase is primarily due to restructuring capital projects into the operating budget, including \$2.1 million for pavement management projects and a \$1.4 million grant for road pavement projects, such as paving the end of Spur Cross Road. The Town will share costs with the Daisy Mountain Fire District for another fire station off Carefree Highway. This will result in an increase of \$2.4 million in operating expenditures for fire safety.

According to Mayor Bob Morris, "Following conservative budgeting practices, the budget estimates an ending balance of nearly \$25 million at the end of next fiscal year, fully covering operating reserves, capital improvement reserves, debt service reserves, and a strong General Fund unrestricted balance of \$7.3 million. The Town Council is a fiscally responsible representative body, consistently ensuring that expenses are below the annual budget. By state law, the Town's budget must be balanced and cannot exceed the set expenditures."

Residents and other interested parties are encouraged to review the Town budget at <https://cavecreekaz.gov/Budget>.



TOWN HAS STEADY PERMITTING ACTIVITY

The Development Services Department which encompasses Building and Fire Code Compliance and the Planning & Zoning divisions, has seen a steady influx of new permit applications in 2025. As of June 1, 184 new permit applications have been received by the Town. The department issued a total of 67 permits in April and May.

- Single Family Residence/Guest House (5)
- Residential Addition/Remodel (4)
- Pool/Spa (11)
- Garage, Carport (3)
- Ramada, Barn, Shed, M/Motel (4)
- Fence, Wall (12)
- Electrical/Plumbing/Gas Line/HVAC/Solar/Fire Sprinklers (24)
- Miscellaneous (3)
- Commercial Ti (1)

To help speed up permit and inspection application submittals through department approval, the department has gone completely digital. Both permit applications and inspection requests are now made entirely online. Inspections are also performed digitally, and the customer/contractor is immediately notified of their pass or fail status.

STAY UP TO DATE AND STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep up to date with the latest news and information from the Town. When registered, you can follow the topics that interest you most: General Town News, Town Council Meeting Information, Town business Owners/Managers updates and meeting notices, and Utilities Advisory Committee Meeting Information. Subscribe to the Town of Cave Creek Communication emails by registering at www.cavecreekaz.gov/NotifyMe or scanning the QR Code.



VOLUNTEERING – A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW FRIENDS

It is frequently said that volunteering offers a person a sense of purpose, community connection, skill development, physical and mental health benefits, networking opportunities, personal growth, and helps make a difference in a community. Volunteering is also a great way to make new friends.

Cave Creek area non-profit organizations offer many opportunities to become a volunteer and help your neighbors. The Town of Cave Creek has a listing of some of the non-profits who may offer volunteer openings.

www.cavecreekaz.gov/volunteer-opportunities .



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"I began working at the museum about seven years ago," says Susan Herchenroether. "My husband and I had recently purchased a home in Carefree. Since we were 'snowbirds' I had not yet met many people. We decided to visit the museum one day and were so impressed that we purchased a membership right then and there and I inquired about volunteering. I thought that it would be great way to meet some new folks and get involved in the community."

About the Cave Creek Museum: The 54-year-old museum's mission is to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek Mining District and the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research, and interpretive exhibits. The Cave Creek Museum is located at 6140 E. Skyline Drive in Cave Creek, Ariz., 480.488.2764. Open October through May.

DESERT FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY WORKING TOGETHER

Community non-profit organizations can have a greater impact on their community when they collaborate. Working together is the concept behind the Desert Foothills Community Alliance, where local non-profits share ideas and resources to help each organization make a difference in the lives of Cave Creek residents.

MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE INCLUDE:

- The Holland Center – www.azfcf.org
- Foothills Food Bank – www.foothillsfoodbank.com
- Cave Creek Museum – www.cavecreekmuseum.com
- Town of Cave Creek – www.cavecreekaz.gov
- Town of Carefree – www.Carefree.org
- Kiwanis Club of Carefree – www.kiwaniscarefree.org
- Cave Creek Rodeo Days – www.cavecreekrodeo.com
- Stagecoach Village – www.stagecoachvillagecc.com
- Scully Learning Center – www.scullylearningcenter.com
- Foothills Caring Corps – www.foothillscaringcorps.org
- American Legion 34 – www.facebook.com/groups/azpost34.org/
- Hideaway Legends – www.hideaway-usa.com
- Desert Foothills Land Trust – www.dflt.org
- Desert Foothills Library – www.dfla.org
- Cave Creek Unified School District – www.ccusd93.net
- Sonoran Arts League – www.sonoranartsleague.org
- Spirit in the Desert – www.spiritinthedesert.org
- Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce – www.carefreecavecreek.org
- Desert Foothills YMCA – www.vosymca.org
- Purse-Impressions – www.purse-impressions.com
- Tech 4 Life – www.techfourlife.com

THE FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK

There's a buzz in the air in Cave Creek – and it's not just the sound of hammers and drills. The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center has opened the doors to its brand-new campus, and the excitement is real. After years of dreaming, planning, raising money and building, this new space is ready, and it's going to mean more food, more hope, and more help for neighbors who need it most.

Cave Creek

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
(480) 488-1145

Food Sharing Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Thursday Afternoons: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Donation Drop Off Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



WHO DO I CALL?

THREAT TO LIFE OR PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES – CALL 911

NON-EMERGENCY: (602) 876-1000

Town Hall
(480) 488-6600 – 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

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

Maricopa County Animal Control
(602) 506-7387

Snake Removal (602) 253-1191

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37622 N. Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

SUMMER PROGRAM FUN FOR KIDS AND ADULTS AT LIBRARY

This summer, the Desert Foothills Library offers something for everyone, regardless of age. Children can enjoy a variety of fun reading programs and activities, such as Shark Week, Crafts, PLAY-OOZA, Home School Social & Swap Meet, Talks4Tails, and more. Meanwhile, adults can participate in engaging activities as well, including Writer Workshops, Craft 'N Chat, MahJongg, and the 2025 International Comedy Film Series. Learn more about and all of these fun activities at www.dfla.org or call 480-488-2286.

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HONORING THE PAST, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE FOOTHILLS CARING CORPS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year marks a milestone anniversary for Foothills Caring Corps – a locally rooted nonprofit that has been serving the Cave Creek community and surrounding areas with compassion and commitment for 25 years. Since its founding, the organization has remained steadfast in supporting older adults and individuals with disabling conditions to age in place safely, independently, and with dignity.

What began as a small community effort has evolved into a vital network of over 300 volunteers who, just last year alone, provided more than 28,000 meaningful connections to residents in need. These services include home-delivered meals, non-emergency medical transportation, friendly visits, handyman support, recreational van outings, and access to a mobility loan program.

Now, as the Caring Corps reflects on the past quarter-century of service, they are also looking ahead – because the need is growing. The Town of Cave Creek, like much of Arizona, is experiencing a notable demographic shift. According to recent U.S. Census data and projections from the Maricopa Association of Governments, the number of adults aged 65 and older in the area has increased by over 40% in the past decade, with further growth expected in the years to come.

This aging trend brings with it an even greater demand for the Caring Corps' services, all of which also bring an aspect of socialization and community to these neighbors. Cave Creek has always been a town that values connection and neighbors looking out for one another.

As they celebrate their Jubilee Anniversary, the Caring Corps invites you to join in building the next 25 years – because as our beautiful community ages, the need increases.

- Refer a neighbor
- Volunteer your time
- Show support with a donation
- Follow on Facebook to find out what they're doing in the community



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Water conservation measures play a crucial role in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save water, but they can also save money, time, and energy. Up to 70% of residential water used occurs outdoors. The easiest way to save water is to reduce your outdoor use.

THE BASIC WATER SAVING TIPS:

- Check for leaks in your irrigation system, pool/fountain equipment auto-fill devices, and hose bibs by conducting a water efficiency check. Free efficiency checks are at www.smarthomewatguide.org.
- Use a broom! Don't use water to clean sidewalks, driveways, or patios.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car and save the hose for rinsing. Instead of washing your car at home, please take it to a car wash that recycles water.
- Fix leaks in hose bibs, irrigation components, and hoses
- 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 the evening to reduce evaporation.
- Regularly check your irrigation controller.
- Follow seasonal watering guidelines.
- 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.
- Hire a Smartscape-trained landscape professional to design, install, and maintain your landscape with water in mind. Find a pro at Smartscape.org.
- Adjust your irrigation controller to match the weather. Skip an irrigation watering cycle each time it rains 0.5 inches or more.

GOT A POOL?

- Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use, and prevent water loss through evaporation.
- Backwash only when needed and just long enough for the water to run clear.
- Consider recycling pool backwash water by applying it to salt-tolerant plants such as oleanders or Bermuda grass. Don't add chemicals for at least 72 hours before backwashing, and be sure to keep all water on your property.

The Town offers water conservation resources on its website at www.cavecreekaz.gov/Water-Conservation.

