



CAVE CREEK PROSPECTOR

FALL 2025

A publication by the
Town of Cave Creek

TURQUOISE CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO NEW HOME

The Turquoise Circuit Finals Rodeo (TCFR) is moving to Cave Creek for 2025, taking place at the Cave Creek Rodeo Grounds. After four years in Camp Verde, the 2025 TCFR will be held from October 31 to November 1 in this new location, marking an exciting chapter for the annual celebration of the region's top rodeo talent.

Hosting the TCFR in Cave Creek is a strategic and thrilling decision for the Circuit. The Cave Creek Rodeo is a well-established and highly respected event, recognized for its professionalism, tradition, and passionate fanbase.

The Turquoise Circuit is part of a system organized by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), which divides the United States into 12 sections. The Turquoise Circuit includes rodeos and athletes from New Mexico and Arizona. Each Circuit holds a finals rodeo to determine which two contestants from each event will represent the Circuit at the National Circuit Finals Rodeo hosted by the PRCA.

For more information about the Circuit and tickets, go to <https://www.turquoiseircuitfinalsrodeo.com/>



CAVE CREEK TOURISM BUREAU TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW LOCATION

The Cave Creek Tourism Bureau is excited to announce the opening of a new location for visitors and community guests at a prominent spot on Cave Creek Road. To celebrate the relocation to 6528 E. Cave Creek Road, immediately west of the Dairy Queen, the Town of Cave Creek and the Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 2.



Volunteers from the Bureau will be on hand to welcome guests and showcase the many shopping, recreation, dining, and service options available in our area. Last year, 32 volunteers contributed a total of 1,170 hours, assisting 1,048 visitors. The Bureau is closed during August but is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in September on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Beginning on October 1, the Bureau is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To learn more about the Tourism Bureau, visit www.cavecreekaz.gov/Tourist-Info.

OPEN SPACE AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Town of Cave Creek has determined that there is an opportunity to acquire approximately 4,000 acres of open space land currently zoned Arizona State Trust Land within the town boundaries. The intention of acquiring this land is to protect the area from development and to secure additional land for open space and recreation.

The Town Council chose to create an Ad Hoc Committee of residents, business owners, and others who have a vested interest in Cave Creek's future. The Town promoted an application process for interested persons and accepted these applications through August 21. At its September 2 Town Council meeting, the council selected 16 individuals to form the Ad Hoc committee that will help determine the best use for the land, as well as how the Town should proceed with the potential acquisition of the land. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to meet six times and will conclude its work by February 2, 2026. The individuals selected by the Council are, The committee will present its recommendation at a Town Council meeting in the Spring of 2026. More information about the open space is available at: www.cavecreekaz.gov/Open-Space.

NEW FIRE STATION SET TO OPEN ADDING TO THE COMMUNITY'S PROTECTION

Residents driving by the northeast corner of Cloud Street and 24th Street have observed the construction of the new Daisy Mountain Fire Station #147. This new facility will accommodate additional emergency equipment and crews, enhancing fire and medical services in the Desert Foothills areas and the west side of Cave Creek.

The Daisy Mountain Fire District (DMFD) designed, purchased, and owns the new facility and firefighting vehicles. Under the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) signed by the Town of Cave Creek in 2021, the town will significantly support this new station by covering half of the staffing and annual operational costs.

The firefighters for the station have already been selected and hired. They are currently undergoing upgraded training at a Regional Fire Academy. This new class of cadets will supplement the existing personnel in the Fire District, ensuring the continued delivery of exceptional emergency services to our community. It is expected that this new fire station will be in service sometime before the new year.

The new facility and equipment will be designed, purchased, and owned by the Daisy Mountain Fire District. However, through our Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that was signed in 2021, the Town of Cave Creek will significantly contribute by agreeing to pay for one-half of the staffing and annual operational costs.



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

June 2025

- Approved a software subscription for new budgeting software
- Approved establishing an Ad Hoc Citizen Task Force on State Trust Open Space
- Council approves the FY2026 Annual Budget
- Authorized Town Manager to execute an agreement for audit services with the firm CWDL
- Summer Recess – No meetings were held July 7, July 21, August 4 and August 18.

September 2025

- Council Appointment of Open Space Ad Hoc Taskforce
- Contract approval with G.E. Zimmerman for the design for rebuilding Town Hall
- Hon. Terry Goddard, CAP Board President provided a Colorado River allocation update to Town Council
- Joint meeting with Utilities Commission to discuss water strategies and conservation
- Special meeting to discuss Utility rates

Remaining 2025 Town Council meetings:
October 7 and 21; November 4 and 18; December 2 and 16

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.

Town Hall is closed for Observed Holidays
October 13 – Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day
November 10 – Veterans Day
November 26 and 27 – Thanksgiving
December 25 – Christmas

BREWS, AND BEATS FOR A CAUSE

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center invites the community to join a tradition of generosity, featuring food and live music at the 26th annual Empty Bowls Market on Saturday, October 11, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the new Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center campus.



Admission is free and all are welcome. Attendees will enjoy live music, craft beer, silent auction and raffles, and fare from local food trucks.

Inspired by the international Empty Bowls movement, this event blends creativity and compassion to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger. Guests can purchase handcrafted, food-safe bowls donated by artists from the Sonoran Arts League, the Arizona Wood Turners Association, and local community members. Each bowl is a reminder of the hunger faced by many and the hope we can provide together.

All proceeds from bowl sales, auctions, raffles, and vendor contributions directly benefit Foothills Food Bank programs that serve thousands of neighbors in need each year. Details on VIP access passes and sponsorship opportunities are available at FoothillsFoodBank.com or by emailing BarbS@foothillsfoodbank.com.

DESERT AWARENESS COMMITTEE SHARING STORIES OF SONORAN DESERT

Diane Vaszily, a scientist, educator, and community leader, is passionate about the wonders of the Sonoran Desert. From its incredible medicinal plants to its diverse wildlife and breathtaking landscapes, she embraces all that the desert has to offer. Alongside the dedicated members of the Desert Awareness Committee (DAC), she is working to share the desert's secrets and benefits with those eager to learn and tell their stories. As part of this initiative, DAC experts are leading a new storytelling program that will take place in Harmony Hollow, located within the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The storytelling event is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Harmony Hollow in Cave Creek, Arizona.

WATER REPORTS HIGHLIGHT TOWN'S WATER QUALITY

The Cave Creek and Desert Hills Water Quality Reports are now available for review. These reports, also known as Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) or Drinking Water Quality Reports, provide important information about the quality of your drinking water.

The Town is committed to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds state and federal standards. We continuously seek to adopt new and improved methods to deliver the highest quality drinking water to our community.

Read the reports at: Cave Creek Water System – www.cavecreekaz.gov/CC/CCR2024 or Desert Hills Water System at www.cavecreekaz.gov/DH/CCR2024

WANT TO VOLUNTEER BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO START

Volunteering is a rewarding adventure for the participant, as well as beneficial to the organizations that depend on the passion and resources volunteers bring with them. Many people have thought about volunteering but aren't sure where to begin. The Desert Foothills Volunteers is your one-stop hub for getting involved in the Cave Creek and Carefree communities. Whether you're looking to lend a hand at a local food bank, support seniors with transportation, help preserve our local history, or share your talents with youth and adults with special needs, this site connects you with the nonprofits that need you most. Discover meaningful volunteer opportunities, learn about local organizations, and take the first step toward making a difference right in your backyard. <https://desertfoothillsvolunteers.com>.

FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK KICKS OFF 2025 GOOD NEIGHBOR HOLIDAY PROJECT

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center is preparing for its 2025 Good Neighbor Holiday Project, previously known as Adopt-A-Family since the early 2000s. This community tradition brings hope and joy to neighbors in need during the holiday season.

In 2024, over 1,100 individuals experienced the warmth of the season thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers. With the need in our community increasing, the food bank is anticipating at least a 25% rise in participation this year.

Community members can contribute in three ways: donate gifts or items from the holiday wish list, provide monetary donations to help meet specific needs, or volunteer at the distribution event in mid-December.

Donations can be dropped off during the week of December 8 at the Foothills Food Bank campus on Carefree Highway. For full details, including the wish list, volunteer opportunities, shopping links, and donation information, please visit FoothillsFoodbank.com.



SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

On January 9, 2001, then-Arizona Governor Jane Hull, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, and Mayor Vincent Francia of the Town of Cave Creek signed documents that ensured the conservation of the 2,154-acre Spur Cross Ranch, designating the land as a limited-use public recreation and conservation area. Following a 15-year fight by preservationists who fought developers' plan for 750 homes and a resort at Spur Cross, town residents overwhelmingly approved the town's first property tax to acquire the land. The park has shared ownership between the town, the state, and Maricopa County. Maricopa County Parks operates and maintains the conservation area. At the time of the acquisition, the three entities split the \$21.3 million preserve three ways. The town paid \$6.3 million for its portion.

The Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area is a jewel in Maricopa County's regional park system. The multi-use area includes hiking, biking, and horseback riding on eight trails and a segment of the 315-mile Maricopa Trail. The park also has historical significance, containing nearly 90 archaeological sites used by the Hohokam Indians between 700 and 1200 A.D. Hohokam petroglyphs are scattered throughout the area. Both the Hopi and the Fort McDowell Mohave-Apache Indian communities have identified the Spur Cross Ranch as a sacred place.

In addition to the Native American historical significance, the U.S. Cavalry traveled the area, protecting many of the miners and cattle ranchers who worked in the area. Miners on horseback drove mule trains loaded with mining equipment into a canyon along the Cave Creek. Then, they rode back with sacks full of gold and silver tied to their saddles or drove wagons loaded with onyx and jasper extracted from the rocks along the creek.

To learn more about the fascinating history of the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, visit the Cave Creek Museum, located at 6140 E. Skyline Drive in Cave Creek. Better yet, go for a hike and see why residents fought so hard to protect this land.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

44000 N. Spur Cross Road • Cave Creek, AZ 85331

(602) 506-2930 ext 8 • www.maricopacountyparks.net

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area on Friday, 10 a.m., on January 9, 2026.



MUSEUM CALLING ALL SPIRITS

On Saturday, October 15, 2025, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Cave Creek Museum will host an event called "Seeking Spirits." This event, presented in collaboration with the local paranormal investigation team AZ Ghost Adventures, will offer an evening of historical haunts and a hands-on paranormal investigation.

The expert ghost hunters from AZ Ghost Adventures, which appeared on the Travel Channel's shows, including "Destination Fear" and "Ghost Adventures."

Throughout the evening, there will be a demonstration of the equipment commonly used during professional paranormal investigations. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in an interactive investigation utilizing this equipment.



THE CAVE CREEK WATER PORTAL

The Cave Creek consumer water portal empowers you to monitor and manage your water consumption from any device with internet access, 24/7. The My360 application shows you your water habits and usage, and helps you conserve water.

With the My360, you can find answers to questions about your water consumption without having to call or visit the Cave Creek Utility Department.

With the Cave Creek Water Portal, you'll be able to:

- View and manage your water usage at any time, from anywhere, on any device with internet access.
- Set out-of-town alerts to monitor consumption and detect potential leaks.
- Create water threshold alerts to set a water budget, help save water, and eliminate bill surprises.

Learn more and register today at <https://cavecreekaz.gov/Water-Portal>.

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Cave Creek, AZ 85331

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.



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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

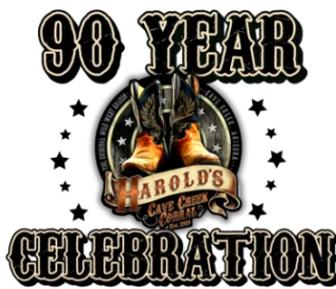
Historic Harold's Corral Celebrates 90th Anniversary

Harold's Cave Creek Corral, known as Cave Creek's original "Wild West Saloon and Restaurant," is a landmark and a favorite gathering place for both locals and tourists. The original structure was built in 1935 by Johnny Walker, and it was initially known as The Cave Creek Corral Bar. The bar quickly gained popularity among workers who were constructing the Bartlett and Horseshoe Dams. At that time, Cave Creek had seven bars, but by 1947, after the dams were completed and the workers left, The Corral was the only bar that remained in business.

Around 1950, Harold and Ruth Gavagan purchased the building and renamed it Harold's Cave Creek Corral. Although Harold passed away many years ago, the ownership has changed hands only three times since then.

Longtime residents of Cave Creek often reminisce about the restaurant's rich history, pointing to bullet holes in the walls of the bar as evidence of the rowdy times of the past. The walls of the restaurant are adorned with photos of celebrities and memorabilia from movies that were filmed there.

Be sure to check out the celebration events happening at Harold's Cave Creek Corral at www.haroldscorral.com.



Cave Creek Museum in its 55th Year of Preserving the Area's Rich History

The 55-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, Arizona, 480.488.2764. Open October through May. www.cavecreekmuseum.org



CODERED USED TO HELP FIND MISSING WOMAN

On Sunday, August 10, a woman from Cave Creek went for her usual morning hike with her dog. While the dog returned home, the woman did not. Her husband began searching the neighborhood for her, and when he couldn't find her, he called 911 to notify the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and the Town Marshal. In response, the Town Marshal initiated a CodeRed alert to inform residents about the situation.

The CodeRed announcement, sent to registered subscribers, described the woman and her last known location. Thanks to the Town's social media posts and the CodeRed alert, many concerned community members joined in the search.

Unfortunately, the woman was found deceased a short time later. The Town Marshal and the Town of Cave Creek expressed their gratitude for the community's quick response and commitment in trying to locate the missing hiker. This day demonstrates that Cave Creek is a town where residents come together in times of need.

CodeRed is an emergency telephone notification service that, when activated, calls subscribers with a recorded message detailing the nature of the emergency or utility outage. It provides information about the actions the Town is taking to address the emergency and offers recommendations to help citizens ensure their safety during such incidents. To register for the CodeRed Emergency Alert System, please visit www.cavecreekaz.gov/CodeRed.



THE TASTE OF CAVE CREEK: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CELEBRATING THE CULINARY SENSES



Every town has its traditions, and in Cave Creek, no event is more anticipated by both locals and visitors than the annual Taste of Cave Creek. This year, the event will take place on Wednesday, October 22 and 23, from 5 to 9 p.m. At Stagecoach Village, located at 7100 E. Cave Creek Road, the air will be filled with delightful aromas, lively sounds, and the vibrant energy of culinary experiences. The Taste of Cave Creek invites everyone – whether you're a seasoned foodie or a casual sampler – to indulge in the very best that the community has to offer.

For the restaurants and vendors, the Taste of Cave Creek is more than just a showcase; it's a vital opportunity for exposure. The event helps small businesses connect with new customers and build lasting relationships. Many of the featured restaurants are family-owned, with recipes passed down through generations. By attending, you're not only supporting the heartbeat of the local economy, but also celebrating the unique flavors that define Cave Creek.

This year, the Mayor's Cup will honor culinary excellence. This distinguished award represents the Best of Show, recognizing outstanding food, drinks, and visual presentation. The Mayor's Cup is more than just a trophy; it celebrates the Cave Creek spirit of hospitality, creativity, and genuine community connection. The award will be given to the organization or participant that demonstrates exceptional quality, presentation, and spirit. Attendees will have the chance to watch as chefs and teams compete for this honor, showcasing imaginative plating, interactive displays, and unforgettable flavors.