



CAVE CREEK PROSPECTOR

WINTER
2025-2026

A publication by the
Town of Cave Creek



Cactus Charlie reporting for duty to help Cave Creek residents conserve water and save money.

CACTUS CHARLIE URGES WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation starts with YOU as an essential component of the Town's water resource management strategy. Our goal is to reduce water use while balancing a healthy, sustainable quality of life for our residents. Practicing a low-water-use lifestyle is one way that we can all help stretch our limited water supplies while saving time and money.

With My360, you are in control before your water bill gets out of control.

The easiest way to save money and conserve water is to manage your water usage. Are you using too much? Do you have a leak you are not aware of?

The Cave Creek Water Portal My360 offers the following benefits:

- Easily view and manage your water usage 24/7
- Access from any desktop, laptop, tablet, or mobile device
- Monitor multiple properties from one account
- Manage multiple meters to get a better understanding of your water usage
- 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

Register today, it's easy and will save you money! www.cavecreekaz.gov/Water-Portal

A BETTER WATER FUTURE FOR CAVE CREEK

Due to anticipated reductions in Colorado River water deliveries from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) starting in 2027, the Town of Cave Creek has been working to secure water solutions to address current and future customer needs. Recent planning projections indicate a potential 25% reduction in water availability, although this figure may be higher given uncertainties surrounding the situation.

At the Town Council meeting on October 21, 2025, the Council voted to authorize the Town Manager to execute a purchase agreement for a one-acre parcel with groundwater rights from Harquahala Valley Landowners, LLC. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has completed a review showing that the Harquahala groundwater basin has over 80,000 acre-feet (AF) of groundwater available annually for the next 100 years. This agreement will grant the Town the right to 500 AF per year for 100 years. The Town will have ongoing costs associated with extracting, treating, and conveying the groundwater from the Harquahala Valley land parcel to the CAP Canal, which will be included in future annual budget requests.

TASTE OF CAVE CREEK PRESENTS AWARDS

The Town of Cave Creek was honored to be a sponsor of the 2025 Taste of Cave Creek at Stagecoach Village, and a new addition to this year's event was the Mayor's Cup. The Mayor's Cup was awarded to the top presenting café or restaurant, as judged by members of the Town Council and staff.

1. **1st Place – Harold's**
2. **2nd Place – Sans Soucie**
3. **3rd Place – Raven's View**

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who participated!



Mayor Bob Morris was honored to present the awards to Raven's View, Sans Soucie, and the Mayor's Cup to Harold's.

FEEL SAFE AT HOME KNOWING YOU WILL GET HELP

The Town of Cave Creek has a Lockbox Program that enables sheriff deputies and firefighters from the Daisy Mountain Fire Department to quickly access homes during emergencies without causing damage to property. By providing a key that is securely stored in a lockbox at entryways, first responders can reach residents who are in critical situations.

This program significantly enhances the safety of our senior community and gives families peace of mind knowing that help can arrive swiftly when it matters most. Participating in the Lockbox Program not only protects loved ones but also strengthens Cave Creek's commitment to community safety.

For more information about the Cave Creek Lockbox Program, please call Town Marshal Adam Stein at **480-488-6636**.



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 5:00pm in the Town Council Chambers, 37622 N. Cave Creek Road

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
- Town Council Special Meeting to discuss Utility rates

October 2025

- Approved acceptance of 25-acres of land from Mr. Alan H. Rosenus to the Town of Cave Creek for the purposes and advancement of the public non-motorized trail network and open space preservation.
- Special Meeting regarding utility rate study
- Authorize the execution of a purchasing agreement enabling the Town to purchase groundwater rights with the Harquahala Valley Landowners, LLC

November 2025

- Council approved proposed increases to utility rates and to proceed with statutory posting requirements and scheduling of a public hearing.
- Special Town Council and Planning Commission Work Session

Upcoming 2025 Town Council meetings:
December 2 and 16

Upcoming 2026 Town Council meetings: January (2026) 6 and 20, February 3 and 17, March 3 and 17

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
December 25 – Christmas, January 1 – New Year's Day,
January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
February 16 – President's Day

CAVE CREEK CELEBRATES ITS INCORPORATION



Cave Creek, founded in 1870, began as a mining and ranching community and served as a stop for the U.S. Cavalry. Today, the town proudly showcases its Western heritage, maintaining its "Old West" appearance and charm while offering boutique shopping, art galleries, unique restaurants, and vibrant nightlife.

The town will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of incorporation in 2026 after years of striving to maintain its independent character. Residents agreed to incorporate on July 6, 1986. In addition to its iconic charm, Cave Creek is a destination for some of the most remote and rugged hiking in the Phoenix metro area. Visitors can experience native plants and wildlife at Cave Creek Regional Park, which is part of the Maricopa County Parks system.

Cave Creek is also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, which offers numerous miles of hiking trails. These range from easy walks along the creek on the Dragonfly Trail to more challenging treks up Elephant Mountain. Another experience for visitors is the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, a desert oasis filled with towering cottonwood and willow trees along Cave Creek, bordering the Conservation Area. The trails in Cave Creek provide physical challenges and breathtaking scenery for everyone.

Residents of Cave Creek proudly refer to themselves as "Creekers." This community is diverse, comprising artists, writers, cowboys, retirees, snowbirds, and working professionals. Where else in Arizona can you find an Italian sports car parked next to a '57 Chevy, a new Corvette, a Harley-Davidson, a pickup truck, and a horse? It's what makes Cave Creek a unique Western town like no other.

STATE OF THE TOWN

Learn about the Town's successes and future projects.

YOU'RE INVITED 2026 STATE OF THE TOWN

Presented by
Mayor Robert Morris
February 5, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Desert Foothills Library
(38443 N. School House Road)



DAISY MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT GRAND OPENING

Daisy Mountain Fire Department and the Town of Cave Creek are excited to announce the Grand Opening of Daisy Mountain Fire Station No. 144 on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

The new station, located on the corner of 24th Street and E. Cloud Road expands the protection of the westside of Cave Creek by DMFD, as well as the Desert Foothills area.

The community is invited to attend this fun-filled special event to meet local firefighters, explore the new station, climb on the new equipment, and more!



LOCAL LANDMARKS PROGRAM HONORS RANCHO MANANA

Rancho Mañana was designated a local landmark on November 12, 2025, in recognition of its significance to the town's heritage. It was one of the busiest locations in early Cave Creek and played a crucial role in the area's history. Originally a stagecoach and U.S. Cavalry stop, the site featured a stage stop, a sheep-shearing station, and a wool shipping business.



Tom Fulton of Rancho Manana accepts the Landmarks plaque from Cave Creek Museum Local Landmarks Chairperson Marcia D'Alessandro, and Town of Cave Creek Mayor Robert Morris.

In the early 1940s, Romy and Jean Loudermilk acquired the property and named it Rancho Mañana. Edward "Ted" and China Loring purchased it in 1945 and operated it as a dude ranch until its closure in the mid-1950s. The property was then sold in 1994 to the Allred family for residential development.

The Local Landmarks initiative aims to highlight iconic buildings and special spaces within the community. Each landmark is honored with a bronze plaque and is included on a storytelling map, allowing residents and visitors to explore both virtually and physically while learning about the stories of Cave Creek's pioneers, descendants, and residents. The Cave Creek Museum manages the Local Landmarks program.

For more information about the Local Landmarks program, visit cavecreekmuseum.org.

COMMUNITY GENEROSITY KEEPS HOPE FLOWING

30% Demand Increase Met with 100% Support

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center has experienced a remarkable outpouring of community support as federal government benefit changes created new challenges for many local families. The food bank reports an increased surge in need of more than 30 percent for food and assistance.

Despite the growing demand, the food bank has continued to serve every family who comes through its doors, thanks to the generosity of neighbors, businesses, faith groups, and schools across its service area. Donations of food and funds have poured in from Cave Creek, Carefree, Anthem, New River, Black Canyon City, Desert Hills, and north Scottsdale, reflecting the spirit that defines this community. The food bank provides food and services to a more than 250 square mile area roughly bordering the Loop 101 to the south; Mayer to the north, Rio Verde to the east, and Black Canyon Highway/I-17 to the west.

The food bank provides groceries, emergency assistance, and resource referrals to individuals and families facing hardship. Each month, many rely on its services, and community support ensures that the food bank stays strong.

The Foothills Food Bank reminds residents that even small acts of kindness like donating a bag of food, making a contribution online, or volunteering make a lasting difference for neighbors in need.

Together, the community is proving that hope and generosity can overcome even the toughest challenges.

Learn how you can help at www.foothillsfoodbank.com.

SHRED-A-THON

Foothills Food Bank Campus

4250 E. Carefree Highway, Cave Creek

Saturday, Jan 31, 2026 at 8:30 - 11:30am

<https://foothillsfoodbank.com/events-calendar/>

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES RECOMMENDED UTILITY RATE CHANGES FOR TOWN OF CAVE CREEK WATER AND WASTEWATER

At the Tuesday, November 4 Town Council meeting, the Cave Creek Town Council approved the recommendation to hold a public hearing to consider the approval of proposed changes to the Cave Creek Water and Wastewater utility rates. The Cave Creek Financial Services Department proposes increasing water and wastewater rates for the approximately 5,500 Cave Creek utility customers by 6% following a public meeting on January 6, 2026. If approved by Council, the new rates would take effect on February 9, 2026.

The Cave Creek Financial Services Department hired Willdan Financial Services to conduct a Water and Wastewater Rate Study for the Town's water and wastewater utilities. The primary goal of the rate study was to develop cost-based rates that would enable the Town to cover its ongoing operational, maintenance, and capital expenses. The full report is available at www.cavecreekaz.gov.

CARING CORPS LOOKS AHEAD: BUILDING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND DEEPENING THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY CARE

As Foothills Caring Corps celebrates 25 years of service, the organization isn't slowing down. With a growing population of seniors in this area and an increasing awareness of their unique needs, Caring Corps is looking forward. That vision includes launching a significant initiative to help officially designate Cave Creek as a "Dementia Friendly" community, joining the ranks of towns like Scottsdale and Fountain Hills.

The goal? To create a community where individuals living with dementia and their caregivers feel supported, understood, and included.

Through programs like the Memory Café and Music, Memory, and Movement, Caring Corps is already fostering joyful, safe spaces for those living with dementia. The organization is partnering with Dementia Friendly Arizona to offer education, resources, and training to local businesses, volunteers, and residents.

And this initiative is just one part of a much bigger and very important story. The needs of vulnerable Neighbors are real and growing rapidly. Caring Corps continues to rise to meet them. In the last year alone, they delivered over 25,000 meals. Volunteers drove more than 225,000 miles (an increase of over 40%).

Looking ahead, the focus is on caring for the community by caring for the whole person. Mind, body, and spirit. That means continuing to deliver transportation and in-home services while expanding wellness and social programs that support emotional and mental health. From providing meals and rides to hosting fitness and music programs (and even adding food support for Neighbors' pets) Foothills Caring Corps remains the heart of care and the go-to resource for residents who choose to age in place.

To learn more about Foothills Caring Corps or to get involved, visit www.foothillscaringcorps.org or call 480-488-1105.



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37622 N. Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

DO YOU @VISITCAVECREEK

Nearly everyone follows someone on social media. Are you following the Visit Cave Creek social media pages for the Town of Cave Creek's Tourism Bureau? When you follow the Visit Cave Creek pages, you will learn about local events and activities, as well as be connected to all our communities' excellent restaurants, shops, galleries, and so much more! Tell your out-of-town friends about our town and get them to Visit Cave Creek!

Facebook @VisitCaveCreekAZ Instagram @VisitCaveCreek X (formerly Twitter) @VisitCaveCreek_



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KIWANIS AND CAVE CREEK MUSEUM CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10am - 12pm, Cave Creek Museum, in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club, will feature **Christmas in the Hills**. The Kiwanis Family Fun Days season is supported through the generous support of Kiwanis Club. During the two-hour event, children will make Christmas ornaments to decorate trees in the museum and to take home. Cowboy Santa will be present for photos and extra fun.

In addition, youngsters will sing Christmas carols and enjoy cookies and punch. Visit the museum website at www.cavecreekmuseum.org to register.

KIWANIS INVITES YOU TO "CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS" – A FREE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION FOR EVERYONE



Get ready for a magical day to kick off the holiday season! On Saturday, December 6th, from 10am - 4pm, the Kiwanis Club will transform downtown Carefree into a winter wonderland of laughter, lights, and holiday cheer for the annual Kiwanis Christmas for the Kids – and it's completely free to attend!

For more information or to get involved, visit kiwaniscarefree.org.

CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA



Friday, 10 a.m., on January 9, 2026

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.

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

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 at 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