



CITIZEN'S GUIDE

Dear Resident:

We hope that you will find this Citizen's Guide helpful and informative. We have tried to include answers to the most often asked questions about zoning, building codes, Town ordinances, miscellaneous items of information, and a smattering of history and statistics.

We all moved to Carefree for many of the same reasons: the natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert; the peacefulness and tranquility we have found here; the wonderful mountain views; the lovely climate; the quail, coyotes, javelinas, birds, lizards, deer, and the many other creatures that live among us; the one to five acre homesites; no traffic congestion; and strict zoning regulations to protect and enhance our property values. You won't find another place quite like Carefree.

If you have any questions or suggestions, the staff welcomes your call.

The Carefree Town Council

TOWN COUNCIL

Les Peterson, Mayor

John Crane, Vice Mayor

Vince D'Aliesio, Council Member

Stephen Hatcher, Council Member

Michael Krahe, Ph.D. Council Member

Cheryl Kroyer, Council Member

Gene Orrico, Council Member

Terms Expire November 2020

STAFF

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator/Planning Director/Zoning Administrator
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Jim Keen, Accountant/Assistant Town Clerk
Jennifer Wildeman, Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court Administrator
Stacey Bridge-Denzak, Assistant Planner, Right-of-Way Construction Coordinator
Flora Hayden, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Beth Renfro, Public Relations/Marketing Director
Michael Tibbett, Building Official
Travis Johnson, Public Works Superintendent
Dustin Clarke, Equipment Operator
Jeff Cummins, Equipment Operator
Erich Hermans, Equipment Operator
Marilyn Dodge, Senior Deputy Court Clerk
Kevin Stuckey, Code Enforcement Officer
Vicki Jasperson, Executive Assistant
Mike Wright, Town Attorney
Stephanie Olohan, Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court Magistrate

POLICE NUMBERS

Report a Burglary, Suspicious Person, Non-Emergency

602-876-1000 or 800-352-4553

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vacation Watch

Monday thru Friday 9:00am till 4:00pm

602-876-1742

Desert Foothills Medical Center:

480-488-9220

(36889 N. Tom Darlington, A-4, Carefree, AZ 85377)

SNAKE REMOVAL:

Rural Metro Fire Call: 480-945-6311

PAST TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayors

- Bigelow, Merrit A - Dec 1984 - May 1987
- Yznaga, John - May 1987 - May 1989
- Dennison, David - May 1989 - June 1991
- Anderson, Robert J. - June 1991 - May 1995

- Curtiss, John C. - May 1995 - May 1997
- Stevens, Hugh S. - May 1997 - May 1999
- Morgan, Edward - June 1999 - May 2007
- Fulcher, Wayne - June 2007 - May 2009
- Schwan, David - June 2009 - Feb 2015
- Peterson, Les - Feb 2015 to present

Vice-Mayors

- Yznaga, John - Dec. 1984 - May 1987
- Hutchings, Earl - May 1987 -April 1988
- Robinson, Van N. - April 1988 - March 1991
- McGinnis, Walter F. - March 1991 - May 1993
- March, Robert - June 1993 - May 1995
- Stevens, Hugh S. - May 1995 - May 1997
- Barrolaza, Julian - May 1997 - May 1999
- Fischer, Wayne - May 1999 - May 2001
- Snyder, Donald - May 2001 - May 2003
- Eicher, Mike - May 2003 - June 2005
- Fulcher, Wayne - June 2005 - May 2007
- Meyer, Lloyd - June 2007 - May 2009
- Miller, Glenn - June 2009 to May 2011
- Price, Melissa - June 2011 to May 2013
- Peterson, Les - June 2013 to Feb 2015
- Crane, John - Mar 2015 to present

Councilmembers

- Anderson, Robert J. Nov. 1989 - June 1991
- Bartol, John G. Dec. 1984 - Nov. 1989
- Chenal, Tom May 1995 - May 1999
- Coady, Bob June 1999 to May 2011
- Crane, John June 2013 to present
- Curtiss, John C. June 1991-May 1995 and June 1997 - Oct. 2000
- Dennison, Dave Dec. 1984-May 1989 and May 1991 - May 1997
- Eicher, Mike, June 2001 - July 2005
- Farrar, Mike, June 2011 to November 2018
- Fischer, Wayne May 1995 - May 1999
- Fulcher, Wayne June 2001 - May 2009
- Gallup, Lydia May 1985 - Jan. 1991
- Gardner, Greg May 1997 - May 2009
- Gearhart, Robert Mar 2015 to November 2016
- Gemmill, Robert June 2007 - May 2011
- Gimson, Arthur June 2011 - May 2013

- Hartman, Robert Jan. 2001 - May 2001
- Hayward, Gary June 2005 - May 2007
- Koteas, Peter June 2009 - May 2011
- Loeper, Dietrich Dec. 1984 - May 1987
- McGinnis, Walter F. May 1989 - March 1991
- March, Robert June 1991 - May 1993 and June 1993 - May 1997
- Meyer, Lloyd June 2005 to May 2009
- Glenn Miller June 2007 to November 2016
- Miller, Patricia June 2003 - April 2005
- Orrico, Eugene Mar 2015 to present
- Price, Melissa June 2013 to November 2016
- Reese, Sharon June 1991 - May 1995
- Robinson, Van M. May 1987 - April 1988
- Root, Sherry G. June 1988 - June 1991
- Saltzman, Marty June 2013 to Mar 2015
- Schwan, David June 2005 to May 2009
- Snyder, Don May 1997 - May 2001
- Stavoe, Douglas June 2009 - May 2011
- Stevens, Hugh May 1993 - May 1997
- Stevens, Truman May 1987 - May 1995
- Taufen, Harvey Dec. 1985 - May 1987
- Williams, Bill Dec. 1984 - Dec. 1985
- Wittenberg, Russell Dec. 1984 - May 1985
- Van Buskirk, Paul May 1995 - May 1997
- Van Allen, Jim Jun 2011 – July 2012 and Jan 2015 - Oct 2017
- Vanik, Susan June 2009 - May 2011
- Yznaga, John Feb. 1991 - June 1991
- Zucker, Gordon Feb.1999 -May 2004

TELEPHONE INDEX

TOWN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	480-488-3686
Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court	480-488-1689
Ambulance	911
Blue Stake	602-263-1100
Carefree/Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce	480-488-3381
Carefree Post Office	480-488-3781
Cave Creek Post Office	480-595-9598
Cave Creek Recreation Area	623-465-0431
Desert Foothills Library	480-488-2286
Desert Foothills Land Trust	480-488-6131
Desert Foothills Medical Center	480-488-9220
Fire Department	911

Foothills Animal Rescue	480-488-9890
Foothills Community Foundation	480-488-1090
Foothills Food Bank	480-488-1145
Rural Metro Fire Information	480-627-6912
CPR Class Information	480-699-8213
Forest Service	480-595-3300
Forest Service - Region 6 After Hours	480-981-9400
Game and Fish Department	602-942-3000
Hazardous Spills	602-771-2330
Kiwanis Club of Carefree	480-488-8400
Legislative Information	1-800-352-8404
Library (Desert Foothills Library Assn.)	480-488-2286
School - Cave Creek District #93	480-575-2000
Sky Ranch Airport	480-488-3571
www.skyranchcarefree.org	

Maricopa County

Assessor	602-506-3406
Animal Control	602-506-7387
Election Department	602-506-1511
Flood Control	602-506-1501
General Information	602-506-3271
Health Department	602-506-6600
Transfer Station	602-506-7060
Recorder	602-506-3535
SHERIFF'S DEPT. - EMERGENCY 911	
Sheriff's Office Switchboard	1-800-352-4553
Sheriff Service (24 hrs. a day)	602-876-1011
Sheriff's District IV-Information (8-5 weekdays)	602-876-1742
Address: 37622 N. Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek	
Mail: P O Box 5873, Carefree 85377	
Town Code Enforcement (office)	480-488-3686
Motor Vehicle Information/Locations	602-255-0072
Motor Vehicle Emissions (Dept. of Environmental Quality)	602-470-4646
Recycling/Hazardous Waste (DEQ)	1-800-CLEANUP

Newspapers

Arizona Republic	602-444-8000
Foothills Focus	623-465-5808
Sonoran News	480-488-2021

Trash Pickup

Area Disposal	480-515-4300
Curbside Recycling	602-225-0020
Also appliance pickup & disposal.	
Waste Management	602-268-2222

Utility Companies

APS - Information (incl. Emer. & after hours)	602-371-7171
Black Mountain Sewer Corp.	480-488-4152
After Hours Emergency	623-935-3395
Carefree Water Company	480-488-9100
Cave Creek Water Company	480-575-5928
Cable - Cox Communications	602-277-1000
CenturyLink	1-800-244-1111
Southwest Gas	602-861-1999

Airlines

American	1-800-433-7300
British Airways	1-800-247-9297
Continental	1-800-525-0280
Delta	1-800-221-1212
Lufthansa	1-800-645-3880
Northwest	1-800-225-2525
Southwest	1-800-435-9792
United	1-800-241-6522
Super Shuttle	602-244-9000

Arts and Entertainment

Arizona Science Center	602-716-2000
ASU Public Events	480-965-3434
Cricket Pavilion	602-254-7200
Celebrity Theater	602-267-9373
Foothills Community Theater	480-488-1981
Herberger Theater	602-252-8497
Kerr Cultural Center	480-596-2660
Musical Instrument Museum	480-478-6000
MusicFest	480-488-0806
Phoenix Art Museum	602-257-1222
Phoenix Symphony Hall	602-495-1999
Phoenix Zoo	602-273-1341
Scottsdale Center for the Arts	480-994-2787
Scottsdale's Museum of the West	480-686-9539

Scottsdale Symphony Orchestra 480-945-8071
Ticketmaster 480-784-4444

Sports

Arizona Cardinals 602-379-0102
Arizona Diamondbacks 602-514-8400
Chase Field - Diamondbacks 602-462-6000
Firebird Raceway 602-323-2000
Phoenix Coyotes 480-473-5600
Phoenix Suns 602-379-7867
Phoenix Greyhound Park 602-273-7181
Phoenix International Raceway 602-252-2227
Phoenix Municipal Stadium 602-392-0074
Turf Paradise Racetrack 602-942-1101
Suns - Talking Stick Arena 602-379-7800

Car Rental

Enterprise Cave Creek 480-575-6527
Hertz Rent-a-Car at Carefree Conference Resort 480-609-6657
Hertz Rent-a-Car at Sky Harbor Airport 602-267-8822

TOWN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

8 SUNDIAL CIRCLE
P.O. BOX 740
CAREFREE, ARIZONA 85377
www.carefree.org

TOWN MEETINGS LOCATION

Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

INCORPORATED: December 3, 1984

POPULATION: 3,363 (2010 Census)

REGISTERED VOTERS: 2,121 (August 2016)

AREA: 8.5 square miles, approx. 40 linear street miles

ELEVATION: 2,600 (est.)

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Town Council

TOWN COUNCIL: 6 members elected for two-year terms.

MAYOR: Selected by Direct Election since March 2011.

ELECTIONS: Elections for Town Council are held in even numbered years. The Primary Election is held in September and the General Election, if one is necessary, is held on the third Tuesday in November. For Mayor, if a majority of the votes cast at the Primary, they are declared elected as of the date of the General Election, and no General Election is required. For Council, if at least six candidates receive a majority of the votes at the Primary, they are declared elected as of the date of the General Election, and no General Election is required.

By State Law, Town elections are non-partisan.

No person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to the office of councilmember for more than three consecutive two-year terms, and no person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to the office of mayor for more than three consecutive two-year terms.

No person who serves as councilmember or mayor for five consecutive terms shall be eligible to hold either office until three years have elapsed.

All seven Council members are up for election every two years. To be eligible to run for the office of Town Council person you must:

1. be 18 years of age or over
2. be a registered voter
3. have been a resident of the Town for one year
4. file a nominating petition signed by at least 5% and not more than 10% of the highest vote cast for an elected official of the Town at the last preceding election.

Polling Places

The Town of Carefree provides a polling place for elections. It will either be at Town Hall, located at 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree, Arizona, 85377 or the Carefree Fire Station No. 1, Community Room, located at 37401 N. Tom Darlington Drive, Carefree, AZ 85377. The location depends on the size of the anticipated election turnout.

Once the primary and general elections are set, voters will be able to find your polling place online as well.

If you have a Carefree address listed on your voter registration, you will be able to vote in Carefree. Also, Carefree provides for an all-mail ballot, so, unless you choose to come in to vote, which you may do, you will receive a ballot in the mail, which you can return by mail as well.

As for the request for ID to be able to vote - The requirement is for State and local elections only. The federal government does not require ID to vote.

What this means is that if you provide your ID to vote in person, you can cast a vote for every state, local and federal election candidate or initiative. However, if you do not want to present ID when you vote, you will only be able to vote on the federal candidates or initiatives.

If you vote with your ballot by mail, the Elections Division has a system to verify the signature and that the person who mailed in the ballot is the person listed on the voter ballot.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

7 members, appointed by the Council who serve at the Council's pleasure.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Same as Planning and Zoning.

UTILITIES COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT

(CAREFREE WATER CO./UCFD):

Same as Town Council.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULES:

Town Council - 5:00 p.m. on the First Tuesday of each month at the
Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

Planning and Zoning Commission - 5:00 p.m. on the Second Monday of each month at the
Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

Board of Adjustment - 5:15 p.m. on the Second Monday of each month at the
Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

Development Review Board - 5:30 p.m. on Second Monday of each month at
Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

Carefree Water Company/UCFD - 4:00 p.m. on the First Tuesday when called for at the
Town Council Chambers
33 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

SERVICES AND REGULATIONS

MAPS

Zoning maps of the Town of Carefree may be purchased at the Town Hall Administrative Office, 8 Sundial Circle. Area maps can also be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce and local real estate offices and at the Town Hall Administrative Office.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is handled by mail-in forms. Forms are available at Town Hall or by contacting the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or <https://www.azsos.gov/elections/voting-election/register-vote-or-update-your-current-voter-information>.

TAXES

The Town of Carefree levies no property tax. Nevertheless, Town residents pay property taxes to several jurisdictions. Most taxing jurisdictions have two rates, a primary and a secondary rate. Primary rates pay for operational expenses. Secondary rates pay for bonded indebtedness and capital improvement projects.

The tax rate is levied on each \$100 of assessed value. The assessed value is a percentage of market value, as established by the Maricopa County Assessor. Information on your assessed value may be obtained from the Maricopa County Tax Assessor 602-506-3406.

LOCAL SALES TAX

The Town of Carefree levies a 3% sales tax on all retail sales including advertising (excluding the sale of food) and contracting conducted within the Town. The sales tax on major construction contracting and speculative building is 4%. Effective January, 2014, Carefree assesses a three percent (3%) use tax for out of state, untaxed purchases over \$1,000.00. The use tax removes this competitive advantage that internet based businesses may have over current and future local businesses by applying a uniform local tax rate. Internet purchases under \$1,000.00 as well as items such as prescription drugs are exempt from the use tax.

All businesses must apply for a Transaction Privilege Tax Permit from the town in order to legally conduct business within the town limits. The Arizona Department of Revenue is the tax collecting agent for the Town. All sales tax payments are remitted to the Department of Revenue who then returns to Carefree their share. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk at 480-488-3686. (<http://www.azdor.gov/>) or to pay (<http://www.aztaxes.gov>)

CEMETERY

On April 4, 2000, Carefree accepted the deed to the Cave Creek Cemetery from the disbanded Cave Creek Improvement Association. The cemetery is two and one half acres located just

south of Cave Creek Road on the east side of Pima Road. There are several restrictions regarding purchase and use of plots. Call the Town Hall Administrative Office 480-488-3686 for the latest information.

ESTATE SALES/CARPORT SALES

Applications for estate or carport sales are available at the Town Hall and are subject to approval by the Town Marshal. A fee of \$25.00 is required for a one or two day sale. One sale per property is allowed annually.

FINANCES

Although the Town does not levy a property tax, it has remained fiscally sound by careful, conservative budgeting. Main sources of revenue are a share of the State sales tax, 3% Town sales tax, 3% use tax, permit fees, State urban revenue sharing (State income tax), gasoline and auto lieu taxes, annual franchise fees from Southwest Gas, cable TV license fees, and interest on investments. Feel free to contact the Town Clerk/Treasurer to review the budget or other Town financial statements at any time during regular business hours. The most recent Town Official Audits and Approved Budgets are posted on this website under Town Clerk/Treasurer.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection service within the town limits of the Town of Carefree is provided under contract by the Rural Metro Fire Department, Inc. Rural Metro also provides Ambulance service in the town. There is no longer a subscription fee as of January 1, 2007. The Town is in Protection Class 6, 9, or 10; however, you are rated in Protection Class 6/8 if your home is located within 5 miles of the fire station, 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

Carefree Fire Station 1 is located at 37401 N. Tom Darlington Dr. (mail: P.O. Box 753 Carefree, Arizona 85377).

In case of an emergency dial 911. For business 480-488-0347 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. For public education (CPR) 480-699-8213.

FISHING LICENSES

Hunting and Urban Fishing Licenses are issued / sold at Basha's in Carefree for a fee of \$18.00.

FOOTHILLS ANIMAL RESCUE

Foothills Animal Rescue operates as a no-kill group using foster homes to hold displaced dogs and cats until their owners are located or suitable new homes are found. The organization believes very strongly in the spaying and neutering of all pets which is carried out by their organization prior to adoption. They are located in Scottsdale, AZ. For additional information call 480-488-9890.

TRASH TRANSFER STATION - MARICOPA COUNTY

If you wish to haul your trash, the Maricopa County Transfer Station is located approximately 2 1/2 miles west of Cave Creek Road on the south side of Carefree Highway. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday only and is closed on Holidays. There may be a charge for dumping. For additional information call (602)506-7060.

LIBRARY - DESERT FOOTHILLS LIBRARY

(38443 N. School House, Cave Creek, 1 block north of Cave Creek Road on east side)

The Desert Foothills Library is a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit public library of 20,000 square feet which offers a full range of items for check out including books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs and magazines. Residents are encouraged to participate in the Library as cardholders, donors or volunteers. The Library is open 7 days a week! Monday to Thursday hours are 9:00am to 7:00pm, Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 12:00pm to 4:00pm. There is no charge for a library card to residents of Maricopa County but Patrons are encouraged to participate in the Library financially through an annual donation which is fully tax deductible. The Library also offers a book store together with programs for adults and children. In addition we are a Passport Acceptance Office. The Library offers stunning views and a beautiful patio for quiet contemplation.

The Library also offers homebound delivery for residents who are unable to come to the Library.

Please become part of your community library. For further information please call the Library Manager, David Court, on 480-488-2286 or email dcourt@dfla.org

A full calendar of library programs can be found at the website www.dfla.org.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Two nearby locations to obtain marriage licenses:

Scottsdale City Hall,
City Clerk's Office,
3939 Civic Center Plaza,
Scottsdale, AZ, 85251

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:00AM to 4:00PM

Northeast Regional Court Center
18380 N. 40th St. Suite 120
Phoenix, AZ 85032
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Monday – Friday
602-506-3360

http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/ne_court.asp

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES

Notary services are available at Town Hall, 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree during the following:

Days: Tuesday through Friday

Times: 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm

NO NOTARIAL SERVICES SHALL BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAYS.

Fee is \$5.00 per Notary Stamp.

Certification of a document shall be \$5.00 per page.

We are unable to provide witnesses or process I-9 documents.

NOISE

Construction noise is limited to 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

No person shall harbor or keep any animals that disturb the peace by loud noises at any time of the day or night.

The Town of Carefree adopted a noise ordinance related to vehicular and other noise in the Town limits. See under this site under Town Clerk - Ordinances - Ordinance 2002-14.

PASSPORTS

The nearest location to obtain a Passport is at the Desert Foothills Library, 38443 N. School House, Cave Creek, 1 block north of Cave Creek Road on east side.

Appointments are recommended by calling 480-488-2286. The Library is open 7 days a week. Monday through Thursday hours are 9:00am to 7:00pm, Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

POST OFFICE

The Carefree U.S. Post Office is located in the Carefree Town Mall at 100 Easy Street, Carefree, AZ 85377. It handles all mail services except bulk mail and postage meters. The window hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the lobby hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week. Contact the Carefree U.S. Post Office at 480-488-3781 for post office box rentals and zip code information. Carefree's zip code is 85377.

POLICE PROTECTION

Police protection is provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office under an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Carefree. The Carefree District IV substation is located at 37622 N. Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek (mail: P O Box 5873, Carefree, 85377). Calls for Vacation Watch or General information dial 602-256-1742. Calls for reporting a burglary, suspicious person, non-emergency service can be placed by dialing 602-876-1000 during weekdays or 1-800-352-4553 or, in case of an emergency, dial 911.

The Town Code Enforcement office cooperates with the Sheriff's Office in matters of law enforcement and has responsibility for enforcement of Town ordinances other than traffic violations. Office: 480-488-3686 ext.106.

SCHOOLS

All Town residents are in the USD #93 -Cave Creek School District (480-575-2000), and children attend either Desert Sun Elementary School (K-5), Black Mountain Elementary School (K-5), Desert Willow Elementary School (K-5), Lone Mountain Elementary School (K-5), Desert Arroyo Middle School (6-8), Sonoran Trails Middle School (6-8) or Cactus Shadows High School (9-12). <http://www.ccusd93.org>

STREETS

The Street Department provides routine maintenance of streets, including periodic grading, patching, sweeping, and dust control treatment. All developers of new subdivisions are required to pave the streets in accordance with Town standards.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS - CAREFREE-CAVE CREEK CONSOLIDATED COURT

The Courts for the Town of Carefree and the Town of Cave Creek were consolidated January 1, 2014. The Consolidated Municipal Court is held each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Cave Creek Town Council Chambers at 37622 N. Cave Creek Road, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. It is open to the public. Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court handles all traffic, misdemeanor, and Town ordinance violations for both Towns. Jury trials are very infrequent and citizen's are rarely called into Court to serve as a trial juror. The Court Offices are located at 37622 N. Cave Creek Rd., - Suite B Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

If you have any questions, please call the Court at 480-488-1689 or 480-595-9610 or write to the address

Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court
37622 N. Cave Creek Rd., - Suite B
Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Electric service is provided by Arizona Public Service Company, 602-371-7171.
For outages call 602-371-7171

Gas is provided by Southwest Gas Company, 602-861-1999.

Black Mountain Sewer Corp. 480-488-4152, provides service to all commercial and multi-family properties in Town and a few subdivisions. Most homes in Carefree are served by individual septic systems.

Water is provided by the Carefree Water Company 480-488-9100, Cave Creek Water Company 480-575-5928, or by individual wells, depending upon location.

Commercial and residential trash pickup is provided by Area Disposal 480-515-4300, Curbside Recycling 602-225-0020, or Waste Management 602-268-2222

UTILITY LINES

The Town has an ordinance which requires all new utility line installations to be placed underground. In areas where power lines were installed above ground prior to adoption of the Underground Ordinance, it is possible for citizens to form an Underground Conversion District. Details may be obtained by contacting Arizona Public Service.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

All construction requires a permit.

Property owners must submit two sets of completed plans that include the legal description, zoning district, contractor's name and license number, engineered site survey, topographic survey and drainage study prepared by a civil engineer and registered land surveyor.

All proposed and existing improvements are to be plotted on the topographic survey showing proposed and existing floor elevations.

Plans also must show setbacks, utilities, exterior colors, landscaping, disturbed areas, etc. A pre-grading inspection is required after the permit is issued and before any grading work commences. Chain link fences, dumpsters and portable toilets are required at construction sites. Protected plants should be moved to the designated temporary nursery. Please call the Carefree Building Department to arrange for a pre-grading inspection.

A plan review fee is payable at the time building plans are submitted and it equals 65 percent of the building permit fee which is calculated on construction valuation.

Complete Residential Building Packets are available for pickup at the Town Hall.

Construction noise is limited to the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

BUILDING CODE

Please call Town Hall at 480-488-3686 to determine which building codes are in effect when you are making building plans.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

All building inspections must be called in the previous day, however, after hours inspections may be called in for the following day by dialing 480-488-3686, extension 111, and providing: permit number, job address, subdivision & lot number (if known), and the type of inspection needed.

BUILDING HEIGHTS

1. No part of any principal structure shall rise more than 24 feet above natural or original grade directly below.
2. The cumulative height shall not exceed 30 feet measured from lowest natural grade under the structure to the highest parapet or roof ridge. Accessory structures more than 50 feet from the principal structure shall be measured separately.
3. No wall of any principal structure shall exceed a height of more than 20 feet without a significant physical, architectural, or visual break. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.02.(1)(A), for complete regulations.

COLORS AND MATERIALS

Light reflective values should not exceed 40% for all exterior colors. Exterior materials such as railings, window frames, doors, and fascia may have accent colors with light reflective values no greater than 55%. Metals, including painted metal, are allowed if they are not shiny. Shiny metal must be approved by the Carefree Development Review Board. Weathered copper is acceptable. For more information, see the Carefree Community Design Standards and Guidelines booklet available at the Town Hall and on this website.

CONSTRUCTION IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

Utility installation requires an excavation permit from the Town. It is illegal to construct anything in the Town rights-of-ways other than installation of utilities with an approved permit. Before commencing any construction such as a wall, fence, or entry gate near the street, please contact the Town Hall to ensure it is not being built in the right-of-way.

DRAINAGE

The historical entrance and exit points and hydraulic properties of all natural drainage channels on a site shall be preserved in their natural conditions. Grading shall not disturb washes that have a 100-year flow of 50 cubic feet per second or greater. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.10, for the complete regulations.

FENCE HEIGHTS

Fences, free-standing walls, and retaining walls may not exceed a height of 4-1/2 feet in any required yard setback, except for pool barriers which shall be 5 feet high. Elsewhere in the buildable area of the lot, fences and free-standing walls shall not exceed a height of 6 feet, and retaining walls shall not exceed a height of 7 feet. All fence and wall construction requires building permits. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Sections 9.08 and 9.09, for complete regulations.

FENCE REQUIREMENTS, CONSTRUCTION

All construction sites shall be enclosed by 6-foot chain link construction fences, to be installed prior to excavation.

GRADING

A permit is required for grading which includes excavation, land clearing, filling and dumping, or any disturbance of natural terrain and vegetation. There shall be no grading on any lot or parcel, other than percolation and test borings required by the County health department, before a building permit has been issued. The Carefree Zoning Ordinance sets forth limitations on the amount of land that can be disturbed on each site. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Sections 6.01 and 9.10, for the complete regulations.

HOME OCCUPATIONS

A home occupation is any occupation or profession customarily conducted entirely within a dwelling and carried on by one or more members of the housekeeping unit residing therein. The occupation or profession is clearly incidental and subordinate to the use of the dwelling for dwelling purposes and does not change the character of the dwelling. There are no employees other than members of the housekeeping unit residing in the dwelling. No mechanical equipment is allowed except for that which is customarily used for domestic, hobby, or household purposes. No indication shall be detected from the exterior of the building or property that is being utilized for any purpose other than that of a dwelling, nor shall such use generate pedestrian or vehicular traffic beyond that normal to the district in which it is located. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.02. (2)(A), for the complete regulations.

HORSES

Properties in the Rural-190 zoning district may be used for the keeping of horses for the use of the family residing on the premises and their guests only. The number of horses shall be limited to one horse for each contiguous gross acre under single ownership and shall not exceed six horses. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.02. (11), for the complete regulations.

LANDSCAPING

Landscape provisions are intended to assist in preserving the Sonoran Desert by protecting unique native plants, encouraging the use of indigenous or compatible trees and plants, and to assist in the preservation of water. Native plants protected by the Town are listed in Section 9.13. (1)(D) of the Carefree Zoning Ordinance. For complete landscaping regulations and guidelines, see Section 9.13 plus the Carefree Community Design Standards and Guidelines booklet available at the Town Hall and on this website under Planning and Zoning Documents.

MOTOR HOMES, TRAILERS, AND SIMILAR VEHICLES

Any motor home, bus, trailer, travel trailer, boat, camper or related mechanical equipment shall be stored in a garage. Removal from the garage for loading or unloading is limited to 48 hours.

At no time shall a motor home, bus, trailer, travel trailer, boat, or camper be occupied or used for sleeping, living, or housekeeping purposes, nor shall it be parked or stored on a vacant lot.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Outdoor lighting regulations are intended to help preserve dark night skies and promote the use of lighting systems that will conserve energy while increasing nighttime security and safety. All outdoor light fixtures with a light source greater than 25 watts shall be fully shielded. See the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.12, for complete regulations.

SWIMMING POOLS

All swimming pools and outdoor spas must be enclosed by walls or fences not less than 60 inches (5 feet) in height. Wire mesh and chain link fences are not permitted. All gates must be self-closing, self latching, and open outward from the pool. For complete regulations, see the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.09.(5), and Section 5-3 of the Carefree Town Code.

SATELLITE ANTENNAS

Satellite or communications dishes having non-reflective finishes and attached to the principal structure are allowed with a maximum diameter of 1 meter, unless a larger diameter is approved by the Development Review Board.

SOLAR COLLECTORS

A permit must be obtained prior to installing a solar collector. For complete regulations, see the Carefree Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.05.

TOWN CODE REGULATIONS

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES

It is unlawful to operate an all terrain vehicle, sand buggy, go-cart, trail bike, mini bike or similar vehicle in, on, and over any wash, common area or area not located on a public street without the permission of the owner. It is also unlawful to operate any motor vehicle, motorcycle, mini bike, etc. on the streets of the Town without a valid driver's license and proper vehicle license.

BURNING

It is unlawful for any person to ignite, permit to be ignited, or allow or maintain any outdoor fire within the State of Arizona except as provided in A.R. S. 49-501. Burning of garbage, trash, tree trimmings, weeds, stubble, debris or any other combustible substance is prohibited. If you have any questions, contact Maricopa county Department of Health Services, Air Pollution Control, 602-506-6400, General Number 602-506-6010.

CURFEW HOURS FOR MINORS

Without expressed exceptions, Carefree's Curfew Ordinance specifies that it is unlawful for minors under the age of sixteen years to be away from their residence, any place in the Town, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. the following day and for minors, between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

DEBRIS

It is the responsibility of the property owner or tenant to keep his property and the adjacent public right-of-way free of debris. It is unlawful to permit the accumulation of rubbish, trash, garbage, junked or inoperable cars, or other accumulation of filth or debris on any property within the limits of the Town. Absentee owners of undeveloped lots or vacant homes should arrange with someone in the area to maintain their property during their absence. Unattended property deteriorates very fast and is a liability to the owner.

DOGS

Dogs are not permitted at large. They must be confined within an enclosure on the owner's property or secured so that the dog is confined entirely to the owner's property or on a leash not exceeding six feet in length directly under the owner's control when not on the owner's property. Any person owning or in charge of any dog shall immediately remove and dispose of any fecal matter deposited by the dog on public or private property located within the area bounded by Bloody Basin, Cave Creek Road, and Tom Darlington Drive, unless the property owner has given prior approval to use the property for that purpose. Pets are not allowed to disturb the peace of neighbors by loud noises at any time of the day or night.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION

The Town has an ordinance prohibiting door-to-door solicitation of sales and contributions without a permit. Any recognized religious, educational, civic or charitable organization may apply for a blanket permit from the Town Marshal. Newspaper carriers are exempted from this prohibition. To discourage unwanted callers, we suggest you post "NO TRESPASSING" or "NO SOLICITING" signs.

DUMPING

It is unlawful to deposit any rubbish, glass, waste, or construction debris upon the streets or upon private property within the Town. It is also unlawful to dump dirt on the streets of the Town or on private property within the Town without the permission of the owner and a permit from the Town.

FLYERS OR HANDBILLS

It is unlawful for any person to throw or discard any flyer or handbill on public or private property within the Town including the placement of them on vehicles.

LANDFILL and RECYCLING

Location

Maricopa County's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center takes mingled recycling and waste disposal at it's transfer station. The turn-in is located just west of the Dove Valley Ranch Golf Course on the south side of Carefree Highway.

Acceptable Items

Separated household recyclables and household hazardous waste are accepted. Example of such are as follows:

- Aluminum / Aluminum Cans
- Cardboard
- Comingled Glass, Plastics (1-3) and Tin
- Electronic
- Paper, Magazines, and Newspaper
- Scrap Metal
- Tires (1-5 Car Tires Only)

A fee will be charged for disposal of trash, appliances, furniture and yard waste.

For questions or more information about our hours of operation, contact the Cave Creek Waste Disposal and Recycling Center at 602-506-4006.

LITTERING

It is unlawful to litter or otherwise dispose of trash upon private property or public rights-of-way. If you see people unlawfully dumping, please get a complete description of the driver and the vehicle and report the violation promptly to our Town Marshal (480) 488-3686.

MOTORIZED SKATEBOARDS AND MOTORIZED GOPED SCOOTERS

The Town has an ordinance prohibiting the operation of motorized skateboards or motorized goped scooters on any sidewalk, street, or parking lot within the Town.

SPEED LIMITS

Speed limits are strictly enforced by radar. Unless posted otherwise, the speed limit on a residential street is 25 miles per hour.

WEAPONS

It is unlawful to fire, discharge, or shoot any firearm or bow and arrow within the Town limits (with certain specified exceptions).

WILDLIFE

Man-wildlife encounters are inevitable as urban developments expand into neighboring wildlife populations. Because most wildlife species are opportunistic, they seek the best and often easiest source of food, water, and cover. In desert areas these vital components are often limited, and the luxurious growth of vegetation we plant and nurture in our yards is highly desirable.

Homeowners may attract wildlife into their yards for viewing and enjoyment, but the homeowner should also be aware of the trade-offs for such enjoyment. A bird feeder in a yard will certainly attract birds for viewing, but it will also attract javelina, skunks, squirrels and others to the seeds scattered about the ground. These animals generally return as long as food is available. Concentration of bird life may also attract certain hawks which prey naturally on small birds. Flower and vegetable gardens are often highly prized by javelina, skunks, rodents and others. Palatable ornamental shrubbery is seldom passed up by deer during the dry periods. Tall cultivated trees are widely used by congregating hordes of birds. Firewood, neatly stacked near the house, is a virtual sanctuary for snakes, squirrels, rodents and insects. Bug-zappers draw insects which in turn may draw bats and mammals that feed on insects. The cycle of attraction is often endless.

The Town and Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages the enjoyment of wildlife in yards or in the outdoors. By using good judgment, many situations and potential problems can be avoided. As homeowners, we have certain responsibilities in curtailing nuisance wildlife before it gets out of control. The following list of guidelines may help you to understand and alleviate problems with nuisance wildlife:

- Remove any pet food from outside your house after the pet has been fed.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Cover fruit trees with mesh netting during fruiting season and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Remove dead insects from beneath bug-lights.
- Clean up birdseed scattered on ground beneath feeders.
- Fence gardens, flower beds or other similiar attractants. Commercial electric fences are effective in protecting gardens from javelina.
- Trim and clean near ground level any shrubbery that provides hiding cover adjacent to the residence.
- Remove debris and wood piles from near your home.
- Pen domestic birds in cages with wire or other roofs.
- Securely close all entry ways to access beneath trailers or houses.

- Do not approach or handle wildlife that appears friendly.
- Anticipate stress periods for wildlife during dry periods.
- Eliminate ground level water supplies.

If problems persist that are not caused by you, check with your neighbors; maybe they are attracting the animals either unintentionally or for a specific purpose.

We must remember that all of us share the land with wildlife species and conflicts over jurisdiction are bound to occur. As expanding cities encroach into prime wildlife habitat, the problems created by displacement of native animals need to be understood by all of us.

Helpful phone numbers:

Adobe Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	623-582-9806
AZ Herpetological Assn(snake removal)	480-894-1625
Bee Removal:	
The Beekeeper	480-962-6899
Critter Control(snake & animal removals)	602-569-2360
Game and Fish Dept	602-942-3000
Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	480-998-5500
For the Birds	602-944-8060
Rural Metro Carefree Residents(snake removal)	480-945-6311
Southwest Wildlife(native mammals)	480-471-9109
Wild at Heart (birds of prey)	480-595-5047