



# CAVE CREEK PROSPECTOR

SPRING 2026

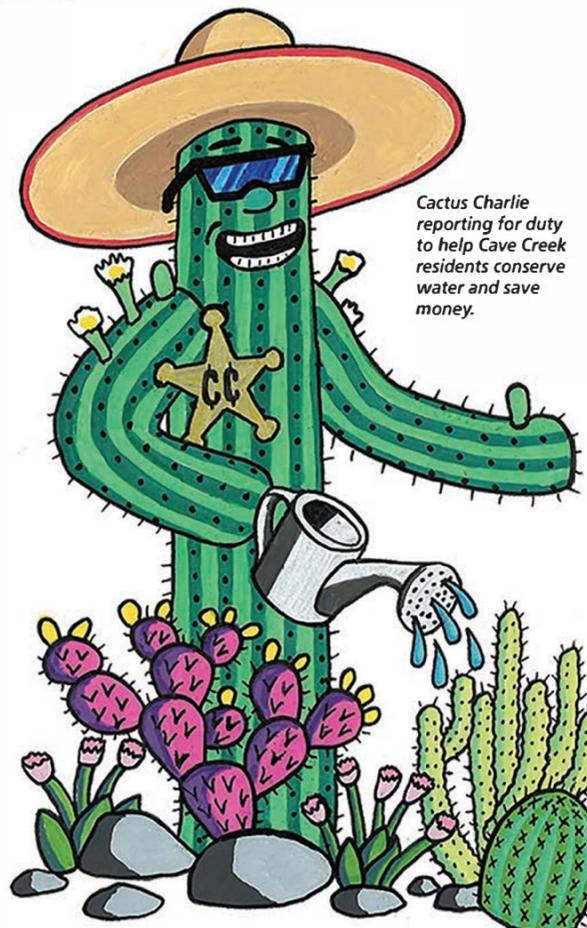
A publication by the Town of Cave Creek

## CACTUS CHARLIE

Plant watering needs vary from month to month. Regularly adjusting your irrigation schedule is an easy way to save water and money and helps ensure your plants get the right amount of water to thrive. Irrigation frequency should be adjusted at least four times a year to account for differences in seasonal watering needs.

[www.amwua.org/](http://www.amwua.org/)

Find more great water conservation tips at [www.cavecreekaz.gov/Water-Conservation](http://www.cavecreekaz.gov/Water-Conservation)



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

## NEW SKYBOX AT MEMORIAL ARENA



The new Ropes & Reins™ skybox, donated by the Hart Family, is under construction at the Cave Creek Memorial Arena. Ropes & Reins™ is located above and behind the roping chutes and will be completed for the 2026 Cave Creek Rodeo Days in March.

Ropes & Reins™ has a seating capacity of 60 guests with table seating on the lower level and drink rail seating on the upper level, with no obstruction to any seat. Visitors can enjoy the experience of a bird's-eye view of the ropers and steer wrestlers' performance, and the additional excitement of the broncs, bulls, and barrel racers come flying into the arena directly at you from bucking the chutes!

Thank you to the Hart Family, who have loved and supported the Cave Creek Rodeo and Equestrian events for over 25 years in the Cave Creek and Desert Hills area.

## CAVE CREEK WELCOMES NEW FIRE STATION

Daisy Mountain Fire & Medical held a special grand opening of its new Fire Station #144 on the corner of 24th Street and Cloud Road on Saturday, January 10, 2026. This is the seventh station within the district service area, spanning over 250 square miles. The new station will strengthen the ability to protect lives and property by improving fire and medical coverage in the east Desert Hills and west Cave Creek service area, significantly reducing emergency response times. This station symbolizes unity and collaboration between DMFD and the Town of Cave Creek. The decision to split half of the operational costs with the Town of Cave Creek underscores the shared commitment to safeguarding the lives and property of residents across all our area communities.



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chair Kate Brophy McGee helped open Fire Station #144.

## PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

The Southwest and Arizona has been in drought for more than 25 years, so the "wildfire season" is no longer a seasonal concern, but a concern for all year long. Living in the desert means we need to care for our surroundings to stay safe from wildfires. The main wildfire fuels near our homes are dried weeds and grasses that are not native to the area.

To help protect your property follow some of these simple actions:

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:

- Create a 30-foot defensible space around your home, free of dried grass, heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris, and other highly flammable vegetation.
- Remove invasive species such as globe chamomile (AKA stinknet), buffelgrass, red brome, Malta starthistle, fiddleneck, and desert broom, which starve our native fauna of water and act as accelerants in the event of fires.
- Native shrubs are a good thing: burro-weed or white bursage, brittlebush, jojoba, creosote, and turpentine are the primary native groundcovers and help keep many of the weeds above from completely taking over the desert.
- Prune back tree limbs growing into other trees and remove branches from trees where the canopy is close to a roofline or window. Address the tree canopies in these areas by raising them to 4ft to 6ft and removing and disposing of any dead branches or limbs.



### KEEP YARDS CLEAR



# 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 Aughterton, Council Member Dusty Rhoades, and Council Member Joe Freedman.

To review previous and upcoming Town Council agenda items, go to [www.cavecreekaz.gov/agendas](http://www.cavecreekaz.gov/agendas).

### NOTABLE TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

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

#### October 2025

- Town Council authorized Town Manager to execute an agreement for the purchase of a lot with groundwater rights with Harquahala Valley Landowners, LLC

#### November 2025

- Approved amended Building Codes going into effect January 1, 2026
- Council approved amending Town Tax Code to increase transaction privilege tax rate on hotel and bed tax effective February 1, 2026

#### December 2025

- Approval intergovernmental agreement with Maricopa County for law enforcement services by Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
- Approved Community Grants awards totaling \$40,000 for 501 (c)3 non-profit organizations serving the Cave Creek and Desert Foothills communities

#### January 2026

- Town Council agreed to proposed increase to utility rate and structure changes for 2026 through 2028
- Council chose not to proceed in the purchase of one-acre lot from Harquahala Valley
- Council accepted the findings of the Annual Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- Town Council accepted recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Open Space to acquire approximately 4,005 acres of Open Space

#### Upcoming Meetings

March 3, 17, April 7, 21, May 5, 19

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](http://www.cavecreekaz.gov/agendas) for more information on how to participate and submit comment cards.

Town Hall is closed for Observed Holidays

## MAYOR MORRIS GIVES STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

The Town of Cave Creek held its annual State of the Town address on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Mayor Robert Morris presented to approximately 100 community members about the upcoming projects and the important issues facing the Town in 2026. The presentation included a video that highlighted the accomplishments and projects by the Town in 2025.



Learn more about the key topics of Finances, Water, Open Space, and the new Daisy Mountain Fire Station by going to <https://cavecreekaz.gov/State-Of-Town>.

## PLANS TO REMODEL AND EXPAND TOWN HALL

When storage rooms become offices, hallways are used for storage, and every door and window is a security issue, it's time to consider changes to the Town Hall's office space. Since 2023, the Town Council has been exploring remodeling and expanding Town Hall to meet the needs of staff and the community.

### Town Hall Redevelopment Timeline

Starting in 2023, the Town Council and senior staff identified a Strategic Plan initiative that the town hall needed to be evaluated for redesign and redevelopment. In 2024, Town staff engaged local architect Greg Zimmerman to evaluate the existing capacity of Town Hall and to prepare a space plan. To address the need for additional land to accommodate an expanded footprint for the town hall, the Town Council, in 2025, authorized the purchase of an adjacent vacant property immediately south of the town hall building. Later that same year, Zimmerman developed a proposed floorplan and presented it at the 2025 Town Council retreat. During the FY2026 budget discussion, Council approved a Capital Improvement Project to pay the balance owed on the vacant parcel and to fund the completion of construction drawings and the finalization of plans for a remodel and expansion of Town Hall. In 2026, Town staff moved forward with Zimmerman on the design of the remodeling and new section of Town Hall.

### Town Hall Plans

To reduce construction costs, the current walls of the Town Hall building, roof, and plumbing will be utilized in the project.

- Current Town Hall is 7,750 square feet – will be remodeled (Phase 2)
- Proposed addition is 5,000 square feet – to house administrative offices (Phase 1)
- Building security is being addressed – limiting exterior access doors.
- Centralized customer service counter and lobby with public restrooms and meeting spaces to improve customer service and staff efficiency
- Additional conference room space and modular office space to accommodate future staffing changes
- Staff adjacencies will enhance interoffice communication and improve more efficient workflow
- Upgraded air-conditioning and heating systems to increase efficiency and lower heating and cooling costs
- Updated building façade and additional parking for residents and staff

The Town hired a professional outside construction estimator for the project, who estimated approximately \$5.8 million for the project. The estimate includes the construction, fixtures, furnishing, and equipment.

The Town Council will review and award the construction contract, with construction to commence on or after July 1, 2026.

## LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET AND TOWN HALL REMODEL

The Town of Cave Creek will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, March 18, at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers to answer questions about the FY27 budget and the Town Hall remodel and expansion.

Following several revision workshops with the Council, the budget is scheduled for tentative adoption by the Council in May, and the final version will be adopted in June, with implementation of the FY2027 budget on July 1, 2027.

## SPRING HIKING IS HEATING UP

Each year, more than 200 people are rescued while hiking in Arizona's parks and preserves.

- You know your limits, as well as those with you. Make an informed decision on which trail to trek, and your trek will be more enjoyable.
- During the warmer months, hike during the early/late hours when temperatures are slightly cooler.
- Wear appropriate footwear, a wide-brim hat, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that will breathe well in the heat. Wear quality sunglasses with lenses that offer 100% UVA and UVB protection. Wear sunscreen and reapply regularly throughout your hike.
- Begin hydrating BEFORE you set out for your hike, and rehydrate frequently. Carry enough water for your entire workout. Remember to bring plenty of water for your children and canine friends. When your water is half done – turn around because you are half done!

**Fun tip:** Consume cold fluids during and after hiking. Flavoring your fluids may make you more likely to keep sipping. Hydro Flasks are awesome, reusable water bottles that keep fluids cold for hours. Make a 'mocktail'. Add some frozen blueberries, squeezed lemon wedges, a dash of salt, and a sprig of mint for a delicious flavor and extra electrolytes. Make sure you slap the mint with your hands so the oils are extracted!

- Stay on designated trails.
- Tell someone where you are recreating and when you expect to return.
- Turn around and return to the trailhead when your water is half gone.
- Carry a cell phone, and make sure it is fully charged.
- Don't hike alone.
- Use maps to know where you are going and what kind of terrain you are hiking on.

## KIWANIS ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON APRIL 11

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree is gearing up for one of the community's most beloved traditions – the Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast – taking place April 11. After months of preparation, the team is officially in high gear to deliver another morning of great food, community spirit, and family fun.

Despite rising costs, Kiwanis remains committed to keeping the breakfast affordable at \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids – a price unchanged for several years. Coffee, orange juice, and even second helpings are included.



## SPRING IS EVENT SEASON IN CAVE CREEK

### CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS PARADE

March 21 at 9 am Cave Creek Road in Cave Creek, AZ  
<https://cavecreekrodeo.com/parade/>

The traditional launch in rodeo week with the Cave Creek Rodeo Days Parade! This lively procession along Cave Creek Road features horseback riders, floats, unique automobiles, rodeo royalty, bands, and more, infusing the town with a spirited Western atmosphere.

### STAGECOACH VILLAGE FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

March 20th-22nd  
[www.stagecoachvillagecc.com/event/stagecoach-village-fine-art-wine-festival-4/](http://www.stagecoachvillagecc.com/event/stagecoach-village-fine-art-wine-festival-4/)

### BOB BOZE BELL SHARES

"THE 66 KID ON GROWING UP ON THE MOTHER ROAD"  
 Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 2-4 PM at Cave Creek Museum

### CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS

March 26-29  
<https://cavecreekrodeo.com/>  
 The 49th Annual Cave Creek Rodeo Days consists of a Parade, Mutton Bustin', Rodeo Dances, a Cornhole Tournament, All Bulls, All Night, and three action-packed days of PRCA Rodeo performances and more to round out a weeklong celebration of an Arizona town's Western Heritage. The proceeds of the rodeo support charitable organizations throughout the Sonoran Desert and assist the Town of Cave Creek with the continued maintenance and enhancement of the Cave Creek Memorial Arena.

### CAVE CREEK BIKE WEEK

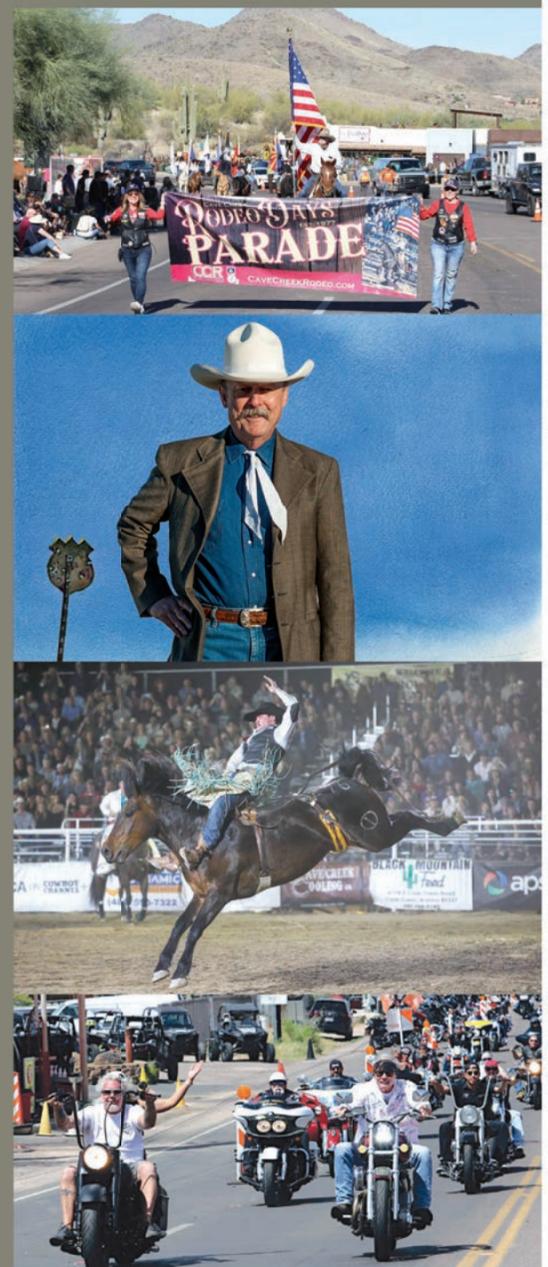
April 3-12  
<https://hideaway-usa.com/2025/08/19/cave-creek-bike-week-2026/>  
 The 28th Annual Cave Creek Bike Week rides into town with live music, vendors offering cool motorcycle gear, and master bike builders. This is a two-wheel extravaganza that will get you revved up for more!

Check out some of the other fun things to do in Cave Creek

Cave Creek Museum – <https://cavecreekmuseum.org/events/list/>

Desert Foothills Library – <https://dfla.org/>

Live Music – Hideaway-Roadhouse – <https://hideaway-usa.com/music/>



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A publication by the Town of Cave Creek

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

## 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](http://www.cavecreekaz.gov/NotifyMe) or scanning the QR Code.



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## CAVE CREEK TO HOLD TWO YARD WASTE DROP-OFF DAYS FOR RESIDENTS



Yard waste, such as weeds, leaves, brush, and small branches that are around your home, could be the primary source of wildfire fuel. To support the community in creating defensible space in their yards for fire prevention, the Town of Cave Creek is hosting two drop-off events for residents (only) to discard green waste. These events will occur on Saturday, March 21, and Saturday, April 18, from 8am to 12pm at the Water Ranch, located at 4300 E. Carefree Hwy.

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

## LOCAL LANDMARK PASSPORT™ INSPIRES EXPLORATION

The Cave Creek Museum invites locals and visitors alike to explore the town's rich history with the launch of the Local Landmark Passport.

Designed as a fun, self-guided exploration, the Local Landmark Passport encourages participants to become detectives for the day as they seek out answers to questions at 10 of Cave Creek's 23 iconic historic landmark locations. The Local Landmark Passport is a celebration of Cave Creek's past and present – inviting everyone to discover, learn, and enjoy everything this historic town has to offer. Passports are easily obtainable at the Cave Creek Museum or the Cave Creek Tourism Bureau.

For more information, visit [cavecreekmuseum.com/local-landmarks](http://cavecreekmuseum.com/local-landmarks).

**FOOTHILLS CaringCORPS**

**MARCH 7, 2026 8AM-12PM**  
CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK

**2ND ANNUAL HIKE, WALK, OR ROLL COMMUNITY HIKE**

**STEP UP FOR SENIORS**

GREAT FOR TEAM-BUILDING, FAMILY FUN,  
SOLO WALKERS, CHURCH GROUPS, SCHOOLS!

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

**MERCH AVAILABLE!**

**\$35** KIDS \$15  
PARK ENTRANCE FEE INCLUDED!

**REGISTER - CREATE A TEAM - DONATE**  
**SEE SPONSOR LEVELS - BUY SHIRTS**

[www.foothillscaringcorps.org](http://www.foothillscaringcorps.org)

- Food/Coffee Trucks
- Willy the Wonder Donkey
- Vendor Tables
- Info Center
- Guided Hikes
- KIDS ZONE!
- Live music
- Prizes
- Community
- Much more!

## 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