



Friends of Carefree, on Tuesday morning the Celebration of Life service was held at the Pavilion in The Gardens for Councilman Jim Van Allen. The Van Allens' longtime friend, Ted Mullen, acted as MC. He began with a short prayer and then introduced Mayor Les Peterson who spoke about Jim's contributions to Carefree, his ever-present attention to financial detail, and about Jim's desire to keep Carefree just as it is.

Next to speak was Patty Villeneuve, President & CEO of the Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce. Patty recounted her first meeting with Jim over 6 years ago, and how Jim then became a regular and dependable worker at the Welcome Center. She also mentioned his participation manning an entry gate during Thunderbird festivals, and how the most recent event last weekend brought sadness and more than a few tears.

Ted then gave a brief summary of Jim's business career and his service on the Council, the Posse, and during town events. After his summary, Ted introduced me to speak next. I had prepared my comments in advance so as not to stray off point, but I had some difficulty getting through parts of those comments when the realization that I would not see JVA again hit me. [You can read those comments [at the end of this Newsletter](#) or in the [CFM Archives](#).]

Other attendees were then invited to speak, and a number of folks did address the audience. I didn't take notes, so I may have lost track of several speaker's names. Fred Drawert (former Posse Commander), Council members Mike Farrar and Michael Krahe spoke, as did a longtime friend and business associate Lou Weckstein, who discussed his business and personal relationship with Jim dating back to 1970 as senior executives with Ramada. Other longtime friends of the Van Allens', Annette Kershner and Vern Kershner shared memories more on the personal side (sailing and shipwreck stories) in contrast to the public side most of us knew of JVA. There were a few others who spoke near the end, including former MCSO Commander Tromby, who described how he met Jim on 117 years ago when Jim was attempting to safeguard a disabled vehicle, and was subsequently injured when another vehicle ran into the back of the disable car. He visited Jim several times in the hospital. One last speaker, Phil Corso I believe, spoke from the rear of the audience mentioning that Jim was a nice curmudgeon, who had a twinkle in his eyes.

Ted then concluded the service with a reading from scripture, he said, was one of Jim's favorites.

My personal thanks goes out to Patty and Marcia who worked together to make the celebration of Jim's life a special event. Also thanks to the crew who handled the physical logistics in the Pavilion. Happy Birthday Jim.

Back to routine business....

November Town Council Meeting, November 7, 2017 at 5:00PM

Items 1 - 4 Consent Agenda: These items were all related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permits, etc.). Hearing no request, The Mayor called for a motion and subsequent vote. Approved, 6 - 0.

The Mayor made a few brief remarks about now deceased Councilman, Jim Van Allen. He then asked for a moment of silence to remember him and his contributions.

Item 5, Call to the Public: Initially no one spoke. However, the Mayor permitted Shelly Spense, a Carefree resident and Publisher of Images Magazine, to address the Council. She had several concerns and questions regarding the 100 Acre developer plan [*far north Carefree*] currently being prepared for submission to the town. She wanted to know what was being proposed. She said she received a letter from a Board member, Lyn Hitchon [*Carefree truth blog, written by a P&Z Commissioner*]. In that material, Ms. Spense found information which was a direct contradiction with a letter she and other neighbors had received from the developer's attorney. In that attorney letter there was specific mention of rezoning the 100-acre parcel. [*For the record, again, material within brackets [] and typically either italicized or bold or both, contains My comments and/or opinions. In no way does it reflect the comments or opinions of others. So... Currently the land in question is zoned R-190, meaning 190,000 sf. lots which most normal people consider 5 acre lots. Having attended the initial community meeting on this topic, directed by the attorney, I can summarize what was said. The new owner wishes to take the current 100-acre, R-190 zoned parcel and split it in two, 'giving' 50 of those (essentially unbuildable) acres to the town of Carefree - free and clear - and then build 23 homes on the remaining 50 more suitable and buildable acres. Because of the large wash in the area, the builder will have to construct a very substantial bridge across the wash in order to access a largest part of those 50 buildable acres. In essence the 50 acres will shrink. So, what starts out as R190 zoning then becomes something far less. Even simple math shows that in a 'perfect' plan, the 23 home site lots would become approximately 2.1739 acres (the blogger wanted to be precise in her clarification, so I used my calculator like she did) - far smaller than R-190 specifications. In fact, the developer's initial plat drawing displayed at the community meeting apparently shows lots smaller than 2 acres. While this is far from a done deal, other recent approved rezoning requests show the town's willingness to move away from more rural or semi-rural low-density zoning to higher density. Some will cry foul, claiming that 2 acre lots is not high density, but when one looks at existing homes in the surrounding area it becomes clear that 2 acres in this region is indeed higher density. If someone is drowning in 3 inches of water, they don't want to hear the water is not deep! Make no mistake; the town is more than willing to discuss higher density with developers. Whether it is relating to 1 or 2 acre lots being requested for much higher density or 5 acre lots being converted to a higher density of 1.75 or 2 acre lots - higher density is higher density. If the Town can't see that then we need new people who can*].

The blogger, in her clarifications stated it was not rezoning but rather a “**density transfer within the property**”. Ms. Spense asked several questions relating to the conflicting information but each time she was advised that the Council and staff were not permitted to respond to questions during Call to the Public. The town administrator was taking notes and was asked to follow up. [*Some in Town Hall will cry foul again, when I say that in the past few years zoning gimmicks are being deployed to get around our existing zoning protections (like RUPDs), something that both Councilman Jim Van Allen,*

myself, and others had been citing. Now the blogging Zoning Commissioner is claiming that the 100-acre potential debacle is not rezoning at all but merely a “density transfer”. Since it is a fairly well-known reality that she gets her information directly from the Town Administrator, we can reasonably assume that his position will align with her claim of “density transfer”, another sleight of hand.]

[I find what I read in the copy of that blog mind-numbing. Any person who could believe that a “43 story skyscraper” “is going to be built in downtown Carefree” should not be allowed to buy or own a gun, drive a vehicle, or vote. Hot tip: don’t buy a house from the realtor spreading that story! The fact that the blogger even addressed that nonsense, and then went on to cite emails and forwards she receives “containing outrageous content” referring to some “spinning-out-of-control rumor mill”. As the blogger already knows very well, people can post anything they want on Facebook, just like they do in her blogs.]

Mr. Mayor, time for another public lecture about bloggers. I hope this time you address the real problem in your camp.]

Item 6, Current Events: This was the longest section of the entire meeting. I’m going to provide a very brief summary. COINS can fill in the remainder.

Jim Keen stated that first quarter sales tax revenue was up 20%, largely due to construction revenue. Retail is improving, and October is looking good.

The Carefree Christmas Tree Lighting will be on 12/1 under the Sundial at **5PM**.
The Carefree Christmas Parade will be on 12/9 starting at **10AM**.

Council member Kroyer provided a recap of Pumpkin Festival notable achievements. There were 20% more visitors [**Not sure how this is determined.**] There were more things to see, more merchandise to sell, more vendors, and 67K website hits [**I believe she say that was a 23% increase over last year.**] She also reviewed why we put on these events then turned things over to Gina Kaegi.

Gina began by stating that Jim Van Allen had been an active supporter and a big help in the prior years and was missed this time around. She thanked Chief Kraetz for all the help his guys provided each evening, putting the pumpkins to bed (refrigerated truck). She then proceeded to thank those who financially supported the event, and all those who contributed support in other ways. Gina also mentioned she would be putting out a notice to fill the Council vacancy, with the entry deadline set at 11/17. See COINS Notice [here](#)

Council member Farrar introduced two Cave Creek Council members (Tom McGuire and David Smith) who were attending our meeting. He then announced that the Town of Cave Creek, during their Council meeting, had approved their 1/3 contribution for Ollie-the-Trolley, leaving only merchants in each town to come up with the final 1/3 to support the Dec-Apr Trolley service (11AM – 9PM) between the two towns. He said it was time for the merchants and landlords to step up. Earlier he commented on the success of the Pumpkin Festival, to which he had previously invited all the area Mayors. Linda Kavanagh, the Mayor of Fountain Hills and her family had attended and received a personal tour.

Council member Crane discussed our upcoming Veteran's Day event ([see Gina's press release later in this document](#)), mentioning notable veterans from prior wars/conflicts who would be in attendance. He also mentioned the Driven-to-Give event scheduled for 11/18, from 8AM to 4PM at the Sundial, where Sanderson Lincoln will donate \$20 for each test drive taken with benefits going to the Veteran Heritage Project. Also mentioned was the Little Free Library program that is set to kick off on 11/16 at a 4PM ribbon cutting in the Garden. I could not hear him speak, so look for more details in COINS. The Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held on 11/18, 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM at Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion.

Item 7, Discussion regarding the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year audit: The Town Administrator introduced the subject and reviewed many of the accomplishments within Carefree over the past 10 years. The chart displayed also showed that the town had managed to bank over \$2M during that timeframe. Jim Keen, Town Accountant then delivered a high-level summary of the financials, which was followed by a representative of the Audit firm (via telephone) providing a recap of the Auditor's report. Bottom line, Town financials are within generally accepted Accounting standards. In other words, it was a good Audit. Council voted 6 – 0 to accept the Audit.

Item 8, Adjournment: Prior to this item, the Mayor permitted Bob Hesselgesser, the Account Representative from City Sun Times, to address the Council. Sadly, I was unable to hear most of Bob's comments. He spoke about the preliminary Carefree Christmas festival insert (samples distributed to Council and attendees), and mentioned the deadline for final submissions was rapidly approaching, 11/15 I believe I heard.

[The meeting recording was not posted as of 3:20PM today, so I was unable to double check some notes with the recording.]

[On the subject of hearing, I sure hope that the \$266K+ renovation of 33 Easy Street will include a vastly improved sound system, one from which all council members, staff, and public speakers can be clearly heard - even by me.]

Adjournment Time was shortly before 6PM.

More below...

Celebration of Life – Jim Van Allen

November 7, 2017 by John Traynor

Good Morning. We are here today to Celebrate the Life of Jim Van Allen. Before I share some of my thoughts, I want to express my sincere condolences to Marcia, and Jim's family.

While gathering my thoughts for today, many stories and situations came to mind. I knew those thoughts could easily lead to rambling so for your benefit, and to spare you potentially hours of your time on this beautiful morning, I've tried to focus on some meaningful 'Words'.

When I think about Jim Van Allen, a number of simple but very descriptive words come to mind. Here are some of those words, and how I believe they related to Jim.

Unassuming – For as long as I knew him, Jim never put on airs. He was straightforward, and comfortable in his own skin; many folks today claim that, but in Jim's case it was true. He never had the need to pump himself up or to pretend to be more than he was. Jim held no grandiose opinions of himself.

As I grew to know him more personally, through our conversations and meetings, I came to realize that some of his vocabulary came straight from his Iowa roots. For example, in a café or restaurant he would often refer to a hostess or waitress as 'Missy', with no disrespect intended and none perceived. Even harried waitresses would smile. With my lingering NY accent, I could never pull that off. Grandchildren were Grandbabies, and Marcia was often referred to as Momo.

Deliberate – Jim didn't jump to rash conclusions. He did his research and then evaluated the facts, *before* coming to a conclusion. He would keep digging. He stuck with things, and he didn't give up because something was difficult or convoluted.

Honesty – In the 6 or 7 years that I knew Jim, I never knew him to lie or even stretch the truth, or to divulge a confidence. How rare is that? Because he was honest, he expected honesty from others. I observed that the easiest way for someone to get on his wrong side was to lie to him. In society today, many of us seem to accept that politicians and bureaucrats don't tell the truth; they misrepresent facts or omit them to suit their own purpose. Jim always saw through the fog of deceit.

Caring – Whether the subject was family or Carefree there was never any doubt about the depth of Jim's feelings. Until very recently I didn't know Marcia well, nor had I met other family members. It's sad how illness or death can bring people together.

Despite his roots and many years of extensive travel, Jim adopted Arizona in general and Carefree in particular. Aside from his family, the Cardinals, the Dbacks, and Carefree all held a place in his heart.

Committed – His every undertaking was approached with the intent to complete & succeed. Jim felt that if it was worth doing it was worth doing well – an old-fashioned concept in today's world of instant gratification and self-focus.

Tough - As I've said in my notice of his passing, he followed the rules and expected others to do so as well. This was closely linked with his beliefs on honesty.

Dedicated - Jim, like many of us who discovered Carefree, fell in love. Perhaps that sounds corny or old-fashioned, but it is true. There was never a day since I first met him, that he wasn't wearing something that said Carefree - a hat, a pin, [often at least one of each] just something to communicate his feelings without words.

By now you have heard the many ways Jim Van Allen dedicated his personal time, not only to Carefree, but to our foothills communities in general, year after year. Here are some of the ways:

Countless hours, as a member of the Posse, patrolling our neighborhoods;
Many hours spent actually speaking with commercial property owners and businesses, long before it became 'a thing to do';
Volunteer work for the Chamber, and Chamber events;
Volunteer work for the town, often spending [what seemed to me] many boring hours manning information booths to 'sell' Carefree;
Dedication to the Carefree Christmas Festivals, the Pumpkin Festivals, the Thunderbird and Magic Bird Art shows, and on and on.

Regardless of the chore or event, Jim always asked where folks were from and was happy to tell them about Carefree and to answer all of their questions. Because of his extensive professional travels, he could almost always relate to people and talk about their home towns, in detail!

As a member of the Carefree Town Council, Jim took his responsibility very seriously. While serving on the Council, he never forgot about the people who elected him.

That Saturday, early in October, Carefree lost a dedicated friend and protector. I did as well.

Notice of Vacancy, Call for Town Council Member applicants:

With the passing of Carefree Councilmember Jim Van Allen on Saturday, October 7, a vacancy was created on the Carefree Town Council for the remaining time of Mr. Van Allen's term. This term runs through December, 2018.

Persons interested in being appointed to fill this vacancy must be at least 18 years old, and a qualified elector (registered voter) residing within the Town boundaries for at least one year prior to the appointment by the Town Council. Council members serve without compensation.

All Carefree residents wishing to apply for this vacant position should submit

- 1) a letter stating the reasons for their desire to be appointed to this position and
- 2) a bio of their applicable experience.

For residents desiring to apply, please submit your letter and bio not later than November 17, 2017, to: Mayor Les Peterson, 8 Sundial Circle, P.O. Box 740, Carefree, AZ 85377

It is the intention of the Town Council to review the materials submitted, interview the candidates selected as finalists and vote/ appoint a replacement Town Councilmember during the Regular Meeting of the Carefree Town Council on December 5, 2017.

Carefree Marketing Director Gina Kaegi requested that I pass along the following press release regarding the Veterans Day activities:

Press Release - Town of Carefree Hosts 9th Annual Veterans Day Celebration

Event: Veteran's Day Presentation & Musical Tribute

Date: Saturday, 11/11/2017

Time: 3-5 pm

Place: Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion
Carefree Desert Gardens
101 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377

Admission: No Charge

Summary:

- Free Veterans Day Event
- Color Guard
- Swing Band Performance and Songs
- Stories from Veterans of the Armed Forces
- Light Refreshments by Kiwanis of Carefree
- Veterans Heritage Project

CAREFREE/CAVE CREEK/N. SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., November 6, 2017) The Town of Carefree is honored to host its 9th annual Veterans Day presentation and musical tribute. It will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 3 pm to 5 pm, in the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion, located in the Carefree Desert Gardens, 101 Easy Street, Carefree, AZ.

The event will feature a mixture of exciting patriotic and military music by Todd Knowles and his Main Event Swing Band. World War II Veteran Colonel Blaine Keith, USMC, retired will lead the pledge of allegiance. Special speakers will include veterans of the armed forces, including World War II Veteran, US Army Captain, Lew Jenkins, who will share their experiences from the past. This year the program will include a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace". And, by popular request, the finale will once again include the bugle call, *The Last Post*, followed by TAPS on "dueling bugles".

Barbara Hatch, Founder of Veterans Heritage Project, will be in attendance with students from Cactus Shadows High School and Sonoran Trails Middle School, whose VHP chapters are now in the capable hands of two volunteer advisor/teachers: Bret Lineburg (CSHS history teacher), and Shannon Griffith (STMS English teacher). Their exhibit and books will be on display and for sale. Barbara is one of the recent recipients of the Hon Kachina Award for "improving the lives of others in her community." Veterans Heritage Project students can now be found interviewing in 27 schools in Arizona, as well as one in her Illinois hometown and a pilot program in Niceville, Florida. VHP will publish 6 editions of *Since You Asked* this year.

The Sonoran Art League will share information about their Veteran Art Program. The Desert Foothills YMCA will discuss their veteran support programs. The Association of the United States Army will have a representative available to assist any veterans with questions. The Carefree Kiwanis Club (www.kiwaniscarefree.org) will provide light refreshments and coffee from the Carefree Roastery with assistance from the Black Mountain Foothills Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Come enjoy the special presentations and join in the opportunity to honor those who have sacrificed for all. For more information visit Carefree.org or contact 480.488.3686.

In general, you can reach all Council members by email; Council@Carefree.org
and Mayor Les Peterson at Mayor@Carefree.org

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

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