



Friends of Carefree, a troubling Phishing scam emerged earlier this week which appears to be targeting certain Carefree residents. I sent a notice to the town administrator on January 9th at 11:10 AM, alerting him of the threat which appears to have been sent using his town email address. His account may have been compromised.

The email began arriving on Monday evening, January 8th just after 9PM. The subject line shows "APPROVAL NEEDED" and the addressing information is as follows:



Gary <gary@carefree.org>|

To Gary

The email text is as follows:

[Please see attached and secure document.](#)

Thanks,

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator

Town of Carefree

Email: gary@carefree.org <<mailto:gary@carefree.org>>

Office: 480.488.3686 Mobile: 480.720.2875

PO Box 740, 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree, AZ 85377

The email contains a potentially dangerous attachment. If you receive this email, or one similar, DO NOT OPEN the attachment since it can compromise your device, or install a Keylogger, which can lead to serious financial consequences for you.

Although the Town of Carefree eventually sent out a note, with a subject line of “**Phishing Scam**”, it was far from specific and insufficient to properly alert unsuspecting and more vulnerable residents.

I began hearing from residents who received the email. Lacking any subsequent clarification from the town, I’m still concerned about the risk to residents because of this potential malware.

I have checked with numerous other residents, so far, and have a list of those who had received it, as well as those who had not. **Feel free to respond to this email if you wish to let me know one way or the other.** Unlike the Hitchons, who have taken photos of people attending ‘Town events’ and then told them they could receive a copy of the photo if they provided their email address, I don’t need yours since I already have it. I may pursue further legal action.

P.S. In an unrelated matter, I overlooked resetting the Volume and Edition numbers when I updated the Copywrite in CFM editions since the start of the New Year. I will correct that information on the website. This edition is correct.

P.P.S. Another inadvertent omission in Edition 20 was recognition of the awesome \$100,000 New Year donation from Ian & Stephanie Barbour to Carefree Park. It was the ignorant and petty criticism by Herbie Hitchon published in Hitchon’s ‘Truth’ email on January 10th that made me realize I had omitted that tremendous positive news. You can watch that brief presentation during the January 2nd council meeting at Call to the Public, using the link below. Unlike ‘Herbie’s’ rant, Stephanie’s comments were short (**less than 1 minute**), courteous, genuine, and generous. We need more residents like Ian & Stephanie and a lot fewer like Herbie and Lyn.

<https://youtu.be/SxHieC-1CcQ?t=2224>

And there you have it, for now.

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

Notice: In addition to reporting *facts*, this Newsletter will contain the author's perspective on topics or events affecting Carefree residents. That perspective may not be popular with the mayor, council members, staff, town attorney, or Facebook Trolls. The fact is, I don't care what they think.

If we lived in a perfect world, we would need but one newspaper.

God Bless America.

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Carefree, what life should be!

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"The power of accurate observation is frequently called cynicism by those who don't have it." - George Bernard Shaw