



Friends of Carefree, yesterday I had my first ever ride in an Ambulance/Rescue, and experienced outstanding service from **our Rural Metro team**. Five medical personnel attended to me in my family room. It was an amazing sight on several levels. All other chatter aside, personal experience is the only data necessary to decide who is the **'Gold Standard'**.

I was preparing a final section of the CFM edition that I had planned to send out last evening, when a health issue took precedence. My wife called for help and within minutes I was surrounded by 5 of the best, experienced guys I could have hoped for. I didn't get all their names, but Spenser was there, as was Juan, who directed my first line care. To all of you guys, whether I got your names yesterday or not, you have my most sincere thanks and appreciation for all you do.

I am wrapping up this edition from the Honor Hearth Thompson Peak facility while awaiting further tests today, because it is important. As the campaign leading up to the May 16th election continues, some things have come into focus. In this edition I will address a few that have crystallized.

The first was another opportunity for Cave Creek's Automatic Aid partner, Daisy Mountain, to step up and provide their response time data. That ***failed to materialize*** at the council meeting. Daisy Mountain/Cave Creek continues to remain silent. If it were good news, why would they hide it? Three ranking members of Daisy Mountain, including Chief Tobin, were in attendance. One assistant chief spoke about the far westside chip fire at the 303 & I-17) last Friday. It was extremely difficult to hear or understand his remarks. None of those representatives bothered to answer the question, ***raised again***, by a resident during Call to the Public. Over the past several months at least 4 residents have requested that information. ***How is that for Daisy Mountain, Automatic aid response time?***

A new question is, what was really behind Phoenix and Scottsdale terminating their *written* Mutual Aid agreement with Rural Metro? The answer is not as simple, or straightforward, as we were expected to believe. It is entirely possible that conversations and actions by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Carefree elected officials (mayor & council), and the town 'manager' (*administrator Neiss*) triggered that reaction.

We have been told, and recordings of the PSAC public meetings support the fact, that the PSAC spoke with each fire chief on at least one occasion. However, our own trusted and respected Rural Metro Fire Chief, Bret Russell was excluded from all PSAC conversations despite his repeated requests. Why would they exclude the one man who came from a fire department that's even larger than Phoenix and had extensive Automatic Aid experience? Oversight or intentional, you really have to wonder about the motivation. No one bothered to speak with him. The purpose of those early discussions was supposedly to gather information on the 3 different partners in the regional Automatic Aid system, and to gain an understanding of how the system operates, its requirements, costs, etc. - **all valid points for the committee to pursue, but our own expert resource was omitted.** Interestingly, Scottsdale Chief Shannon, in his letter to the Scottsdale mayor and council members advised them he was aware that they had been approached by Carefree elected officials and the Town 'Manager' (*administrator*). It may have seemed, to him, that they were going around him, a perfectly reasonable assumption.

Chief Shannon goes on to cite sections of the *initial* final PSAC report which he used as justification for Scottsdale to terminate the written Mutual Aid agreement with Rural Metro. Yes, there were other factors he described, that in his judgement, were one sided, and/or were more costly for Scottsdale than any perceived benefit to be gained by the agreement (signed August 24, 2021). Could there have been other unwritten reasons?

Since the PSAC was commissioned by the Carefree mayor and council, and presumably answered to them, why was the town administrator seeking an audience with the Scottsdale mayor and

council? Was he also working in the background, with the different automatic aid fire chiefs, possibly playing them against each other? Perhaps he was simply looking for name recognition? We remember Paradise Valley.

Understandably, nobody will talk at this point. But it would only take one disgruntled chief, from any one of the 4 fire services to open a can of worms that would spread like wildfire. Yes, there was a 4th fire service considered. Rural Metro was interviewed early on during the PSAC's tenure, as confirmed last evening by PSAC member & council member Sheila Amoroso. **Sheila was heard telling residents that if the property tax failed, Carefree would just stay with Rural Metro.** The way Rural Metro has been treated and gagged since December is disgraceful and uncivil. This could develop into a career ending situation for someone. There are many things I would kick to the door long before Rural Metro.

After Carefree was notified that Scottsdale was terminating the agreement, effective January 31, 2022 (just 5 months after the 3-year agreement was signed), the PSAC was reconvened. The result of their revival was issuing a *new/revised final report*, which coincidentally recommended that not only should Automatic-Aid be pursued, but a Property Tax should be implemented as well. Music to someone in town hall's ears. Also coincidentally, Chief Shannon became a supportive contributing letter writer for the pro-tax PAC. Not surprisingly, so has the Phoenix fire chief. Along with Daisy Mountain's chief, all 3 of their departments would greatly benefit from Carefree joining Automatic aid. **Carefree Residents and Taxpayers would not.**

A final point was raised by a CFM reader, who said they had heard enough about response times, etc. and wanted more specific information on how a potential Carefree Property Tax would be calculated. They asked for specific examples of the tax liability. How would a tax be calculated and what would the tax liability be, on a \$500K, a \$1M, and \$1.5M property? My hospital stay put the brakes on that work, but it will resume when I regain access to my files at home.

I would prefer to continue writing because there is more deception to uncover in our little town, but the unforeseen medical situation altered my thinking for now. Luckily, we did not have to call Auto aid, Roloids, or any other aids aside from my hearing aids, and Rural Metro. Until next time, be safe, be thoughtful, and please **vote Against this deceptive, despicable Property Tax.**

If you have not yet voted, you should mail your ballot before May 9th. Beginning May 8th through May 15th drop off your ballot in the Council Chambers @ 33 Easy Street, weekdays from 8AM - 5PM. On election day, **May 16th**, you can drop off you ballot or complete a ballot in person, from **6AM until 7PM.**

Stay in Touch with KeepCarefreeTaxFree



You should have received your ballot by now. If you have NOT received your ballot for this Special Election, Do not assume it is coming. Please call the Maricopa County Election Office at (602) 506-1511 and speak to someone to have it sent to you ASAP; it can take 3 to 5 days. If you are a registered voter in Carefree, you may be able to obtain a replacement for your a missing or not received ballot, on election day, at the polling location. Ask/verify when you call county elections at the number above.

Deny the Tax Man, Vote NO - **Against the Property Tax**

Please watch these and the other important videos that can be found on the website noted above. They are real, not fake news!

[Get the Facts, not their Propaganda](#)

[Automatic Aid is in Crisis - Get the real story](#)

[Fox10 News - Phoenix Fire Department Response Times](#)

In closing,

**Another reminder to members of the Carefree Town Council
and the Public Safety Advisory Committee:**

You have perpetrated a deliberate misrepresentation of material facts concerning Automatic Aid in an effort to conceal the truth you knew, *or should have known*, thus endangering the future health, safety, and welfare of the citizens you have sworn to represent in your oath of office.

Please remember to Say No, ***now and on your ballot***, to this despicable effort to change the character of Carefree, forever.

Property taxes are the unchained beast of bureaucrats who grow more and more comfortable and dependent on spending Other People's Money. If you have had enough of that, say no.

“Choose wisely Grasshoppers”

And there you have it, for now.

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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“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Attribution not verified; Not JFK and Not Edmund Burke. I attribute it to Common Sense!

A CFM reader provided the following: “At best, the essence of the quote can be traced back to the utilitarian philosopher John Stuart Mill, who delivered an 1867 inaugural address at the University of St. Andrews and stated: “Let not any one pacify his conscience by the delusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part, and forms no opinion. Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.”