



Friends of Carefree, the pro-Property Tax people have turned on their afterburners of deceit and misinformation. Using what appears to be a copy of the town's email list, full back-page ads in Sonoran news, and private emails from another supposed know-it-all, and others, they have spread a layer of manure that any farmer would envy. They have stooped so low as to scare the elderly, used a flyer in your water bill, and sent an email blast from the Water company for political purposes. If that is not overtly unlawful it is certainly distasteful, dirty politics. Their desperation is showing, as it should be.

After defeating the sham Property Tax proposal, residents should take a hard look at the value, if any, of the town administrator and certain members of the town council. All in due time. Until then, this edition will provide you with valuable information in several forms. It will not be packaged in essay or newsprint format. Information will be provided via professional videos, it will also include charts, a direct rebuttal to nonsense from a certain 'expert', and finally my message to the town council on April 4th.

I ask that you carefully consider all the information being presented here, in its entirety, so that you can see clearly through the fog of misinformation from the administration and the pro-tax crowd. Don't quit before you read all the facts.

I suspect they never told you that Rural Metro was searching for a second location on the west side of town, up until the council put a Property Tax on the May 16th ballot, threatened our safety with Automatic Aid, and the TA imposed a gag order, *yes*, a gag order on our firefighters. That search is now on hold until May 17th the day after you defeat the Property Tax. The current town administrator wants a Property Tax so badly that he is willing to sacrifice Rural Metro's 50+ years of outstanding service protecting you, the residents, in exchange for a broken regional aid system. If you were Rural Metro, would you move ahead with a substantial new

investment in a town with an administration willing to throw you under a bus, at this juncture? Rural Metro, and their dedicated Carefree Firefighters await your careful deliberation about their future, and your safety, in our town.

Section One: Videos

Fireside Chat with our Firefighters/EMS personnel - Q & A format March 30th

[Fireside Chat](#)

Firefighters/EMS personnel debunk malicious rumors first released April 9th

[Rumors Debunked](#)

Hold on, one more bombshell coming soon from KeepCarefreeTaxFree.

Section Two: Charts

- 1- **The issue is all about Property Tax revenue**, but emergency response time matters to residents more.

Fire/EMS Response Time by Coverage Area

NFPA Standard¹ → 5:20

Town/City	Served by	Service Area Square Miles	Response time mm:ss
Carefree ³	Rural Metro	8.8	< 4:00 average
Carefree	Rural Metro	8.8	4:22 worst case
Cave Creek ⁴	Daisy Mtn ⁵	37.7 ⁵	Unreported
Scottsdale ²	Scottsdale FD	184.4	6:44
Phoenix ²	Phoenix FD	517.9	8:54

¹ National Fire Protection Agency

² Data sources from SD & Phoenix City Performance data

³ Rural Metro arrives on scene with a Fire truck & Rescue (ambulance)
Phoenix & Scottsdale do not!

⁴ Cave Creek Declined to provide data

⁵ Daisy Mountain total service area is 250 sq Miles

** Phoenix is the 11th largest city by area in the United States.

2 - Daisy Mountain ambulance response time contract commitments in their Certificate of necessity [C.O.N.]

1. Ten (10) minutes on sixty (60) percent of all ambulance calls.
2. Twenty (20) minutes on eighty-five (85) percent of all ambulance calls.
3. Thirty (30) minutes on ninety (90) percent of all ambulance calls.
4. Forty (40) minutes on ninety-eight (98) percent of all ambulance calls.

Do you want to wait for an automatic aid partner to call for an ambulance after they arrive on the scene while you, or a loved one, is in mortal danger?

Rural Metro arrives with a truck and a rescue (ambulance) at first call.

Section 3: The rebuttal

Anyone can dine in an exclusive restaurant and may appear to be a wine expert by ordering the most expensive bottle on the wine list. A savvy and sensible wine enthusiast knows true quality and value for the dollar. What impresses *you* more?

Apparently one particular member of the safety committee fancies himself as a fire safety expert because he can recommend the most expensive option on the table, ***not the best, or the best value.*** What follows is my rebuttal to his ridiculous 'Busted' arguments to Desert Forest acquaintances, in email, and in other publications:

The following is intended to clear the fog that a certain 'expert', and the Carefree Improvement PAC is creating to mask the underlying weaknesses in the Automatic Aid system. Additionally, Les Peterson is neither a Fire/EMS service expert nor a water system expert, just a politician, nothing more. Thankfully he is no longer mayor.

1 - KeepCarefreeTaxFree Truth: The national response time standard, a true 'gold standard', is the NFPA standard, of 5m and 20s. According to a 'BUSTED' claim', Rural Metro response time is currently averaging 4:22 since Rural Metro had to give up the Cave Creek station to Daisy Mountain. Actually, at 4:22, *Rural Metro is still a hair under a minute faster than NFPA standards.* Neither Scottsdale (6 minutes 44 seconds) nor Phoenix (8 minutes 54 seconds) come close to that standard. The so called 'Carefree Improvement' PAC and the Les Peterson wizards that brought you the 'BUSTED' claims, have yet to publish Daisy Mountain statistics. **Daisy must cover 250 square miles. In the last 15 months, Rural Metro has provided *Mutual Aid*, when requested by Daisy Mountain, 121 times. Of that total, 35 times have been since April 13, 2022 after Daisy ambulance service received their Certificate of Necessity [C.O.N.] to operate in Cave Creek. Those 35 calls were: 5 times in Cave Creek, 2 times in Black Canyon City, 7 times in Desert Hills-New River, and 21 times to Anthem. All requested by Daisy Mountain, an Automatic Aid participant, because Daisy could not handle those calls.** Next time you hear from 'Carefree Improvement' or Carefree 'Unity' or that fire expert, brace yourself for their next set of lies.

2 - KeepCarefreeTaxFree Truth: Another component of the BUSTED misinformation sham is reference to the 'Gold Standard', "according to the Arizona Fire and Medical Authority...", a claim that is meaningless in our region. AF&MA is not a state-wide agency, they are merely another flavor of Automatic Aid operating in a different region to places like Carte Bella, Dos Tios, Rancho Cabrillo, Rio Sierra, Sundero, Tonopah, and Wittmann. *I would not expect them to claim a 'Bronze Standard'*. A 'Gold Standard' is the service that provides the best service, response time, and affordability. Carefree, all 8.8 square miles, already has the Gold Standard with Rural Metro. The valley's Regional Automatic Aid system is broken - "*in crisis*" according to both Phoenix and Scottsdale *official municipal information sources*. The two largest Automatic aid partners don't come close to meeting the NFPA response time standard, and don't even qualify for the Bronze Standard. Phoenix response time is 8:54 more than twice as long as Rural Metro in Carefree, while Scottsdale is just under 7 minutes. Daisy can't even properly service its existing service area or cover Automatic aid for Phoenix (Anthem) and has to call on Rural Metro for *Mutual Aid*. Rural Metro will never offer to cover if they don't have at least one of our 3 emergency assets in our fire station.

3 - KeepCarefreeTaxFree Truth: Have you ever heard the expression, "figures lie and liars figure"? Well, that is what you get from the pro-tax supporters. KCFTF has reviewed Rural Metro's response time data with not only the firefighters, but also with our dedicated Chief. No matter how anyone chooses to interpret the detailed statistics the fact remains that the overwhelming number of actionable calls are for a medical response. Rural Metro always shows up with a fire truck, manned with 3 firefighters, two are also EMTs, the 3rd is a Paramedic, as well as a Rescue (ambulance+) with two firefighters, one an EMT and one a Paramedic. Not true of Automatic Aid partners. With Automatic Aid, a regular ambulance (not a Rescue) is called only after the engine crew arrives on the scene and decides to call for one. Their ambulance, when it arrives later, is manned by civilian transporters, not certified Firefighters.

4 - KeepCarefreeTaxFree Truth: Thanks to a really savvy resident back in 2011, who was wary of the town council's history of lock-step voting (much like today's council), a property tax must be approved by the voters so that a simple majority of the council cannot just impose a tax on their own. He also made sure that any increase would also have to be approved by voters. What pro-tax supporters are hiding is that every year the county changes the valuation of your property (almost always raising it). That means every year your Property Tax will increase. Carefree's tax will also rise because it is based upon the same valuation methodology as

Maricopa county. Don't let anyone fool you, your Carefree property tax will increase, without a vote. Pro-tax supporters are hoping you are unaware of the truth. Be wary of 'Resolution 2022 -19'. Although it *currently states* that Property Tax revenue will be used for emergency services, that resolution, like all council resolutions, was passed by a simple vote of the town council, who can, at any time rescind or change that resolution. The administration reports it will only cost an addition \$801,000 for Automatic Aid above the current R/M contract of \$1.8M/yr, not counting well over \$1M in startup costs. It seems odd then that the Town is asking for a \$2 million Property Tax to pay for the \$801,000 difference. What do they want the other \$1.2 million per year for?

Section 4: The Talk

When you hear the same deceit and misdirection over and over, sooner or later you have to say, enough is enough. I have had enough; enough of Cheryl, enough of Sheila, enough of Vince, and enough of Tony Geiger. This is what they heard, forcefully, on April 4th:

John Traynor, a 23-year resident of Carefree

Good evening.

I will begin by describing what you have knowingly withheld from our residents about Emergency Services under Automatic Aid.

Before I do so, I must advise residents that a few of you *have attempted* to scare the bejesus out of them, which is despicable, especially coming from this body. Trust is earned.

Both the Phoenix and Scottsdale fire departments are in crisis.

These FACTS from Phoenix are readily available from the Phoenix City Managers Performance Dashboard

Emergency response times TODAY are nearly 9 minutes, far short of the national standard of 5 minutes & 20 seconds [8:54]

There has been a 54% Increase in Emergency calls since 2010

But only a 2.4% increase in firefighters since then.

Responders have faced a 49% increase in calls per shift, meaning longer response times and longer delays when service is needed most.

71% of their units are running calls at crisis levels.

65% of their fleet is past replacement age.

By 2025, just 2 years from now, Phoenix will have added an estimated half million residents which represents a city the size of Tucson.

They project adding only 51 more firefighters than in 2010, which risks the safety of every resident in Phoenix. **What about Carefree?**

Annual Emergency calls are projected to be over 289 thousand

Response times are expected to increase to almost 11 1/2 minutes

The statistics get even scarier by 2030.

How is it that a committee, appointed by an ex-mayor and 6 of you on this council, operated for 2 years yet failed to uncover substantial flaws in the Automatic Aid system's largest member departments? They recommended that flawed system, which has significantly slower response times at a much higher cost. They proceeded to further recommend the imposition of a Property Tax to purportedly fund that flawed system.

After reviewing these facts, it would be clear, to any reasonable person, that it should not have taken 2 years to dismiss Automatic Aid and realize the property tax is a Sham.

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.

Thank you.

Section 5: A 'bonus' round of Tidbits

1- From a member of the Official Carefree Voter Forum on Facebook, regarding Daisy Mountain's 250 square mile service area:

Daisy Mountain Fire District	
District Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	\$24,000,000
Minus Cave Creek Fire Contract Fee	\$2,400,000
Equals	\$21,600,000 Cost for 5-Fire Stations
Divided by 5	\$4,300.000 Cost per each Fire Station

**** An Increase of \$4,000,000 in one year from the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 District Budget.

Cave Creek Fire Contract is only paying \$2,400,000 for the 1-Cave Creek Fire Station?
That is a difference of **\$1,900,000** that the District Taxpayers are Paying.

2 - From a savvy Carefree resident to CFM:

A review of the 246 page document [Town Of Carefree Fire & Emergency Services Final Consultant Findings] **includes absolutely no analysis of Response Times for emergency Services (NFPA 1710) after 12 months and 22 meetings.** We would like to understand on what grounds our Town Council can claim going to automatic aid is safer for Carefree residents. Our potential automatic aid partners in Cave Creek [Daisy Mountain], Scottsdale, and Phoenix are not simply sitting around waiting for a call to assist a Carefree resident. They are already in crisis dealing with their own huge service areas and sub-par response times. Conversely, that is exactly what Rural Metro's Carefree fire station is doing since they are not part of the automatic aid system. And when Rural Metro adds a second station back on the west side of Carefree, it would be essentially impossible

for any Automatic Aid partner who would be called out to Carefree to offer faster response times.

P.S Yet another resident has requested response time performance data from Daisy Mountain, submitted directly to DM Fire Chief Brian Tobin. So far, no response...

It is interesting that the town picked so many finance people to take part in the 'citizen committee', and that is exactly what they focused on versus actually looking at real safety metrics. Sheila Amoroso and Peter Burns have finance backgrounds with municipalities, and along with town hired outside financial consultants, focused on money and a Property Tax instead of actual safety. Leslie Hine, an academic friend/associate of Les Peterson, was the chairperson of the committee. She is experienced in municipal and government affairs and/or management, not emergency services. Is it any wonder why a Property Tax was proposed without a clear understanding of the liabilities associated with Automatic Aid? I think not.

Neighbors, please stop, take a breath, open your mind, and forget the noise that is trying to scare you into a Property Tax. Smell and view our blooming beautiful, unique desert flowers. Clarity will follow.

Please keep following www.KeepCarefreeTaxFree.com to obtain deceit-free information about what is driving the push for a Carefree Property Tax, an effort near and dear to the heart of the town administrator, a many-year Scottsdale resident - follow the money. If one looks throughout the once grand Carefree Gardens, it is clear to anyone that there is a serious need for attention to repairs and preventive maintenance. It is also clear where certain education and/or talent would be more useful.

I, and others, will continue to urge you to vote NO on the Property Tax in May. The town narrative is a malicious and false narrative, based on fear they have manufactured using half-truths and outright lies. If the mayor speaks to your community, with or without his council assistants, or a Daisy Mountain firefighter, that is what you will hear - their false narrative. Listen to our own firefighters and keep listening to 'hear the rest of the story' or contact me. There are many others who have uncovered the rest of the story. Keep your eyes on www.KeepCarefreeTaxFree.com

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.

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, a certain blogger, or her sycophantic followers. 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 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!