



Friends of Carefree, while traveling Tom Darlington, look around as you, and all other vehicles, are diverted onto the 2 northbound lanes of the 4-lane roadway. Guess why? The mayor's "Water Improvement Project" rapidly marches on before the August election. Here are a few newer images. Unfortunately, I don't have any with the walls going up or the pipes being laid out, yet.





Once again, attached is the audio of the mayor denying you the right to vote.
There will be more as this debacle continues...

My response to Council member Kroyer's letter to the Sonoran News was understandably a bit too long for a letter to be published by our local newspaper so, you will find it below; Part 3 will appear in my next newsletter. Hopefully you will read Part 1 in the June 1st issue of the Sonoran News. If not, I'll include in in my next edition.

Response to Council member Cheryl Kroyer, Part 2

In her letter published May 18th, Council member Cheryl Kroyer opened her comments lamenting that *"it is hard to know who and what to believe."* Not really Cheryl. Common sense and open eyes, those not covered with wool, usually aid in understanding. Lacking one or the other can lead to misunderstanding. A healthy dose of skepticism also helps. More residents than ever are paying attention.

She continues with *"None of us [elected officials in Carefree] is looking to run for higher office."* How can she know what others may do? She probably forgot that the mayor already tried for a seat on the Arizona Corporation Commission, while in office here. Continuing, she

says that *“we are all neighbors working for the betterment of our town.”* Betterment is a subjective term, and not everyone agrees that the Hampton Inn will be better for Carefree. And, if Cheryl truly believes they [the council] don’t have all the answers, ‘they’ can always ask, all the residents this time. They will help you figure things out Cheryl.

Cheryl then provided her perspective on 8 points. I won’t address all of them in this edition but will finish up next time. Not surprisingly she picked water as her first point, telling us what we already know by living in the desert; water is a precious resource. Water was also the life preserver for the mayor’s 2018 re-election hopes, long before any emergency. Every Carefree resident already has water, and all should be equally cognizant of the dangers, challenges, and the need for conservation, not just Carefree residents, but our neighbors as well. Until the water consolidation project was conceived, no council member, P&Z member or engineer was on record that Carefree needed additional water storage capacity. That additional storage capacity, the ‘tank’, is intended to support those who already have Cave Creek water, and just coincidentally it is ideally positioned to support a potential hotel on the east end of Carefree Highway if necessary, a fact nobody can deny.

Regarding the Bonds which will cost Carefree residents \$32,000,000 over the next 30 years, Cheryl states that it is customary to spread the cost of water improvements over an extended period of time, Well yes, that is true, when absolutely necessary, which is not the case with the “water improvement project.” What she really means is that 80% of Carefree residents should bear the cost for the 20%, for 30 years, for totally unnecessary ‘improvements’ and for individuals who already have water. But those individuals never bore the burden when Carefree purchased its water company. Certainly not during the years when there were disruptions, outages, or struggles with old cast iron pipes. And let’s not forget, they did not have to pay the highest water rates in Arizona for decades in order to build a more stable system they want into today. Readers, please keep in mind it is not a “water improvement project”, and it is unnecessary.

If not for Sentinel Rock agitators Tony Geiger, Lyn Hitchon, 3 other P&Z commissioners, and at least 3 council members, which includes vice mayor John Crane, there would be no need for a “water improvement project” in their geographic areas. All should have recused themselves from voting on any related matters. The Sentinel Rock agitators have had an uneven and costly impact on town expenditures for many years. Could that be due to the unrestrained influence of agitators and cozy friendships? I believe it is. Aside from this water project, the current road maintenance plan for Sentinel Rock is another obvious case in point.

The “water improvement project” is merely a \$32,000,000 political payback to a relatively small but organized group, organized by several west side residents, who gave Les Peterson 4 more years to continue the destruction of Carefree’s future – a resort hotel and more Eastwood-like developments are on the way. Dan Carroll, was correct in his April 6th letter to Sonoran News; a select block of voters did pick the candidate they wanted. Both the 2018 and

2020 election were won by the mayor because of the 900 votes he bought with his \$32,000,000 “water improvement project”, for their benefit. If Dan lives on Ocotillo Ridge Drive, then he too is a likely beneficiary of the project. BTW, Cheryl, were you not a former neighbor of the Peterson’s in The Boulders, and do you now live in Almarte, an Eastwood sibling off Hum Road in town?

Although the town hired an experienced engineering firm [CVL] to develop solutions for the project, it was unnecessary, as is the entire project. Having to repeat the word ‘unnecessary’ for people who don’t get it, or refuse to acknowledge the truth, is tiresome. Cheryl proceeded to discuss a “state-of-the-art” underground water reservoir, being built on land taken by the town from The Boulders under questionable circumstances. The tank is a State of what art Cheryl? It just sounds more expensive. It is a storage tank, that stores water, and it is mostly underground, there is nothing artful about that.

Defensively referring to “*secret land deals*”, Cheryl alludes to unfounded accusations and fabrications. Did the mayor assure her everything was legit? I don’t ‘factually’ know if there were any ‘secret deals’, otherwise they would not be ‘secret’ but I have to wonder why the mayor, during a prior meeting implied he didn’t really know the property owner involved, yet at the first in-person council meeting in almost 2 years he did admit that individual was “*a friend, nothing more*”. What is factual, and Cheryl cannot deny, is that the property owner was successful in having his low density residential parcels, totaling 21 acres on the northwest corner of Tom Darlington and Carefree Highway, rezoned to a potentially more lucrative Commercial classification which is suitable for a hotel.

To justify narrowing Tom Darlington and Cave Creek Roads this council member introduced the argument of empathy. An individual’s empathy is admirable, but council decisions and spending should not be based on feelings. When planning to diminish two long-standing arterial roadways, the gateways into Carefree, voters must have a say. Such decisions affect not only all residents, but visitors and festival/event participants as well. As for seeking other solutions, Cheryl omitted the fact that on-street parking was the initial rationale for narrowing those roadways. That suggestion goes back years to a MAG [Maricopa Association of Governments] proposal. The Crosswalk safety proposal is a convenient, recent addition. Why? I suspect because residents might be more empathetic toward crosswalks than to providing more parking for festival/event goers.

BTW, the current narrowing of Tom Darlington for the crosswalk appears to be a serious accident waiting to happen. The warning is far too close to the crosswalk and the merge is far too near and severe to assure vehicle and pedestrian safety. I’m not an expert, just a resident driver with my eyes open. Compare that crosswalk lane narrowing design with the same feature on Tom Darlington approaching Stagecoach Pass (no crosswalk) – the difference is night and day, even for a non-expert. Are there other solutions for the crosswalk? I believe

there were others. The selected solution just happens to fit the narrative for other plans and is now easier to sell.

I will continue to address the remainder Cheryl's 8 points in the next edition. The topics will include the Hampton Inn hotel in Town Center and other planned areas of development. I have already responded to Cheryl's request for better ideas on how to pay for the essential town services, like fire protection, that she mentioned. That response will appear in the Sonoran News on June 1st. I will also explore how residential development is treated by this Council and P&Z, depending on whether it is east side or west side development. Fascinating, but not Priceless! That's it for now...

Included below you will find recent letters I have received from individuals relating to the critical August 2nd Primary election. I hope you will take time to get to know the new candidates and the issues facing Carefree, because Carefree's Future Matters...

As always, I appreciate the time you devote to reading and considering the information in the Newsletter. Regards...

John Traynor, a Carefree 80%er

The forementioned letters:

Thank you to Vicki Orrico for hosting the Carefree Candidates meet and greet. It was a lively event, and many relevant, timely and important topics were discussed. One of the most important was fire protection and emergency services for Carefree. I want to state my plan for this so there is no confusion about my position for the Town.

Property taxes are an unnecessary burden on Carefree citizens.

Public Safety Advisory Committee has studied Fire and Emergency Services for the town and prepared a report. In it, the costs were compared between our existing provider, Rural Metro and automatic aid through two neighboring fire districts: Daisy Mountain (DMFD) and Scottsdale(SFD). The findings were dramatic. The proposed RMFD contract is \$1.85 million per year with no start-up costs. Automatic aid through DMFD and SFD is \$2.4 million and \$2.9 million, respectively with start-up costs estimated at \$515,000 and \$648,000, for total first-year costs of \$2.915 million and \$3.548 million. Automatic aid is a very expensive system.

RMFD has done a good job protecting the citizens of Carefree. The report documents that response times are under 3 ½ minutes on average last year.

Our current tax base will adequately fund Fire and Emergency Services with the current provider, RMFD. They have two engines at the Carefree station now, so we have internal back-up for fire and emergency medical protection. Additionally, RMFD brings back-up equipment to Carefree whenever a sole emergency vehicle is deployed. That gives us an “internal aid” resource without calling on outside fire districts.

RMFD has been serving the town for many years and have done a good job of keeping Carefree citizens safe. We should not walk away from that to spend much more money on outside fire protection districts.

Sincerely,
Glenn R Grossman, Candidate for Carefree Town Council
www.carefree.net

Hi John,

Thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule to come and meet us in person at the Carefree Consignment Candidate Meeting on 5/11.

Your attendance shows that you care deeply about our town and you want to ensure that Carefree remains the unique, pristine and quiet town that we all fell in love with.

By the way, we love the write-up you did for us after the event. Thank you!

Bottom line, business as usual is not working for the citizens of Carefree. The current Mayor and 6 incumbent council members brought us the Hampton Inn, insufficient public safety, and eminent domain. The people of Carefree deserve better. It’s time for a change!

This August 2nd election is very important for the future of Carefree.

Please stay in touch with us via www.Carefree2022.com

Thanks again for coming to meet us. We sincerely appreciate your continued support as we work together to take back our town.

Kathlina Lai, Sven Maric, Duke Vukotic
Candidates for Carefree Town Council

This Veteran Supports Peter Sample

I am a USMC Vietnam veteran. I have seen real leadership in war time and peace time situations.

I have not seen leadership in the meetings I have had with Vice Mayor John Crane. When I met with him, I had the feeling he was not in touch with what is going on. Examples:

1. The Town Administrator had written a letter to the Life Safety Council requesting that the Town be included in the Auto Aid program. Vice Mayor Crane said he was not aware of this. When I asked him why the Town Administrator was writing this type of letter which could encumber the Town for hundreds of thousands of dollars without his knowledge, Vice Mayor Crane had no response.
2. Vice Mayor Crane and Councilperson Cheryl Kroyer did a salary survey in 2018 for the Town Administrator after he was allegedly offered the Town Manager position for the Town of Paradise Valley. When I asked Vice Mayor Crane if he had asked for or seen an offer letter for the position, he said he had not. Not only was the offer letter not asked for (it seems it would have been helpful in preparing a salary survey), the survey that he and Councilperson Kroyer completed was for that of a Town Manager, not a Town Administrator's salary. Town Administrators make less than a Town Manager because their responsibilities are less than a Town Manager. The Administrator follows the direction of the Town Council. Yet our Town Administrator received a \$30,000+ a year raise, placing him in the top tier for Town Managers, which he is not. Why wasn't the offer letter requested?
3. I have written 3 emails to all of the Town Councilmembers of Carefree. There was never a response from any of them, including from Vice Mayor Crane. I do not think this demonstrates good judgement or excellent leadership skills.
4. Residents passed a Proposition for Term Limits by a 65%+ vote of the electors. Ordinance 2-1-9 was enacted. Vice Mayor Crane sued the Town of Carefree. In his findings, the judge said the Ordinance was "unenforceable." In my opinion, it does not show good judgement or leadership to go against the obvious wishes of the Town residents, and then sue the Town.

The suggestion I have made for the last 3 years is to include a page for information on Town events in the Carefree Water Company's bills, which are sent out by US Mail or email. For example, the \$18 million dollar water transition project -- the Water bond never went to a vote, the Town and Water Department never sent out information regarding this project before the bonds were sold. In the July 2018 Water Company Board meeting, when asked if this bond issue was going to go to a vote, Mayor Peterson stated there are 80% of them and 20% of you, you would not like the outcome. What was Vice Mayor Crane's response? Silence. Now, I do not begrudge the residents in Transition Project A, B and C areas Carefree water. I just feel they should pay for the infrastructure to get Carefree water to their homes. Not the 80% of current Carefree Water Department customers who never had a vote on the matter. Isn't it amazing that we have 3 current Town Council members and 4 Planning and Zoning members living in areas A, B, and C who will benefit from this project? I am sorry, \$20 extra a month on A, B and C's water bill does not cover this bond. I have asked for

Councilman Gieger's math calculations to see how this was derived. This question went with no response. Isn't it fun when you can spend other people's money, without asking them? I do not think so.

The 3 council people are, Vice Mayor Crane, Councilman Tony Geiger and Councilman Michael Johnson live in this water transition project. Interesting.

The residents of Carefree need strong leadership, responsive Town government, and communication to ALL residents. In my opinion we do not have this and if the current people are put back in to do the same, Carefree residents will not be well served.

The Carefree residents need a Mayor and council who demonstrate integrity and accountability. That is why I am supporting Peter Sample for Mayor. He embodies these qualities. Peter also will ensure "increased public outreach and transparency." We have not had either with the current Council.

I support Peter Sample for Carefree Mayor.

<https://CarefreeMayor.com> for more information on Peter and to contact him.

John Mattes, Carefree Resident

And there you have it, until next time....

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!