

1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Carefree Christmas Festival

*Plans as of 10/10/08*

**Message from the Mayor**

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Carefree Christmas Festival. It is our pleasure to fill Carefree's Town Center with a winter wonderland of activities to celebrate the season. Entertainment is planned along Easy Street as well as the surrounding retail areas. So, stroll around. You won't want to miss anything, especially the big "Christmas Parade" on Friday night, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope you enjoy the festivities!

Wayne Fulcher  
Mayor of Carefree

**Christmas Card Scene:**

Imagine Carefree's Town Center all decked out with boughs of holly and snow flurrying down around Santa while he listens to what kids want for Christmas. Luminarias light the way to the jolly old Saint Nick and carolers sing while a horse and carriage pass by. Shoppers stroll along the gaslamp-lit sidewalks into the evening and stop along the way for cider or hot chocolate and cookies. Storefront windows painted in holiday themes add to the festivities.

Artists from the Sonoran Arts League will offer and demonstrate professional painting techniques. The Soroptomists, the Foothills Food Bank and Foothills Caring Corps will offer gift-wrapping for small donations.

Live theatre and music will entertain you and your family as you stroll by the Amphitheatre or wander amongst the decorated Christmas trees in the Los Portales Mall. Meander through the Carefree Gardens and listen to the choirs from our local churches or simply stop and admire the decorations around the town.

The scene is Easy Street and the surrounding retail areas in Carefree during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Carefree Christmas Festival, December 12, 13 and 14. You'll know it's Christmas in Carefree this year!

**Festivities at the Amphitheatre, Easy Street and Los Portales Mall**

**November 29 – December 14.**

**"Festival of Trees"** fundraising event: Decorated Christmas trees are placed on the upper and lower levels of the Los Portales Mall for a silent auction to benefit various charities. Bids are placed during the weeks leading up to the Festival weekend and during the intervals of the Darknight Productions' theatre performances on December 9 – 14. (See schedule.) Drawings are scheduled for 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14.

**Friday, December 12, 6 – 9 p.m.**

**6 p.m. "Parade of Lights,"** featuring Santa in a vintage fire truck, Cinderella in her Pumpkin Carriage and beautifully decorated Christmas floats that travel around Easy Street.

**7 – 9 p.m.:** Santa visits with kids in his "Grotto" at the Amphitheatre. Photos with Santa are available with a donation to Kiwanis.

**8 p.m.:** Jacob Spinney's "Illusionist" performance is held in the lower level of the Los Portales Mall.

### **Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

*Around town backdrop festivities of street vendors, snow and carolers continue, plus...*

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:** FastDogs-FastFriends and Racing Home Greyhound Adoptions are held.

**10 a.m. – 9 p.m.:** Festival of Trees Silent Auction bidding is ongoing at Los Portales Mall. (Drawing at 4 p.m. Sunday)

**1:30 – 2 p.m.:** Desert Foothills Youth Theatre performances are held on the Amphitheatre Stage.

**5 – 9 p.m.:** Holiday Swing performance with music and singing by Kevin Glenn, variety show guests and others.

Carolers roam the Town Center and side streets; street performers entertain in the Town Gardens and courtyard areas.

**4 – 9 p.m.:** Horse and carriage rides are offered around the Easy Street Loop.

**4 – 6 p.m.** Santa back in his Grotto for more visits with children.

**8 – 9 p.m.:** Swing Sisters perform in the lower level of the Los Portales Mall.

**10 a.m. – 9 p.m.:** Visitors stroll into shops and restaurants.

### **Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

*Around town backdrop festivities continue, plus...*

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:** Foothills Animal Rescue Adoptions are held.

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:** Festival of Trees Silent Auction bidding is ongoing at the Los Portales Mall. (Drawings begin at 4 p.m.)

**1 – 2 p.m.:** Arizona School of Ballet performs excerpts from the Nutcracker on Amphitheatre Stage.

**2 – 3 p.m.:** Swing Sisters perform in the lower level of the Los Portales Mall.

**3 – 6 p.m.:** Holiday Swing performance, music and singing by Kevin Glenn, variety show guests and others.

**4 p.m.:** Drawings for the Festival of Trees Silent Auction are held at the Los Portales Mall.

**4 – 6 p.m.:** Carolers roam the Town Center and side streets; street performers entertain in the Town Gardens and courtyard areas; horse and carriage rides are offered.

## **Darknight Theater Performances**

To coincide with the Carefree Christmas Festival and the Festival of Trees, Darknight Productions has organized a series of theatre productions and live entertainment to take place in the lower level of the Los Portales Mall.

### **Scheduled events are as follows:**

**November 29 – December 14:** Festival of Trees Silent Auction bids are placed during the weeks leading up to the Festival weekend and during the intervals of planned theatre performances.

**December 9 and 11, 7:30 – 9 p.m.:** *Coyote Dreams: A VERY Arizona Christmas* by Alexx Stuart; <http://darknightproductions.tripod.com/id11.html>, [www.darknightproductions.us](http://www.darknightproductions.us); \$15 pre-sale tickets - \$20 day of the performance.

**December 12, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.:** *Jacob Spinney – Mental Illusionist*; Suggested audience of 14 years and over unless accompanied by an adult; <http://www.jacobspinney.com/bio.htm>; \$10 pre-sale tickets; \$15 tickets day of the performance.

**December 13, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. and December 14, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.:** *The Swing Sisters* – Harmonies of the 40's & 50's with many holiday tunes. (Sample their music at <http://www.swingsistersmusic.com/Music/Bugleboy.mp3> ); \$10 pre-sale tickets; \$15 tickets day of the performance.

*Each performance will include a 15 – 20 minute intermission to allow time to the audience to bid on the trees.*

***You'll know its Christmas in Carefree this year so...eat, drink & be merry!***