

EQUESTRIAN CENTER



MARCH 2021



PROPERTY & SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Lighter and brighter: Riders who care for horses in the evenings can now enjoy a much brighter and more inviting atmosphere in our courtyards and around the stable. Warm café lights in the main courtyards and brighter LEDs around the perimeter create a space for walking horses at night and will provide a lovely venue for a variety of activities once the center is reopened to the community. The center also will shine some extra light onto our large arena via two commercial-grade solar lights added to our existing speaker poles.

Good lighting is essential to every barn environment, especially for those who work and care for and enjoy their horses in the evenings.



A greener future: Thanks to our own nursery, we have added 10 beautiful trees to our courtyards to shade our horses from the OC summer sun. We also added decorative vines and plants to soften and beautify the stable décor. Also in the works is a lovely water feature trough for all



the horses to enjoy as they go out on trails or to work in the arena. We are so thankful for these beautiful upgrades that will bring comfort and beauty to the stables for years to come for our horses and everyone at the Equestrian Center.

When we select Equestrian Center foliage, we are careful to select horse-friendly, nontoxic greenery. Plants that should never be present in or around a horse enclosure include white and red clover, tall fescue, buttercup, pokeweed, nightshade species or poison hemlock.

New staff-offered services: As of March 15, our boarded horses can enjoy a whole new set of services offered by staff. It came to our attention that our boarders needed more support services to provide care for their horses and our staff was glad to deliver. Our new approved services include morning turnout, feeding grain and supplements, hand walking horses for 15 to 20 minutes and lunging horses for 20 minutes. Also, we are in the process of adding an optional third feeding on March 22.

LESSON PROGRAM SOFT OPENING

Lessons and trail rides are starting again at the Equestrian Center with a soft opening for boarders, their helpers and volunteers who are currently onsite. We are so excited to get back to sharing the knowledge of good horsemanship and riding—and to see the smiling faces of students back in the saddle again!

Soft-opening lesson formats have changed to a focus on developmental learning based on the needs of individual horse and rider combinations. Riders can enjoy private or semiprivate lessons on their own boarded horse or can ride a GRF horse to work on their position, skills and confidence in Western, English and dressage. We also provide unmounted lessons in lunging and ground work.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get our horses back into the lesson mindset and to start building an even better program!



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Even during closures our herd needs regular care.

Our equestrian staff spends each day ensuring our horses are thriving by providing their individualized feed and keeping them on an exercise program as well as spending time with our veterinarians and farriers to care for their medical and shoeing needs.



Instructor Hailey Yocham works with equine veterinarian Andrea Lytal, DVM, to flush the clogged tear duct of sweet school horse Zak.



GRF horses starting their day with a warm up on the hot walker.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY FUND

We are extremely thankful for the generous donations we have received for the care of the GRF herd through the Village Community Fund's fundraising efforts. So far, we have raised over \$5,000 toward our \$10,000 goal for much-needed supplies and services. For more information or to donate, visit villagecommunityfund.org.

STAY TUNED

We are preparing to begin our stall upgrades with new, bacteria-resistant mangers and brighter painted interiors. Stay tuned for updates in our next newsletter.