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**From:** lakazolas@cedarfoundation.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:41 AM  
**To:** 'OC Vaulting'; Michele Richards; 'Ashleigh Aitken Board'; 'Barbara Bagneris'; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; scervantes@ocfairboard.com; nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; mrafiei@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com  
**Cc:** Summer Angus  
**Subject:** RE: Strategic Planning session information  
**Attachments:** EqC Newsletter.pdf

Dear all,

In addition to the document that Gibran sent out yesterday, please find attached our Equestrian Center newsletter outlining a few of the public programs. We are currently working on an updated version and will forward to you as soon as it is produced.

Sincerely,  
Leigh-Ann Kazolas  
For The Equestrian Center Task Force

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**From:** OC Vaulting <[ocvaulting@gmail.com](mailto:ocvaulting@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 2:44 AM  
**To:** 'Michele Richards' <[MRichards@ocfair.com](mailto:MRichards@ocfair.com)>; 'Ashleigh Aitken Board' <[aaitken@ocfairboard.com](mailto:aaitken@ocfairboard.com)>; 'Barbara Bagneris' <[bbagneris@ocfairboard.com](mailto:bbagneris@ocfairboard.com)>; [nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com](mailto:nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com); [dlabelle@ocfairboard.com](mailto:dlabelle@ocfairboard.com); [scervantes@ocfairboard.com](mailto:scervantes@ocfairboard.com); [nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com](mailto:nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com); [npham@ocfairboard.com](mailto:npham@ocfairboard.com); [mrafiei@ocfairboard.com](mailto:mrafiei@ocfairboard.com); [rruiz@ocfairboard.com](mailto:rruiz@ocfairboard.com)  
**Cc:** 'Summer Angus' <[SAngus@ocfair.com](mailto:SAngus@ocfair.com)>; Leigh-Ann Kazolas <[lakazolas@cedarfoundation.com](mailto:lakazolas@cedarfoundation.com)>  
**Subject:** Strategic Planning session information

Dear CEO Richards and esteemed Fair Board Members,

As members of the public we are very excited about your hard work on the Strategic Planning process for the entire OCFEC property.

As such, the Equestrian Center Task Force has collectively prepared the attached overview of the *current public programs* at the Equestrian Center as well as a few ideas for future opportunities. We realize that many of the Board members may be unaware, therefore hoped to share this data with you all in preparation for Tomorrow's Strategic Planning Session regarding Public Programming.

I will be in attendance at tomorrow's meeting and welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

Most Sincerely,  
Gibran Stout, on behalf of the Equestrian Center Task Force

# The Equestrian Center at the OC Fairgrounds

Summer 2019



## Kids “Rein” This Summer at the Equestrian Center!!

This summer saw a record number of kids from the community (228 of them between ages 5—17) participate in the many Introductory Summer Camp programs at the Equestrian Center. Campers learned about riding, grooming, feeding, horse anatomy and much more all while building their self-confidence and self-esteem as well as fostering their love and respect for our four-legged equine friends!!! All programs offered a truly hands-on experience as the kids learned all aspects of horse management and care. And whether they were learning vaulting and performing a show for friends or family at the end of the week or over-coming that fear of trotting or cantering on one's own, achievement was the name of the game as well as fun fun fun!! There was horse painting, t-shirt tye-dying, horse-themed crafts as well as games —Scavenger Hunts are

always popular!! We look forward to growing these summer camps in the future and get more of our “city kids” an experience like no other right here in the heart of Costa Mesa!





**“Horses and children, I often think, have a lot of the good sense there is in the world”**

**Josephine Demott Robinson**



## Centennial Farm Camp

This summer marked the first three-way collaboration between The City of Costa Mesa, Centennial Farm and the Equestrian Center.

Community kids who signed up for this fun-filled week through the City's recreation department got the best of both worlds learning about the farm and animals on the Centennial Farm side of the property and got some hands-on experience learning about horses and horse care at the Equestrian Center. This agricultural themed week was a **HUGE HIT** and we look forward to further collaborations with our Fairgrounds neighbors!!!



## Year-Round Field Trips!

We are lucky enough to offer field trips to local schools (like the Pre-Schoolers here) as well as groups from nearby community special needs programs, group homes, seniors' programs and more. Everyone enjoys a day outdoors with horses and the horses love their visitors!



## Barn Friends are the BEST FRIENDS!



## IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS

### Adult Programs Thrive at the Equestrian Center!



#### YOGA on HORSEBACK!

Offered to the public through the City of Costa Mesa's recreation department and OC Vaulting, this one-of-a-kind class takes yoga to a whole new level! Starting with poses on a stationary barrel and moving to horseback, balance, strength and flexibility are the name of the game here. Get out of the stuffy studio, get off your mat and get on a horse for this unique and completely fun experience. All levels are welcome!!

#### ADULT HORSEMASTERS CLASSES

Members of the public are signing up for the first ever Horsemasters Classes offered at the OC Fair-grounds. No horse ownership or riding experience is required but rather a thirst for learning all aspects of horse care and health. Guest speakers, field trips, and weekly sessions provide enriching and interesting opportunities to learn everything about our equine friends. Participants may choose to earn their Certification Levels through the US National Horsemasters Program!



#### Riph-Raph Riding Club

It's a pretty good bet that any morning, you will find this group of active seniors and their trusty steeds in one of the Equestrian Center arenas. United by their love of horses and staying active, this fun group of ladies is always looking for more members to join in on their daily sessions!



*"There is no other feeling in the world to compare with it if one loves a great horse. It gives a thrill that nothing else ever can. It cannot be put into words, because words cannot express it."*

**- Samuel Riddle** (owner of Man 'o War and War Admiral)

# THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS AT THE EQUESTRIAN CENTER

"There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." - Winston Churchill

## Changing Strides : Changing Lives!

Changing Strides (a 501c3 non-profit) uses equine therapy to change the lives of adults and at-risk youth by building confidence, resiliency, respect, awareness, communication and other skills. This year marked the launch of the Riding Program for At-Risk Youth. Programs for battered and abused women, veterans struggling with PTSD as well as equine encounter programs for those struggling with addiction to drugs and alcohol are in the works for 2020. Collaboration between community social service groups, trained therapists and our Eq. Center resident trainers and horses makes this amazing program possible.



## Our Resident Mini Therapy Horses!

Taffy and Debbie were rescued and are now paying it back to the community! These miniature horses are certified



therapy animals having completed rigorous training and certification. You can find them traveling to local hospitals, schools, seniors' homes or wherever they can share their love and kindness with anyone who is in need of a good cuddle and a kiss from these two precious little friends!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



## 6th ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE

Saturday October 26th—1PM

Everyone is invited for our annual costume parade featuring our ghoulish horses and ponies. Pumpkin decorating, games, and prizes for best costumes make this a fun day for all!



## Olympic Athlete Boyd Martin coming to the Fairgrounds this December!!

Boyd Martin is one of the leading event riders having enjoyed international competitive success.. He has represented the US at 2 Olympic Games, 3 World Equestrian Games and one Pan-Am Team. He has consistently been in the top 10 world rankings and has been on every US Championship team since 2010. Boyd will be offering two-day clinics for riders at the OC Fairgrounds in December. Interested equestrians from around Southern California are invited to participate in this incredible opportunity to learn from one of the best. Spectators are welcome. Date TBA.

