



# Hay, Hay, Hay!

## *Greetings To All LBL Equestrian Center Boarders*

This is the first of what is planned to become a Quarterly informational newsletter to all LBL Boarders, provided in the spirit of continuing our successful transition to a cooperatively run stable with chores shared by all who enjoy the amenities at Long Branch Lakes Equestrian Center. Currently we have 17 horses boarded at the LBL Equestrian Center consisting of 8 geldings and 9 mares, cared for by 10 LBL resident families.



### **Updates and Clarifications for the Co-Op Duties Sign-up Sheet:**

For LBL to support our community equestrian facilities and for boarding families to benefit from low monthly boarding fees, our cooperative structure requires the full support of all its boarders. We continue to evaluate the sign-up lists to determine whether boarders are sharing the efforts it takes to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all our horses. Here are a few observations and changes.



1. Stock Tanks: Since this is one of the most onerous tasks, every Boarder will now be expected to be responsible for keeping the tank(s) filled; and cleaned to their personal standards as to what they deem acceptable for their horse in whatever pasture or paddock in which they reside. This personal standard approach obviates the need for an assigned tank cleaner for all tanks, however the automatic tank waterers owned by LBL will still be cared for by the person(s) signing up for that duty.

2. Barn Aisle Clean Up: Volunteers sign up each week to blow the barn aisles once a day to keep them clear of debris. However, every horse owner remains responsible for sweeping up after grooming their horses, mucking stalls, or farrier care. There have been reported issues regarding barn aisle messes left behind by boarders, so we ask that everyone contribute to keeping our barn tidy.

3. Barn Trash: Please be aware the PWS truck comes at different times and sometimes is here quite early, if that is the chore for which you signed up, please empty all waste cans (tack, feed, kitchen, bathrooms) and put the garbage can out on Wednesday evenings.

4. Cat Food: The cats are typically outside overnight so do not need the food bowls filled in the kitchen area. As Winter temps drop, food and water will be made available for the cats if they are to stay warm overnight, inside the kitchen.

5. Laundry Area: Every boarder shares in keeping the laundry area clear of wet/dirty laundry. If you find dirty laundry in the washer, please run the washer. If you find clean/wet laundry in the washer, please place it in the dryer. If you find clean, dry laundry in dryer, please remove, fold, and put away.

6. Off-Site: If you will be away during part of the time that you have signed up for a co-op duty, please arrange for another Boarder to cover for you in your absence.





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### Off Site Owners:

The Holidays are approaching! Boarders who will be off site need to post the dates they will be gone on the White Board and review the Emergency Care guidelines in the Boarding Agreement. A form will be provided to outline the following contact information while you're away. The form will be posted on a Bulletin Board that will be installed in the kitchen. Information that you will be asked to provide includes:

- Name and contact information of your preferred Veterinarian should an emergency occur.
- Contact information for the person(s) who are feeding and caring for your horse(s) in your absence.

This information does not preclude the information you have specified in the Boarding Contract but rather simplifies the ease of access to contact information in case of emergency.

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### Staying Connected:

In addition to a quarterly Newsletter, Boarders will be kept informed via email or text (if information is of an immediate nature). The White board will continue to be used for short term notices and pasture assignments as well as farrier and vet appointments.

All Boarders should periodically check their email for future updates and check the bulletin board in the kitchen if you are unable to access your email.

A wi-fi extender has been added to the barn enabling better coverage and wi-fi calling in case of emergencies.

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### Other Items of Importance:

In-install automatic waterers: There will be an in-service informational meeting for all Boarders who have reserved stalls to review the function and care of the stall waterers. This is of particular importance when temperatures fall below freezing. The date and time will be announced on Whiteboard.

### Looking Forward:

The Barn Committee has several improvements on the agenda, hopefully to be accomplished either before year end or in 2023.

1. Q4 2022: Gutters will be installed on the shed between Paddocks 2&3, the shed in the Gelding Pasture, and on the front side of the barn. The gutters will assist with diverting rainfall to reduce muddy areas around sheds and to mitigate further water damage to the structures. As always, Boarders will be notified in advance when installation crew is arriving to perform the work.
2. Q4 2022: The large, dead trees in the Gelding pasture will be cut down and removed before Winter.





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3. Q4 2022 to Q1 2023: Fall and Spring pasture/hay field maintenance: Weed spraying and overseeding will be performed in our grazing pastures and hay fields, as needed. Based on recent soil analysis results, the hay field and Mare pasture will be overseeded in the Spring.
  - a. To enable emerging cool weather grasses to mature in Fall/Winter and Spring overseeding to strengthen pasture in the Mare field, all horses in that field will be moved to the Right Mare pasture at a to-be-determined date. Horse owners will be provided with as much notice as is possible given the complex coordination of optimum weather conditions and equipment/personnel availability.
  - b. The Mare pasture will be rested throughout the Winter months and well into the Spring months, based on the success of the reseeding efforts and plant recovery.
  - c. Boarders will be notified in advance of any Spring weed spraying that impacts horse turnout.
4. Q1-Q2 2023: The committee is working on plans to create two new paddocks that will serve as the future Quarantine are, and when not needed for that use, to be used for horses on minimal grass rations. We will be looking at the possibility of relocating the currently unused run-in shed in the Gypsy Vanner pasture and repurposing materials from that structure and the crumbling arena viewing structure to create necessary shelter in the new paddocks.
5. Extensive fencing repair (to include post replacement) will be needed and accomplished in accordance with budget concerns and where the most pressing needs are determined.

### ***Happy Trails!***

*"In riding a horse, we borrow freedom" ~Helen Thompson*

And if you've ever witnessed the mares in Catfish at feeding time...

