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# NEWSLETTER

FALL / WINTER

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## BARN UPDATE

Construction on our new barn and learning center began in September, immediately following our farmyard party. We are ahead of schedule as we write this newsletter! We plan to begin moving in this April.

ByCarrier in Bristol is our contractor and they have been marvelous to work with. The barn is absolutely beautiful, and it sits on the hill as if it has always been there.

Our new barn and learning center will be the hub of our ever-growing programs and activities. We can't wait to celebrate with some targeted open houses for our participants and their families, our volunteers, and donors.

## PROGRAM DATES 2023

We're so excited to announce our 2023 session dates and to welcome all our riders back to program.

**Spring:** May 1 – July 1

**Equine Experience:**  
July 10- July 14

**Summer:** July 17 – August 26

**Fall:**  
September 11 – November 11

**Winter:**  
November 27 – December 22



## HOLIDAY & VETERAN OPEN HOUSES

In November we celebrated Veterans Day with an open house for veterans and families. It was our most well-attended yet, including the VA Hospital from Rocky Hill.

Our 3rd Annual Holiday Open House was spectacular. We had 200 visitors at the farm, with a steady stream throughout the day. It was a great day thanks to our volunteers who helped with set-up, baked cookies, managed parking, barn tours and the craft room.

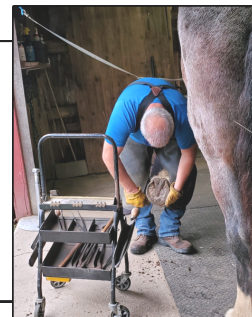


## SAY "HELLO" TO OUR NEW PROPERTY MANAGER

Tim Woodworth began volunteering with us in the fall and he quickly became our go-to handyman. A retired machinist from Pratt and Whitney, he is a Bristol resident who has, along with his wife Beverly become proud members of the Shepard Meadows community – alongside volunteering with morning chores, they have both been taking horsemanship lessons this winter. We are grateful to both of you!

## FUN FACT

A frog – a triangle-shaped structure on the bottom of the horse's foot – is a natural shock-absorber. One of its many functions is absorbing shock and distributing it to the internal digital cushion, a spongy structure under the horse's heels.





**SAVE THE DATE**

Our Fourth Annual Farmyard Party will be Saturday, September 9th from 4-8pm – our #1 fundraiser of the year!



Sponsored by



**WebsterBank**

**BIRDIES FOR CHARITY IS OPEN**

Shepard Meadows is once again a registered charity for the Travelers Championship - Birdies for Charity. Visit the website at [bit.ly/smeccbirdies](http://bit.ly/smeccbirdies) and make your donation to Shepard Meadows today. We get an additional 15 cents on the dollar!

The Travelers Championship is proud to be a PGA TOUR event that donates 100 percent of net proceeds to charity every year. The tournament is committed to supporting our charitable community through Birdies for Charity.

**HORSE SPONSORSHIPS**

It's that time of year when many of our horse sponsorships become available, so hurry and contact us if you are interested in an annual sponsorship of one of our horses. The fee is \$2,500 and sponsors are recognized on our website alongside our horse page. The sponsorship helps us to off-set the cost of feed, medical, dental, and farrier care. Thanks for your consideration! email [shelly@shepardmeadows.org](mailto:shelly@shepardmeadows.org) for more information.

**BRISTOL SENIOR CENTER PROGRAM**

Thanks to the City of Bristol Community Development Block Grant, we were able to provide special horsemanship classes for free to seniors from the Bristol Senior Center. The classes have been full for the past four sessions, and we know that the seniors enjoyed being outside with nature and working with our sentient and amazing therapy horses.

The sense of community was contagious. One senior wrote us a lovely heartfelt letter about how much the program meant to her and how grateful she was for the opportunity.

We look forward to continuing the program!





## NATIONAL READING DAY

**THURSDAY,  
MARCH 2,  
2023**

## GRANT UPDATE

- The Barnes Group Foundation
- Advocates for Seniors, Inc.
- Pagliughi Family Foundation, Inc.
- The Petit Family Foundation
- Clinton S. Roberts Foundation, Inc.
- The Sky Bright Foundation
- The Harry F Barnes & Carol H Barnes Family Foundation
- Main Street Community Foundation
- Gengras Ford

## DID YOU KNOW?

Horses can move their eyes separately. The horse's eyes, set on opposite sides of the head, can actually focus on two different things at one time. This is a survival adaptation to help them notice predators.



## THREE DEDICATION STALLS REMAINING

As our barn nears completion, we have another shout-out to individuals or corporations to sponsor a stall. We have 15 stalls in total (not including the wash stall) and we have three remaining naming opportunities. If you would like to honor, memorialize or dedicate a gift to someone, please reach out to us. The donation amount is \$7,500 and all donors will have a plaque on their stall and be listed on our donor board for perpetuity. Email [shelly@shepardmeadows.org](mailto:shelly@shepardmeadows.org).



## FACILITY UPDATE



Alongside our new barn, we knew we needed to reconfigure our fencing and paddock areas. New fencing has been installed on the hill, behind and next to the new barn, and four new run-in sheds were delivered this week. The facility is becoming fabulously functional to support our programming needs. Here's a photo of the view from the meadow!