Chester County forms equine council

CHESTER SPRINGS -– The newly-formed Chester County Equine Council is seeking the support of all concerned horsemen and horsewomen interested in presenting a unified voice relevant to pertinent issues and problems facing equine activities.

The Executive Board has recently completed the by-laws of the Council with the primary aims including bringing together people representing various horse clubs. trail riding associations, hunt clubs, equine businesses and individuals willing to work togethern concerning legislation influencing the horse industry.

This will encompass the use of public lands for horse activities, including trail riding, the development of educational programs and activities for horsemen, and in general the promotion of and protection of the compatible interest of all of its members.

A primary concern involves the large number of land tracts threatened by development in almost all of our townships.

The time is now to create representation on our zoning boards and a formidable number of backers to encourage legislation which would not only create new

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equestrian trails, but preserve and maintain the existing ones, the Council says.

Open space involving foxhunting as well as pleasure riding is in danger in many vital areas, and the only answer to their protection is our involvement. Efforts must be initiated by those who use this land, and interest in the space preservation must be expressed in force to those branches of government that control their use, the Council says.

Someone must start to become involved with the problems that beset horseowners - someone must care enough to provide education to the public regarding our activities - someone must be willing to work to contact the proper authorities concerned with the legislation that will determine our future in all phases.

This Council is designed for the horse owner, and anyone interested in equine in any way; to enlighten non-horsemen and particularly various levels of Government, and to in general act as a "watch-dog" on dwindling space and on legislation which may harm the horse industry. Without the strong support of horsemen the group will lose teeth we must have the backing of

those concerned in the county, the group says.

If you are interested in the future of Chester County's equine activities please contact Cheryl Moran at the Extension Service, Paul B. Dague Bldg., 235 W. Market Street, West Chester, PA 19380 215/696-3500.

The first general meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, n the Widener Amphitheatre. Doors will open at 7 with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Yearly dues for the Council have been set at \$5 for adults and \$2 for youth under 18.

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