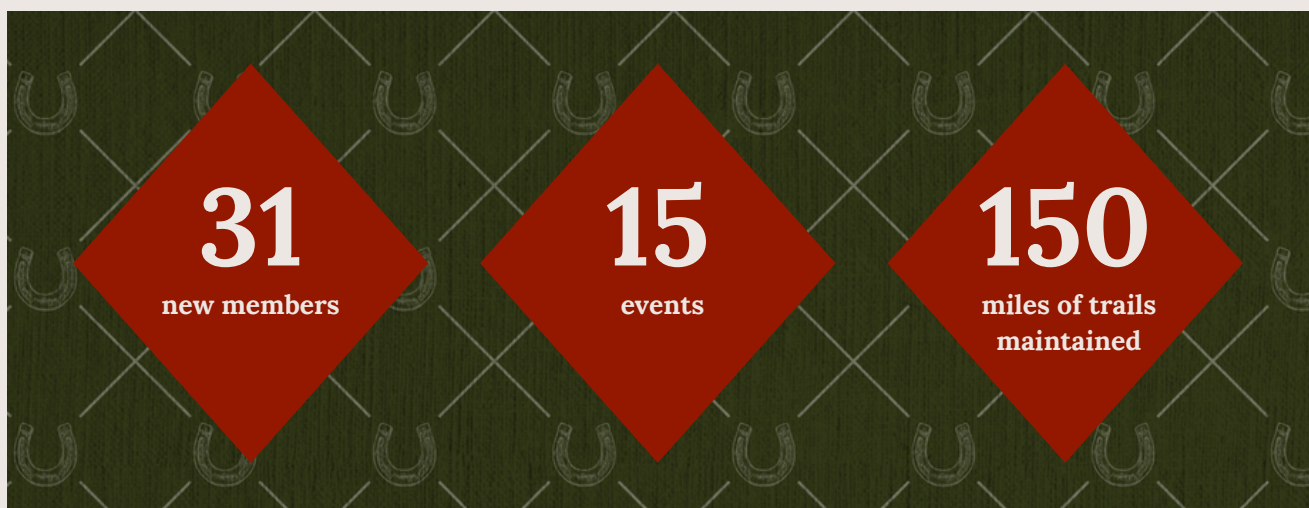


THE RIDING CLUB of Barrington Hills

Dear Riding Club Members,

As we plan for an exciting year ahead in 2025, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect upon (and celebrate!) the fun events and important achievements of the past twelve months. With your help, support, and enthusiasm, the Riding Club of Barrington Hills had a remarkable and successful year in 2024.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



This year, over \$10,000 was donated by club members** in memory of our late friend, equestrian, and community leader, Karen Selman. A committee comprised of board members and members-at-large has assembled to spearhead **The Karen Selman Memorial Fund**. We look forward to creating a memorial that will ensure Karen's philanthropic and benevolent spirit lives on in our community.



The lifeblood of the club is our beloved Bridle Path trail system – an incredibly unique feature to our community that we all cherish. This year, together with the Village of Barrington Hills and the Equestrian Commission, we problem solved to **save a major trail vein that connects the Southwest Sector of our trail system to the Spring Lake Forest Preserve trails** – an effort that preserves mounted access to the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center for many of our members.

We organized feedback from the local equestrian community, which was instrumental in **excluding horse trailers from the ZBA's list of recreational vehicles** which would be limited to 2 per property .

We **joined the Barrington Chamber of Commerce** in an effort to increase our support of local businesses and improve community involvement.



We continued the expansion of our family-friendly and unmounted programming for our non-equestrian supporters! February showcased a **pony kissing booth** at our Valentine's Day Party, complete with crafts for the kids and a decorate-your-own-cupcake station.



We kicked off “spring-cleaning” with a **tack sale at the riding center**. The aisles and stalls were packed with saddles, gear, and tack galore, much of which was donated to the Hooved Animal Humane Society after the event.

In April, we took to the streets at our **Annual Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Cleanup!** After a lovely breakfast hosted by the Judd family, we had a dozen volunteers walking the Riding Club sponsored stretch of Algonquin Road, doing our part to maintain and clean the open nature we all treasure so dearly.



We opened May with our **spring Dressage Show** to help our riders and horses get ready for the summer show season! Our volunteer judge Katy Boldt offered 1:1 meetings with riders to answer questions and give them pointers, while all competitors, volunteers, and spectators enjoyed a complimentary taco bar!



Sunny Sundays remained a crowd favorite all **summer**, welcoming members, non-members, and community friends alike, to enjoy breakfast together and foster new friendships with neighbors.



From spring to fall, our Saturday **Walk Only Trail Rides** continued to be a well-attended weekly **staple!** Nothing beats the camaraderie between members and beautiful sights along the trails.





We took 8 horses and dozens on foot to the annual Barrington Fourth of July Parade, where our “poop scoop mobile” became the crowd favorite, and our club **won the “Spirit of Barrington” award!**



August showcased the much anticipated annual **Working Equitation Clinic** where riders came out to learn new skills, and put them to the test the following day at the working equitation horse show!



We joined in the fun with our sister club, the Fox River Valley Hunt, at their **Annual Puppy Show** with a luncheon tailgate, where many members attended to show off their pups! We also hosted a **Stirrup Cup breakfast** at Barrington Hills Farm before a Sunday hunt in August.



Keeping the spirit of fox hunting and hounds alive in Barrington Hills is a part of what makes this community so special.

We showed appreciation to our incredible landowners at the LeCompte Kalaway Cup, where we **hosted 50 trail owners in the Horse Shoe Club**, and another **66 at our champagne entrance table**. But, a thousand champagne toasts could never be enough to express our gratitude to our trail owners – your generosity is the cornerstone of **our Bridle Path system!**



Thank you to our landowners for helping us keep this cherished and unique feature of Barrington Hills alive!



Our Living Horse Museum was a success once again this year at the Village of Barrington Hills Fall Fest! It is an interactive way to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of horses all shapes and sizes, and provide fun and family-friendly horse education.



We cozied up around the Hunt House's brand new fire pit (handmade by RCBH member Drew McMahon) at October's **New Member Bonfire**, where we celebrated and welcomed our **31 new members** and their families. We enjoyed pizza, cocktails, desserts, and a s'mores bar! The pumpkin painting and craft corner was a huge hit for the neighborhood kids, too!

We ended the show season with our **Fall Horse Show**, which showcased a new derby style class this year in partnership with the Fox River Valley Pony Club. Also new to the show bill was the “hobby horse class” which brought out handfuls of costume-sporting kids on foot! Jan Nestrud provided a delicious chili lunch for everyone.



We got in the Christmas spirit with a **visit from Santa Claus**, who came a few days early bearing gifts of cookies, a hot cocoa bar, toys for the children, and our 2024-2025 directories!



We closed out 2024 with a wonderful **Christmas Party hosted at the beautiful Passion for Polo facility!** Over 100 members gathered for food, drinks, music and good company. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Lueders for opening their doors to us and sharing their beautiful farm with our club!



THE RIDING CLUB *of* Barrington Hills

Every detail outlined in this newsletter was made possible by you - our club members - and your donations, volunteer hours, elbow grease, and your loyalty and commitment to a unified vision: preserving, expanding, and riding the Bridle Paths in Barrington Hills, and maintaining the equestrian tradition in which our town is rooted.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our events this year - it has been my absolute privilege to serve you all as Board President for 2024 and witness all we achieved together. We have an exciting schedule planned for 2025, and look forward to your continued support and enthusiasm in the year ahead.

Happy New Year!
Ashlee LeCompte Lazic

***Thank you to the donors to The Karen Selman Memorial for your generous contributions: Dennis and Stacey Barsema, Jan Nestrud, Joy Getzenberg, Dara Valin, Jane Clement, Anne Blanton, Bob and Jill Zubak, Leslie Coolidge, Kelly Mazeski, Jenny and Mike Drecoll, Mary Schuring, Patti and Marty Fahey, Barrington Hills Polo Club, Paula Jacobsen, Judy Freeman and Ann and Joe Messer*