



# Horse Council Courier

[www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org)

*The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.*

## *All Youth Horse Judging Trials Return to Illinois Horse Fair*

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois will continue to produce the All-Youth Horse Judging Trials at its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois Horse Fair March 2-4, 2007 at the

teams from around the Midwest," she said.

A \$10 per person entry fee for the contest also will allow participants one-day access to all of Horse Fair's Saturday offerings, including sessions with internationally known clinicians, seminars, all-breed expo and tradeshow. Trophies and ribbons will be given to individuals and teams in two age divisions — Juniors 8 to 13 and Seniors 14 to 18. Age is determined as of January 1 the year of the contest.

Illinois Horse Fair annually attracts more than 10,000 horsemen and includes stallions on parade and demonstrations by 25 or more different breeds and disciplines in addition to Western, Saddle Seat, Dressage and

Reining clinicians, more than 140 commercial exhibitors, HorsesForSale Aisles and 100 or more horse trailers on site, making it an equestrian shopper's delight, according to Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair manager.

"All-Youth" entry forms may be requested from Hagstrom by mail, fax or email at Debra J. Hagstrom, M.S., University of Illinois, 386 ASL, MC-630, 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; fax (217) 333-8286; email [hagstrom@uiuc.edu](mailto:hagstrom@uiuc.edu).

As information on specific Horse Fair events becomes available, it will be posted on the website at [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org). This includes clinic participation applications, advance tickets and program advertising opportunities.



state fairgrounds in Springfield. The effort is in cooperation with the University of Illinois and is being coordinated by Debra J. Hagstrom, Extension horse specialist.

The youth horse judging contest will be on Saturday, March 3.

"Open to all youth (non-collegiate) horse judging teams, the event last year drew more than 350 participants, far exceeding our expectations," Hagstrom said. "We're looking for similar numbers for 2007 from the ranks of 4-H, FFA and breed association



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Council of Illinois

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HCI Administrative Office  
Springfield  
Bonnie Chandler  
217.585.1600  
[www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org)

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## *President's Corner*

### *It's All About Horses*

Elections matter. Because of our work and success in the 2002 and 2004 elections, we were able to lay the groundwork for victories that are sure follow. Now the question is, "What will the future hold?" Two years from now, will we be reporting on victories in our quest to protect, enhance and preserve the equestrian lifestyle? Or, will our update contain bad news for horse owners about losing trails, the right to ride and the taking of property rights? Election Day — Tuesday, November 7 — will be when the next chapter in the history of horse ownership will be written. Your work, and your vote, in the coming weeks may signal the difference between the "feel good" spin of the animal rights backed candidates and those who truly understand horses and horse issues on Election Day. By participating in the process, you will help write the future legislative history of horse ownership.

To help you make informed decisions on Election Day HCI, in cooperation with Illinois Trail Riders, has conducted and published a survey of all Illinois legislative candidates to provide the Illinois equine community with the opportunity to consider each candidate's view and position on current and important issues of concern to members and the future of this important Illinois business and recreational component.

I urge not only HCI's membership, but all voters, to impress upon their candidates the importance of understanding and seeking commonsense solutions, from those who care for horses on a daily basis and who will be affected the most, when dealing with equine issues which reach so deep into the heart of the state's economic, animal health and welfare concerns

**Register to vote, learn about the issues and follow through by remembering to vote on Tuesday November 7!**

Grassroots lobbying efforts, trail level activism and working in concert with all other equine interest groups will pave the way to success and expansion for the equine community. With more involvement from its members, HCI can get more done. If you have an interest in seeing a particular project come to life, consider volunteering some time and energy toward serving on an HCI committee. It's a worthwhile endeavor that will possibly pay you, and your riding buddies, back many times over with increased opportunities.

HCI Directors will also be attending the State Horse Council Advisory Committee (SHCAC) meeting at the Meadowlands in New Jersey in November. The SHCAC is a standing committee of the American Horse Council (AHC) which advises AHC staff and trustees of important issues presently affecting the horse community and helps us identify emerging trends from around the country.

All comments and suggestions offered by the HCI membership are important to us and help the HCI Board of Directors in making decisions on current issues and planning for the future. If your association or club is not an active member of the HCI family, please ask your directors to contact the HCI office to take advantage of the free reciprocal membership offer for equine associations today!

*Frank Bowman*

# *Horse Council Finds Little Interest Among Illinois Legislative Candidates Despite Large Potential Impact*

Horses are a \$3.8 billion industry in Illinois and yet when legislative candidates recently were surveyed for their opinions on equine issues, fewer than 25 percent responded, most respondents being from agricultural districts, according to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) which conducted the survey in cooperation with Illinois Trail Riders (ITR).

"With mid-term elections coming in November, HCI is urging not only its membership, but all voters, to impress upon their candidates the importance of understanding and seeking commonsense solutions (from those who care for horses on a daily basis) when dealing with equine issues which reach so deep into the heart of the state's economic, animal health and welfare concerns," said Frank Bowman, HCI president.

Complete results of the HCI/ITR survey, including answers from candidates to questions about the horse industry as it may effect potential gambling, livestock identification and disease control, the right to ride and other issues are posted on each groups' website: [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org) and [www.IllinoisTrailRiders.com](http://www.IllinoisTrailRiders.com).

Illinois' equine industry is made up of an extremely diverse group of horse owners, breeders and riders and a myriad of support businesses and professions, including veterinarians, trainers and handlers, equipment and feed distributors and transportation services state wide. Leading national equine programs also are offered at major Illinois universities and colleges, and horses play a large part in the state's agriculture, gaming, tourist and recreation industries.

There are more than 213,000 horses and 77,000 horse owners in Illinois, providing more than 15,000 full-time jobs, according to HCI, the state's "organization of organizations" and affiliate of the American Horse Council, the group's national legislative lobby.

The HCI/ITR goal in conducting the survey is to provide the Illinois equine community with the opportunity to consider each candidate's view and position on important issues of concern to members and the future of this important Illinois business and recreational component.

Questions asked on the survey were these:

1. The majority of Illinois equine industry activity is unrelated to the State's major horse racing tracks; do you favor a legislative strategy that considers incentives to promote the horse industry in areas removed from track activities?
2. Approximately 70 percent of all horses in Illinois are involved in showing and recreational riding. Would you support legislation that encourages the activities of horse showing and recreational horse riding?
3. Are you aware of needs within the equine industry?
4. Recent administration action, for cost cutting purposes, has resulted in a reduction in riding trail maintenance and improvement. Would you support restoring adequate trail maintenance and a program of trail expansion?
5. Are you in favor of local government and public input concerning the management of undeveloped public lands? Please explain your views of local government and public input.
6. Prior to receiving this questionnaire, were you aware of the economic impact of the equine industry?
7. Do you believe agriculture and agribusiness are primarily a rural issue?
8. If federal legislation were introduced that would negatively impact Illinois' equine industry would you assist in contacting federal representatives to explain the impact?
9. Do you feel horse racing is a gaming or equine industry?
10. Do you believe the legislative adjustment in race track revenue distribution, passed in the spring session of the Illinois legislature, benefits the equine industry? How?

*The HCI/ITR goal in conducting the survey is to provide the Illinois equine community the opportunity to consider each candidate's views and position on the issues of concern to members and this important Illinois business and recreational endeavor.*



## Midway Trailer Sales Builds on Tradition of Service

*Editor's note: This is the second in a series to help readers get to know sponsors of our Illinois Horse Fair. The 2007 edition, March 2-4, will be our 19th annual presentation. Recent years have been underwritten in part by a group of exclusive sponsors, one trailer dealer, one feed company, one tractor line, one buildings manufacturer, etc. Presently, our sponsors are Midway Trailer Sales, Purina Mills® Horse Feeds, John Deere and Morton Buildings. This second article covers our second longest continuing sponsor, Midway Trailer Sales.*

When 21-year-old Peter Pasdach, president, and his partner Rich Murawski, vice president, opened the first Midway Truck Parts, Inc. facility in Bridgeview, IL in 1978, it was with the acknowledgement that customers could find parts dealers in lots of locations. Dealers who would meet a customer's needs and exceed their expectations, however, were a rare find. "We committed then and there to becoming that rare source, the one who makes 'service' its distinct advantage," Pasdach said.

"Nearly 28 years later, I can report that our customers have responded with a loyalty that has made it possible for the truck parts operation to grow to 12 facilities in Illinois and one in St. Louis," Pasdach said.

Six years ago when Midway saw a maturing in the truck parts business, they decided to act on an area of expansion they had been considering for a decade. They moved into the horse trailer business with the same credo that guided them when launching their truck parts business ... "and

again our customers rewarded our commitment," Pasdach said humbly and full of thanks.



*In addition to an inventory of nearly a 100 trailers, Midway Trailer Sales interior show rooms offer visitors a comfortable environment to explore features of select models.*

Not only is Midway committed to service, but to selection – "as wide a variety as we can stock," Pasdach said, basing the policy on his own less-than-satisfying experiences in the late 1980s and early 90s while shopping for

a living quarters trailer for himself and his wife, both avid horsemen.

"Even dealers with a 'broad' inventory offered only a few variations in size and color," Pasdach said. "And if you wanted to see different features, they showed you a list and said they could order them ... but nowhere could you actually see them," he said.

Most of the management and staff at Midway Trailer Sales locations (Litchfield and Ottawa in Illinois and Calvert City in Kentucky) are involved with horses, cattle and a rural lifestyle. "It gives us a common ground with our customers," Pasdach said. Pasdach himself is a longtime member of the LaSalle County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team.

Kankakee was selected as the site for Midway's first trailer lot because it had ample space for inventory and a fully staffed repair shop, Pasdach said. "We

started with Kiefer Built, from two-horse bumper pull entry units to top-of-the-line living quarters units, and we added flat-bed utility trailers (enclosed cargo units) and small to medium dump trailers."

The Kankakee facility was rolled



*Midway Trailer Sales, Calvert, KY, like its Ottawa and Litchfield, IL locations, includes service bays, interior showrooms, truck parts display centers and ample acreage for inventory.*

*(continued on page 6)*

## *Unwanted Horse Coalition Elects Chair, Names Coordinator*

The Unwanted Horse Coalition elected Tom Lenz, DVM, to serve as Chairman, and it named Katy Carter as the Coalition's Coordinator.

A past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), Lenz is well known and highly regarded for his work in the veterinary and horse community. During his 30-year veterinary career, Lenz has worked in private practice, academia, and corporate business. A 1975 graduate of the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine, Lenz became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists (veterinary reproduction) in 1986, and he received a Master of Science degree in equine reproduction from Texas A&M University in 1988.

Active in the equine industry, Lenz is a member of the American Horse Council's Animal Welfare Committee and serves on the Research Committee of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). Lenz has been involved in the Unwanted Horse Coalition

since its inception. "It is a privilege to continue to serve this group and the horse industry in fulfilling our responsibilities to address this issue," Lenz said.

Katy Carter has served in both Legislative and Press capacities in the House of Representatives, most recently for former Congressman Jack Quinn of New York. She holds a bachelors degree in Political Science from Syracuse University and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration at George Mason University. A lifelong equestrian, Katy competed hunters and jumpers for 15 years and has more recently taken up three-day eventing. She owns two Thoroughbreds, both ex-racehorses.

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care of the horse.

"The Coalition has already begun collecting materials that might be considered helpful in reducing the

number of horses that slip into the "unwanted" category each year. Papers or booklets regarding the responsibilities of horse ownership, costs associated with ownership, appropriate care, welfare issues, alternative uses of horses, sale and placement options, rescue and retirement facilities, euthanasia and disposal would be very helpful. Any specific informational/educational materials outlining and describing the available options for horse owners who find themselves in possession of an equine they are no longer able to care for would be particularly helpful," Lenz said.

Should your organization have such materials, please forward them in hard copy to:

Katy Carter  
American Horse Council  
1616 H Street, NW  
7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20006

*Source: American Horse Council, reprinted with permission*

## *HCI Offers FREE Reciprocal Group Membership*

In an effort get all Illinois horse owners involved in addressing industry-wide equine issues, the Horsemen's Council of Illinois board has voted to provide free reciprocal membership to Illinois-based horse clubs, associations and organizations.

Groups will receive full group membership benefits, including access to email equine alerts, input to HCI's full-time state and national lobbying efforts, quantities of helpful literature for distribution to their members, such as guides to Illinois laws affecting horse owners, every issue of the

*Courier*, etc.

In return, groups will provide membership lists to HCI so the Council may invite individuals to join and receive individual member benefits, including HCI's automatic \$1,000,000 equine excess liability insurance, access to email equine alerts (both on legal and health issues), access to HCI's grassroots CapWhiz legislative contact system, and their own copy of the *Courier*.

"There has never been a time more important than now for horse owners to express themselves on right-to-ride

issues, on use of public lands, on zoning and environmental laws and a host of other legislation threatening our life style," said Frank Bowman, HCI president.

Or in the words of Membership Chairman Karen Freese, "We want every horse group to join us and make their opinions not only known, but "felt" by our state and national legislators."

For information on all the work in progress at HCI and for specific group and individual member benefits, go to [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org), or contact HCI's business office (217) 585-1600.

## Midway Trailer Sales (cont'd)

into Midway's Ottawa operations in 2004 when Midway bought the assets of M&P Trailer just off Interstate 80, including a large indoor showroom with multiple service bays for handling repairs on both trucks and trailers, a service now available at all Midway Trailer Sales locations. This is when Midway added the Sundowner line. (Bison was added in 2005.)

"Not only can we customize, service and repair nearly any manufacturer's trailer, whether or not we sold it, but we also can service nearly any vehicle horsemen use to pull their trailers," Pasdach said.

Other conveniences each facility will include are round pens to accommodate horsemen who have breakdowns while hauling stock and outdoor arenas for community events.

In speaking about the meeting rooms and arenas Midway makes available for community use, Dave Bormida, Litchfield manager, says simply, "We're just so glad our customers have made it all possible."

Litchfield's large indoor sales floor includes an unusual amenity. Its walls are a gallery for rural and equine artist Roger Dewitt. In addition to many large framed original oils and prints on the walls, a selection of smaller economically priced prints are placed in racks so visitors can easily sort through them.

"We get extraordinary art themed for our décor and the artist gets a physical gallery," Bormida said, "a win-win situation."

As for the inventory, Midway Sales Manager Gary Miller, based at Calvert City, says they may have 100 or more units in inventory. "And we go to the Illinois Horse Fair with as many as 65 ... we want our prospects to 'see' the unit they want ... walk into it ... get comfortable with it ... and make an educated, well-informed decision."

"While most horse trailer makers bring out new models in the summer, we always try to have a number of unique units for Horse Fair visitors," Bormida says. "We'll place orders for

## Midway Trailer Sales Creed

### BECAUSE THE CUSTOMER

*Because the customer has a need, we have a job to do.*

*Because the customer has a choice, we must be the better choice.*

*Because the customer has sensibilities, we must be considerate.*

*Because the customer has an urgency, we must be quick.*

*Because the customer is unique, we must be flexible.*

*Because the customer has high expectations, we must excel.*

*Because the customer has influence, we have the hope of more customers.*

*Because of the customer we exist!*

## Join Us Today!

### Individual Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many horses do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_\_ boarding stable

**Individual Membership Dues** (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$39/yr**

### Organization Membership Application

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

# of Illinois Members in Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate category  
\_\_\_\_ Business/Professional \_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_ Charity

**Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.**

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois  
P. O. Box 1605  
Springfield, IL 62705  
Phone: 217.585.1600  
www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



these as early as October so we have them for Horse Fair in March.

Illinois Horse Fair is a “buying show,” according to Miller. “We call it our mini Congress,” he said. “Instead of spending

trailer buyer an excellent opportunity to compare features and prices.

“We take pride in our corporate sponsorship of Illinois Horse Fair,” Pasdach said. “We feel honored to be in the company of such standouts in the equine community as Purina Mills® Horse Feeds, John Deere and Horse Fair’s other sponsors,” Pasdach said, “and we feel that we have helped Horse Fair grow in the same way that Horse Fair has helped us grow.” (Midway Trailer Sales is Illinois Horse Fair’s second oldest sponsor. Purina Feeds, featured in the last issue of the *Courier*, is Horse Fair’s oldest sponsor.

Complete information on Midway can be found at [www.MidwayTrailerSales.com](http://www.MidwayTrailerSales.com).



*When Midway Trailer Sales comes to Illinois Horse Fair, it's with a major commitment. Shown here are some of the 65 units Midway brought to the 2006 Horse Fair. "And we'll have a number of unique surprises for visitors to the 2007 Illinois Horse Fair, too," says Dave Bormida, who manages Midway's facility in Litchfield not far south of the Horse Fair location in Springfield.*

three weeks at the Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio, we spend three days at Horse Fair and sell proportionately as many trailers as we do in Ohio,” he said.

“The world of living quarters trailers is constantly advancing,” Pasdach said. “As quickly as the technology in electronics and equipment shows up on RVs, it comes to horse trailers ... from wide screen plasma TVs, DVDs and surround sound systems to full-room slide-outs and fireplaces,” Pasdach said.

Illinois Horse Fair usually has more than 100 trailers on site, representative of most major manufacturers, giving the



*Each Midway Trailer Sales location includes complete facilities for customization, repair and delivery preparation for trailers and tow vehicles.*

## ***HCI Scholarship Deadline December 1st***

Deadline to apply for the Horsemen’s Council of Illinois Ruby Holmquist Memorial Scholarship is December 1. Guidelines and application forms for the scholarship are on the Council’s web site at [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org) or available from the Council’s administrative office in Springfield.

Scholarships may be given in either (or both) “academic/educational” or “vocational/professional” categories. They have been awarded each year since 1998.

Only Illinois residents are eligible and assistance must be used in the pursuit or advancement of a horse-related career. The amount of the award is determined by the HCI Scholarship Committee, chaired by Sheryl S. King, Ph.D., Department of Animal Science, Southern Illinois University, in consultation with the HCI Board.

For additional information on the scholarship program, contact Dr. King at (618) 453-1771.

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## *Equestrian Land Conservation Resource Moving to Kentucky Horse Park*

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource's (ELCR) leaders have decided to celebrate the organization's 10th anniversary by moving to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington and by hiring their first chief executive officer to lead them into a new decade.

President Georgiana McCabe said the Board of Directors believes these changes will increase the organization's effectiveness in helping horse owners, equestrian organizations and conservation partners protect equine access all around the United States.

ELCR will move its headquarters from Elizabeth, Ill., to open at the Kentucky Horse Park in April. The new office will be adjacent to the U.S. Pony Clubs office and just a few hundred feet from the U.S. Equestrian Federation office.

The relationship between the ELCR and USEF is nothing new. In July, the USEF's Board of Directors passed a joint resolution that states:

"The loss of land and access to land for equestrian use is a great and urgent threat to every horse-related activity, industry and sport. USEF recognizes the importance of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource's work and hereby resolves to explore ways in which the two organizations can work

together to inform and assist USEF's members in the preservation of competition venues and necessary land for training and keeping horses."

Said McCabe, "We expect that moving to the Kentucky Horse Park will tremendously facilitate our ability to communicate with and establish partnerships with all of the equestrian organizations that have their offices there, especially with the USEF and the USPC."

To staff the new headquarters, the ELCR's officers have initiated a search for a new chief executive officer. Kande Haertel, the ELCR's executive director since 2000, has decided to remain in Illinois rather than move to Kentucky.

"Kandee has done an extraordinary job for the last 6 ½ years, and we'll miss her very, very much. But this is a good time to find someone who'll bring to us a new voice and broad experience in both the non-profit and conservation worlds and who'll move us forward toward even greater accomplishments," said McCabe.

For a complete description of the CEO's responsibilities and qualifications, or to learn more about the ELCR, go to [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org).

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P. O. Box 1605  
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