

## Tempe Police Mounted Unit



## What's New Around the Barn

Volume 6, Issue 1,  
January 2021

We hope this newsletter finds you well! Included in this issue will be an update to our Obstacle Course, a volunteer shout-out, Mounted Reserve information along with some great photos and a recap of what we've been up to the last few months! Thank you for your continued support!

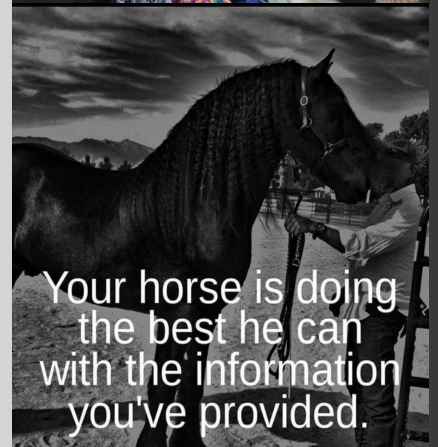


@tempepolicemounted



**Tempe Police  
Mounted Unit**

### Groomer's Corner



Your horse is doing the best he can with the information you've provided.

Tricia with a great reminder for all of us! If your horse isn't "doing" what you want him to, look at how you're "asking".

TITAN



# TOP SECRET

***CODE NAME: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES***

***OBJECTIVE: COMPLETE A TOP NOTCH EQUINE  
OBSTACLE COURSE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES***

***WHO: TEMPE LEADERSHIP—TEMPE CARES VOLUNTEER GROUP***



Oops! I guess the secret is out. We have had the honor of having Tempe Cares choose our Mounted Facility as their yearly project and all we can say is WOW! Over 130 amazing volunteers showed up ready to work! Not only did they build us an amazing obstacle course, but they brought in tons (literal tons) of arena fill for our round pen and spread it by hand so the horses can have the best footing possible!

But wait, that's not all! They also had over 1,000 sqft of pavers donated and installed a patio viewing area to the side of the arena that is such a nice addition. We are so grateful to have awesome neighbors and look forward to using the obstacle course for years to come! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



It was great watching all the guidance, hard work and team building that went into making this day special by all involved!





This group worked so efficiently and moved tons of sand into the round pen! Stryder tried it out first after all was said and done and immediately laid down and rolled around enjoying the new footing! (See next page for evidence!)

Amazing work on this patio base. It is ready for pavers! In the words of Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith... "I love it when a plan comes together."



Several trees were also donated and planted by the volunteers. The shade will be much appreciated in the years to come!

Thank you to our impromptu breakfast chefs for turning out some delicious pancakes!

**\*\*Several of these photographs are courtesy of Tempe Leadership! They possess much better equipment and skill than me and my ol' trusty iPhone.\*\***





A bird's eye perspective of the great work being done!





Stryder getting first crack at the new and improved Round Pen! I think he approves!

Leo deciding to take his elder's advice tries it out for himself... and appears quite content...



Maybe a little too content...

Here are the much awaited "action shots" of the Obstacle Course in action! It has been an incredible training tool and a joy to utilize on a daily basis!







# VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." - Anonymous

**We in the Mounted Unit are blessed to be able to work with these amazing horses in large part due to all the selfless individuals who volunteer their time and make a conscious choice to be here!**

**We are humbled that you chose to donate your time and effort (and probably a pair of shoes/boots) to the on-going care of our amazing 4 legged officers. Without you this wouldn't be possible!**



**Every newsletter a volunteer will be highlighted so we can put a face to go along with the results of the hard work most of us only see!**

**VOLUNTEER: ALEX A.**



## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) OUR VOLUNTEERS SPEND ON AVERAGE 80 HOURS A MONTH TOTAL AT THE MOUNTED FACILITY!
- 2) THERE ARE CURRENTLY 17 VOLUNTEERS WITH THE MOUNTED UNIT!

## GET TO KNOW YOUR VOLUNTEERS!

- 1) **How long have you volunteered at the Tempe Police Mounted Unit?** *I have been volunteering with the Mounted Unit for 4 years. I started in April of 2016, the year after I got my nursing license, to keep busy on the days I wasn't working and have been loving every minute of it since!*
- 2) **Who is your favorite horse?** *My favorite horse at the barn is Stryder because the only thing he likes more than napping, is eating. We are very similar in that aspect. (You'll understand why this is in purple if you read the next page... don't want any hurt feelings!)*
- 3) **What is your favorite part about volunteering at the barn?** *I have always loved horses. One of my favorite childhood memories is playing with little horse toys with my sister. My 10th birthday party was horse themed. My last semester of college, I found out ASU had an equestrian team and I joined because I just wanted to be around horses. After college, I got a hamster and named him Horse because, jokingly, I figured that was the only way I could still be around a horse as an adult. When I found out I could volunteer for the Tempe Mounted unit, I knew right away this was something I HAD to do. Not many people have the opportunity to work around these animals and I am so grateful that I am lucky enough to have this opportunity. Often times, when I am cleaning stalls I listen to true crime podcasts or play country music. The combination of all those things just creates a place where I feel genuine happiness. My favorite part about working around the horses is the ability to be surrounded by all my favorite things.*
- 4) **What is your secret talent no one knows about?** *My secret talent that no one knows about (literally no one out side my family knows about haha) is my ability to play the nose flute. My boyfriend's mom got everyone a nose flute for Christmas a few years back as a gag gift and I was the only who was able to successfully play it. A nose flute is a little musical instrument that whistles when you blow air out your nose. (SO WEIRD, I know...) . Now, when we go on family vacations, I always bring my nose flute in case anyone has any requests!*

# FUN FACTS—HORSE EDITION



**At one time people thought horses were colorblind. They're not, though they are better at seeing yellows and greens than purples and violets.**

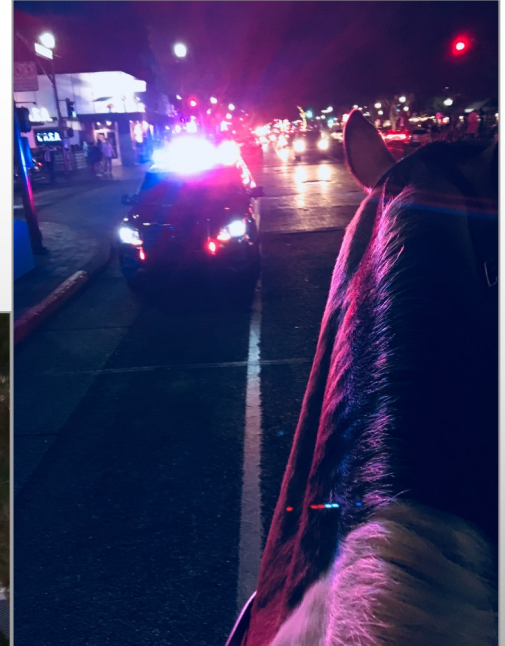
And we can attest to this. While sitting at red lights during most Mill Ave. night shifts, once that light turns green most of the horses, without being cued will begin walking. So either they can see color... Or they can read our minds. The debate is still out!

(Also, this is written in purple incase the boys in the stalls are reading over my shoulder)

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## **MOUNTED RESERVES**

Much like our volunteers, the Mounted Reserve program is an excellent way for any officer to experience patrol from horseback! Our Reserves go through an initial 120 hours of equestrian and defensive tactics training before taking that training to the streets. Our reserves assist not only on Mill Ave. but also in parades, sporting events, school educational visits and much more!



We currently have 14 officers in the Mounted Reserve Program and will be putting on a 2 day "jump start" introduction class during the year for any officer who thinks they may be interested! (No Experience needed!)

