

# Equestriancenter set to open in Kingwood

By [MAHASIN PEGEISE](#)

Staff Writer

KINGWOOD — After Sept. 11, Pete D'Costa decided it was time to live his dream.

"When I decided to start over it was after 9-11 and I was driving over the George Washington Bridge and I thought to myself, 'What is freedom?' I believe that freedom is doing what you want to do, so we packed our bags and left," D'Costa said.

The software salesman and his wife, Marie, had always wanted to run an equestrian dressage facility. With the impetus of his decision, the couple realized their dreams in a few short months.

The D'Costas' Freedom Farm will open its doors with a champagne toast Aug. 25.

The farm is a newly renovated, 3-year-old dressage facility with boarding and training available on the 20-acre site. The D'Costas started looking at properties in February and closed on the farm July 17, Marie D'Costa said.

The in-house, nationally recognized trainer is Gabriel Armando, who won Argentinian National Dressage Championships as well as several top finishes in World Cup events.

"Both my husband and our trainer, Gabriel, decided they no longer wanted to be in a corporate environment. They decided to take this on permanently after years of training," Marie D'Costa said.

Pete D'Costa's infatuation with dressage began when he was working with the New York City Parks Mounted Auxillary Unit. He is still vice president and treasurer of the nonprofit unit's board of directors.

"It was part of my training and I noticed a certain beauty to dressage in addition to the discipline," he said.

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