

ALLEN HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Fort Rucker, AL

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®

From the desk of Robert Frazier,
Community Management Director

Dear Families:

2012 is bringing many positive changes to the Soldiers and families who live on Fort Rucker. We are always looking for new ways to improve the services we offer our residents so they can enjoy a better quality of life during their stay. Here are just a few of the positives changes you will see over the coming months.

Beginning in February, Minol will assume responsibilities over third party billing in regards to electricity in family housing. This change will be reflected on your March usage report. Be on the lookout for more information on the transition in the mail, the *Army Flier* and this newsletter. We are also conducting a town hall in March to offer residents an opportunity to ask questions about the switch. Minol has over 50 years experience in the energy and property management business and we are excited to be working with them.

Beginning this summer, American Pool Enterprises will manage the Neighborhood Center pools at Fort

Rucker. American Pool Enterprises services more than 3,000 commercial swimming facilities and more than 7,000 residential pools. Families will not see any changes in the pool rules or service they receive while visiting the pools.

As you begin to look ahead, be sure to check out our calendar of events in coming months. We will be hosting a variety of fun, family-friendly events and activities throughout the year including movie night in February, our annual Woofstock in April and our pool party in June. We hope that you will join us for these exciting events.

It's our pleasure to care for and give back to the military community who unselfishly dedicate themselves and their families to preserve the freedoms and liberties we all enjoy—Thank You.

Robert Frazier
Community Management Director



NEIGHBORHOOD NC CENTER

Manager
Bebe Jackson

Maintenance Supervisor
Jim Mock

Hours of Operation
M-F 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
SAT 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Holiday Hours Available on Back Page*

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Resident Movie Night!

Puss In Boots

Tuesday, February 7

Movie begins at 6:30 p.m.; Post Theater

No admission cost. Admission includes a small popcorn and small drink for each family member. Must have identification to verify your family is a current resident of Picerne Military Housing. First come, first served until maximum capacity is reached.

ADMIT ONE

ADMIT ONE

EFMP Support Group meeting

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) invites all active duty military Families that have an Exceptional Family Member to the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting. The EFMP Information and Support Group will meet February 14 from 9 to 10 a.m., at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, 7th Ave. The topic for the meeting is "EFMP Respite Care." Eligibility and enrollment procedures will be discussed. EFMP Families you are not alone! This is an opportunity to learn and provide suggestions for future topics for the support group. For information and to register, please call Army Community Service (ACS) EFMP at 255-9277.

Blended Family Workshop

Join ACS on February 22 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center for the Blended Family Workshop. This workshop focuses on maintaining strong parent and child relationships, developing relationships within the blended family and effective communication and negotiation skills. Last day to register is February 17. This Workshop is open to active duty, retired, DoD employees and their Family members. For child care information and registration please call Family Advocacy Program at 334-255-9641 or 334-255-3898.

School Safety Concerns

Bicycle Safety: Active Duty Service Members and Dependents

All bicycle riders must wear a safety helmet while riding on Fort Rucker. During hours of limited visibility, bicycle riders are required to have an operable headlight, side reflectors and tail lights in accordance with (IAW) Fort Rucker Reg. 190-5.



Students riding bicycles to school:

Be sure when riding bicycles to and from school you adhere to the following rules:

- Watch out for moving vehicle traffic
- Be sure to ride in the bike path if one is provided
- Walk bicycles across roadways and intersections
- Follow instructions of police and crossing guards
- Ensure your bicycle is equipped with a lock and chain for security purposes
- Ensure bicycles are secured to the appropriate bicycle stands provided by DODeA schools

Students walking to school

(IAW Ft Rucker Reg. 608-18, Child Supervision Guidelines):

Parents and students, please, if your children walk to school follow these guidelines:

1. Rehearse the safest route of travel with your children
2. Have children travel in pairs to and from school whenever possible
3. Educate them on the "do's" and "don'ts"
4. Give them a proposed safe haven or a security point if an incident should arise.
5. Educate children to report any unusual event or incident to teachers, police or parents immediately upon arriving at school or home

For more information, please contact Peggy Contreras, community police supervisor at 255-3273.

Mothers of preschoolers (MOPS)

MOPS is new chapel program which began January 5 at Wings Chapel. MOPS is a Christian-based mom's group with the goal of meeting the needs of every mom of a child from conception through kindergarten. The lead coordinator is Brittany Willard. For more information, contact the Religious Support Office at 255-2989 or 255-2012.

"imAlone" classes will be offered throughout the end of the school year on January 26, February 23, March 29, April 26 and May 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Bowden Terrace Neighborhood Center. These classes are designed for both youth and parents to determine together when youth are ready to stay "home alone" upon turning eleven years old. The goal of the program is to help children increase their personal safety skills, demonstrate responsibility, recognize and handle emergencies and identify a support system. Please pre-register at CYSS Parent Central Services, Bldg. 5700, Rm 193.

The Y.A.C. (Youth Adjusting to Change) bus tours will be conducted monthly on the following Saturdays: January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28 and May 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. starting at the Youth Center, Bldg. 2806. These tours are designed for youth ages 13 to 18 years who are new to the area. We will tour on-post and off-post facilities that will be of interest to the youth and introduce them to students from the community. Moving to a new community and school can be difficult, but we hope to help them transition more smoothly with the Y.A.C. tour! Please pre-register at CYSS Parent Central Services, Bldg. 5700 Room 193.



Green Corner – Understanding Heat Pumps

Source: energysavers.org

Heat pumps are the most efficient form of electric heating in moderate climates, providing three times more heating than the equivalent amount of energy they consume in electricity. Fort Rucker's newly-constructed homes are built with an Energy Star rated heat pump; most classic homes have a gas furnace.

Heat pumps perform double duty as a central air conditioner in the summer. Heat pumps cool your home by collecting the heat inside your house and effectively pumping it outside. A heat pump can trim the amount of electricity use for heating by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

Heat Pump Tips

- Do not set back the heat pump's thermostat manually if it causes the electric resistance heating to come on. This type of heating, which is often used as a backup to the heat pump, is more expensive.
- Clean or change filters once a month or as needed.

Valentine's Day Bash

Head over to the FMWR Youth Center Valentine Day Bash on February 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. Guest Speaker, Tina Oree, victim advocate coordinator will use a fun interactive game of bingo to bring awareness to teens on the topic of healthy relationships. There will be free food and refreshments, prizes and educational materials. CYSS members and their guests are invited. For more information contact Linda Ivy, assistance director at 255-2246.

Utility Billing Transition

Beginning in February 2012 Minol will assume responsibilities over third party billing in regards to electricity in family housing. Picerne Military Housing is working diligently to provide our residents with the best services available. As you are aware, the Army implemented a plan for Families to be responsible for paying a portion of their own utilities as part of the Live Army Green Program. Currently, *ista* is responsible for third party billing for energy consumption.

Minol has over 50 years experience in the energy and property management business. Experience and reliability are values that form the basis of their strength as a company. Minol promotes sensible and efficient application of new technologies in line with the needs of our residents. Families can look forward to a website that is easier to navigate while being rewarded for conserving energy.

Picerne anticipates the transition from *ista* to Minol to be easy and seamless. Families that currently have an online account with *ista* will have to activate an online account with Minol. Minol's website provides a wealth of knowledge on conserving energy and will be able to answer many of your questions on their Frequently Asked Questions page.

Picerne will continue to work diligently with Minol to meet and exceed your expectations. Your feedback is extremely important in assisting us to improve our service to you, our valued customers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Neighborhood Office.



The Birthday Club is the 2nd Wednesday of every month at your Neighborhood Office from 3 to 4 p.m. Club members will enjoy cake and ice cream, have their picture taken and be recognized in the monthly neighborhood newsletter. For more information, please contact your Neighborhood Office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEW CLUB MEMBERS!

Aurora Bauer, Tyler Keefe, Mia Jimenez, Spencer Mort, Ariel Smith, Madison Specyal

The February Birthday Club Celebration is Wednesday, February 8 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Picerne hires pool Management Company

Beginning this summer, American Pool Enterprises will manage the Neighborhood Center pools at Fort Rucker. American Pool Enterprises services more than 3,000 commercial swimming facilities and more than 7,000 residential pools.

American Pool Enterprises employs more than 5,000 lifeguards throughout the country. If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard at one of our Neighborhood Center pools this summer, please visit www.guardforlife.com.





Our Family for Families First scholarship and grant applications available

Our Family for Families First, John G. Picerne's private charitable foundation, was established to support the educational goals of children and spouses of active-duty Service Members. College scholarships in the amount of up to \$50,000 for the children of active-duty Service Members and educational grants in the amount of \$5,000 are available each year for spouses of active-duty Service Members stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Polk, Fort Bragg, Fort Meade, Fort Rucker, Fort Riley and Fort Sill. Scholarship and grant applications for 2012 are available online at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org. Scholarship applications are due February 16, 2012 and grant applications are due May 17, 2012. Please review the information located on the web site for eligibility requirements and to learn more about the Our Family for Families First Foundation.

The Foundation is committed to supporting military families in the pursuit of higher education, instituting a tradition of community service and encouraging professional career paths through education, internships, and mentoring programs and has awarded more than \$3 million since 2006. It also serves to further the primary mission of Picerne Military Housing – putting military Families First™.

Lawn Care Schedule Winter Schedule

See the
Landscape Management
Plan online at
www.ruckerpicerne.com

Mowing and Edging will occur the week of:

February 20

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 1	Pest Control Reps by appointment only 2	3	4
5	6	7	Birthday Club See Page 3 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 8	Pest Control Reps by appointment only 9	10	11
12	13	Valentine's Day 14	Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 15	Pest Control Reps by appointment only 16	17	18
19	20	21	Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 22	Pest Control Reps by appointment only 23	24	25
26	27	28	Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 29	March Pest Control Reps by appointment only 1	2	3
4	5	6	Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday 7	Pest Control Reps by appointment only 8	9	10

