

SOUTHERN PLAINS NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Fort Sill, OK

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®



From the Desk of Darin Utterback

Community Management Director

Dear Families,

On behalf of the Picerne team, I'd like to wish you a very Happy New Year! Please be sure to keep an eye on your monthly newsletter and The Cannoneer for information on all of the fun resident events we have planned for 2012. We look forward to spending time with you and your family at many of the same great events we hosted last year to include Resident Appreciation activities, our annual Family Carnival in May, our Holiday Family Fun Fest in December and more!

Our dedication to serving you and your family is our top priority, not just for the New Year but for every year to come. Each member of our team fully embraces our company mission—"Families First." We make the commitment to put your family first every day. Our vision is to create wonderful memories for families. Please continue to let us know what we can do for you and how we can improve our service to your family. All the

comments you have shared this past year and the surveys you responded to have been great tools for helping us improve the housing program here on Fort Sill—please keep that wonderful feedback coming in 2012!

Although there is still much to do, we had many great achievements in 2011. These achievements have contributed to improving the quality of life for families here at Fort Sill. One of these achievements was the completion of the first 12 new homes in Buffalo Soldier Acres. Fort Sill will be hosting an official ribbon cutting for this milestone in January, but a few families have already begun moving in. The construction team has also renovated 72 non historic and 53 historic homes this year.

On behalf of the Picerne Military Housing team, I would like to extend our sincerest wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE

Manager

Robin Levine

Maintenance Supervisor

Rob Smith

Hours of Operation

M – F 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SAT 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Christmas Tree Disposal

- Please remove all tinsel, lights and ornaments from your tree.
- Place your tree curbside on your scheduled bulk trash day. The tree should be placed a few feet away from your regular household trash.
- Your discarded tree will be picked up by our bulk trash crews.
- Trees will be picked up on your scheduled bulk trash day from December 29 through January 9.

Holiday Trash Disposal

After the holidays, residents are often left with a lot of bulk trash and boxes. Please place all large boxes and Christmas trees in front of your home on the date of your scheduled bulk trash pickup.



We ask that you please break down all boxes placed in front of your home to be picked up and that you remove all inorganic decorations from the trees.

Trash Collection Schedule Changes

Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012, household trash will be collected once a week throughout Fort Sill's family housing neighborhoods. Trash will be collected curbside each week on Mondays with recycling. Trash will be picked up on Tuesday of the first week of January due to the holiday.

Each family has been provided one residential trash container and two recycling totes which should be adequate for families living on post. Recycling is strongly encouraged. Ton for ton, recycling reduces more pollution, saves more energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions more than any other activity besides source reduction.

To ensure proper pick-up of your trash container, please remember all residential containers will be emptied on their scheduled collection day, each Monday. Please follow these guidelines to accommodate the automated trucks:

- Place your residential rollout curbside by 6:30 a.m. each Monday. (Except during the first week of January. Due to the holiday, please place trash curbside on Tuesday of this week only.)
- Make sure the wheels are facing away from the street and toward your residence. The arrows on the lid should point toward the street.
- Place the rollout within four feet of the curb.
- Place the rollout at least four feet away from all objects such as posts, gas meters, mailboxes, other carts or recycling bins.
- Do not place the following materials or items in rollouts: rock, dirt, gravel, cement, batteries, liquid paint, or tires.
- All garbage must be placed inside the roll-out.

- Bag all of your garbage to keep it from blowing away on windy days while dumping.

Through the recycling program, families can help protect the environment. Place recycling bins curbside on Mondays, four feet away from all other objects such as your rollout. Fort Sill's residential recycling program includes four items only:

- Plastic Bottles
- Aluminum and Steel Cans
- Paper
- Cardboard boxes



Flatten cardboard boxes and place them next to your recycling bins. Cardboard must be corrugated boxes only. Remove any waxed or plastic liners and flatten. DO NOT include cardboard contaminated with food or grease, wax coated, glossy or coated cardboard or boxboard such as cereal boxes, beer boxes or shoe boxes. Use one bin for aluminum and steel cans only. Use one bin for paper only. Paper includes brochures, flyers, scratch paper, books, computer paper, catalogs and magazines. DO NOT include carbon paper, waxed paper, and wet/contaminated paper. Bag all plastic bottles and jugs in a plastic bag. Place plastic bags of plastic bottles and jugs on top of recycling bins. Please rinse out all aluminum cans and plastic bottles to remove contaminants such as milk which prevent recycling. Co-mingled items (items mixed together in the same bin) will be considered trash and trash cannot be recycled.

Bulk trash will continue to be picked up Monday and Thursday each week. Bulk items include furniture or other large items that do not fit in your trash container. Household trash will not be picked up by the bulk service. Please also remember to bring your trash container and recycling totes back from the curb after pickup to keep roadways clear.

Sidewalk Closed

Due to construction on the Southern Plains Neighborhood Center, the sidewalk on the west side of Geronimo Road between Rossbach Road and Honeycutt Road will be closed beginning in January until the center opens in mid 2013.

Please keep this in mind when planning your child's travel to and from school. Pedestrians should walk on the east side of Geronimo Road between Rossbach Road and Honeycutt Road.

The 10,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility will be located at the playground area near the intersection of Geronimo Road and Honeycutt Road. The center will include amenities such as an Olympic-size swimming pool and water feature, a fitness room, a play room, a computer lab, a kitchen, a multi-purpose room and much more. Use of the center is free for residents and some rooms may be reserved for parties and meetings.

The Green Corner: WINTER ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS



- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees.
- Maintaining consistent temperatures within a few degrees will help save money. Encourage family members to reach for sweaters, hot drinks and sofa throws instead of turning up the heat.
- Remove or reposition any furniture or other items that may be blocking floor or return air vents.
- Limit the use of bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans – they can pull warm air from your home quickly.
- Take shorter showers to reduce water-heating costs, and open bathroom doors after showers to allow the moist heat to circulate to other rooms.
- Open draperies and blinds on south-facing windows to allow sunlight to enter in daylight hours to take advantage of the warm sunrays. Close draperies and blinds on these windows at night to maintain heat.
- Set your water heater temperature to between 120 and 140 degrees, depending on family size.

Content provided by Public Service Company of Oklahoma

Thank you for Celebrating with us at the Holiday Family Fun Fest!

The lawn in front of McNair Hall came to life with all of the sights and sounds of the holiday season at the Post Tree Lighting Ceremony and Picerne Military Housing's Holiday Family Fun Fest held last month.

After the ceremony, families enjoyed refreshments and activities offered by Picerne Military Housing. All activities were completely free! Sleigh bells rang as horse-drawn wagons traveled around historic Old Post Quadrangle with residents of all ages on board. Santa visited with children as they climbed upon his lap and posed for pictures while Mrs. Claus, the elves and the Grinch stayed busy visiting to all the families who visited the Picerne tent.



WINTER WATER HOSE ADVICE

Keys to avoiding serious water damage.

Why Pipe Freezing Is a Problem

Water has a unique property -- it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the "strength" of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hoses, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages or kitchen cabinets. Also, pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of these water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations:

- Remove, drain and store hoses used outdoors.
- Close inside valves supplying outdoor faucets. Then, open the outside faucet to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located and are in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can freeze if the water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature in the pipe is cold.
- Call your Neighborhood Office if you have pipes that need to be insulated.

During Cold Weather, Take Preventive Action

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe—even at a trickle—helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

For more information, please contact your Neighborhood Office.

Content provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Let it Snow!

With the winter in full swing, Fort Sill's first snowfall may be right around the corner. Picerne Military Housing has the following snow removal procedures in place:

- Picerne provides snow removal services within all post neighborhoods.
- All major thoroughfares will be cleared before the clearing of side streets.
- Main walkways, specifically school access routes, will be cleared. This does not include sidewalks leading up to resident homes or driveways.
- Shovels and ice melting agents will be provided based on availability for residents to sign out at their Neighborhood Office.

If you have any questions about snow removal procedures in your neighborhood, please call your Neighborhood Office.

Help us keep your Neighborhood looking great

Please remember to pick up your weekly edition of The Cannoneer from your yard or driveway each Thursday.



Our Family for Families First scholarship and grant applications available

2012 BAH Rates now Available

As you may know, the 2012 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates have been issued and are now available for viewing on the Department of Defense (DoD) website.

Many duty stations in the area have experienced BAH rate changes. As the New Year begins and changes such as these occur, please make sure that your Neighborhood Office has all of your most up-to-date information to include family size, promotions received, changes in your BAH, etc.

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™.

JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>New Year's Day</i> 1	<i>All offices closed.</i> 2	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash Leaf Removal</i> Common Grounds: Geronimo Acres Henry Post Manor 3	<i>Leaf Removal</i> Common Grounds: Geronimo Acres Henry Post Manor 4	<i>Bulk Trash</i> 5		<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 6
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> 8			<i>Bulk Trash</i> 11		<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 14
	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> Neighborhood Office Open 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> 15			<i>Bulk Trash</i> 18		<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 21
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> 22		<i>Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Geronimo Acres: Rutledge, Peden 24	<i>Bulk Trash Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Geronimo Acres: Faiola, Kinzel 25	<i>Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Geronimo Acres: Rossbach, Kaiser 26	<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 27
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Geronimo Acres: Havron, Hammel 29	<i>Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Geronimo Acres: Wolff, Follett 30	February <i>Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Henry Post Manor 31	<i>Bulk Trash Tree/Conifer Pruning</i> Artillery Village 1		<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 4
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> 5			<i>Bulk Trash</i> 8		<i>Lawn Weather Make up</i> 11



Place trash rollout and bulk trash curbside by 6:30 a.m.