

SOUTHERN PLAINS NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Fort Sill, OK

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®

From the Desk of Tim Toohey

Program Director

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe three years have passed since we began taking care of Families at Fort Sill. During this time, we have completed nearly 51,000 work orders, held various resident events and enjoyed getting to know the families we serve. Thank you for your service and the sacrifices you make each day. We will continue doing our best to take care of your home. After all, you are the reason we come to work each day.

It is an exciting time to live at Fort Sill. You have begun to see the excitement of construction and renovation projects. Since beginning construction, we have renovated 41 non historic homes, 27 historic homes and completed painting projects on the exterior of 77 homes. Construction is underway at Buffalo Soldier Acres and soon we will be moving families into those new homes and also breaking ground on our first Neighborhood Center.

As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded of all that I am thankful for. Picerne Military Housing is thankful to serve those who provide our freedom and who keep the word brave in our national anthem. It is your service to our great country that brought about the change in family housing that we call RCI or privatization.

We are proud to have been chosen by the Army as your family housing provider. Our goal is simple: to make your house a home, your home a part of your neighborhood and your neighborhood a vital part of the community by putting Families First®. We appreciate you and are proud to serve you, as you and your family serve this great nation. During this Thanksgiving season, the Picerne Military Housing team will keep you in our thoughts and wish for a great holiday season filled with family and friends.

Pest Control

Picerne Military Housing offers quarterly, preventative pest control treatment around the exterior of each home. Please unlock any gates and bring pets indoors on the scheduled treatment day to ensure that your home is sprayed in its entirety.

All chemicals used are organic, odorless and will not stain. Please refrain from watering the grass and flower bed areas for one hour after application for maximum effectiveness.

Environmental Pest and Termite Control of Lawton will conduct the preventative treatment as scheduled below, weather permitting. Please contact your Neighborhood Office with any questions.

Patriot Estates - November 4
Henry Post Manor - November 11
Artillery Village - November 18



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.

Address

5434 Rossbach Rd

Phone

580-581-2142

Fax

580-581-2143

Website

www.sillpicerne.com

E-Mail

southernplains@picernemh.com

Holiday Travel and Your Home

Helpful reminders to secure your home as you travel this holiday season:

- Notify your Neighborhood Office of your travels. We will make a note in your file, especially if a pet will be remaining in the home. Providing us with emergency contact numbers is also highly encouraged. We may need to contact you in the event of an emergency.
- If you have not already completed Permission to Enter (PTE) form, please do so. Permission to Enter form will allow us to enter your home to perform routine maintenance while you are away.
- Clean out your refrigerator and set the temperature control higher to conserve energy. You'll be glad you did when you return home.
- Set your home thermostat on a lower setting but do not turn it off completely. There's no need to fully heat your home while you are away.



RCI Survey Winners

In October, Picerne Military Housing mailed out a survey to one fourth of the on-post residents. Six completed surveys were selected at random from the returned responses. For each survey drawn, the families were awarded a \$100 Visa Gift Card from Picerne. The winners are: the Hennessy family, the McGill family, the Denton family, the Foley family, the Ackerman family and the Heron family. Congratulations.

The next survey will be mailed in early January to a different 25 percent of our residents. Please complete yours and maybe you can be one of the happy winners!



Denton Family



McGill Family

Heater Reminder:

When using your heater for the first time this season, you may detect a smoke-like odor. This smell is usually caused by the dust that has accumulated in your unit during the summer months and will usually dissipate within a few minutes. Please do not call 911 unless you actually see smoke when you use your heater for the first time.

Critter control

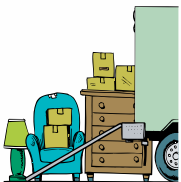
Please contact your Neighborhood Office to remove any unwanted animals from your yard or the area surrounding your home. This includes stray dogs, snakes, raccoons and skunks.



Moving Out Soon?

Picerne Military Housing asks that when you receive orders to PCS, ETS or retire, you should follow these steps:

- Please provide at least 30 days written notice of your pending move to your Neighborhood Office.
- Request a pre-move inspection to help you identify damages or items to be cleaned prior to move out. A pre-move inspection will help you to avoid any charges.



Holiday Decorations

The Thanksgiving turkey and dressing haven't even been baked and already people are thinking about decorating for the holidays. Most people like to put up their holiday decorations the weekend after Thanksgiving. Before you begin the annual trimming of the tree (and house) there are some safety measures you should take.

Picerne requires that all tree ornaments and decorations be noncombustible. Lights and lighting sets for use with trees must have the label of Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. (UL) and be in good condition. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

If you plan to buy a fresh tree please note that, for safety reasons, they are not allowed to remain in homes longer than ten calendar days. When buying natural trees, we encourage you to:

- Check for freshness. A fresh tree is less of a fire hazard. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles to not break.
- Cut a few inches off the trunk to expose fresh wood and set the tree in water.
- Place it in a stable container that will hold at least one, and preferable two, gallons of water.
- Keep the trunk base covered with water and check the water level each day.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as hot air ducts and television sets. Remember, heat will dry your tree out.

Outdoor decorations are encouraged. Residents may put out holiday outdoor decorations beginning the day after Thanksgiving. We require all decorations including lights be taken down no later than the first week of January.

If you use outdoor lights, make sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold them in place, string them through plastic holders. Never use nails, hooks, staples or tacks. Lights must be turned off by 10:00 p.m. each night and remember to turn off all holiday lights when you leave the house. The lights could short and start a fire.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding holiday decorations, contact your Neighborhood Office.

Fireplace safety tips, The right way to start a fire

Open the flue. Lay several pieces of crumpled paper in the middle of the fireplace. Over the paper lean pieces of kindling against one another in the shape of a teepee. Then light the paper on fire and keep the fireplace door (if you have one) open just slightly. This will help the air circulate. When the kindling starts to burn, add larger pieces of kindling but don't smother the fire; continue adding larger and larger pieces of dry wood as the next one burns, keeping the fireplace door open slightly between each addition. When larger pieces of dry hard wood are burning and the fire is less smoky, you know that the draft is being pulled up the chimney and you've got a great fire going.



Don't Burn a Fire Overnight

Fire left to burn out overnight can cause a backdraft of smoke. This can pollute the air in your home with carbon monoxide and other chemicals. Instead, keep your fires small but hot, and let them burn out completely (and close the flue) before going to bed for the night.

Garbage Disposals, Grease and the Holidays!

The holidays are the number one season for clogged sinks and sewer backups. To keep your pipes clear, dispose of grease, oils and fats with your regular trash. If poured down the sink, these fatty materials can harden along pipelines causing sewer backups.



To keep your garbage disposal working properly, do not use it to dispose of large quantities of food waste. Egg shells, potato skins, pasta, rice and other vegetables and meats can cause your garbage disposal to clog and jam. Large food scraps like these should be disposed of in your regular trash. Your garbage disposal should be used only to help wash down very small amounts of food that remain in your sink after washing dishes.

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.

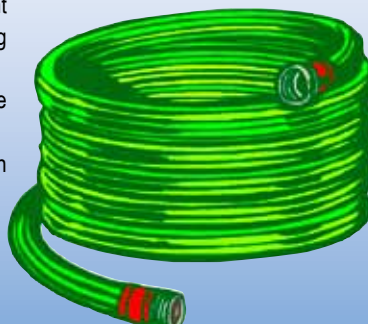
Preventing Frozen Pipes

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

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



CG Challenge/Run For the Fallen is November 3

Fort Sill Team PRIDE and the southwestern Oklahoma community and schools will conduct a post-wide run and Health and Fitness Expo beginning and ending at the Fort Sill Polo Field November 3. The purpose of the running and walking program is to promote the health of Fort Sill Soldiers, civilians and their families in southwestern Oklahoma. The theme for this event is "Run for the Fallen," in recognition of those families and their loved ones who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. The health and fitness fair will be offered through Reynolds Army Community Hospital and Family and MWR will conduct a new class called "Kick Butt Zumba." The health expo and outdoor activities start on the Polo Field at 11 a.m. and the walk kicks off at 1:45 p.m. The event is open to the community and everyone is encouraged to participate.

AFAP Conference is November 1-3 at Patriot Club

The Fort Sill Army Family Action Plan Conference is November 1-3 at the Patriot Club from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. To register as a delegate or work the conference, e-mail Gerda Weekley at gerda.weekley@us.army.mil. Call (580) 442-4916 for more information.

Our Family for Families First scholarship, grant applications available Nov. 1

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 \$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 will be available November 1. The applications are available online at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org. 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™.

ACS offers Soldier and Family Resiliency Class - Setting conditions for Success November 4

Plan to attend the Soldier and Family Resiliency - Setting Conditions for Success one day seminar November 4 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Graham Resiliency Training Campus. The course, which is free and open to the Lawton Fort Sill community, offers 14 different workshops. The workshops provide a sampling of strengths-based and skill-building programs that will focus on finding ways to increase personal and family resilience. The event is hosted in partnership with 31st ADA and the Lawton-Fort Sill community. Programs will include: Establishing Priorities (Putting 1st Things 1st), Mental Toughness/Agility, Social Media Etiquette, Cooking on a Budget, How to Negotiate with Debt Collectors, Healthy Living Skills - for Families and Individuals, Toddler Development, Play is the Work of Children, Blended Families (Yours, Mine, Ours), How to Develop a Literacy-Rich Home, Listen First, Talk Second (effective communication), Deposit into the Love Bank, Relaxation - massage, and Creative Ways to Say I Love You. For more information, call Karen Previe at (580) 442-4916 or 442-0359.

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Geronimo Acres: Rossbach Road and all streets south of Rossbach and west of Geronimo Road.</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Patriot Estates: All streets south of Greble Rd.</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Patriot Estates: All streets north of Greble Rd.</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Henry Post Manor Artillery Village</i>	
		1	2	3	4	5
Daylight Savings Time ends	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i>			<i>Trash/Bulk Trash</i>	<i>Veterans' Day</i> <i>Leasing Office Closed</i> <i>Neighborhood Office Open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</i>	
6	7	8	9	10	Lawn Weather Make up 11	12
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> <i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Geronimo Acres: All streets north of Rossbach and west of Geronimo</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Geronimo Acres: Rossbach Road and all streets south of Rossbach and west of Geronimo Road.</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Patriot Estates: All streets south of Greble Rd.</i>	<i>Trash/Bulk Trash</i> <i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Patriot Estates: All streets north of Greble Rd.</i>	Lawn Weather Make up	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> <i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Henry Post Manor Artillery Village</i>			Thanksgiving <i>All offices Closed</i>	<i>Leasing Office Closed</i> <i>Neighborhood Office Open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</i> <i>Trash/Bulk Trash</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i> <i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Academic Heights: Cruikshank, Batson</i>			December <i>Trash/Bulk Trash</i> <i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Geronimo Acres: All streets north of Rossbach and west of Geronimo</i>	<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Geronimo Acres: Rossbach, Kaiser, Havron</i>	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	<i>Trash/Recycling Bulk Trash</i>		<i>Fall Clean up</i> <i>Henry Post Manor</i> <i>Patriot Estates: All streets north of Greble</i>	<i>Trash/Bulk Trash</i>	Lawn Weather Make up	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



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