

CAMELLIA TERRACE NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Fort Polk, LA

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®

From the desk of Thomas Reed,
Deputy Community Management Director

At the beginning of each year, I get the pleasure of writing this article to each of you as our residents to inform you about the accomplishments we have accomplished and those that we are planning for the current year here at Fort Polk. We are very excited about what we accomplished in 2011 and the improvements that we will see in 2012. In 2011 we delivered our fourth Neighborhood Center in Camellia Terrace providing a significant improvement in amenities offered to the families of that neighborhood. We delivered 80 new homes, with 24 of those new homes being on Fairway Court for Command Sergeant Majors. We also completed 150 renovations that included the major renovation of 2 bedroom apartment style homes, where additional square footage was added to each home and the downstairs home was converted into a 3 bedroom home to accommodate larger families. In 2012 we will continue to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families here at Fort Polk by delivering an additional 92 new homes and completing 89 renovations which will include more of the major renovations of 2 bedroom apartment style homes.

I want to take this opportunity to inform you that we will be switching our utility billing service provider from ISTA to Minol in February, but you will not see this change until March. We are conducting Town Hall Talks on March 20th at the Dogwood Terrace Neighborhood Center with two sessions scheduled, the first session starts at 11:30 am and the second session starts at 5:30 PM in the Dogwood Terrace Neighborhood Center Multipurpose room. We will have Minol representatives present at these Town Hall Talk sessions to answer any question that you may have.

Another change that I want to make certain you are informed of is that the RCI Office and our Construction Office, Program Office, Community office and Relocation Office have all moved from the corner of Louisiana and Mississippi. Our Construction Office has moved to a temporary office in Camellia Terrace and Our Program and Community Offices have move to a temporary Office in Dogwood Terrace. The Relocation and RCI Offices have moved as well but remain in the same general area to building 1831 which is directly across the parking lot from the In and Out Processing Center. These moves were necessary as the Army is building a new Head Quarters building on the corner of Louisiana and Mississippi where the previous Picerne offices were

located. This switching of offices occurred in January and will not affect our service to you our families, as your neighborhood office and management team are your first point of contact to resolve any issues that you may have with your home or your neighborhood.

I also want to remind all of our families that it is in your best interest to keep your neighborhood office informed of changes in your life. Specific areas that you need to keep your neighborhood office informed of are: increase or decrease in rank, receipt of PCS orders or ETS orders. Long term guests, 7 days or more, additions to your family and changes in your contact information such as cell phone number, email address and the Command you are attached to. This information is vital as it keeps your neighborhood team informed of significant changes that can affect you directly in several different ways. As an example if you fail to report an addition to your family and an emergency occurs we are not aware of that new addition to your family and we can only report to emergency services what we know, so in the case of a fire in your home the Fire Department will only be looking to safely remove 3 people from your home instead of 4. These changes can affect your BAH rate and if not reported then you could be paying too much for your rent and losing income until a refund can be provided or you may not be paying enough rent to Picerne which would result in a large delinquency that you are responsible for. Concerning PCS or ETS orders, as stated in your lease with Picerne you are required to provide a 30 day notice prior to moving out of your home, notifying your neighborhood office as soon as possible will assist you in having a smooth move-out and transition from your home. In any of these cases not informing your neighborhood office of these changes can cause additional stress on you and your family. Picerne would like to avoid this stress for you and your family, and asks that you keep your neighborhood office informed so that we can provide you with the best service possible.

Thomas Reed,
Deputy Community Management Director



NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE

Neighborhood Manager
Paula Peek

Maintenance Supervisor
Mike Josey

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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Third Party 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. It is because of your feedback, actions were taken to improve our third party billing services.

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, as our third party billing company, to be easy and seamless. Families that currently have an on-line account with Ista will have to activate an on-line 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.

Picerne's Offices Have Moved

Picerne constantly strives to provide our Families and the Fort Polk community with the best customer service at all times. A new headquarters for the 1st MEB is planned for the corner of Louisiana and Mississippi, the site where Picerne's main offices are currently located. To ensure that we continue to offer valued services to our Families and community, our offices have been relocated. On January 9, 2012 the Construction office relocated to 5339 Evans Street near the Camellia Terrace Neighborhood Center. The Program and Property Management Offices relocated on January 16, 2012 to 6611 Wideman Street within the Dogwood Terrace Neighborhood. On January 30, 2012, RCI and Picerne Leasing and Relocation relocated into building 1831, and is still conveniently located across the parking lot from In and Out Processing.

Picerne will continue to provide our residents and customers with excellent service at our new locations. Picerne is here to meet your needs and provide you the best customer service no matter where our offices are located. We look forward to continuing to serve our nation's heroes and their Families. Please call our office at 337-537-5000 if you have any questions.



MARDI GRAS HISTORY

Mardis Gras is Tuesday,
February 21, 2012

The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced to Medieval Europe, though we have no written record of how that really transformed into the current Mardi Gras of today. The origins of the Mardi Gras we celebrate today -- with Kings, Mardi Gras colors, and brass bands -- are traced to New Orleans.

A French-Canadian explorer, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, landed on a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans in 1699 and called it "Pointe due Mardi Gras." He also established "Fort Louis de la Louisiane" (which is now Mobile) in 1702. In 1703, the tiny settlement of Fort Louis de la Mobile celebrated the very first Mardi Gras.

In 1704, Mobile established a secret society (Masque de la Mobile) ... similar to those who form our current Mardi Gras Krewes which lasted until 1709. In 1710, the "Boeuf Graf Society" was formed and paraded from 1711 through 1861. The procession was held with a huge bull's head pushed alone on wheels by 16 men. This occurred on Fat Tuesday.

New Orleans was established in 1718 by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne. By the 1730s, Mardi Gras was celebrated openly in New Orleans, but not in parade form. In the early 1740s, Louisiana's Governor The Marquis de Vaudreuil established elegant society balls -- the model for the New Orleans Mardi Gras balls of today.

The earliest reference to Mardi Gras "Carnival" appears in a 1781 report to the Spanish colonial governing body. That year, the Perseverance Benevolent & Mutual Aid Association is the first of hundreds of clubs and carnival organizations formed in New Orleans.

By the late 1830s, New Orleans held street processions of maskers with carriages and horseback to celebrate Mardi Gras. Newspapers began to announce Mardi Gras events in advance.

In 1871, Mardi Gras's second "Krewe" is formed, the Twelfth Night Reveler's, with the first account of Mardi Gras "throws."

1872 was the year that a group of businessmen invented a King of Carnival -- Rex -- to parade in the first daytime parade. They introduced the Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold; the Mardi Gras song, and the Mardi Gras flag.

In 1873, the first floats were constructed entirely in New Orleans instead of France. In 1875, Governor Warmoth of Louisiana signs the "Mardi Gras Act" making it a legal holiday in Louisiana, which is still is.

Most Mardi Gras Krewes today developed from private social clubs that have restrictive membership policies. Since all of these parade organizations are completely funded by its members, we call it the "Greatest Free Show on Earth!"

**The above information is from <http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/> . The website is a great resource to locate information on the history, scheduling, shopping, etc... of Mardi Gras in New Orleans. This website has apps available for your iphone to keep you updated and informed on Parade routes, schedules and news.*



Black History Month

Black History Month is an observance of the history of the African Diaspora in a number of countries outside of Africa. Since 1976, it is observed annually in the United States and Canada in February, while in the United Kingdom it is observed in October. In the U.S., Black History Month is also referred to as African-American History Month.



Black History Month began in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson. His goal was to educate the American people about African-American history, focusing on African Americans' cultural backgrounds and reputable achievements. During Black History Month, African American history is taught to thousands of students at the elementary, high school and university levels respectively. African American history is an extremely important part of American history, and it is almost impossible to find an American History textbook that does not include passages about black history.

Below you will find a few famous African Americans and their contributions to history:

George Washington Carver (January 1864 – January 5, 1943), was an American scientist, botanist, educator, and inventor. Carver's reputation is based on his research into and promotion of alternative crops to cotton, such as peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes, which also aided nutrition for farm families.

Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, c. February 1818 – February 20, 1895) was an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his dazzling orator and incisive antislavery writing.

Rosa Parks (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was a civil rights activist and her refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus spurred a city-wide boycott. The city of Montgomery had no choice but to lift the law requiring segregation on public buses. Rosa Parks received many accolades during her lifetime, including the NAACP's highest award.

Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Harriet Ross; 1820 – March 10, 1913) was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. After escaping from slavery, into which she was born, she made thirteen missions to rescue more than 70 slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and in the post-war era struggled for women's suffrage.

Thurgood Marshall (July 2, 1908 – January 24, 1993) was an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, serving from October 1967 until October 1991. Marshall was the Court's 96th justice and its first African-American justice. Before becoming a judge, Marshall was a lawyer who was best remembered for his high success rate in arguing before the Supreme Court and for the victory in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**The information in the article above was gathered from Wikipedia*

Our Family for Families First scholarship and grant applications available

Our Family for Families First, John G. Picerno'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 Picerno Military Housing – putting military Families First™.

Resident Responsibility Guide (RRG) Highlight

4-8 Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Automobile repairs are not authorized in Fort Polk family housing neighborhoods. Residents may use the Fort Polk Auto Craft Shop owned by AAFES for repairs. Unauthorized repairs create safety hazards for other residents and guests and may damage housing or common areas. The Resident will be assessed charges for the repair of damages resulting from such activity (oil leaks, curb breaks, turf damage, etc.). The AAFES Auto Craft Shop provides appropriate areas for automotive type of work.



CAN THE GREASE

American Water would like your assistance to make a huge leap towards a cleaner and environmentally friendly future with a new program rolling out in January of 2012 called Can the Grease. The intent of this program is to provide education on the proper disposal of grease and oils. Grease and oil build up is responsible for 80% of our dry weather sanitary sewer overflows. During the first part of 2012, residents in pre-selected neighborhoods, will receive an aluminum can with heat resistant liners to dispose of their grease and oils. Once the bag is full, it can be tossed right into the garbage. This will keep the grease out of the sewer collection system and greatly reduce the number of sewer overflows in your neighborhood. When you run out of heat-resistant bags, you can find them at many local retailers, just look for oven roasting or cooking bags in any generic or brand name. Thank you for helping our community to be more environmentally conscious! If you have any questions or concerns about this issue do not hesitate to contact Ernie Williamson with American Water at (337) 537-1170.



Town Hall

A Sneak Peek at 2012 Resident Events!

- March 24th- Easter Egg Hunt
- May 2nd- Breakfast on the Go
- August 7th- National Night Out
- September 21st- Movie Night
- October 26th- Pumpkin Patch
- December 4th & 6th - Pictures with Santa

Join Picerne Military Housing on March 20, 2012 for our Annual Town Hall meeting. This is an opportunity for you and your family to meet our team and have a look ahead at what will take place in family housing in 2012. There will be two sessions to afford everyone the opportunity to attend. The first session will begin at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the second session will be from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Dogwood Neighborhood Center. There will be refreshments served at each session. Please bring questions and comments with you to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

					Garbage		
				1	2	3	4
					Garbage		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
		Valentine's Day			Garbage		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		Lawn Care Norris, Tankersley, Cline, McCauley, Nowak, Zolinski, Busch, Traycheff, Perez (5313-5333), Evans	Lawn Care Harvey, Fernandez, Monroe, Berkley, Lewis, Reed, Perez (5221- 5247), Miller, Camellia NHC	Garbage Lawn Care Hunt, Lee, Roach, Whittington, Michael			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
				March			
					Garbage		
26	27	28	29	1	2	3	
					Garbage		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	