

HERITAGE PARK/NORMANDY BLUFFS NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Fort Meade, MD

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®

From the Desk of Jodi Collins,
Community Management Director

Dear Residents,

On behalf of the Picerne team, I'd like to wish you a very Happy New Year! Picerne is excited to start the year off with a bang, and there are many exciting things to look forward to in 2012.

In 2011, families have benefited from the completion of 62 renovated homes with improvements such as new floor coverings, upgraded appliance packages, new siding, interior remodeling and enhanced landscaping. In addition, 162 roofing projects were completed.

In 2012, Picerne is working with RCI and the Army to create parking and paving improvements, throughout the neighborhoods. Please be sure to keep an eye on your monthly newsletter and SoundOff! for information on all of the program updates that we have planned for 2012.

In addition, we look forward to spending time with you and your family at many of the same great events that we hosted last year like BINGO in February, the annual Resident

Picnic in June, our Holiday event 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 of the comments that 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 Meade—please keep that wonderful feedback coming in 2012!

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

Jodi Collins
Community Management Director



NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE

Neighborhood Manager
Crystal Rascoe

Maintenance Supervisor
Steve Shorter

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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Let it Snow!

With the winter months approaching, Fort Meade'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 for all streets in the housing areas.
- Snow removal begins after two inches of snow has accumulated and will continue until the roadways are passable.
- 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.
- Ice melting agents will be provided based on availability for residents at the Neighborhood Office.
- Many housing area roadways are marked as "Snow Emergency Routes." It would help Picerne clear the roads in an efficient and complete manner if residents refrain from parking on these roadways during and immediately after winter storms.

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

Soliciting

Soliciting is strictly prohibited on Army Installations. Help fight crime in your neighborhood by reporting solicitors to the Fort Meade Police at 301-677-6622 or 6623.

Picerne Spreads Holiday Cheer at Eighth Annual December in the City

Picerne Military Housing hosted their 8th annual December in the City event on Saturday, December 3 from 3 to 7 p.m.

This holiday celebration was held completely free to residents and featured photos with Santa, Horse-drawn carriage rides, a mobile game theater, holiday crafts, raffles, food, and more.

"My husband is away, and I figured we would come, but I had no idea the magnitude of this event, it's great!" Said Jennifer Davis, a Meuse Forest Resident whose daughter Claire said her favorite part of the event was "hugging the deer" in reference to the baby reindeer that made a debut.

Picerne conducted a total of four raffles, two gift cards to the movies, and two gift cards to outback steakhouse. Congratulations to those lucky winners below:

- The Singletary Family - Potomac Place
- The Alvarez Family - Potomac Place
- The Wintermute Family- Potomac Place
- The Nichols Family - Meuse Forest



Please continue to check your monthly newsletter and the *Soundoff!* for information about Picerne's upcoming events.

New Pet Bag Stations

Based on feedback from residents, Picerne has implemented and installed pet bag stations. Residents may notice these bag stations throughout the neighborhood. These were installed to encourage pet waste clean-up throughout the community. Help keep your neighborhood clean by using one of the dispensable bags located at each station for your pet. If the bags are empty, please notify your neighborhood office.



Our Family for Families First scholarship, 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 \$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 now available. 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™.

Family Housing Residents Encouraged to use Trash and Recycling Program

Picerne Military Housing and Allied Waste Services are working together to make the trash and recycling program convenient for residents and to help the environment by recovering raw materials, saving energy, conserving landfill space and reducing pollution. "Some neighborhoods on post have curbside trash pickup and some neighborhoods use trash compactors," said Cedric Ellis, Maintenance Supervisor for Picerne. "Each home that has curbside pickup has either a blue recycle bin or a green recycle tote. In addition, each curbside home has a 30 gallon container for household trash." Ellis added.

"It's important to note that trash cannot be put in the same container as recycled items," said Ellis. If a bag of trash or other household trash is in the recycle bin, the contents cannot be recycled and the bin will not be emptied. Instead, it will be tagged with a service notice stating why the recyclables were not collected. This has been a problem that some housing residents are running into.

"Residents should be sure they separate household garbage from recyclables and clean out their trashcan on a regular basis to keep the neighborhoods free of rodents and insects." Ellis added. Allied has one truck that collects trash in all Neighborhoods on Fort Meade. During the first route, Allied collects regular household garbage and drops it at the trash center off post. Allied then begins the second route and collects resident's recycling. During the second route, the truck should be marked as a recycling truck, though it is still the same truck. "While it does take a little extra work," Ellis said, "recycling is certainly worth the effort. In addition to protecting our environment, it also stimulates the economy. Residents that utilize the neighborhood trash and recycling centers are also helping the environment. These stations have a large identified corral for recyclables, separate from the trash compactor.

Residents should please remember to not place any household garbage in the recycling corrals. Doing so contaminates the materials, which then cannot be recycled. Picerne has noticed an increase in the use of the recycling stations and has recently scheduled an additional pick up each week. Trash compactors used in the Potomac Place, Heritage Park and Meuse Forest neighborhoods are emptied three times a week, an increase from Allied's previous schedule. Residents can obtain a sticker to place on their recycling containers from their Neighborhood Office. This sticker identifies what recyclable materials are accepted.

According to the National Recycling Coalition, recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours. Similarly, The Environmental Protection Agency estimates one ton of recycled mixed paper saves the equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

Acceptable Recycle Items:



Newspapers



Junk Mail



Magazines, Catalogs Phone books, paperbacks



Office and Mixed Paper, white and color, file folders Envelopes



Paper bags, packaging



Cereal Box & dry food boxes



Aluminum & Tin Can Rinsed/Clean Only/ Labels Removed. Cans with food or anything inside are trash. Note: Tops are sharp as razor blades please put inside empty can.



Plastic Bottles/Jugs/Containers Rinsed/Clean/Label Free/Cap Free Bottles/Jugs/Containers with liquid inside them are trash. Plastic containers labeled 1-7



Cardboard Clean/Flatten Only

Other:

- Rinsed, coated milk and juice cartons
- Plastic containers labeled 1-7
- Aluminum and tin cans
- Glass containers (clear, brown, green)
- Plastic Bags, bread bags and clean, frozen food bags (labeled 4 plastic)

Help prevent crime in your neighborhood

Fighting crime is a collective effort, no matter how well trained and vigilant, the police simply cannot be everywhere. Your eyes and ears, and those of your neighbors and family members, can be of enormous help in preventing crime. After all, you know best what activities do, or do not, belong in and around your neighborhood and community.

Here are two key steps to follow to ensure that you do not become a victim:

- Properly secure all items of value around your home and never leave anything unattended, even for a few minutes.
- Ensure your Quarters and Vehicle are secured and that all items of value are removed from your vehicle or placed out of "Plain View."

Please remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity to the Ft Meade Police immediately. Remember, the major element of a crime for a criminal is the opportunity to commit it, if we remove this element we have won the Battle!

Anyone spotting suspicious activity, or who may have information on any criminal activity in your area, please call the Fort Meade Police desk at 301-677-6622/6623.

Welcome home!

Several of our deployed troops safely returned home in the past months. Welcome home and thank you for your service! We continue to keep those who are deployed around the world in our thoughts and prayers.



The Following Items are NOT accepted:

- Food and waste left in containers
- Shrink and soft wrap, molded Styrofoam
- "Peanuts" packaging material and loose bubble wrap
- Restroom waste papers
- Glass panels and fluorescent light bulbs
- Hazardous materials (computer and TV monitors, chemicals, paint)
- Waxed cardboard



Other Calendar Events:

- Dump Your Plump- Get ready to drop those extra Holiday Pounds and register for this year's Dump Your Plump competition. The competition will begin on January 9 and will end on March 2. Winners will be declared on March 6. For more information on this program please call 301-677-7916.
- Join the Ft. Meade Military Spouse Employment Support Group to prepare for a new career on January 18, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Potomac Place Neighborhood Center. For more information, contact (301) 677-6658 or (301) 677-7571.
- Army Community Services has many reoccurring events in the month of January. Please contact 301-677-5590 for more information on these programs:
 - Survivor Outreach Services
 - Credit Score Clinic
 - Effective Communication for Parents
 - Mom Support Group
 - Empowering Parents of Teens
 - Dads 101

Holiday Trash Disposal

To better assist with your holiday trash disposal, Picerne Military Housing will be collecting unwanted Christmas trees from January 2 – January 6. Please place the trees curbside in front of your home during this time. Additionally, we ask that you please remove all inorganic decorations from the trees so they can be ground for mulch. For normal bulk trash, please follow the Monday and Friday schedule. Families that have a large amount of bulk items should contact their Neighborhood Office.

2012 BAH Rates

As you may know, the 2012 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates will be issued for viewing on the Department of Defense (DoD) website in the month of December.

Duty stations in the area may experience 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. If you are a service member under the marines or coast guard, please adjust your allotment so that it reflects the 2012 BAH rates between January 1 and January 15.

JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Year's Day		Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash		Lawn Care		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash		Lawn Care		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash		Lawn Care		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash		Lawn Care		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash	February	Lawn Care		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Garbage/Recycling Bulk Trash		Lawn Care		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Pest Control On Demand