

COMMUNITY CORNER

Focus should be placed on energy conservation at Fort Riley

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Fort Riley is looking toward the future. Programs are in place and more are beginning everyday to help build resiliency in our Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees.

We want them to have the skills, and the physical and emotional well-being to sustain our force into the future.

Just as we are working to sustain our human resources, we also need to think about sustaining our installation and its resources.

Each Defense Department installation is doing its part to reduce energy use, develop sources of renewable energy and move toward energy independence. Besides just being a good idea as



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good stewards of the earth, developing our energy independence makes good sense from a force protection standpoint. If our energy resources are our own, they become harder targets for terrorism.

Many programs at Fort Riley are already helping us accomplish these goals. The Directorate of Support Services, formerly part of the Directorate of Logistics, has been supporting our efforts with their new fleet of hybrid vehicles.

DOSS also heads up the vanpooling program on Fort Riley along with VPI, Inc. Each day, 11 vans drive onto post

carrying 72 people to work. Imagine what kind of impact it will make as that number increases.

In our on-post housing areas, residents are taking part in the Department of Defense Resident Responsibility Utility Program. The program, which began earlier this year, monitors resident utility usage and compares it to the usage in similar homes. Those homes that use more than the baseline set each month receive a bill for the extra usage. Those residents who are under the baseline receive a rebate.

This program encourages residents to think about their energy consumption. Instead of leaving every light in the house on, residents now know the best choice is to only use lights where they are needed. Some other things residents can do to decrease their energy use include using the microwave

to cook small meals; turning the water off while shaving or brushing teeth; taking short showers instead of baths; keeping drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool; and washing only full loads of laundry or using the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine. These all are small actions we can take to help make a big difference.

While our planners on post are looking into the bigger picture of how we can become an energy independent post and model for the Army, each of us can make a difference every day.

By being conscientious of our actions, we can help. Each time we unplug our cell phone chargers that aren't being used, or turn off our computer monitors at the end of the day, it knocks a little bit off of the post's \$18

to \$20 million dollar per year energy bill.

Another way we can help save energy and money is by replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Because of their extended life and reduced energy use, they yield significant savings.

Making sure windows and doors stay closed during the winter months is another way to reduce energy costs. In older homes, where doors and windows may not seal as tightly as we'd like, homeowners can purchase window film at hardware stores to help seal in heat.

On post, all new construction has to be 30 percent more efficient than the national standard. By 2012, all federal buildings must have meters that will allow individuals to monitor and control systems such as heating and cooling. The meters also will allow the

systems to adjust themselves by raising or lowering the temperature when the buildings are unoccupied. Homeowners can accomplish this as well by installing programmable thermostats in their homes. These can be set to adjust the temperature when no one is home and kick back in before you plan to return so your home is comfortable when you get there.

I encourage everyone to take a look at their actions each day. Every little bit helps and when we all work together we can accomplish our goals. To learn more about saving energy at work and at home, visit www.energy.gov.

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@coms.army.mil.

Workshops created to prep students for life

By Parker Rome
1ST INF. DIV. POST

A series of workshops have been created to help students prepare for life after high school.

"They are on a variety of topics held to promote college preparedness and life and career skills," said Stacy Groth, Child Liaison for Education and Outreach Services program director.

The workshops will discuss issues for students planning on attending college or immediately entering the workforce.

The college prep series, which began in September, is set to discuss topics including: ACT test preparation, creating portfolios, writing essays and resumes, college applications, choosing and financing college and transitioning to college or the workforce.

But the classes aren't just targeted to students.

"We would like to see parents there, but, of course, it's not absolutely necessary," Groth said. "A large majority of the topics are geared toward

parents as well as their youth. Both could gain from the information."

Some workshops are created for parents, such as the ones on being successful in parent-teacher conferences and transitioning children to a new school if a permanent change of station is ordered.

Instructors outside of Child, Youth and School Services will be tapped to share their knowledge in the series.

"We are working with Parent to Parent through MCEC, the K-State Extension Office, Army Community Services and some guidance counselors through the public school system," Groth said.

Workshops are scheduled to take place up to a few times a month through May and are set for 7 p.m. at Building 6620 unless otherwise noted. A flyer of courses offered is available at the FMWR's Web site at www.rileymwr.com

"We know that each participant gains something, so we've been excited to have the turnout that we've had, but we would love to see more," Groth said.

AT THE MOVIES

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tickets cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Oct. 16 - I Can Do Bad All By Myself, PG-13
Oct. 17 - Inglourious Basterds, R
Oct. 18 - I Can Do Bad All By Myself, PG-13, 5 p.m.
Oct. 22 - Extract, R
Oct. 23 - Whiteout, R
Oct. 24 - Sorority Row, R
Oct. 25 - Whiteout, R, 5 p.m. show
Oct. 29 - Sorority Row, R
Oct. 30 - All About Steve, PG-13
Oct. 31 - Halloween, R
Nov. 1 - All About Steve, PG-13, 5 p.m.

For more information, call Barlow Theater at 785-239-9574.

