

COMMUNITY CORNER

Help from teenagers has been crucial in making Fort Riley a better place

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

During the Month of the Military Child, we've celebrated our military children with breakfasts, classes, a festival, a concert and much more. In this week's column I'd like to highlight our teens who help get things done on post.

In March, I met with a group of these teens who volunteered to take part in a focus group. These teens gave up a chunk of their free time to help make Fort Riley the best post it can be for them and their friends.

The main issue brought

up by the teens was their lack of transportation to participate in activities over the summer months. Nearly half of the teens in the group were affected by this issue.

According to them, having summer transportation – their recommendation was a shuttle service that would stop at the Post Exchange and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities – would help teens keep in touch with other teens in similar situations, in-



Col. Brown

crease teen center membership and use of DFMWR facilities. Keeping them active would reduce their stress and keep them out of trouble.

Several options are being looked at to solve this issue including reinstating the Fort Riley shuttle service, a scaled down version of the shuttle service that would have a less inclusive route, and a youth taxi service.

All of these options have their pros and cons, which are being evaluated by me and the Child, Youth and School Services staff.

Another issue, which was resolved at the beginning of April with the help of a group

of teen volunteers, was the lack of a crosswalk near the Post Exchange. I'd like to say thank you to the teens who not only brought this issue to the forefront again, but volunteered their time to make sure it got done.

This is the kind of effort our military teens put into making their lives what they want. By taking ownership of their programs and not being afraid to voice their opinions, our teens help make Fort Riley the best division-level installation in the Army.

Do you have suggestions for how to make something better? Whether you are a teen, a spouse, a civilian employee,

brought to our attention teens and Families on Main Post would have no activities within walking distance. It now will open May 29 along with Custer Hill Pool. Check www.rileymwr.com to find out what kinds of activities the pools will host this summer.

As the teens I've met over this past month have shown, getting involved helps things get done. How can you get involved to make Fort Riley what you want?

Some more good news – brought on because you told us what you wanted – is that Main Post Pool will be open this summer. It was originally scheduled to be closed, but we reconsidered when it was

If you would like to comment on this article or offer a suggestion for Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

IN BRIEF

Child, Youth and School Services is hosting college preparation seminars to help parents and youth deal with school transitions successfully. All classes are held in the CYSS conference room in Building 6620 at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, and are free. Call 785-239-9539 for more information.
May 13 – Job Interviewing

USO Fort Riley hosts free No Dough Dinners before each pay day. Upcoming dinners will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. May 14 in Building 7856 off of Normandy Drive and Drum Street. For more information, visit www.uso.org/fortriley.

The next Middle School Teen Center dance will be from 8 to 10:30 p.m. May 13. Admission is \$2.50 for registered students and \$3.50 for non-registered students. Besides dancing, food, drinks, movies and basketball will be available. Members may bring two non-member guests. Call 785-239-9222 for more information.

A Teen Career Fair will run from 1 to 4 p.m. May 15 at Riley's Conference Center. Teens are invited to visit with employers, state and federal internship programs and volunteer organizations. For more information, call 785-239-9435 or e-mail rile.dmwracs@conus.army.mil.

Two sessions of Spouse Field Exercise: Pricelless Packages, a seminar for military spouses, will be offered by Family and Morale, Welfare and Information along with Tara Crooks and Starlett Henderson, co-founders of Army Wife Network. Sessions will be from 5 to 9 p.m. May 20 or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 21 at Riley's Conference Center. Participants will receive themed care package ideas, deployment survival tips and resources, networking opportunities, giveaways, gift bags and a complimentary meal. Online registration is required and opens April 26 at www.ArmyWifeNetwork.com. Limited child care will be available. Make child care reservations through Army Community Service by calling 785-240-0663. For more information, e-mail FromTheField@ArmyWifeNetwork.com.

Relocation Readiness will host Discover Riley's Treasures for Teens from 1 to 3 p.m. May 27 at the Middle School Teen Center. Teen will find out what's available to them during the summer months. For more information or to register, call 785-239-9435 or e-mail rile.dmwracs@conus.army.mil by May 24.

The Relocation Readiness Program offers "Discover Riley's Treasures," a newcomers' orientation the fourth Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service, Building 7264 Normandy Drive on Custer Hill. Call 785-239-9435 for more information.

High school students can earn \$1,000 and get work experience by participating

in the HIRED! program's summer internships. HIRED! provides 15- to 18-year-old high school students with professionally-managed career exploration opportunities. Applications for the summer program are due May 1. Besides working in facilities on Fort Riley, apprentices will attend workforce preparation workshops such as: problem solving, interviewing skills, resume writing, public speaking, effective communication, financial management, college and post-secondary exploration workshops, and more.

For more information, contact Susanne Prindall at 785-239-9217 or susanne.prindall@us.army.mil.

Children ages 5 to 10 are invited to Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon June 14-18 at Morris Hill Chapel. For more information or to register, call Don Ericson at 785-239-0979 or Roxanne Martinez at 785-240-1443. Nursery and preschool programs will be available for the children of volunteers.

Free Ages and Stages, Vision and Hearing Assessments will be open to children June 16, July 28, Sept. 15 and Nov. 17. This event is free and open to all military Families who have children from birth to kindergarten. For more information or to set up an appointment, call 785-239-9435 and ask for the New Parent Support Program or Exceptional Family Member Program, or call Geary County Infant Toddler Services at 785-717-4130.

Main Post Chapel hosts a Bible study for adults on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a potluck from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The adults are working through "The Essential 100 Challenges," which addresses 100 essential Old and New Testament scriptures.

A Bible study for girls ages 11 to 18 that focuses on developing godly character also is available.

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop is open Tuesday through Thursday and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with consignments from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Dollar Bag Room will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop continues to seek energetic volunteers. Child care reimbursement for volunteers is available. Please inquire at the shop.

The Automotive Skills Center offers a basic automotive repair class from 6 to 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month. An advanced repair class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month. For more information, visit www.rileymwr.com or call 785-239-9764.

The American Red Cross is now offering first aid and CPR online training at Fort Riley. For more information on the online coursework and hands-on training, call 785-537-2180 or 785-238-3163.

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