

Recycling bins add convenience

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker has many initiatives to promote sustainability and environmental wellness, but the installation has taken it one step further by trying to get its Soldiers, Families and civilians involved in the fight against waste.

The installation received 48 recycling bins last month through a grant provided by Keep America Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation, according to Melissa Lowlavar, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Management Branch chief.

"We found the grant available online and we did some research and found that it was available to government entities," said the EMB chief. "We got online, filled out the forms ... and we got the 48 bins that we can use to collect plastic, glass and aluminum."

"These bins will allow Fort Rucker to move closer toward diverting 50 percent of the waste stream from disposal while developing a cost-effective recycling program," said Al Townsend, DPW Environmental and Natural Resources Division chief, in a press release.

Due to recent budget constraints, DPW has been looking for ways to continue its sustainability efforts and promote recycling even under certain fiscal restraints.

"We've been trying to expand our recycling across the post," said Lowlavar, "but with limited personnel to go out and pick up recyclables and limited funds to purchase bins that we could use, this was a great opportunity for us."

"This way, we can get bins for people to use and encourage them to bring the recyclables to the recycling center so that they would not have to be on our pickup route," she continued.

The exact locations of where the bins will be placed have yet to be determined, but Lowlavar said they will more than likely be placed in high-traffic locations, such as Aviation training classrooms, Bldg. 5700 and the museum.

"We want to get the bins in areas where the most people can get use of them, but

also want to put them in locations that people are able to bring the bins back to the recycling center themselves," she added.

The types of materials that will be able to be put in the bins are No. 1 plastics, such as soda and water bottles, aluminum cans and glass. The bins for glass containers will only be available in certain areas since not all organizations on post utilize as much glass as others, said Lowlavar. The glass containers will also be separated according to color – green and blue, brown and clear.

She also asks that people that put containers into the bins make sure they are rinsed out and have no food particles on or in them.

"One of the main barriers to recycling is convenience. Providing a recycling bin helps communities overcome that barrier," said Matthew M. McKenna, president and CEO, Keep America Beautiful, in the press release.

"By increasing access to recycling today, we build sustainable communities for the future," said Lori George Billingsley, vice president, community relations, Coca-Cola North America Group.

Fort Rucker was one of 156 local government, schools, colleges and other community groups nationwide to receive a grant, according to the press release. Recipients were chosen by Keep America Beautiful based on a number of criteria, including level of need, recycling experience and the ability of applicants to sustain their program in the future.

The Bin Grant program awards recycling bins directly to recipients and leverages volume buying discounts, the release read. In its seven years of operation, the Bin Grant program has placed more than 29,000 recycling bins in more than 500 communities in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

Lowlavar said that for those that won't have access to the new recycling bins that the incentive program for recycling still exists, which earns people Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation credits for organizations to be used at many DFMWR facilities.

For more information, call 255-0484.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Melissa Lowlavar, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Management Branch chief, drops an empty plastic bottle into one of the new recycling bins Monday. Fort Rucker received 48 recycling bins through a grant provided by Keep America Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation to be placed at various locations throughout the installation.

Landing Zone keeps new design veiled

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Landing Zone is currently renovation innovation at its finest with all the new concepts and ideas that are going into its new construction layout and functionality, but a few surprises are in store.

The restaurant is estimated to be reopened by mid-September, but the details surrounding its new design and menu are being kept close to the chest, said Tim Carter, Landing Zone programs manager.

"We want to keep the details of the renovation a secret until we get closer to the reveal," he said. "As we get closer to September we might decide to divulge more information. We just want to keep it a surprise for our customers."

The menu, theme and general look of the restaurant is changing, and there will be an additional space for private parties.

"The bar will be in the same position, but that is the only thing not changing about the space," said Carter. "Overall, everyone wanted to see some menu changes, so we took that to heart. We just want to better serve our customers so they have a better dining experience."

"We are getting all new equipment, wall coverings, flooring and



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Grey Steven Waltz, maintenance mechanic, and Patrick McKla, maintenance mechanic, place drywall inside The Landing Zone Friday during the restaurant's renovation. The restaurant is estimated to reopen in mid-September.

furnishings. We wanted to update the space, and try to modernize and revamp the restaurant," said Casey Smith, administrative assistant for business operations division.

There will be two atmospheres for lunch and dinner, and it is expected that there will be slightly less seating than before.

"Based on what we are planning to do, I am really excited and I think our customers will really like it, too," said Smith. "It is going to be really different than what is already available on post."

The renovation is being funded by private business money, non-

appropriated fund money, and the entire staff was placed at other installation positions during the renovation, said Carter, so no one lost their jobs.

While The Landing Zone is under construction, there are other Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service dining facilities that offer top-notch service and some of the best food around.

"We are very proud of our ability to provide top-quality food and beverage facilities to our Fort Rucker community. Our chefs do an outstanding job to provide the

best culinary delights to suit any taste bud," said Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR marketing director.

Whether grabbing a burger while bowling a game with friends, eating out on a date or stopping in at Divots after playing 18 holes of golf, DFMWR has several options for affordable and casual dining.

Divot's Restaurant and Grille in Bldg. 20067 is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. It offers sandwiches, burgers, salads, wraps and wings.

"You don't have to be a golfer to appreciate the beautiful views and delicious food that Divot's has to offer. Patrons can experience an impressive lunch and drink menu, while enjoying a lovely, panoramic view of the blue course," said Erdlitz.

Rucker Lanes Bowling Center in Bldg. 9227 offers a café inside, which is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to midnight. The menu offers burgers, sandwiches and pizza.

"Unwinding at the bowling alley for the Lunch and Bowl lunch-time special is fun. All Lunch and Bowl options include two games of bowling and a shoe rental," she said.

There is a Coffee Zone located in Lyster Army Health Clinic, Bldg. 5700, to help diminish the crave for caffeine and espresso that some people can't live without. It is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Another choice for people to enjoy is Mother Rucker's, which is now open for lunch for the duration of The Landing Zone's renovation.

Mother Rucker's is located in Bldg. 319 and is open seven days a week from 4-11 p.m. Its temporary lunch hours are Mondays–Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children are allowed into the facility during lunch hours only. It is open to the public, ages 18 and older at 4 p.m.

"Mother Rucker's has a road-house-type of feel with burgers, sandwiches, wings, pizza, nachos, soups and salads, fried pickles, crab bites, chicken tenders, onion rings and more," said Carter. "We have added to their menu to make it larger for lunch while we are closed."

There are other options on post provided by Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Those options are located inside the post exchange and at Burger King.

The food options inside the PX are Subway, Popeye's, Anthony's Pizza and Charley's Grilled Subs.

News Briefs

Retirement ceremony

Fort Rucker hosts its quarterly retirement ceremony Friday at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are invited to attend and honor the post's retirees.

Gate, commissary closures

The Faulkner and Newton gates continue to be closed until further notice due to the start of Department of the Army furloughs. Delivery trucks and large loads should use the Ozark Gate. People who have questions about deliveries should contact their agency's point of contact on post. People can go to www.rucker.army.mil for gate status changes.

Additionally, the commissary is closed Mondays and Tuesdays through the end of September.

Troops to Teachers

Eligible veterans can receive up to \$10,000 through the Troops to Teachers program, and a free seminar on the program is scheduled for Aug. 15 at 9 a.m. at the Fort Rucker Education Center, Bldg. 4502, Rm. 112. Bill Kirkland, state program manager for Troops to Teachers, will conduct a 90-minute Transition to Teach-

ing Class on the federal government program that assists eligible veterans (active duty, reservists and retired military) who desire to become public school teachers. No reservations are required.

For more information, visit www.ttga.net or call (404) 413-8199.

Change of command

The 110th Aviation Brigade will host a change of command ceremony Aug. 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field. Col. Jayson A. Altieri will assume command of the unit from Col. Kevin J. Christensen.

Corvias safety fair

Corvias Military Living sponsors a safety fair at the Bowden Terrace Event Field Aug. 16 from 4-6 p.m. Information at the fair will include pet and fire safety. Additionally, there will be games and activities for children, and free food and refreshments. This event is free and open to all Fort Rucker housing residents.

For more information, call 503-3800.

Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. and also the first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to noon, unless it falls on a holiday weekend and then the shop will be open on the second Saturday.

The thrift shop needs people's unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

ID card section

Those who need a military or military dependent ID card may make an appointment by calling 255-2437 or 255-2182. Walk-ins are served on a first-come, first-served basis. People may experience delays in service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Electronic retiree newsletter

The annual retiree newsletter is now available via email. To receive the newsletter electronically, people should send an email to retirees@conus.army.mil requesting the newsletter, and also include their name and U.S. Postal address.