

Base officials confront concerns from town hall meeting

(Editor's note: The following are questions and concerns brought up during the Charleston AFB town hall meeting Dec. 6. Officials took the questions to appropriate agencies for answers. Other questions may be directed to the 437th Support Group at 963-2200 or 963-3252.)

What is the policy for people taking their children for rides on lawn mowers, letting their dogs loose in the woods behind Frick Avenue and teenagers in the woods late at night?

The issues you raise are all legitimate concerns but not illegal depending on the action of the individuals.

Riding lawn mowers shouldn't be used as trail bikes. We recommend homeowners comply with the manufactures recommended operating instructions for riding mowers. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, express your concerns to the adult present or call the 437th Security Forces Squadron.

The Charleston AFB housing handbook states pets will be leashed. Remind the owner present of the base requirement or contact the security forces if the dog is running loose without an owner.

The base doesn't have a curfew to prevent teenagers from being in the woods. However if you suspect suspicious activity or disturbing behavior, call the 437 SFS.

Why does cosmic bowling charge \$5 for non bowlers? The facility doesn't provide anything for them, but it wants money to let non bowlers sit and watch participants. If we really want to keep kids out of trouble, why charge?

The cosmic bowling program is set up as a special event, similar to a dance with an admission charge. Those wishing not to bowl pay only the admission, those wishing to bowl pay extra.

Prior to purchasing this state of the art entertainment system, our bowling staff researched how it works in the community. We structured the program the same but at a considerable savings. We'll continue to monitor the program and make price adjustments based on costs and participation.

Are you going to improve lighting around the base housing track? Many areas are unlit.

We've been working hard over the last year to replace the lighting along the jogging/fitness trail. Currently, we're finishing the placement of 10 additional lights to one of the darkest areas on the trail. This is phase four of five.

After the trail is complete on the west side of Hill Boulevard, then we're hoping to fund projects to start work on the east side of Hill Boulevard.

Something needs to be done about the entrance to the Commissary/Base Exchange parking lot on Lawson Dr. It's an entrance only intersection, however, people still exit there. I've seen many near

misses in the time I've lived across from the commissary

You're right; this could be marked better. The next Base Traffic Engineer Working Group meeting (January) will address this problem.

Is Charleston AFB willing to support a base sponsored homeschool support group? There are many other bases that do so.

I'm willing to do organizational work toward establishing such a group. Who should I speak to regarding this approval.

The 437th Services Squadron Youth Programs would be the perfect base liaison for such a group. Tim Garrahan, Youth Programs, will be your point of contact.

Who is responsible for updating the Commanders Channel during hurricane conditions?

As a result of problems encountered during the recent hurricanes, we have improved the commanders update process.

Information on Hurricane Conditions will be placed on the Commanders Channel by the 437th Communications Squadron after it's compiled by the Disaster Preparedness office and approved by the Crisis Action Team.

The Commanders Channel has new broadcast equipment being installed this month which will enable quick updates to the information shown. The new base marquees, scheduled for installation in January, will also display hurricane conditions.

The percentage of recycled trash will increase if you pick up cardboard during the weekly pickup. Is that possible?

In this region, recyclable cardboard only includes the corrugated type, not the commonly found, thin grocery and drink packaging. The average household does not generate sufficient corrugated cardboard to warrant curbside contract pickup.

The recycling drop sites located in the base theater parking lot and at the corner of Stewart Avenue and Arthur Drive have collection bins for corrugated cardboard. Should you generate a large amount of corrugated cardboard, please help us by taking it to the drop site.

Charleston AFB would like to implement weekly curbside pick up in housing. We have discussed this with wing leadership and have not found a cost-effective solution. We're required to use the Charleston County solid waste system by county ordinance, which provides us with recycling pick up every two weeks, just as in the rest of the county. We requested more frequent service from the county, but they're unable to support us. We also obtained a cost estimate from recycling contractors to pick up on alternating weeks and found it to be cost prohibitive.

In order to support the housing resident who may miss a pick up day, the drop sites discussed above accommodate all recyclable material and are available should your bins become full. If you desire additional

curbside collection bins, please contact the 437 CES Environmental Flight at 963-4976.

With more families moving into Hunley Park, the school will need more help. My wife would like to volunteer with subsidized child care – can YOFAM2 assist?

Current regulations only provide for subsidized child care for certain base volunteer programs. Volunteers at off-base schools currently do not qualify. Nancy Corbin, the Wing point of contact for YOFAM 2000 will look into requesting AMC YOFAM 2000 funding for an expansion of the volunteer subsidy.

In recent years we've lost every type of a conference facility. The education center is often booked with classes and the Hunley Park CAC is surrounded by construction.

An excellent use of the base theater would be a conference center. With this type of refurbishment the base could gain needed meeting space and could still accommodate showing movies to a smaller crowd.

We've considered this issue and we currently have a project programmed to renovate the base theater next year (FY01). Successful execution will depend on funding availability.

The long-range plan is to create a conference center by consolidating the education center, theater and library into a conference/training district. The project is currently programmed in the FY06 Military Construction Program.

There used to be a program for units that provided tickets and transportation to attend Stingray Hockey Games. Can this be revitalized?

We agree the free Stingray Hockey games and transportation we provided to the squadrons was a great program. Unfortunately, after three years of the 437 SVS purchasing group season tickets, we were informed by the 437th Comptroller Squadron that we were not authorized to do so and the funding was disapproved. We do offer \$1 off discount vouchers for Stingray tickets at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Speeding in the housing area is a real problem. I have and will continue to help slow people down. However, I have not seen a lot of 437 SFS members on patrol. People will slow down if they know tickets will be given for speeding.

In response to this concern, the 437 SFS, along with the North Charleston Police Department and Charleston County Sheriffs, will increase its patrol of the base and enforce speed limits, failure to yield, and illegal parking.

I encourage military members, especially NCOs and officers to take an active role in promoting safety. Note the license plate, make, and model of offenders' vehicles and call the 437 SFS control center.

We'll make the offenders' first sergeants aware of the complaints so unit leadership can also be involved.

Please consider adding stop signs to three intersections: Batson and East Jackson, Batson and Richardson and Batson and West Jackson. All three are uncontrollable. I've seen a lot of vehicles turning onto Batson without yielding to traffic.

This issue has been brought up before and addressed during the last Base Traffic Engineering Working Group.

As a result of the process, there is a work order in the system to provide a three-way stop at the corner of Batson and West Jackson and a three-way stop at the corner of Batson and East Jackson. The request to add a stop sign at Batson and Richardson will be addressed at the next BTEWG in January.

Can the early renewal for prescriptions be moved up from 10 to 15 days to accommodate the holidays and Y2K?

The 437th Medical Group Pharmacy is committed to providing the highest quality pharmaceutical care and service within the constraints in which we operate. Unfortunately, the pharmacy is not able to provide a blanket approval for this request.

There are many complicating variables that may not allow for a 15-day early refill, depending on available stocks, drug type, state or federal laws. However, the pharmacy routinely evaluates special requests on an individual basis. Individuals should stop by the pharmacy or call 963-6809.

What are the plans for new playgrounds in old Hunley Park?

As the renovation projects in Hunley Park continue, the playgrounds around those renovated units will be repaired and upgraded under the same construction project.

Additionally, the base has two playground projects that will upgrade and repair the remaining playgrounds for main base housing and those playgrounds whose supporting units will not be renovated within the next few years.

The first project is scheduled to start in early 2000 and the second project is scheduled for early 2001. We've been informed AMC has earmarked \$2 million to upgrade playgrounds throughout the command. We expect to hear more about the program soon.

Are any of the parks around Hunley Park slated for renovation? Specifically the one behind Idaho with the Pavilion.

As the renovation projects in Hunley Park continue, the supporting areas around the units will be improved as well, including playgrounds, common sports areas and parks.

In all we have programmed \$46 million dollars to renovate housing, replace the infrastructure and develop a true housing community in Hunley Park.