

Early Bird 23 – 27 April 2012

SECURITY /SAFETY

Ice Dome in Schweinfurt – the cheapest solution has to suffice (April 26)

The city council agreed that the city will invest €950,000 in the ice dome, enough to guarantee the safety of the roof structure for at least five years. 107 of the 148 connection points in the roof structure will be fortified. In addition dehumidification and ventilation systems will be installed as well as all necessary roof work. The alternatives were much more expensive and Lord Mayor Remele pointed out that the city has to save money. In 2014, when approximately 10,000 Americans will be leaving, the city will have to find use for 7,000 square meters which will cost multi-million euros.

Schweinfurt rescue operations center reviews last year's operations (April 25)

More emergency rescues, more emergency responses by emergency doctors, more ambulance transports and 361 helicopter rescue missions... In our society growth is usually positive, but an increase in rescue operations center missions is so joyful. However, upon request by Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele, Thomas Schlereth, Chief Rescue Operations Center stated, "Part of the increase has to do with extended services." The area of responsibility of the rescue operations center includes the entire Main-Rhön, which includes 437,791 people.

44-year old man stabbed in broad daylight (April 25)

On Tuesday afternoon a 44-year old man was stabbed by an opponent in broad daylight. The victim sustained injuries to his arms and was taken to a hospital for treatment. The offender was apprehended a short time later. So far the police have no knowledge in regard to the background of the offense.

Truck crashes into military convoy (April 24)

An American Soldier died Tuesday afternoon in an accident on Autobahn A73. Five other Soldiers were seriously injured. A 26-ton truck crashed into the last vehicle of a U.S. Army convoy and pushed several vehicles into each other. For unknown reasons the 38-year old truck driver from the Nürnberg region drove into the last vehicle of a slowly moving military convoy shortly after the connection point Bamberg-South in direction Nürnberg. Due to the impact of the collision the Humvee was pushed into the two vehicles travelling in front of him. The Soldier who suffered fatal injuries died.

Annual overhaul of nuclear plant Grafenrheinfeld (April 21)

On Saturday the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld was shut off for an annual overhaul. According to the operator E.ON, 48 of 193 fuel elements will be replaced. This is the 30th exchange cycle in the history of the nuclear power plant. In addition, 1,000 inspections of components will be performed. An additional 1,200 employees will conduct the inspections. E.ON did not state how long the power plant will be shut-off. In the past the plant was shut off for a week for those inspections.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Protest at nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld (April 27)

Protecting the nuclear power plant from unauthorized guests is their job. However, on Thursday the security guards at the KKG protested in front of the gates at the power plant to draw attention to their own situation. Another 50 employees joined the protesters during the course of the day once their shift had ended. They protested because their employer's association, the Federal Association of the Security Industry, refused to negotiate a tariff agreement with the labor union ver.di. Many of the employees deem the tariff agreement important, when many of them will face unemployment when the power plant will be shut down in three years. 100 employees will be affected by the closure.

Schweinfurt to try "duo" trash container (April 25)

Cell phones and frying pans should not be thrown into the trash container for non-recyclable trash ("rest" trash). The new law is supposed to go into effect June 1, 2012. All "non-package material" trash, such as small electrical equipment, cell phones, coffee makers, hair dryers, and even old clothes, shoes, metal and plastic material should not be thrown into the "rest" garbage containers. According to the new law, the recycle containers for paper that are emptied every two weeks will be used for those items twice a year. Those dates will be announced in due time.

Lifeguard services and river police rescue exercise, clean out Main River (April 25)

During a joint training session of the lifeguard services and the river police, divers of the lifeguard services cleaned the river bed while it was closed for ship traffic. They found 12 bicycles, two shopping carts, two traffic signs, portions of construction fences, a skater ramp and aluminum profiles of the river-side fence.

Editorial (April 24)

A current theme in all of Schweinfurt is the drawdown of the Americans. A glance in the daily police blotter shows our American fellow citizens are unobtrusive, according to Peter Feser from the police department. There are no problems. There were problems in past years after the return of units from deployments. Harald Mantel, from city administration, also does not expect great changes caused by the drawdown of American Soldiers and their families. Also positive is the development of the migration council – predecessor of the former non-citizens council which did not succeed.

Telekom employees go on strike (April 24)

The employees of the various branches of Telekom are going on warning strikes for their demands in recent tariff negotiations. On Tuesday the strike will go on in all of Bavaria. 2,000 strikers are expected at a central demonstration in Nürnberg. With this demonstration the warning strikes will reach their peak. About 80 Telekom employees from the area Schweinfurt and Main/Rhön will participate in the one day warn strike according to strike leader Siegfried Hänsel.

700 Würzburg students demand more rights (April 23)

Approximately 700 students met last weekend in Würzburg for a students' congress, dubbed "Basis 12," to work out political demands under the direction of the Bavarian students association (LSV). The congress ended with a discussion, which was attended by Peter Müller, head of the office of the ministry for cultural and educational affairs and Klaus Wenzel,

President of the Bavarian Teachers' Association. After the discussion the students voted on their demands. The students' point of criticism was their few possibilities to voice their opinions in regard to education policy, even though there has been a Bavarian Students Council for some years. Students, however, financially dependent on the ministry for cultural and educational affairs, cannot implement anything without the approval of the ministry, according to Stephan Fritsch, spokesman of the Bavarian students. Therefore the students' congress demands a reform of the students' representation structure and an increased budget for the students' council.

Ground water at Steinach considerably contaminated (April 21)

The contaminated area "Steinach" located between Autobahn A70 and the Main River within the boundaries of Oberndorf have been known for decades. The river was rectified with gravel and sand. In the time after World War II the arm of the river was filled in with contaminated debris. It is not clear where the contaminated debris originated from and now it is too late for investigations. It is only known that there is industrial waste but also waste from private households and from the U.S. Army after WWII. The city knows that the deposits are the essential cause of a considerable contamination of the ground water with dangerous hydrocarbon substances that end up unfiltered in the Main river in large quantities. In order to meet environmental laws, timely action is required, as the city's environmental council was informed last week. Rosemarie Cegley-Albert of the city's construction office and specialist for inherited waste, Karsten Balzer, presented eight possible solutions ranging from "leaving as is – but controlling it periodically" to completely digging out the ground and properly disposing of the contaminated soil." The first option is the cheapest one and would cost €30,000 now and in a reconstruction phase of 50 years would cost a total of €780,000. However, digging up the 45,000 square meters of contaminated soil would cost €21 million.

U.S. Army vacates airfield sooner than expected in Bamberg (April 21)

The U.S. Army will return the airfield "Breitenau" earlier than initially planned, according to a letter from the U.S. Army. The area of 0.9 square kilometers will be vacated by Sept. 30, 2012. Lord Mayor Andreas Starke is happy about this decision. "Now we have planning security and we can get started with the first portion of the conversion," he said.

2,400 Soldiers are deploying to Afghanistan (21 April)

The U.S. Army will deploy 2,400 Soldiers and 110 helicopters of the 12th Aviation Brigade from Ansbach and Illesheim to Afghanistan for 10 months. LTG Mark P. Hertling attended the official farewell ceremony in Ansbach.

ECONOMY

Woolworth store coming to Schweinfurt (April 27)

The Markthalle located in Kesslergasse (the alley between the market square and the bus station "Rossmarkt") has been closed for more than a year. Now the decision has been made to lease the property to "Woolworth" on a long-term lease. Woolworth—with its broad selection of women's, men's and children's clothing, under garments socks, stockings and accessories, as well as household products, such as home improvements, electrical appliances, cosmetics, home textiles, notions, toys and stationary supplies and much more—will be offering its products

in an area of 1,000 square meters. The entrances will be located in Kesslergasse and Lange Zehntstrasse. The spokeswoman for Woolworth is promising great bargains for the grand opening at the end of November 2012. So far Woolworth runs 200 stores in Germany and is planning to extend to 500 locations Germany-wide. The nearest locations nearby are in Würzburg, Nürnberg and Bayreuth and another one planned to open in Bamberg soon.

Berlin Taxi drivers protest (April 24)

Approximately 2,500 Berlin taxi drivers were protesting against the different fare prices from and to the new Berlin airport. At the main train station and at the airports Berlin Tegel and Berlin Schönefeld did not pick-up any passengers for several hours. They all gathered on the street of 17th June (Remembrance Day of the uprising in the former DDR on 17 June 1953).

Industrial Area “Maintal” – second phase begins on Friday (April 24)

With a symbolic ground breaking ceremony the city of Schweinfurt will begin the second construction phase of the industrial area “Maintal.” On Europaallee between Madrid Strasse and Lissabon Strasse those responsible will move some sand with their polished spades to properly start the second construction phase and the soon begin settling of businesses. Last year properties valued at €2.2 million were sold in this area. According to information received from the city “the second best result since the beginning of marketing in 1997.” So far 42 real properties with an area of 385,000 square meters have been sold. 3,000 people work there. In the second construction phase this year and next year an area of 640,000 square meters will be developed. The investment costs are €12.3 million.

Original “Schweinfurt Bratwurst” sold at Market Square only (April 23)

The original Schweinfurt Bratwurst is 25 centimeters long, not too greasy and well seasoned with pepper. It was introduced on Saturday at the newly organized farmers’ market on the Schweinfurt Market Square.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kristin McCaffrey from Kützberg now living in Chicago (April 25)

The 24-year old daughter of a family of five moved with her husband, an American Soldier formerly stationed in Schweinfurt, to his home in Chicago. There she completed a six-weeks course at United Airlines and became a flight attendant, her dream job. Since then she was mainly working on domestic flights and so far has travelled to 48 of 50 States, more than most Americans have, she said. Even though she still feels very attached to her family, who she calls every day, she enjoys living in Chicago because of its “great shopping and the many, great museums.” Furthermore, in the multi-cultural metropolis you meet people of diverse backgrounds. She also found a German restaurant “House of Gerhard” in the neighbor state Wisconsin where she and her husband can enjoy German food such as “Schweinehaxe”, “Kasslerrippchen” or “Rouladen”. Kristin loves living in the States and she knows that she will only come back to Germany on vacation.