

**Early Bird – 19, 25 May 2012**

## **SAFETY/SECURITY**

### **Schweinfurt police find two kilograms of drugs (May 19)**

The narcotics agents of the police found the largest amount of drugs in the Main-Rhön region this year during a crackdown last Tuesday. 18 apartments in the city and county of Schweinfurt and in Bad Kissingen were searched. The narcotics agents found more than 2 kilograms of controlled substances, (1.2 kilogram hashish, 500 grams marihuana, 600 grams amphetamine) many drug utensils, baseball bats, several computers and cell phones. The two main culprits were 21- and a 25-year-old men from Schweinfurt who were brought to the investigating judge who issued a warrant. Investigation proceedings were initiated for another 20 people in connection with the search.

### **Fire at discotheque Megadrom was arson (May 24)**

The fire in the disco Megadrom which caused €500,000 in damage May 14 was arson. According to the police, evidence was found in the rubbish. Video footage also shows two people running away at about 3:45 a.m. the time the fire started. According to the police it can be assumed that the fire on the roof ignited immediately and spread. As reported earlier, the roof timbering was destroyed during the fire. The criminal police department of Schweinfurt is investigating together with the Bavarian State Office of Criminal Investigations (LKA). While in the beginning it was assumed that there was a technical cause for the fire, investigations revealed that it was arson. Now the criminal police hope to get clues from the citizens. For clues leading to the arrest of the criminals the LKA is offering a reward of €1,000.

## **LEADERS/POLITICS**

### **Training for Afghanistan in Hammelburg (May 25)**

A demonstration of the guerilla tactics used by the Taliban in Afghanistan is supposed to prepare German Soldiers for their deployments. 500 Soldiers from all over Germany came to Hammelburg for the training. Brigadier General Günter Engel, Commander, Infantry School Hammelburg stated: The goal of the training is that “the pictures they see have to stay in their heads.” The Soldiers who are scheduled for deployment cannot even guess what awaits them. Brig. Gen. Engel calls the terror the troops will have to face “The farewell of the shooting war.” Therefore the allied forces have to act the cannier. If there are indications of explosive devices on the road sides, the Bundeswehr then depends on the U.S. Army. This was demonstrated by American allies from Bamberg with mine sweeping equipment, including a gigantic 34 ton Buffalo – an armored vehicle with a gripping mechanism.

### **Agreement to continue with Health/Wellness Park (May 23)**

For more than five years residents of the near-by residential areas have been fighting in court against a health/wellness park in the area of the old city hospital. The opponents finally reached an agreement which will be signed in the middle of June. The planning for the health/wellness park began in the fall of 2006. After six years of legal and other struggles (in February 2008 bats

were found in the old building stopping the demolition of the old building) an agreement/comprise between the parties has been reached and the constructions can begin.

### **Schweinfurt county approves funds for conversion concept (May 22)**

It is only a formality and a first step towards a successful conversion. The district committee approved €20,000 for a conversion concept for the county. This is only a tenth of the cost for the entire concept – the city of Schweinfurt, as leading community, is paying 10 percent and 80 percent is paid from funds for city development. The consultant company BulwienGesa from Munich will establish a concept for the use of areas used by the U.S. Army. A heated debate arose in the district committee meeting in regard to distributing the seats in the conversion committee for the city and the county of Schweinfurt which at this point has 22 members. The fraction chiefs of the county council are not included. This is not a good situation for Florian Töpfer (SPD) who will run in the election against Landrat Leitherer this fall. The reason for this, according to Landrat Leitherer, is simply the attempt to balance the number of seats between members of the city and the county and other participants, such as two representatives of the labor unions.

### **Chancellor Merkel fires environment minister Norbert Röttgen (May 21)**

Norbert Röttgen, the environment minister who was relieved last Wednesday by chancellor Merkel, will not accept his dismissal. According to information received from “Bild am Sonntag” Röttgen wants to keep his position as vice-president of the CDU party, which would make him Merkel’s first representative at least until the election party convention in December. Furthermore, Röttgen will run for a position in the Bundestag in 2013.

### **Schweinfurt citizens do not use the city busses enough (May 21)**

How will traffic develop in the next 15 to 20 years? Which traffic oriented goals does the city have? What measures should be taken for car traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians as well as for busses and trains? A traffic development plan has to deal with such and similar questions. The last one was done for Schweinfurt in 1994 and expired in 2005. Therefore it is high time for a new version. The new traffic development plan should be completed by the beginning or middle of 2013. Schweinfurt has to deal with 38,100 commuters—5,200 of whom leave the city every morning. The city handles this relatively well, since the majority of the commuters use the Autobahn. Within the city limits 50 percent reach their destination by car, even though every second driver has a distance of less than 3 kilometers to travel. 23 percent of the citizens walk to work, another 13 per cent ride their bikes. A surprise was that only 6 percent use the city bus and train. Lord Mayor Remele’ stated: “We have to become better and more attractive in that area.”

## **ECONOMY**

### **Schweinfurt’s capital surplus shrunk by half (May 19)**

City finance director Martin Baldauf told the finance committee of the city council that the budget in 2010/2011, after the crisis year 2009, looked better than he expected. However, he recommended a policy of savings. Schweinfurt cannot afford to make investments of €20 million like it did in 2012. Baldauf stated that the positive development during the past two years was caused by special influences such as the high income in commercial taxes and interest which

alone made up an income of €20 million in 2010. 2011 was affected by a financial relief as a consequence of the drop in commercial taxes in 2009. Based on these conditions no new debts had to be made. In a whole the results for both years were still negative. The city's financial capacity to act was guaranteed by the surplus only.

## **SPORTS**

### **Soccer: Champion Ship Game – Germany/England (May 21)**

The soccer club FC Chelsea (England) won 5:4 against the FC Bayern München during the final game of the champions league last Saturday.

### **Soccer: FC 05 Schweinfurt fuels confidence (May 21)**

On the last day of the Bavarian league games the FC 05 Schweinfurt won against Buchbach 2:1 and fueled confidence for the promotion relegation games beginning on Wednesday against Schalding-Heining, runner-up for the Bavarian league. The return game will take place at the Willy-Sachs-Stadium in Schweinfurt on Saturday.