

Early Bird 7 – 13 July 2012

## **SAFETY/SECURITY**

**13- kg-bomb was found on the airfield in Giebelstadt (13 July, 2012)** Another bomb was found in Giebelstadt. On Wednesday afternoon a demolition team from Nürnberg had to blast a cluster bomb from WWII. According to the police report the ignition mechanism was very sensitive therefore the bomb could not be defused or transported. Therefore the demolition team had to detonate it at the site. The blast took place at 1300, according to plan. All that was left of the bomb were scraps.

**Reinforcement for Schweinfurt Police Department - as of 1 August there will be 6 additional police officers (9 July, 2012)** The Police Headquarters in Lower Franconia will get 66 of 1,000 additional positions for the Bavarian Police in accordance with a bill passed by the Bavarian Parliament in the 2009/2010 budget negotiations. In addition, there will be 65 new positions due to the step-by-step reduction of the weekly work hours to 41 hours as of 1 August 2012 and to 40 hours effective 1 August 2013. During the upcoming personnel allocation meeting the Headquarters in Lower Franconia will receive an additional 90 new police officers. Six of those positions will be in Schweinfurt according to current plans.

## **LEADERS/POLITICS**

**Association of Bavarian cities and towns and citizens' day – meeting point Schweinfurt Town Hall (13 July, 2012)** What is the meeting of the association of Bavarian cities and towns which is held in Schweinfurt from 17 – 19 July in Schweinfurt? How do you reconcile Munich and Gemünden? Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of Nürnberg and president of the association calls the meeting a support group for Mayors. The size and the number of citizens may vary but the problems and challenges are the same. For example the complexity of civic participation, closeness to the citizens and transparency is the theme of the meeting in Schweinfurt. 196 delegates have accepted the invitation. Ulrich Maly expects a cheerful commitment to a representative democracy. Host, Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele, expects to better communicate, present and explain the possibility of participation which already exists to the citizens. The meeting is not public; however; the results will be presented in a press conference. The city invites all citizens to a town hall fest on 18 July, 0930 – 1800. The program includes: An introduction of the city administration, lectures and movies as well as information brochures, music, and theater.

**Internet is increasingly used for right-wing extremist propaganda (12 July, 2012)** Right-wing extremists increasingly use social networks such as You Tube, Facebook and Twitter for their propaganda. The social web is the recruiting platform for Neo-Nazis as reported by a youth protection organization in Berlin on Wednesday. The platforms are well liked by the most important target groups – children and juveniles. As bait they often use emotional themes, such as child abuse and unemployment. According to their annual report the youth protection organization received 1,607 evidence of right-wing extremist content, a third more than in 2010.

In 978 cases users of classical internet sites complained about contents from Neo-Nazi groups, autonomous nationalists or right-wing extremists. Thomas Krüger, President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education stated: "The internet is an important action space where right-wing extremists show their true face." The breeding grounds for violence are often prepared in social networks.

**Debate concerning the nuclear power plant (11 July, 2012)** Marc-Dominic Boberg, member of the city council got involved in a discussion concerning a possible increase of illnesses in the area around the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld. In an information sheet he pointed out that there are not only increased cases of cancer but also deformities in babies. He refers to a study of the Bavarian Environmental Department from 1995, which states that in a radius of 15 km around nuclear power plants the number of deformities is significantly increased. However; the Bavarian State did not follow up with a case control study. The discussion arose on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear power plant when Herbert Wiener, another member of the city council pointed out an increased number of leukemia in the region. The manager of the power plant, Reinhold Scheuring contradicted and stated that the leukemia study showed that no conclusions could be drawn that any of those cases were related to nuclear power plants. However; Boberg states that a committee of experts has determined, that due to insufficient data a connection with the nuclear power plant cannot be excluded.

**Living space in cities is getting scarce – By 2017 there could be a shortage of 3,000 apartments in Würzburg – rents increase (10 July, 2012)** Sky-rocketing rents, shortage of apartments, living space will become a luxury in cities which are in great demand. The newspaper "Welt am Sonntag" reported recently that the rents have increased by 41.3 % in Würzburg since 2005. In a Germany wide list of cities with the highest increase in rents, Würzburg has place 4 – even before Berlin.

**Highland games and pipes and drums from Motherwell – Celebrating 50 years of partnership between Schweinfurt and Motherwell (10 July, 2012)** On the coming weekend the city of Schweinfurt will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its partnership with Motherwell – now North Lancashire. The delegation from Scotland headed by Provost Jim Robertson will be welcomed in a reception at the city hall where Lord Mayor Remele will present the city medal in silver to his guests. On Sunday Lord Mayor Remele and Provost Robertson will plant a tree in the Motherwell Park as a symbol of friendship.

**13,000 visitors at the 20<sup>th</sup> Honky Tonk Festival in Schweinfurt (9 July, 2012)** The weather was better than predicted – dream conditions for the biggest party of the year – the 20<sup>th</sup> Honky Tonk festival. The walk through the city was somewhat magical – stages and music everywhere made it hard for the visitors to decide where to go. The music on the open air stages downtown Schweinfurt ended at midnight but many establishments continued the party until the early morning hours.

**Festival of the music schools – Schweinfurt music school celebrates 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary (7 July, 2012)** On 14 July the music school Schweinfurt will celebrate its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a festival on the market place and Schillerplatz in Schweinfurt. 300 musicians from ten music schools in Lower Franconia will present a varied program of brass bands, big bands, rock and

jazz bands, folk and pop music and more. The samba dance group brings a taste of Brazil to downtown Schweinfurt.

**To date the new health park in Schweinfurt is completely marketed – aesthetic face surgery will be new in Schweinfurt (7 July, 2012)** This is the announcement of the property developer at the opening of a new praxis and clinic for oral and maxillofacial surgery last Friday. Lord Mayor Remele stated: “We create new proposals and do not withdraw competence from downtown Schweinfurt.” He aimed this message at his critics. In March Dr. Tobias Reuther and Dr. Isabell Reuther opened praxis for mainly dental surgery in the first floor of the building. Attached is also a surgery room where minor plastic face surgery can be performed. Major surgery will be performed at Leopoldina hospital. Adrian Schmuker, Executive Manager of Leopoldina hospital stated: “We are glad that with the offer of oral and maxillofacial surgery Schweinfurt is lifted to a higher level of health care”. According to Lord Mayor Remele, aesthetic and plastic surgery and reconstructive surgery in this respect is new in Schweinfurt. Dr. Tobias and Dr. Isabell Reuther formerly worked at the university clinic in Würzburg.

## ECONOMY

**The rich shall pay – Euro crisis: Economic research institute recommends a mandatory contribution for people with more than 250,000 Euro (singles) and 500,000 Euro (couples) private assets (12 July, 2012)** A study by Stefan Bach, recommends a mandatory tax for rich people not only in Germany but in just about every country in the European Union (EU). In just about every country in the EU the personal assets are higher than the country’s debts. This means to stabilize the state finances and to reduce the debts, personal assets should be utilized more strongly. He recommends a mandatory contribution, which in contrast to higher taxes, cannot be circumvented by the individuals concerned. This contribution would only affect the 8 % richest of the adult citizens in Germany with more than 250,000 Euro (for singles) or more than 500,000 (for couples) private assets. If those citizens would contribute 10% of the amount they are over the limit it could bring in 9% of the gross domestic output, approximately 230 billion Euro explained Stefan Bach of the economic research institute. This would bring the national debt in Germany below 60% without causing a decline in consumer demand. Bach also stated that it would be a difficult issue since personal assets would have to be calculated and tax flight and tax evasion eliminated. Representatives of the CSU and FDP party flatly rejected the recommendation.

**Hard times for savers – the continuing low of interest rates eats up the savings of the Germans (7 July, 2012)** Germans worry about inflation. Many do not see that currently not the high inflation rate but the extremely low interest rates eat up their savings. The search for profitable and at the same time save alternatives is harder than ever. To save for ones old age was never more acute as now – and never less attractive. According to experts’ opinion every person who has money in a savings account or in federal bonds loses money once the inflation rate has been subtracted.