

Early Bird 14 – 20 July 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Looking for bombs in the Maintal (18 July, 2012) During the road construction for the second segment of the industrial park “Maintal” workers found weapons from WWII. Now the city will have the entire area examined for weapons/bombs which were dropped mainly during the air attacks on the city. The cost for the probing will be 340,000 Euro. Should bombs be found and have to be disposed off, the city’s finance committee will have to approve additional funds. In the end the owners of the properties will have to pay. In the first construction segment no weapons/bombs were found. Those properties have been determined quite safe.

As of 24 July the Integrated Control Center in Schweinfurt will manage the radio communications of 170 fire departments in the Hassberge County –special equipment can be ordered by making a call. (18 July, 2012) As of 24 July, 8 a.m. a new era begins for the 170 fire departments in the Hassberge County. According to plan at this time all emergency calls for the fire departments within the Main-Rhön region will be handled by the integrated control center in Schweinfurt. Effective then the integrated control center in Schweinfurt will alarm all fire departments with 4,800 personnel; furthermore all fire departments in the counties of Bad Kissingen, Rhön-Grabfeld and Schweinfurt as well as the Schweinfurt city fire department. Last Thursday all fire chiefs and fire inspectors were brought up to date.

LEADERS/POLITICS

A Europe for all generations – exhibition at the Olympia-Morata High School (19 July, 2012) 170 students from 23 schools in Lower Franconia won a price in the competition “Europe: mine – your – our future” - some of them even on a Germany-wide level. All successful participants received certificates presented by Dr. Paul Beinhofer, president of Lower Franconia, during an awards ceremony held at Olympia-Morata High School. The district association of the Europe Union has organized the exhibition of the works in the entrance hall of Olympia-Morata High School. The competition is a contribution to the campaign “2012 – European Year for actively aging and solidarity between generations”. The focus of the theme was growing up - shaping future.

Town hall fest – Insights, background information and entertainment (18 July, 2012) How does it feel to sit on the Lord Mayor’s chair? How is the view from the roof-top terrace of the town hall? What all belongs to the city administration? Answers to those questions will be given during the Rathaus fest the city will host on 18 July from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fest is part of the Bavarian “Städtetag” (association of Bavarian cities) hosted in Schweinfurt. The city presents itself and its facilities to the citizens and wants to show them what all belongs to the city of Schweinfurt, but also what potential exists in the city. Students performed musical entertainment as well as theater plays. There will be a magician, Hip-Hop dancers as well as oldies ranging from classical to Italian. The fire department introduces its turn-table ladder truck and there are also activities for children with play bus “Max” and a bouncing castle.

Merkel demands global climate contract – Chancellor Merkel and Minister of the Environment, Altmaier warn of drastic consequences of global warming (17 July, 2012)

Chancellor Angela Merkel warns of dramatic global warming of more than two degrees celsius, if the world leaders will not agree to binding climate protection measures. She states: “It does not help to play for time” at the third Petersberg climate dialogue in Berlin on Monday in which 35 states participated. The goal to limit global warming to two degrees cannot be accomplished with the confirmations that have been voluntarily given so far. This means a global warming of three to four degrees will occur with consequences of seismic proportions for the human race and the eco systems. “The “Stern” magazine has shown clearly what terrible consequences it will have if we do not act now” said Merkel. She worries especially about a gap in the climate protection measures. The Kyoto protocol so far is the only binding instrument for reduction of CO2 emissions and will expire by the end of the year. During the next UN climate conference in Qatar it must be determined if there will be a second period of commitment for an interim period. However, it only includes states which produce 15 percent of the global emissions, such as the EU countries. By 2015 a global climate protection agreement shall be negotiated which will be in effect in 2020. Merkel emphasized: “A binding policy is music to my ears.”

Army does not want to give conversion consultants access permission. Bad news right at the beginning: Conversion consultants are not allowed to see plans – timeline jeopardized.

(14 July, 2012) The kick-off event of the conversion committee kept 30 important, well-paid people in a conference room at the conference center, for only a few new insights. The most important and at the same time worst news did not come from consultant company BulwienGesa AG but from Mr. Schnabel, management representative of the city’s real estate office: The U.S. Army properties/casernes and buildings which have to be analyzed in order to develop new utilization concepts cannot be accessed. Schnabel answered a question of Kurt Vogel, member of the city council: “The Americans had informed him that they are still at war. Access to casernes/installations cannot be allowed and by no means can insight in plans be granted.” For this reason – after the first phase of gathering basics and determining tasks – the ambitious time line of phase two is jeopardized. According to Heiko Schultz of the planning office Firu mbH access to the installations is not required for the initial town-planning evaluation. However; for the in-depth analysis beginning in November/December access to the buildings is required in order to see location and the condition of the buildings and the infrastructure, aerial views will not be sufficient then. In the last phase the consultants/planners would like to provide the committee with two development recommendations for each of the seven conversion areas (two casernes, residential areas, shooting range, training area Brönnhof) – statements of an imaginable development including the infrastructure. A basis for this is the analysis of consultant company BulwienGesa in regards to the housing and real estate market according to Schultz. County Commissioner Leitherer had reminded before that a new introduction of the firm is not necessary, since they already have the contract. But how can the assessment be completed by March 2013 if the company is already behind in their timeline and the U.S. Army does not allow strangers access to their installations for security reasons? The plea that Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele and County Commissioner Harald Leitherer use their political pulls to convince the U.S. military to be more cooperative, so that a usable evaluation/inventory is possible. The next meeting of the conversion committee is planned for Nov. 7.

ECONOMY

The Internet of the future – looking for solutions for growing data flow (20 July, 2012)

How does the internet of the future have to be constructed? International scientists are looking for answers to this question July 23 - 24 at the university in Würzburg. The Euro-View-Workshop has been organized by the chair of informatics II. Facebook, YouTube, Spotify: More and more services and new offers cause the data flow in the internet to grow continually. And smartphones, tablets and Co. guarantee that it will remain like that. The internet was never designed for such huge data flow over social networks, for transmission of video and music data or for other modern services. Until today it is still based on structures that were designed in the 1970s and 1980s. Therefore scientists have been thinking for years how to make the outdated structures and algorithms more suitable for the future. During the Euro-View Workshop they will work on a solution.

Solid crafts/trade in Lower Franconia (14 July, 2012) The German economy fears another recession. The IFO business climate index declined again in June. In spite of doubtful reports: The crafts/trade in Lower Franconia maintains its high level in the business cycle analysis. In Lower Franconia 90% of all crafts/trade businesses are satisfied with their business situation. In the Main-Rhön region 89.1 % of the businesses were satisfied their business situation in the second quarter. The operating rate of 77.5% is a little lower than average. For the third quarter 88.9 % of the businesses expect satisfying business activities. According to Rolf Lauer, Managing Director, Chamber of Trade: “The current numbers speak for themselves. The trade resists the fear of a recession.”

HEALTH/WELLNESS

Number of children with psychological illnesses increase (20 July, 2012) In the past years the number of children who need treatment for psychological illnesses increased in Lower Franconia. “The situation is dramatic. We cannot handle all the requests” states Chief of the children’s and youth psychiatric ward at the university clinic, Würzburg. Professor Marcel Romanos: “We only treat the most serious cases here, which absolutely need in-patient care – approximately 500 patients per year.” However, the Würzburg clinic cannot accept all patients therefore approximately 200 patients are being sent to the clinics in Lohr and Werneck, which are generally only equipped for treating adults.

The fact that the number of children with psychological illnesses increase every year is also confirmed by child psychiatrist Dr. Klaus-Ulrich Oehler who has a practice in Würzburg. Ten years ago his practice treated 2000 – 3000 children now they treat 7000 – 8000. According to his estimate approximately 15,000 to 20,000 children are treated in Lower Franconia per year. The cause is more and more instable families without solid structures according to Oehler. He states: “We need more clinic space in Würzburg and more mental institutions in the region.”

Leopoldina Children's Hospital participates in Risk Study in regards to alcohol poisoning of juveniles (19 July, 2012) It is really true that 12-year old boys and girls get admitted to the Leopoldina Children's Hospital with a blood alcohol level of 1.5 per mille, disoriented, sometimes even comatose. In the children's hospital they get treated with a lot of liquid enriched with sugar to strengthen them and their vital functions are monitored. Usually they can go home again the next day but not before they had a talk with a social worker. Head physician Dr. Johannes Herrmann states: "No one leaves here without that discussion." The social care, finding the risk factors in the juveniles' environment and the invitation to a "risk check" week end is all part of a alcohol prevention program. In Schweinfurt there is also a very close cooperation between the clinic and the city youth office.

ENTERTAINMENT

Elton John concert in Würzburg (16 July, 2012) 9,000 fans came to the Residenzplatz in Würzburg to listen to Elton John. They were not disappointed – Superstar Elton John appeared to be in a good mood and presented his greatest hits in a manner that even his "Oldies" sounded just as great as they did when they first came out. The concert was a total success and even the weather cleared up.