

EARLY BIRD – 24 – 30 November 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Police dog attack children, two children are still hospitalized (Nov. 28)

The two children who were attacked by a police dog a few days ago in Polsdorf in Middle Franconia are still hospitalized. The children are alright considering the circumstances, stated a spokesman of the Police Headquarters in Nürnberg. Last Sunday the police dog “Cabil” had attacked six playing children ages five to nine years old and had bit their thighs and hips. This Wednesday, an expert will decide if the dog will have to be put down. The dog had only two weeks of training left before its final exam as a guard dog.

Winter begins – ADAC and highway departments prepared. How about you? (Nov. 29)

Right at the opening of Christmas markets and the meteorological beginning of winter on Dec. 1, Lower Franconia will get its first snow this season. Every year at the beginning of winter the phone lines at the ADAC run hot. On a normal day 70 to 80 breakdowns can be expected. On a winter day it can be 150 and more. Therefore the ADAC prepares for the worst with 20% additional personal, moving shifts and making plans to be able to react on short notice. The highway departments are also prepared in case snow and ice removal is required. The ADAC advises all drivers to prepare their vehicles for winter: Think about antifreeze for the window wash system and turn-on the window wipers a few times afterwards. Also, have your car battery and lighting system checked. It is also recommended to have a blanket in the car, just in case you break down and last but not least put on winter tires!

LEADERS/POLITICS

Clever ideas for military areas after the U.S. Army leaves: On-line suggestions for conversion of U.S. Army properties (Nov. 30)

For three weeks ideas for the use of military areas in and around Schweinfurt were collected on the website www.zivilarena.de. 125 persons have actively participated and came up with 199 ideas. 285 people have passively observed the discussions, according to the company Zivilarena, which is responsible for the discussion platform. The array of the ideas is broad and ranges from the following fields: education, recreation, children, generations, nature, social/welfare, traffic, economy and living. The idea to use the installations for recreational activities—which represented 50 percent of the suggestions—is very popular for the Schweinfurt citizens, followed by suggestions to use the areas as industrial parks and to expand the infrastructure for educational institutions. Twenty-nine ideas suggested to use the space as residential areas. Some of the ideas were especially different. For example, several discussion participants see good preconditions for Conn Barracks to become a handpicked, sustainably managed industrial park. Others imagine Conn Barracks as a place for industry and innovative research, or as the location for a multifunction sport and event hall. For Ledward Barracks almost all suggestions would like it to become a new, active neighborhood with restaurant, recreational facilities and cultural institutions. Many of the discussion participants also would like public use of the existing sport facilities and more room for hobby and club activities. Many people see the American residential areas at Yorktown Village and Askren Manor that already exist as potential affordable apartments, especially for students, young families and people with low income. For the military

training area “Brönnhof,” different ideas were presented: Nature protection areas but also parts for agricultural use, and even an amusement park. Some participants see possibilities to increase the recreational value without invading nature too much, such as a golf course, an “air soft” field, expansion of the hiking path net or making trails for mountain bikers and quad drivers. The idea of opening the tank road for public traffic attracted much interest. According to Zivilarena, the discussion was engaged, constructive and friendly and proved that the citizens of the Schweinfurt region are able to remain courteous in a discussion and achieve results. On Friday, Nov. 30, a workshop for ideas takes place at the conference center, Maininsel Schweinfurt as a live discussion following the online panel. In different work groups everyone will have the chance to relate the brainstorming to the concrete locations and real estates.

Renovated three court gym re-opened at Alexander-von-Humboldt High School (Nov. 29)

The city of Schweinfurt spent €3.2 million to renovate a three court gym at the largest Schweinfurt High school, the Alexander-von-Humboldt High School. The gym built 40 years ago had to undergo a total renovation. Now it is ultra modern, functional, well equipped, lighter and friendlier. The sound proofing has been improved, a new floor was put in and the changing and shower rooms were newly designed. Principal Christoph Zänglein thanked the city and the government of Lower Franconia which paid €900,000 of the €3.2 million.

City honors athletes of the year in a gala (24 November 2012)

Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele and Karl-Heinz Kauczok, president of the city association for sport, honored the best athletes of 2012. The prizes, a bronze figure of a pig, as well as monetary prizes, were presented in six categories to the best athletes in Schweinfurt. Athlete of the year was Patrick Plodzinski in Karateka who is the best in his sport. The best female athlete in Jutsu (martial art) was Melissa Markert and the team of the year were the players of the ice hockey team the “Mighty Dogs” who were champions of the Bavarian league and were promoted to the “Oberliga Süd” (the third tier in German Ice Hockey).

ECONOMY

Job market still stable in the Main-Rhön, unemployment goes down (Nov. 30)

Also in November the slowing down economy has not affect the job market so far. Surprisingly the employment agency Schweinfurt reported that the unemployment number decreased slightly from October to November by 99 to 8,161. The unemployment rate is 3.4 percent last year the unemployment rate in November was 3.2 percent. The almost unchanged situation on the job market seems to be contradictory to the slumping economy; however; Director of the employment agency Schweinfurt, Thomas Stelzer states: “The economical development affects the job market always with some delay, but it will affect it in the long run.”

Travelling by train is cheaper than flying (Nov. 29)

When travelling in Germany train rides are almost always cheaper than flying. The ten most travelled routes are cheaper by train than by airplane using the cheapest airlines in 92% of the cases. This was the result of a test performed by the German association of traffic participants (VCD). None of the airlines can compete with prices of the German rail road company. Chairman of the VCD urges mostly large companies to take those results into consideration for business trips which make up 90 percent of the in-country flights since “trains are not only

cheaper but also more environment friendly. The VCD tested a total of 270 connections between May and September 2012. The most money can be saved on the route between Munich and Frankfurt – for this connection a train tickets costs only 47 percent of a flight ticket.

Out for “Financial Times Germany” is official (Nov. 24)

The most ambitious newspaper project in Germany is history. After 12 years of making losses the “Financial Times Germany”, a German subsidiary of the renowned British newspaper “Financial Times” will not be printed anymore. The last edition will be published on Dec. 7, 2012. 360 employees will lose their jobs. With the end of the “Financial Times Germany” the newspaper crisis in Germany has claimed its second victim. The “Frankfurter Rundschau” announced bankruptcy a week ago. Furthermore the bankruptcy of the news agency “dapd”, which had big plans for expansion, shocked the German media scene a few weeks ago.

City of Schweinfurt is still one of the largest employers (Nov. 24)

The city is and will remain one of the largest employers in Schweinfurt. Compared to 2012 the number of positions will increase by six – for six newly established positions – to 809. 196 of those positions are “Beamte” (civil servants) the remaining 611 are positions with pay grades based on tariff agreements.

SPORT

Hockey (Nov. 27)

Mighty dogs win game against the Erding Gladiators 3:2 after penalty shot last Sunday at the Schweinfurt Ice Dome