



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

NO. 7

IN ARLINGTON

Dear fellow Bk'ers

Thank you all for your continued support of our little club. We have a new mayor in Bad Königshofen (Thomas Helbling) and based on his recent letter to Mayor Cluck, the friendship between our two cities will continue to flourish.

Thanks also to Eric and Vicki English for hosting a reception for Dagmar Lurz (secretary to the mayor), her niece Steffi and friend Martin. We had a great time visiting with friends and renewing old friendships. *(see under More News)

The Arlington Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the City of Arlington and the BK society is exploring the possibility of hosting a *Christkindlesmarkt* similar to the ones held in Germany here in Arlington. A delegation from Arlington will be visiting Chicago this month to receive training and information on the *Christkindlesmarkt* they hold there every year. We want to establish a *Christkindlesmarkt* similar to the ones in Germany. The plans are to explore the details of hosting this type of event, look for sponsoring partners, and then make a decision with input from all parties involved. We are looking at Christmas of 2009 or even 2010. This looks like a great way to showcase Arlington and its continued friendship with Germany. Will let you know when we have more details.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, stay cool, and hope you enjoyed the Beijing Olympics.

Klaus

IN GERMANY

This August, Former Mayor Clemens Behr participated in a bike tour along the River Elbe. In a missive to the Editor, he described the experience, "It's a daily challenge to make it. In my 6-days tour, I'm going to ride 600 km – 380 miles."

Although physically challenged, he remembered to close his message with, "Sister City: Friendship, solid as a rock!"

REFLECTIONS

Julia Burgen's column on Texas/German connections will resume in the November Newsletter.

VISIT TO GERMANY

In July, Juliann Warner, social studies teacher at Martin High School, and two of her colleagues traveled to Europe on a two-week educational and fun trip with 20 students from

their school. Their first stop was in Bad Königshofen, where they arrived on a Thursday afternoon and were greeted that evening at City Hall by Bad Königshofen Mayor Thomas Helbling and many other local residents. On Friday morning the students were able to visit the high school and then at noon had a picnic outdoors next to Arlington Park.

Martin High School Students in BK



What was so special about this visit was that all of the Arlington students were home hosted by families with teenagers their same ages. Reports we have heard from Juliann and from various sources in Bad Königshofen all tell of the wonderful friendships that came about as a result of this three-day visit.

From Bad Königshofen, the Arlington group continued on by bus to Munich, Vienna, Budapest, Prague and Berlin, but from what we hear, their visit in our Sister City was the best part of the trip. Thank you, Juliann, for introducing the Arlington students to Bad Königshofen. We hope that this short visit will lead to further opportunities for Arlington students to travel to Bad Königshofen and for students from our Sister City to visit Arlington.

FRIEND SPOTLIGHT

I am a fourth generation Texan, complete with an oil and gas well in west Texas. My family home was in Grand Prairie and I am a graduate of Grand Prairie High School – Go Gophers!!! (Other Gophers are Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County

Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay and sportscaster/writer Randy Galloway.)

My professional career has been primarily in the defense industry at Lockheed Martin Grand Prairie (formerly LTV) and a couple of years working as a paralegal for Ross Perot at EDS. During the EDS years, I gained firsthand experience in politics as a part-time lobbyist in Austin for Perot. Those were some interesting times!

Bruce and I have a blended family of four sons and six grandchildren of five girls and one boy. Our family is spread from coast to coast with one family in California, one in North Carolina, one in Utah and one here locally. It makes it difficult to visit with everyone as often as we would like, but we treasure the times we are together.

We share our home with three cats and two dogs and they are excellent at keeping us humble. I take great joy in gardening as it provides me with a sense of peace and accomplishment.

Bruce and I like to travel, but my schedule limits our time for leisure travel. We have, however, been to Bad Königshofen twice and have fallen in love with the people and the place. It is a marvelous story of the testimony of two different peoples – one struggling for existence and the other extending the hand of compassion. My labor of love is to do all that I can to ensure that our relationship with Bad Königshofen and its history continues for generations.

Sheri Capehart

NEWS FLASH

In May 2008, the finishing touches were added to the Bad Königshofen Aquatic Center in Arlington, Texas when the Bad Königshofen seal, located on the entrance clock tower, was painted. City staffers had struggled to find a contractor who was willing to tackle this detailed job, but a call to Dan Phillips of Fast Signs in south Arlington helped this cause.

MORE NEWS

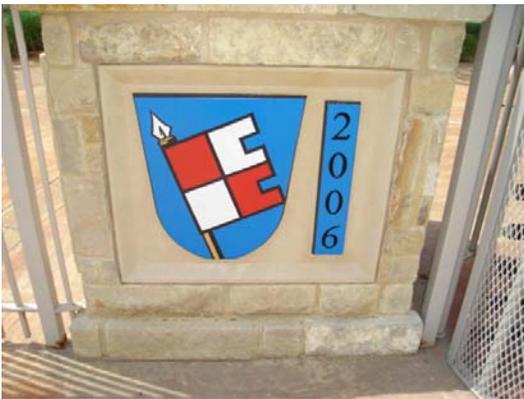


Photo by Oscar Carmona

Dan had previously met a local couple who work on detailed painting and art jobs for many area churches and chapels. The couple was able to complete the job in time before the seasonal opening of the aquatic center. In addition, there is also a smaller Bad Königshofen seal inside the Stovall Park pavilion that was also painted.

The Parks and Recreation Department's next project is to refurbish the Sister City boulder, which is located in front of the pavilion at Stovall Park.

Oscar Carmona, CPRP

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NEWS

The Fielder House's current exhibit "Arlington in the 1950s and 1960s" features photos and text of the beginning of Arlington's partnership with Bad Königshofen.

A second Sister Cities exhibition can be viewed at the George Hawkes Central Library.

Both exhibits run through the month of September. We owe thanks to Martha for the setup of both exhibits.



Left to Right: Vicki English, Martin Naber, Dagmar Lurz

*Visitors from Bad Königshofen

As Klaus mentioned, Eric and Vicki English had the privilege of hosting three visitors from Bad Königshofen in August. Dagmar Lurz, Steffi Beck and Martin Naber were overwhelmed by the wonderful hospitality of the English family and also the warm welcome they received by so many of us at the Sunday evening reception at Eric and Vicki's home. This was Dagmar's second visit to Arlington, but the first for Steffi and Martin.

While in Arlington they visited the Stockyards in Fort Worth's historic North Side, watched the cattle drive along Exchange Avenue and toured Billy Bob's. They shopped at Dallas' Galleria and walked around the West End. They even took time to visit Arlington's City Hall, the Friendship Monument, and Stovall Park.

However, one of the highlights of their trip to Texas was going to the grocery store! They marveled at the size of our stores along with the large variety of selections. Watching their reaction to many of our sights, and observing the time they enjoyed shopping in our stores helped us appreciate some of the things that we all too often take for granted.



Photo by Eric English shows Martin, Steffi, Eric and Dagmar enjoying a game between the Texas Rangers and the New York Yankees, although our visitors were sometimes clueless regarding the rules of baseball.

The next part of their U.S. trip took them to Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Los Angeles and San Francisco. They were so pleased that they were able to visit Amy Greene, daughter of former Arlington Mayor Richard Greene, while in Los Angeles. Their only disappointment on their trip was that the San Francisco fog kept them from seeing the Golden Gate Bridge!

SAVE THE DATES

The BK Pavilion in SJ Stovall Park has been reserved **Sunday, September 21, 4-10 pm.** for the Friends Picnic.

The Historical Society's Front Street Festival is September 27. Volunteers are needed to work the Sister Cities booth. If you can volunteer any part of that day you may respond to lyndaathomenow@aol.com

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