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1. Seasonal Customs

- With the month of September we start the row of months which derive their name from Latin numbers. Before Cesar's calendar reform September (septem for seven in Latin) was the seventh month of the year. Emperor Charlemagne called September the autumn month. It is also called the separation month because the sun and the summer leave.....
- Interesting are the so called "Bauernregeln" (weather proverbs):
 - "September rain brings blessing"
 - "Many crawling spiders in September smell a hard winter"
 - "If you see a lot of September fog you will also see a lot of snow in winter".
- September 30th is "Erntedankfest" (harvest festival/Thanksgiving day) in Germany. People bring baskets of fruit to church to say 'thank you' for a good harvest. This custom is observed in particular in regions with a mostly catholic population where the churches are then decorated beautifully with these fruits. (See also 3. Fürth News, and 5. Special hint: Ansbach)



2. Erlangen News

- Erlangen will have a new attraction starting September 18th: A new shopping mall, called "Erlangen Arcaden" will then open in the city center. There will be two entrances: one on Nürnberger Str. (opposite Kaufhof), one on Henkestr. (opposite the Manhattan cinema). You can also access the mall with your car on the corner Güterbahnhofstr./Nägelsbachstr. There is a garage with over 600 parking spaces.

With a surface of about 20.000 square meters, this shopping mall will be the biggest in Erlangen. 100 shops offer fashion, shoes, leather goods, sports equipment, jewelry, cosmetics, health/household goods, electronic equipment, groceries (also fish and delicatessen) etc. as well as restaurants, bistros and coffee shops all surrounded by nicely decorated open spaces. More information: www.erlangen-arcaden.de

- There is a special sports event on September 29th. The 5th Erlanger Nachtlauf (night-run/sprint) organized by the city of Erlangen and numerous sponsors. The race starts at the "Allee am Röthelheim/Willy-Brandt-Staße" at 8:30 p.m. There are three laps on even ground of 3,4 km each. You can register by buying a T-shirt. (cotton T-shirt for Euro 10,- or 'Funktions-T-shirt' (=sports T-shirt) for Euro 20,-.) By buying a T-shirt you declare that you are healthy enough to run the race. The organizer cannot be held responsible for any kinds of accidents. This year for the first time there is also a so called "funny police action" on the way. Clown police, organized by the "Siemens-unicef-Initiative" stop certain people to give them a "Knöllchen" (ticket) This allows you to have a chance to win a prize at the end of the run.

You have to register by September 26th by buying a T-shirt at “Intersport Eisert”, Erlangen, Sedanstr. 1, or for more information and online registration please visit: www.nachtlauf-erlangen.de



3. Fürth News

- Saturday, September the 22nd between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. there will be the “1. Fürther BIG-Bobby-Car-Race” in Fürth Hochstraße (between Billiganlage and Friedrich-Ebert-Straße). This new fun sport is in Fürth for the first time. Professional racers can race at a speed of up to 70 km/h! Since Fürth is celebrating it's 1000th birthday this year, the German championships will take place that day.
In addition to the profi race at 2p.m. there is a race for children at 10 a.m., a race for amateurs at 11 a.m. and a celebrity race at 12.30 (noon).
In case you want to take part you have to register at www.big.de and there is more information on the event under www.bobycarclub.de .
- From Saturday, September 29th to Sunday, October 14th, a parish fair, the so called “Michaelis-Kirchweih”, will take place in Fürth.
This fair is the largest street fair in Bavaria. There is a unique atmosphere at the fair because there are no beer tents but all the guest houses around the fair invite you to come to their traditional and cozy guest rooms.
This fair is celebrated since the year 850. The inauguration of the Michaelis-Kirche was the reason for this very popular celebration.



The high light every year is the “Erntedank-Festzug” (harvest-festival-parade, Sunday, October 7th). This year even it will be more special: Because of the celebration year (1000 Jahre Fürth) there will also be historical contributions surrounding the town's history. More under:
www.michaelis-kirchweih.de

Note: On Sunday September 30th and Sunday October 7th, the shops in Fürth are open!

Visit Germany's second biggest street fair with EASY ENTRY at our get2gether meeting October 11th. Meeting point: Our office, Gustavstr. 39, Fürth, at 6.30 p.m.

4. Nürnberg News

- In 1999 Nürnberg celebrated its 950th anniversary and that year for the first time the people of Nürnberg organised the “längste Friedenstafel der Welt” (the longest peace table of the world) where 40.000 people from different social and cultural backgrounds came together in Nürnberg to have dinner at one long table.



This year the event takes place at September 30th between 1 and 5 p.m. (between Kornmarkt and Hallplatz and along the Dr.-Kurt-Schumacher-Straße to the Jakobsplatz).

You can bring your own food but there are plenty of possibilities to buy something to eat or drink. There will be music from 8 different bands. (Klezmer, Belcanto, Arab, Latin, African and Balkan music for example). The reservation fee for a table costs at least Euro 5,00 per table www.friedenstafel-nuernberg.de . The money will go to Ruanda to help build a school.

The same day, the “Internationale Nürnberger Menschenrechtspreis” (Nuremberg International Human Rights Award) will be given to Eugénie Musayidire (Rwanda) for her reconciliation work between the two enemy tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsi, in Ruanda.

- Don't miss the 37th “Nürnberger Altstadtfest” between September 13th and 24th! Last year over 1 million visitors came to this very special event. This year 60 unique attractions are offered: like different concerts, folklore shows, theater, fishermen sousts, etc. and, of course, all kinds of food and beverages as well as sales stalls and attractions for children. All this takes place in the center of the old town. Find more information and street plans under: www.altstadtfest.de
- The ice hockey season has started again. You can watch the Nürnberg “Sinupret Ice Tigers” playing the “Krefeld Pinguines”, Sunday the 23rd of September, at the Arena Nürnberger Versicherung in Nürnberg, Kurt-Leucht-Weg 11 (S-Bahn-Linie S2, Bus-Linie 55 till Frankenstadion) The ticket for the game is also valid for this public transportation within the Nürnberg region. More information: www.arena-nuernberg.de
- Nuernberg stores are open for trading on Sunday, 23rd September 2007

More than 300 shops and stores in the Nuernberg pedestrian zone which is said to be the “longest car-free shopping zone in Germany” will be open for trade from 1pm to 6pm. Extend your stroll to the Hauptmarkt area where the traditional autumn market will take place.

For more information goto: <http://www.nuernberg.de/internet/portal/kultur/shopping.html>

- Bike race "around the Nuernberg old town" on 16th September 2007
This race "around the Nuernberg old Town" is not exclusive for race professionals on 16th September - there is another highlight for ambiguous hobby cyclists: the everybody race (Jedermannrennen).

Mehr unter <http://www.radrennen.de>

- Herbstmarkt (fall market) from 13th to 24th September 2007

To date with the Nuernberg Altstadtfest starts the Herbstmarkt (fall market) on 13th September. Young Franconian wine - the so-called Federweisser is typically served with onion pie right from the oven.

Mehr unter <http://www.maerkte.nuernberg.de/herbstmarkt/index.html>

- Five different street fairs on 22nd September 2007

Colorful shows, music and delicious food for young and old instead of heavy car traffic. The Lorenzer Straße, Arndtstraße, Urbanstraße, Adam-Klein-Straße and Gießereistraße are offering five diversified festivals on the europewide car-free day.

Mehr unter <http://intelligent-mobil.nuernberg.de/v01/de/pub/index.html?navID=208>

- One of the high lights of the season will be the Joe Cocker concert "Hymn For My Soul", Monday, October 8th, at 8 p.m. also at the Arena Nürnberger Versicherung. (address above). For tickets please phone the ticket hotline: Tel.: 0911/9 88 97-280

5. Special hint: Ansbach

- For people interested in tradition and history the city of Ansbach is worth visiting. The residence of the former Markgraf is a rococo-style castle with 27 magnificent rooms, a ball room over two floors, a mirror cabinet and a tile hall with over 2800 tiles. In addition, there is an orangery with a baroque garden today used for meetings and concerts. There is also a museum showing an outstanding collection of porcelain, paintings etc. There are two churches worth visiting: The Gumbertuskirche and the Johanniskirche. More information and pictures: www.ansbach.de

- On Thanksgiving Day Ansbach has a special attraction: "Zug der Ansbacher Kinder", a parade with children pulling about 60 hand carts decorated with flowers and filled with fruits and vegetables which they hand over to children of an orphanage at the end of the parade. The parade starts on September 30th at 2 p.m. behind the castle. It is recommended to watch the parade from the "Martin-Luther-Platz".



6. Oktoberfest Munich

- The first Oktoberfest was celebrated October 12th in 1810 on the birthday of king Maximilian I. This was also the wedding day of Crown prince Ludwig I. von Bayern and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. They wanted all the people from Munich to celebrate with them and decided that from that day on every year at that time there should be a big fair. Already this first fair was held on the Theresienwiese (where it still takes place today) and soon not only inhabitants from Munich came but people from all over Bavaria, Germany and nowadays from all over the world. In the beginning the horse race and the cow and horse shows were the attraction of the fair. Shooting matches were also very popular; soon appeared the first beer tents and sales stalls.
This year the 174th Oktoberfest is celebrated. It starts September 22nd and ends October 7th. All hotel rooms in Munich seem to be booked out already and Munich again expects more than six million visitors.
In 1978 they started a new tradition: every year the beer mugs are adorned with a different logo. One liter beer costs this year between Euro 7,30 and Euro 7,90 (5% more than last year) A beer mug costs Euro 12,50. More information: www.oktoberfest.de

7. Amusement Parks and Guided Tours

- Soon the amusement park season will be over for this year therefore today another recommendation from our region:

FREIZEIT-LAND GEISELWIND is one of the most popular amusement parks in the south of Germany. With almost 100 different rides you do not have to wait long for your turn.
Easy to reach, directly near Autobahn A3, excit Geiselwind. More info.: www.freizeit-land.de
- The season for most guided tours is also ending in fall. If you want to learn more about Erlangen's history we can recommend a city tour in English or French, October 3rd at 3 p.m. starting in front of the Hugenottenkirche at the Hugenottenplatz. The tour costs Euro 5.-, children pay half.

Information has been taken from the book "Feste & Bräuche" by Sybil Gräfin Schönfeldt/Otto Maier Verlag Ravensburg, 1980, and from the websites of the addresses given above in this newsletter. (photos from photographers listed there, taken with the permission of the providers) Photo shown under 1. and 3.: Bürgermeister und Presseamt der Stadt Fürth, under 4.: Photo Thorsten Hönig, Stadt Nürnberg, Menschenrechtsbüro, under 5.: Photo Frau Hausleitner, Quelle: Fränkische Landeszeitung
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