

Friday, April 4, 2025

Better in Bavaria Community Update: From Col. Stephen C. Flanagan.

I'd like to start off with recognizing our garrison's long-time Community Relations officer, Franz Zeilmann, as he's set to retire this week after over 41 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Army and most importantly his impactful dedication to the German-American friendship. Franz started working as a mechanic, changed over to the recreation field, before he ended up with the Public Affairs office in 1991. His efforts will have a long-lasting impact on our community for years to come and is a testament to the enduring legacy he leaves behind. We wish him all the best in retirement.

Here are a few updates for your Friday:

- **Gold Star Spouses Day:** Tomorrow, April 5 is Gold Star Spouses Day. On this day, we honor surviving spouses of fallen service members and recognize their sacrifice to our nation. Gold star spouses are the resilient legacies of their soldier's service to our nation.
- **Gym closure:** The Tower Barracks Field House 24/7 Operations will be closed April 11 from 1-6 p.m., in support of the MWR/USO Show. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. for the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders live Performance and Meet & Greet.
- **Reminder:** Gate maintenance at Tower Barracks Gate 6 continues the month of April. Please allow extra time for your commute, use alternate gates, and follow detour signs.
- **Month of the Military Child:** April is designated as month of the military child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Each year, the DoD celebrates military children and the sacrifices they make. Check out our upcoming Kinderfests, Friday, April 25 in Garmisch and Saturday April 26 at Tower Barracks and Hohenfels.
- **Better in Bavaria Radio Show:** Tune in to AFN Bavaria, Wednesday, April 9 at 5 p.m. for our next show. During the show we'll have you meet some of our team members and talk the Transition Assistance Program, and with a Month of the Military Child focus, we'll talk with Dr. Heather Ramaglia our DoDEA Community Superintendent and with staff from our Child and Youth Services team.
- **April is Sexual Assault and Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month.** Earlier this morning, we had our first of four ASAP/Sharp Prevention Color Runs at Garmisch. Don't miss the next three taking place:
 - Friday, April 11 at Tower Barracks at 6:30 a.m.
 - Thursday, April 17 at Rose Barracks at 6:30 a.m.
 - Thursday, April 24, at Hohenfels at 6:30 a.m.
- **Easter:** Please keep in mind that Friday, April 18 and Monday April 21 are German holidays, some garrison services may be affected and many off-post stores will be closed due to the observance of Easter. If you're looking for our religious support office's easter services, check out our website at <https://home.army.mil/bavaria/chaplain>.

- **Construction at the Tower Barracks Post Office Parking:** Construction continues through May 30. During this time the entryway to the post office will be blocked for vehicles. Please use alternate routes and parking.
- **School Year 2025-2026 Spring Re-registration:** Parents must submit a re-registration to indicate whether each student is staying in DoDEA or leaving their current location. Parents should log into the DoDEA Student Information System (DSIS) Family Portal at <https://dodeasis.myfollett.com/aspden/logon.do> to submit each student re-registration request. The re-registration process also provides a quick and easy way for families to update information (contacts, Sponsor's employment status, student health) if the student is returning.
- **Teaching Vacancies Available in Bavaria:** Apply Now! DoDEA is working to fill several half time and potential full time teaching positions in the USAG Bavaria footprint for SY25-26. They are specifically looking for individuals with certifications in art, music, and PE. Please visit the DoDEA website to begin the application process: <https://www.dodea.edu/offices/human-resources/work-dodea/teaching-application-requirements>
- **Non-Federal Entities and Home Based Business Survey:** Family and MWR would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few moments and answer for us five questions about what you know about Non-Federal Entities and Home-Based Businesses in this community: <https://forms.gle/hkJi7yFAhfAdet3J7>
- **Tenant Satisfaction Survey:** The Army wants to hear from its Soldiers and their Families so they can better invest in barracks and unaccompanied housing improvements. The survey is **open now through May 1**, and those eligible to take the survey will receive an email from ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com. To learn more, contact the Army Housing Office.
- **Volunteer Coaches:** Volunteer Coaches are still needed for our Child and Youth Services sports programs. This is a great opportunity to serve our community. Head coaches can receive a credit for all children enrolled that season and assistant coaches can receive a credit for one child. Soldiers may also use this opportunity to build up their volunteer hours for potential MOVSM award and promotion points. See flyer packet for more info.
- **Family Child Care Provider:** If you're interested in becoming an Army Family Child Care Provider visit <https://grafenwoehr.armymwr.com/happenings/apply-be-fcc-provider-family-child-careThere>. There you'll will find information on becoming an FCC provided and a list of questions to consider about becoming an FCC provider.
- **My Army Post App:** Have you downloaded the new My Army Post app? The app offers customizable home screens, real-time notifications, and tailored updates to ensure that each user receives only the most relevant information for their needs. Download the My Army Post App today from Google Play or the Apple App Store!
- **Good news stories:**
 - **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** event at the Tower Barracks Commissary, Saturday, March 29. Special thank you goes out to the Commissary and Tower

Barracks and Rose Barracks VFW Posts, and the BOSS program, for hosting and putting on this important Vietnam Recognition Event. Photos from the event can be found at

<https://flickr.com/photos/usagbavaria/albums/72177720324836118/with/54425998176>

- **Naturalization Ceremony:** Tuesday, April 1 we welcomed 32 new citizens hailing from 22 different countries. Read more about the ceremony at <https://www.army.mil/article/284334>.

Tower Barracks and Rose Barracks:

On-post events to check out:

- Grafenwoehr Blood Drive, Bldg. 150, TB, April 7-8, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- Wellness Wednesday: A partnership between the Red Cross and the Employee Assistance Program. Join a free workout every Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at the Tower Barracks Fitness Center! April 9, try Mindful Movement, a class focused on gentle stretching and breathing techniques. April 16, try Pilates.
- Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Visit, Tower Barracks Field House, April 11, 4 p.m.
- Healthcare Champions Network meeting, April 29 from noon-1 p.m. This monthly meeting at the Red Cross Grafenwöhr (Bldg. 124, Classroom #8) is open to anyone in or interested in healthcare to network, grow professionally, and discuss community service projects.
- Munich Awaits – Discover the vibrant capital of Bavaria with Wild B.O.A.R. Outdoor Recreation! April 12
- Stuttgart Spring Festival – Dive into Europe’s Largest Spring Festival with Wild B.O.A.R. Outdoor Recreation! April 19 & May 3
- Registration is open now for the B.O.S.S. Europe Park Trip, April 25
- Berlin Awaits – Discover the vibrant capital of Germany with its countless facets with Wild B.O.A.R. Outdoor Recreation! April 26
- IMCOM-Europe Army 10 Miler – Virtual Qualification Race, May 3, 7-9 a.m.
- Bavaria Performing Arts presents: Charlotte’s Web, May 9-11, B124
Get your tickets here: <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/>
- Bavaria Performing Arts presents: Mean Girls Junior, May 16-18, B124
Get your tickets here: <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/>

Off-post events to check out:

- Weiden Easter Market, Volkshochschule Weiden, April 5, 10 a.m.
- Grafenwoehr Easter Market, April 6, at the Museum
- Night Flea Market, City Hall Neustadt a.d. Waldnaab, April 11, 5-10 p.m.
- Kreis Kirwa Warm Up, Heringnohe 1, Vilseck, April 12, 7:30 p.m.

- Cherry Blossom Festival, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Ring 23, Amberg, April 12, 5 p.m.

What's happening at Hohenfels and Garmisch:

Hohenfels:

- **Traffic Diversion:** April 2 until further notice: All drivers coming from Gate #3 (Schmidmuehlen Road) should continue to drive with caution and follow traffic pattern. Once construction is complete and traffic has resumed its normal pattern, a further message will go out to the community.
- **Gate Maintenance:** Beginning April 2 maintenance work will be conducted at Hohenfels Military Community Guard Points 4 and 6. The project is expected to last 3-4 weeks. Clearly marked detours will be in place around the vicinity of the guard point.
- **Try Scuba Pool** – Take your first breath underwater and experience the thrill of scuba diving und a safe pool – no experience needed! Outdoor Recreation, Hohenfels, April 9, 5-10 p.m.
- **Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Meet & Greet** presented by MWR and USO, April 10, 4-5 p.m., Bowling and Entertainment Center
- **Gate 3 (Schmidmühlen) Closures, April 10-15, MAY 13-25:** Gate 3 with access from Markt Schmidmühlen is scheduled to close from 8 a.m. April 10 to 7 p.m. April 15, and from 12:01 a.m. May 13 to 11:59 p.m. May 25. During these times, Gate 1 will be open to vehicular traffic.
- **Hohenfels Volleyball Tournament:** Teams of at least six are welcome to sign up now until April 9. The tournament will be held April 12 at 9 a.m.
- **Table Tennis Tournament,** April 19, 10 a.m., Rodney J. Harris Sports & Fitness Center
- **Hohenfels Gospel Services at Netzaberg:** The Religious Support Office is scheduled to host their Easter Sunday Service at 1 p.m. April 20 at Netzaberg Chapel in the Grafenwöhr community. Normal gospel services are scheduled to resume in the USAG Bavaria – Hohenfels community, May 18 at 1 p.m.
- **Hohenfels Volksfest 2025,** April 30 - May 4, Hohenfels Festplatz

Off-post events to check out:

- **Schmidmühlen Fish for Sale:** The Schmidmühlen Fishing Club (Fischverein Schmidmühlen) holds a sale of freshly smoked and grilled fish April 18 at Vereinsheim, Zieglerweg 12.
- **Open Shop Sunday, Parsberg, April 27:** Several shops in Parsberg open Sunday for Verkaufsoffener Sonntag.

Garmisch:

On-post events to check out:

- **Newcomer's Briefing,** April 8, ACS, Bldg. 203, 2- 4 p.m.

- **Newcomer's Tour**, April 11, ACS, Bldg. 203, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt**, April 12, Garmisch Community Chapel, at 10 a.m.
- **GAP Dining Out**, April 17, 6:30-9 p.m.
- **USAG Bavaria Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony**, April 29, 3 p.m., Pete Burke Community Center
- **Parent Advisory Board Meeting**, May 27, 12 –1 p.m., B723, SAC Wing

Off-post events to check out:

- **Ova Burana Artistica- Easter Egg Art Market**, April 5-7, Benediktbeuern, Monastery
- **Palm Market**, April 13, Murnau, Pedestrian Zone, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Flea Market**, April 5, Oberammergau, Festplatz, Am Labergraben, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Easter Market**, April 11-21, (closed Good Friday), Bad Tölz, Marktstrasse, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- **Easter Market**, April 11-21, Innsbruck/Austria, Old town, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.