

# THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

## Benelux News

### Briefs

#### Change of Command

Colonel Kurt P. Connell will relinquish command to Col. Sean H. Kuester June 29 at 10 a.m. in front of the Headquarters Bldg. at Caserne Daumerie.

#### Volunteers needed

MWR is in need of volunteers to assist with the World Cup Match event - Belgium vs. England - June 28 at the SHAPE fest tent. Visit the Chièvres MWR website to sign up. Volunteers are also needed for the Independence Day event June 29. Volunteers will assist with the set up and break down of both events, and also during the events with food sales and other duties as needed. If you are interested in helping June 27 through July 2, sign up at: <https://chievres.armymwr.com/promos/volunteers-needed>.

#### Community Health Survey

The Community Health Promotion Council is surveying the Benelux for thoughts about what is important to the installation. Take the survey at: <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137455DDCC5A4>.



## American Festival builds alliances through fun

The SHAPE Band kicked off the second day of the American Festival in Chièvres June 18, 2017. The annual two-day event features games, an auction, food, fun, and new friendships. The 2018 American Festival is June 16-17. See page 2 for a full schedule. (U.S. Army photo by Kristin Ellis)

## Table of Contents

News.....	2-4
Inside the Gate.....	5-8
Outside the Gate.....	9-11

# Garrison leadership talks Schinnen Transformation

**By Kristin Ellis and Rita Hoefnagels**  
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux participated in a town hall event June 6 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen in Germany to inform customers on upcoming events and answer questions and concerns.

The focus was on plans for the Fall 2019 move from Schinnen to the NATO Industrial Complex (NIC) in Brunssum and what it means for services.

The move is part of the European Infrastructure Consolidation (aka Transformation), a process that aims to save the U.S. government about \$500 million annually by consolidating installations and service throughout the European theater. Benelux is charged with transforming its footprint in two countries: Belgium and The Netherlands.

At the town hall, leadership pointed out that the move to the NIC site is not only good for the taxpayer, but good for the community.

“One of the beautiful things about the move to NIC is it saves the taxpayer \$2 million in lease costs and moves the community support services closer to the population it serves,” said John Phelan, Transformation Team stationing manager.

Geilenkirchen, which is about 24 km away from Schinnen, is the Main Operating Base of the NATO Boeing E-3 Sentry Component, one of two operational elements of the NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control Force. The move



Phelan



Deputy to the Garrison Commander Thomas C. Joyce speaks with community members after the town hall at Geilenkirchen Air Base in Germany June 6. Garrison leadership was on hand to answer questions about Schinnen's 2019 move to Brunssum. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)

will consolidate services and increase efficiency by essentially creating a one-stop-shop for the Schinnen/Geilenkirchen community. In addition, it will help the garrison focus on the long-term use and sustainability of the Benelux community as an enduring presence within Europe and better support U.S. and NATO missions as well.

The move is being meticulously planned by the Transformation Office and affected directorates and Phelan said they are aiming for minimal, if any, disruption to service with no office of-

fling for more than four hours.

In the meantime, Phelan recommended that employees at Schinnen utilize the next year to “lighten the load”: digitize files, trash and recycle anything outdated or no longer needed.

When moving, the garrison will be paying by the pound and getting rid of unwanted items will ensure the government will not be paying to haul trash to the new site.

“Do a little bit now rather than a whole lot later,” Phelan said. “Don’t fall into the mentality of ‘I’ll sort it out later.’ Sort it out now and save the taxpayers’ money.” ♦

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# City of Chièvres invites American neighbors to annual party

The city of Chièvres invites their American neighbors to the fourth annual American Festival June 16 and 17 near the St. Jean Chapel in Chièvres. The Office Du Tourisme De Chievres hosts the event each year as part of a cultural exchange between the Americans who live and work in the area and local Belgians.

Come celebrate and get to know the Chièvres community over food, drinks, and music. The American football team, Mons Knights, will be on hand Sunday for anyone who wants to learn more about the game or information on how to join the team. This year, the re-enactment camp will be WWI-themed in commemoration of its centennial. Bring your best homeade pie for the Sunday auction to benefit Make-a-Wish Belgium South.

The festival will also feature a boot-camp demonstration, music by the SHAPE International Band, and Saturday night fireworks. The Musée International de la Base aérienne - the museum dedicated to the history of Chièvres Air Base - will be open all weekend to festival-goers. Opening in 2003, the museum features a C119 (the predecessor to the C130) takes you through the history of the air base from its establishment in 1917 to the present day. The festival will be held at Maison de Cité, Rue de la Chapelle, 7950 Chièvres.

**And while you're in Chièvres...** make sure to stop by the Commissary's Healthy Lifestyle Festival June 15 to 17 at Chièvres Air Base for a farmers market, a pet contest, and fitness demonstrations. See page 7 for more details. ♦

**AMERICAN FESTIVAL**  
Chièvres

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16**

- 6pm: Introduction & swing dance demonstration with Easy Swing
- 7:30pm: Little legs (bluegrass, folk music made from repurposed everyday items)
- 9pm: Milly & the Silver Dice (rockabilly)
- 10:30pm: Fireworks & dancing with DJ Boule (rockabilly)

*Also featuring Fred's barbershop, tattoo-addiction!*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17**

- 10am - 6pm: American market
- 11am - 1pm: SHAPE International Band with a special appearance by Sonya Siman (The Wave Station Beirut)
- 2-3pm: Pie auction to benefit Make-a-Wish Belgium South (Bring your best homemade pie to be auctioned!)
- 2:30pm: Boot camp demonstration
- 3pm: Calabash JCT string band (bluegrass)
- 4:30pm: Frozen t-shirt contest (women)
- 5pm: Frozen t-shirt contest (men)

**ALL WEEKEND**

- Military camp re-enactments: American & French WWI
- American buses & vans
- Retro photo exhibit by Lara Vanderelst
- Duck fishing & rifle shooting games
- History of Chièvres exhibit (WWI-era)

*Also at the festival: American games, face painting, a laundry contest & the Musée International de la Base Aérienne\* (the museum dedicated to the history of Chièvres Air Base) will be open all weekend!*

\*Museum located at Chaussée de Saint-Chiélain 16, 7950 Chièvres

**ENTRANCE IS FREE!**

MAISON DE CITÉ - Rue de la Chapelle à 7950 Chièvres - 068 64 59 61  
contact@atchièvres.be - www.atchièvres.be

## Stay Informed, Stay Connected, Stay Safe!

With the warmer weather comes more outdoor activities throughout the Benelux. USAG Benelux wants to remind the community to remain vigilant. By being alert and reporting suspicious activity to your local law enforcement you can protect your family, neighbors, and community.

- Maintain situational awareness at all times when attending events involving large crowds.
- Avoid locations which restrict or limit your movement and ability to exit the venue quickly
- Pre-establish easily recognizable meeting spots to be used as emer-

gency evacuation points where you and your family/friends can gather if needed.

- Report any suspicious activity, unattended bags or anything outside of the norm.
- Make sure you are signed up in AtHoc: The AtHoc mass-warning notification system sends registered users emergency warnings and other critical information, such as hazardous road conditions, reporting delays, and base closures due to severe weather. The notifications are mostly local, but may also be theater-wide.

- If you witness suspicious activity in the community and outside the military installations, report it to the nearest police agency by calling the emergency number in the country.
- If you see suspicious activity in your local community, contact the military police desk at your location:
- Chièvres: DSN 361-5301 or +32 (0)68-275301.
- Brussels: DSN 368-9769 or +32 (0)27-179769.
- Schinnen: DSN 360-7555 or +31(0)46-4/437555
- SHAPE: DSN 423-3333 or +32(0)65-44-3333. ♦



### Resonate troupe wows audiences

Resonate, a high energy interactive percussion troupe, visited U.S. Army Garrison Benelux communities June 4 in Brussels, June 5 in Schinnen and June 6 in SHAPE to entertain military children. The troupe, brought by Armed Forces Entertainment, says that they attribute their passion for music and love as their driving force in performing for people all over the world. AFE brings world-class music and entertainment to military communities throughout the year. For upcoming events, visit the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation website at your location. (U.S. Army photo by Emma Moxon).

## ALL COMMUNITIES

### Government Driver's License

- Per the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HDQA) decision, the Army Accident Avoidance Training online is no longer required to obtain the government vehicle driver's license. For questions, call DSN 366-6603.

### June 21/28

- **Threat Awareness and Reporting Program (TARP) training** - The Benelux Counterintelligence team hosts TARP training at Caserne Daumerie, Bldg. 30 June 21 at 1 p.m. and at USAG Benelux in Brussels, Bldg. 3 June 28 at 1 p.m. For more information, contact the TARP training POC at army-ci-benelux@mail.mil.

### The following are VTC-projected class. For information about and to register for VTC classes, contact:

- For SHAPE: DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824
- For Brussels: DSN 368-9783 or +32 (0)2-7179783
- For Schinnen: DSN 360-7500 or +31 (0)46-4437500

### June 28 & August 9/23

- **Positive Parenting** - Offered by Army Community Service. Learn techniques on how to teach your child to control themselves from 10 a.m. to noon.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### See also above in "All Communities."

#### Every Monday and Thursday

- **Lunchtime Yoga** - Relax and refresh during the work day from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brussels Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

#### Every Tuesday

- **Tax Assistance** - The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Bldg. 4 in room 316. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. For more information on legal services and documentation needed for tax returns, visit [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html).

#### Every Thursday and Friday

- **Community Movie Night** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

#### Every Friday

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the Brussels community for games, cards, music and movies starting at 5 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Line dancing will start at 7 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month. Karaoke will be held on the second and fourth Friday of the month starting at 6 p.m. U.S. Military, NATO, U.S. Embassy and mission cardholders are welcome. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

#### June 15

- **Father's Day BBQ** - The 3 Star Recreation Center hosts a BBQ for fathers from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for kids. Those interested can register by June 13 by calling +32 (0)2-7179822.

#### June 16

- **Father's Day 5k Run** - The Father's Day 5K will be held at the Brussels Fitness Center and is open to U.S., NATO, U.S. Embassy, and U.S. Mission ID cardholders. For additional information, call the fitness center at DSN 368-9667 or civilian +32 (0)2-7179667. Registration is required.



#### June 18-25

- **CAC/DEERS Closure** - The Brussels CAC/DEERS office will be closed June 18-25. For ID card emergencies, call the SHAPE CAC/DEERS office at DSN 314-366-6294 or the Schinnen CAC/DEERS office at DSN 606-244-3475.

#### June 23

- **Strong Viking - Water Edition** - Brussels Fitness is organizing transportation and training sessions for this event. The Strong Viking competition costs \$100 and covers the cost of race entry, transportation, and team t-shirt.

#### June 28

- **World Cup - England vs. Belgium** - The 3 Star Recreation Center hosts a World Cup watch party from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The recreation center will have a cash bar and snack food for purchase. For more information and a full list of the other watch parties, visit the Brussels MWR website.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

### June 19

- **Open Wall Climbing** - This is available at the Schinnen Climbing Wall in the Andre Bruls Fitness Center every first and third Tuesday. Cost for adults is \$40 for five visits or \$10 for one visit. Cost for children age 12 and under is \$32 for five visits or \$8 for one visit. For more information, call DSN 360-7370/7560 or +31 (0)46-4437370/7560.

### Beginning June 26

- **Summer Reading Program** - Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card holders up to 18 years old beginning June 26 and ending on August 19. Children interested in this program should register at <https://brunssumlibrary.beanstack.org> starting June 19. Children will check out and read books from the JFC HQ Brunssum Library and receive a variety of prizes for the number of minutes they read. Preschool children may earn prizes by having books read aloud to them. For more information call civilian +31 (0)45-5262669 or +31 (0)45-5262469. JFC HQ Library is open to all U.S. and NATO ID card holders in the Tri-Border Community and is located next to B&S Central Store Bldg. 604.

### June 30

- **Army Birthday Ball** - A celebration of Army Heroes from WWI to present day will be held at the Van der Valk Hotel in Heerlen for an evening of dancing, dining and entertainment. Tickets are €60 and the reception will begin at 6 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, call +31 (0)6 5630065 or email to [army-ball243@gmail.com](mailto:army-ball243@gmail.com).

### July 4

- **Independence Day Celebration** - The 2018 Independence Day Celebration takes place at and around the Schinnen pavilion from 4:30 p.m. to midnight. There will be live music, karaoke, food, fireworks and more. No pets, coolers or picnic baskets are allowed. All fees are in Euros. For more information on the festivities itself contact DFMWR at DSN 360-7370 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437370. The event is open to US & NATO ID card holders and their dependents. Please note: Guests should be sponsored. This means that if a CAC card, Installation Pass, or NATO ID card holder brings non-card-holding guests with them in their vehicle, the card holder can vouch for guests as 'trusted.' If non-card holders arrive separately, the card holder will be required to return to the guard house and physically sign them in. When a card holder who has vouched for a guest(s) leaves the installation, the guest(s) must also leave. For example, a card holder and guests show up at 6 p.m. and the card holder decides they don't want to stay for the fireworks and leaves at 8 p.m. then the guests must also leave at that time. Guests cannot be left on base unattended. For more information on bringing guests, contact the Schinnen MPs at DSN 360-7555 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437555.



### Through Sept. 15

- **Bowling Center** - Kids bowl free at the Schinnen Bowling Center with a Bowling Pass. Registration is open until **Sept. 15**. To sign up, go to [www.kidsbowlfree.com/Army](http://www.kidsbowlfree.com/Army).

## SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

### POV and GOV Orientation Classes

- POV Orientation Class is conducted at SHAPE Bldg. 220 in room 104 every Tuesday at 8 a.m. to noon. Schedule an appointment in order to receive study material. GOV Orientation Class is conducted every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. U.S. and Canadian personnel must complete a POV orientation to obtain SHAPE driving license. For more information, call DSN 366-6603 or +32 (0)65-326603.

### Belgium Taxes

- In an effort to mitigate the amount of annual Belgian tax forms received by SHAPE members and their families, the Belgium National Military Representative (NMR) is requesting all Belgium tax forms received this year be taken to their respective nation's NMR for processing. The Belgium NMR wants to collect and consolidate all tax forms and submit to their Ministry before **June 30**. As a result, the U.S. Community Services Center on SHAPE will not be able to process the Belgian tax forms contained in the brown envelopes. All customers who visit the center with the tax forms will be directed to deliver them to the USNMR located in SHAPE Bldg. 101. For questions, please call the USNMR at DSN 314-423-4403 or +32(0)65-44-4403.

## SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY (cont'd)

### Every First Week of the Month

- **Intro to Gym Machines** - The SHAPE Sports and Fitness Center hosts this walk-thru Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m. Book an appointment at the fitness center.

### Every Monday and Wednesday

- **Functional Fitness (Stroller Friendly)** - Join the Chièvres Fitness Center (Bldg. 20004) on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., for an adult, high-intensity, full-body workout using body weight and basic equipment followed by 30 minutes of indoor cycling. Kids are welcome.

### Every Tuesday

- **SHAPE Library Preschool Story Time** - Help your little ones get a head start on early reading skills by attending the SHAPE International Library's weekly story times. Preschool Story Time, designed for children age 3 to 6, meets every Tuesday at 4:15 p.m. in the children's room of the library. Participants will enjoy stories, finger plays, songs and lots of giggles. Story Time helps children build confidence, learn socialization skills and make friends. For more information, call DSN 324-5631 or +32(0)65-445631.
- **Self-Defense** - Men and women over age 18 can attend this beginner-level self-defense course hosts by certified instructors from the Spanish Forces every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the SHAPE main gym basketball court. Registration is free. Contact self\_defense\_shape@outlook.es.

### June 15

- **Fun Mudder** - CYS hosts a Fun Mudder obstacle course to celebrate the Army's birthday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This is a family-friendly event open to children and adults. Cost is \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. Registration ends June 7.
- **Summer Party** - The B3's Sports Bar hosts a summer-themed event from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. with free welcome shots from 10 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Entry is free.

### June 15-17

- **Healthy Families – Healthy Pets** - The Chièvres' Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) hosts a Healthy Lifestyle Event in front of the Commissary. The theme is Healthy Families – Healthy Pets and multiple units and organizations such as AAFES, Andrews Federal Credit Union, Red Cross, Veterinary Office, and Food Inspector Office will participate in the event. The event will also feature a produce farmers market and a pet/owner lookalike contest. Shopping sprees, drawings, and other prizes will also be awarded. The festival runs Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



### June 18/19/26

- **Host Nation Orientation** - Learn about the community, tour a Belgian hospital, learn about Belgian customs, sample traditional Belgian cuisine, learn basic French, enjoy a cultural tour of Mons and learn about public transportation and shopping. Held Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is required. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

### Through June 19

- **English Channel Challenge** - SHAPE Sports and Fitness hosts this swimming challenge. Participants have 50 days or less to complete 31.9 miles (the exact distance of the English Channel). For more information, contact +32 (0) 65-445325.

### June 26

- **Intermediate Driver Training Course** - The Benelux Safety Office will host a driving course for Soldiers under 26-years-old at Chievres Air Base Building 105 from 1 to 4 p.m. Space is limited. This training is designed to reinforce a positive attitude toward driving, individual responsibility, correct response to routine and emergency driving situations, and sharing the road safely with other road users. To register, contact the USAG Benelux Installation Safety Office at DSN 361-6114/1470 or civilian +32 (0) 68-276114/1470.

### June 28

- **World Cup** - MWR will host a watch party of the World Cup match between England and Belgium June 28 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the SHAPE Fest Tent. This match is the kick-off to the U.S. Independence Day celebration **June 29**. Check the MWR website for child care information.

### July 6

- **Army Ball** - The U.S. Army celebrates its 243rd birthday at the SHAPE ballroom from 5 to 10 p.m. Tickets are €50 per person. Contact your unit representative for information.

## Upcoming elections

Below are the election dates for June to August.

- **June 19:** Arkansas, District of Columbia
- **June 26:** Colorado, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah
- **June 30:** Texas 27th Congressional District Special Election
- **July 17:** Alabama
- **July 24:** Georgia
- **August 2:** Tennessee
- **August 4:** Virgin Islands
- **August 7:** Ohio 12th Congressional District Special General
- **August 7:** Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Washington
- **August 11:** Hawaii
- **August 14:** Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont, Wisconsin
- **August 21:** Alaska, Wyoming;
- **August 25:** Guam
- **August 28:** Arizona, Florida, Oklahoma

For more information, contact the Voting Assistance Officer for USAG Benelux, at DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-32-6192 or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). ♦

## Schinnen crowns first Commander's Cup winners



The first Commander's Cup Challenge, held at the Fitness Center in Schinnen, started in June 2017 and ended May 2018. It offered teams and individuals fitness challenges to secure the Commander's Cup Trophy. While it was a competition, it was the fun and benefits of putting some exercise into a routine that had been at the top of the list.

In the category large units the competition was dominated by the Coast Guards (pictured left) followed in second place with the Schinnen Military Police. Schinnen Andrew's Federal Credit Union (pictured right) took the lead in the small unit category while JFC Brunssum held on to second place.

For more details or information on the upcoming Commander's Cup Challenge 2018-2019 stop by the Schinnen Fitness Center or call DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437331.

(U.S. Army photos by Patty Luijpen)



### Schinnen Tax center volunteer recognized

Gertrudis Guanga was presented the 2018 Netherlands Law Center Tax Volunteer award June 7 by Col. John Frost, Staff Judge Advocate, 21st TSC for her outstanding voluntary service by helping the Tax Center for over 300 hours. She also received the SJA Recognition Coin. (Photo by Noël van Zandvoort, claims adjuster, The Netherlands Law Center, Schinnen)

## UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

### SHAPE Trips & Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or +32 (0)65-443884.

- Monet's House and Gardens in Giverny, France, **June 16**
- London, **June 23 (SOLD OUT)**
- Bruno Mars Concert in Paris (SOLD OUT), **June 30**
- Luxembourg City, **July 7**
- Beyonce and Jay-Z Concert in Paris, **July 14**
- Rotterdam with Harbor Tour, **July 14**
- Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, The Netherlands, **July 21**
- Strasbourg, France, **July 28**
- Honfleur, France, **Aug. 4**
- Paris, **Aug. 11**
- London, **Aug. 12-15**

- Disneyland Paris, **Aug. 18**

- Kevin Hart Comedy Tour in Antwerp, **Aug. 25**
- Flower Parade in Zundert, The Netherlands, **Sept. 2**
- Heidelberg & World's Largest "Wurst" & Wine Festival in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, **Sept. 15**
- Trier, Germany, **Oct. 13**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- Clay pigeon and small caliber shooting, **June 23**
- Water Skiing and Swim Park, **June 30**
- Amsterdam, **July 14**
- Deep Sea Fishing (Mackerel), **July 21**
- NFL Game at Wembley Stadium, **Oct. 27-29**



## World Cup 2018: where to watch the matches?

From June 14 to July 15, millions of people will watch the 2018 World Cup. Every week until the end of the competition, we will give you information about this international soccer tournament. This week, for the second part of our series, discover where to watch the matches on a big screen.

**By Christophe Morel**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

The World Cup 2018 started June 14 with the opening ceremony and the first match between Russia and Saudi Arabia. Until July 15, thousands of people will follow the matches played by their national team on a big screen.

**In Belgium**, many cities will organize special events for the Red Devils (Belgian national team). Belgium will play June 18 at 5 p.m., June 23 at 2 p.m., and June 28 at 8 p.m., before the knockout stage. In Mons, more than 10,000 people (per day) watched the matches played by the Belgium National team on Grand-Place two years ago, for the European tournament. This year, the organizers are still waiting for thousands of people in front of the big screen on the Grand-Place.

If you prefer to watch the matches inside, you can go to Hall Ceva in Ath (on Chemin des Primevères, 22) or at Nautisport in Enghien (on Chaussée de Soignies, 36). You can also watch the matches at the movie theaters Imagix in Mons or Tournai.

Another way to see the matches is to go in a stadium. The Crossing stadium in Schaerbeek (Rue du Suffrage Universel, 22) will be open with a big screen inside.

In Brussels, there won't be big screens in the center, but you will find them in many other places: Place Payfa-Fosseprez in Watermael-Boitsfort, Place Pinoy in Auderghem, Stade Edmond Machtens in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean, Place du Miroir in Jette, Place Dumon in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, and Square Hoedemaekers in Evere (only Belgium-Tunisia June 23).

There will be also big screens



Millions of people will watch the World Cup in the stadiums and on big screens. (Courtesy photo)

in Jambes (Rue d'Enhaive 148), La Louvière (Place communale), Braine L'Alleud (Hall Omnisports Gaston Reiff on Rue Ernest Laurent, 215), Nivelles (Zoning Sud), Charleroi (Place de la Digue), Binche (Grand-Place, except for Belgium-Tunisia), and in many other cities.

**In Germany**, many people will also gather and watch the World Cup. The "Fanmeile Berlin", located on the Straße des 17. Juni in the Tiergarten district between Brandenburg Gate and Große Queralle, will be the Germany's largest public viewing venue. Almost two kilometres long, the Fanmeile provides much space and several large video screens for a gigantic football fan party.

The Fanmeile will be screening all group matches of the German national team and all matches of the knockout stage. The admission is free. There are security checks at all entrances. Items that are not allowed on the Fanmeile grounds will be seized by the security staff. These include sharp items, items that can be used as weapons, glass bottles, aerosol cans, large bags, and more.

The Netherlands won't play, but you can also watch games of other teams in many bars. ♦

### Inside the gate

- There will be a World Cup Viewing Party to see the big match between Belgium and England at the Shape Fest Tent June 28. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the match will begin at 8 p.m. No entrance fee. There will be food and beverage for purchase. This event is the kick-off to the US Independence Day Celebration the next day, Friday, June 29 in the SHAPE Fest Tent.
- In Brussels, the 3 Star Recreation Center will also organize a special event for the match between Belgium and England June 28. There will be a big screen, a cash bar and snack food to purchase; nachos, fries, chicken wings or pizza. The Thursday Night dinner will be available, make your reservations the Tuesday prior at [reservations3star@yahoo.com](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com). No entrance fee, cost for food and drinks. There will be additional games July 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15. ♦

### Stay Vigilant

- Maintain situational at all times when attending events involving large crowds such as the Doudou in Mons.
- Avoid locations which restrict or limit your movement and ability to exit the venue quickly.
- Pre-establish easily recognizable meeting spots to be used as emergency evacuation points where you and your family/friends can gather if needed.
- Move away from fights, incidents and avoid panicked crowds.
- Report any suspicious activity, unattended bags or anything outside of the norm. ♦

# Summertime brings about old Limburg tradition

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Each year during the summertime in the Belgian and Dutch Limburg provinces, announcements for “Schutters’ feesten” (Shooting Fest) are posted everywhere. The fests, which consists of men and women from various “Schutterijen” (Shooting Clubs) participating in large parades and shooting at a stationary target, has become a popular tradition in the Limburg villages and small towns and rural community society.

Opinions about the history of the clubs differ greatly though. The clubs are very proud of their respectable origin because for many years it was believed that “Schutterij” had been established to protect church and state from all kind of calamities. However, as we know now, many honorable reasons played a role in the establishment of the Shooters Clubs, but protective tasks were never the sole or primary reason.

Old documents tell us shooters very seldom used their rifles for security or safety reasons and so far there is no knowledge of glorious achievements. The so-called protection theory is therefore probably based on a number of misconceptions resulting from an inaccurate knowledge of general history.

The Limburg Shooting Clubs were for the most part established in the 16th and 17th century in the period 1550-1700. This was quite a turbulent time with political, religious, economic and social problems all influencing the development of the Shooting Clubs. But the primary purpose of establishing Shooting Clubs was to offer a safe social setting to boost moral to the town’s people during a time of great depression and bring about a sense of brotherhood and safety throughout



A participant in the competition during the Grubbenvorst fest in The Netherlands. Each year, shooting fest contestants compete in this popular tradition in the Limburg villages. (Courtesy photo)

the community.

It wasn’t until later that the Shooting Clubs were seen as a valuable protective asset to the Catholic Church and the police. As a way to prevent the declining of the Catholic Church and gain back the trust of its congregation during a time when the Church of Rome was being resisted, the church established Shooting Clubs as the official protectors of the Catholic Church in an effort to gain back the interest of its congregation.

Shooters Clubs were also used as a tool by the police to perform certain supportive tasks such as serving as bailiffs. Though they were not established for protective reasons, the voluntary help that members of Shooters Clubs provided to police soon became part of the clubs regulations in the 18th century, and voluntary protective tasks turned into official duty tasks.

Today there are Shooting Clubs all throughout the Limburg Provinces, and while they are no longer used for protective reasons, brotherhood, community spirit and friendly competition still remain the number one reason for their existence.

So whenever you see an announcement for a “Schutters Feest” or OLS (Old Limburg Shooters Fest) attend it! This year’s OLS is held in the Belgian town of Ophoven July 1. Follow the signs “OLS” this will bring you to the festivity and competition grounds. The fests opens at noon, parade is at 1:30 p.m. and the shooting competition at 4:40 p.m. Fests like these are a guarantee for fun and laughter.



The Schutterij (Shooters Club) Sint Johannes and Sint Clemens from Merkelbeek, The Netherlands during the competition. The clubs, found throughout the Limburg Provinces, promote brotherhood, community spirit, and friendly competition. (Courtesy photo)



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Through Sept. 2**

- **Star Wars Identities Exhibition in Brussels** - Two hundred costumes, props, models, and pieces of artwork are yours to discover. The collection spans all six *Star Wars* movies and the ongoing television series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Held at Brussels Expo - Hall 2 on Place de Belgique. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €22.90 for adults on site (€21.90 if purchased online) and €16.90 for children (€15.90 if purchased online).

**June 16**

- **Flea Market in La Hestre** - Held on Rue du Progrès featuring 200 booths from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Saint-Gilles** - Held on Chaussée de Waterloo featuring 250 booths from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**June 16-17**

- **Food Truck Festival "Chef on Wheels" in Heusden Zolder** - From Oriental to French and Mexican to American you will find it all here. Held on Heldenplein. Open Saturday from noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. No entrance fee.
- **Art's Thimougies in Tournai** - Saturday, discover local products, exhibitions and concerts. A torchlight procession and fireworks will end the day. On Sunday, there will be a craft market, concerts, shows, bouncy castles, dance, foot, and more. Held on Place de Thimougies. No entrance fee.

**June 17**

- **Volksmarch in Basècles for 5, 10, or 20 km** - Departs from Rue des Déportés, 21 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Lanquesaint for 5, 10, or 20 km** - Departs from Place de Lanquesaint, 6 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Chaussée-Notre-Dame-Louvignies for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue Joseph Quintart, 129 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**June 18/23/28**

- **Manneken-Pis as Red Devil in Brussels** - June 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., June 23 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and June 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Manneken-Pis (a fountain statuette, symbol of the city) will wear his costume of the Red Devils (Belgian national soccer team). In this way he supports the national team during its group matches at the World Cup, international soccer tournament, in Russia.

**June 21-July 15**

- **Gallic Village in Liege** - There will be about 40 chalets/stands offering local products such as ham on the bone, spit-roasted ham, paella, grilled fillet of duck, Savoyard tart, wine, beer, and more. The covered terraces allow consuming on the spot. Held on Place Saint Paul. No entrance fee.



Read about events near Brunssum and Schinnen (in the Netherlands unless otherwise indicated).

**June 15-16**

- **Farm/Estate Fair in Ermelo** - The event has regional products, curiosia, antiques, live music, and more. Held on Slagsteeg, 24. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €2.

**June 15-17**

- **Pinkpop Festival in Landgraaf** - It's the Netherlands' most famous open-air music festival and Europe's longest-running uninterrupted outdoor pop festival. Entry is €100 for one day. For more information, visit [www.pinkpop.nl](http://www.pinkpop.nl).

**June 16**

- **"Vlaggetjesdag" in Scheveningen** - A festival featuring the first caught herring, available for sampling at practically every corner of the city. Also crafts demonstrations and people dressed in the traditional costumes of the area. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. No entrance fee.

**June 16-17**

- **Art of Living Fair in Remagen (GE)** - A unique combination of Art; a market like the ones in the Provence in France; Mediterranean gastronomy and lots of music and dance. Open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. No entrance fee.
- **Scottish Festival in Xanten (GE)** - With Highland games, pipbags, bands, live music, and more. Held at Wiesen am Ostwall. Entry is €7.50.

**June 16-18**

- **Museum Harbor Days in Gouda** - Visitors can see the historic boats and ships and learn about life on and around these. There will be lots of activities, old crafts, music and more. Held at Museumhaven on Vest. No entrance fee.

**June 17**

- **Scottish Day in Dessel** - With Highland Games, birds of prey shows, bagpipers, Scottish dances, food, and more. Held at Castle Keverberg on Kasteelhof, 4. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €6 for adults, €2.50 for children age 5 to 12.
- **Beemster Fortfair in Zuidoostbeemster** - An attractive fair held at the Fortress Benoorden Purmerend on Kwadijkerweg, 2. The fair has a diverse offer of articles for home, garden, art, curiosia and delicatessen. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €2.50.

**June 22-24**

- **Farm & Country Fair in Aaltenn** - The fair combines entertainment and fun with many aspects of country life and farming. Held at Dinxperlosestraatweg. Open June 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and June 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €17.50 for adults, and €5 for children age 4 to 14.

# Highway Construction and Road Closures

You may experience some delays while driving in Belgium this season. Road construction projects are occurring throughout the country and may result in temporary lane closures and road congestion.



**Meslin l'Évêque-Ath:** Since June 4, traffic is interrupted between the roundabout of Meslin Levêque and Chaussée de Bruxelles, in the direction of Ath. You have to take a deviation, or detour, via the N57 in Ghislenghien, E429/A8 in Lessines and then N56. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.



**Obourg-Thieu (E42-E19/A7):** Road construction began June 11 between Obourg and Thieu, in the direction of Brussels. The speed of traffic is reduced to 50 km/h. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.



**Mons (Center):** Road construction began June 4 on Rue d'Havré in Mons. The section between the bottom of the street and Rue du Hautbois will be blocked until July 6.



**Brussels:** The Leopold II Tunnel is now blocked Sunday to Thursday from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. During July and August, the Leopold II Tunnel will be closed.



**Brussels:** Road construction began in the Reyers-Montgomery Tunnel in both directions and in the Reyers-Meiser Tunnel in the direction of the E40. Drivers who travel to Brussels from the ring are asked to use alternative routes via the A12, the Leopold III Tunnel and the E411. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



**Schinnen (A76):** Due to the construction of the new on and off ramps on A76 (Highway Heerlen-Geleen), exit Schinnen #4 from Heerlen towards Geleen is closed. This results in the closure of the hard shoulder on both sides of the highway and a speed restriction of 70 km per hour until Jan. 31, 2019. Traffic should follow the yellow signs directing them to exit #2 Geleen-Beek and then access #2 on the A76 direction to Beek-Schinnen. The new A76 on and off ramps are scheduled to be completed this fall.



**Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15):** The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoux has been underway since August. This project involves 15 km in both directions. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Work is scheduled to be completed by August 2018.

Please be cautious and patient while driving at all times. If you have questions or would like to report other highway construction sites and road closures, please email the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs Office at [usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil).