

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux News Briefs

### Volunteers Needed

MWR is in need of volunteers July 28 and 29 to assist with the Darryl Worley Concert in Schinnen. Call DSN 360-7370 or +31 (0)443-7370.

### CSTA Survey

Take the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment Tool at <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137455DDCC5A4>

### Passport Services

USAG Benelux Passport Agent services in Brussels will be unavailable until Aug. 19. Passport services will resume on Aug. 20 by appointment only. For passport services during this time, contact the U.S. Embassy in Brussels.

### Belgian National Day

Belgian National Day is July 21. Some offices and businesses on SHAPE and U.S. Army Garrison Benelux will be closed or have reduced hours of operation on Monday, July 23 in observance of the holiday. See page 10 to learn about the holiday.

### No July 27 issue

The Gazette next issue will be released Aug. 3. Check the USAG Benelux Facebook page for the latest community updates.



## Belgium celebrates National Day

*On July 21, Belgium celebrates an important day in its history. Belgian National Day commemorates an event that occurred July 21, 1831, during which Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian Constitution, thus becoming the first King of the Belgians. (U.S. Army photo)*

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# IMCOM-E releases new regulation on child supervision

**By Ruth Ploeger**

U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe

Recently the term “free range parenting” has been bandied about the internet. While many yearn for the days of kids running rampant through town with no worries for their safety, the world and our understanding of the cognitive abilities of children has changed. Military installations are typically very safe in comparison to civilian neighborhoods in some countries. Nonetheless, it is vital that parents provide adequate supervision for children in line with their age and maturity levels whether on or off post.

A newly released Army Europe Regulation (AER-608-18-1) assists parents in identifying what the command expectations are regarding supervision of their dependent children. You can find the new regulation on the USAG Benelux website at <https://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/>.

This AER identifies inadequate supervision as “A type of child neglect characterized by the absence or inattention of the parent, guardian, foster parent, or other caregiver that results in injury to the child, in the child being unable to care for himself or herself, or in injury or serious threat of injury to another person because the child’s behavior was not properly monitored. “

Army Community Service, under which the Family Advocacy Program falls, has partnered with Child and Youth Services to clearly outline for families stationed on Army installations in Europe the level of supervision required for children at various stages of development. The new AER contains a handy chart so parents can quickly answer questions such as “ Am I allowed to leave my fifth grader home alone after school until I get there?” “Is it okay to leave my high school student home alone while I go for a weekend trip?” And “Can my 6th grader babysit my toddler?”

This new AER replaces the previous Army Europe Child and Youth Supervision Policy with a few significant changes.

The new AER classifies children by grade instead of by age. This aligns with how the Department of Defense

Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and Army Child and Youth Services (CYS) classifies children. Homeschoolers and host nation schoolers never fear, there is a handy age to grade conversion chart for you to use. During summer months, children are considered to be the grade they just finished until school starts again.

Per the new AER, students are never permitted to be home alone until they are in grade six. There are further stipulations to this ability by grade and length of time.

With regard to walking to and from school as well as DoDEA bus stops, the new AER has certain restrictions by grade. Bear in mind however, that not all locations are identical in this regard. DoDEA schools may have further restrictions for your location. Your child’s school will inform parents of these.

As with any child supervision regulation or policy, parents should always consider the abilities and maturity level of their child when making decisions for their family. Parents are always free to delay milestones of independence identified in the AER as their children grow and mature.

The Army community is dedicated to ensuring all our children are safe. Anyone who observes an incident of child abuse or neglect is encouraged to report the incident to the local military police. For questions on this AER, please contact the Family Advocacy Program at DSN 366-6861 or +32(0)6532-6861 (Belgium) or DSN 360-7453 or +31(0)46443-7453 (The Netherlands). More information about FAP is located at <https://benelux.armymwr.com>. ♦



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# Future generations of American leaders in Army Child Development Centers now

By Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

Toddlers playing in Army Child Development Centers today are learning the cognitive, emotional and social skills that will equip them to succeed as America's future leaders. The Army doesn't merely provide daycare for our children and families, we provide our nation's best child development curricula.

The Army's nationally recognized child development programs offer families quality, consistent and convenient services that enable Soldiers to focus on their mission and spouses to pursue professional ambitions. In the process, we're creating the next generation of American leaders. It is the Army civilian professionals in our Child and Youth Services system that make the difference.

Army child development services, managed and delivered by Installation Management Command professionals at 192 Child Development Centers (CDCs) around the world, are held up as a national model of what excellence looks like. Our services have evolved and improved across time in response to changes in the military force itself.

Following the move to an all-volunteer military force in 1973, the Army no longer consisted primarily of single men, but instead attracted married career-oriented personnel with families. Base commanders recognized that developing children was linked to military readiness and retention, allowed spouses to work, and contributed to families' financial stability. These programs were quickly faced with growing demand from families, including dual-military couples.

The Military Child Care Act of 1989 directed the DoD to appropriate funds to each service to improve childcare staff training, compensation, child abuse prevention and safety measures, and to provide an age-appropriate curriculum that emphasized "development" over "daycare."

The Army's child development program is based on the premise that the best preparation for adulthood results from developing the social and emotional skills needed to succeed, rather than just being able to recite the alphabet at a young age. Since the 1997 White House Symposium on Childcare, the military's child development program has been seen as a national model.

CDCs on Army installations provide convenient access for Soldiers and their families, and to other groups on a space-available basis. Local commanders factor in local considerations to decide how to best serve their populations. Army CDCs follow developmental curricula for each age group, and recordkeeping is consistent across the Army to facilitate changes of station.

Some parents, after seeing their children flourish in CDCs, decide to pursue child development as a profession themselves. The Army offers a professional pathway for certified providers, in essence "growing our own." These



*Photo courtesy of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.*

homegrown providers understand what it takes for family members to meet the unique demands of Army life. Their structured curricula and personal interactions with children naturally develop a resiliency that strengthens them for future challenges.

The intent is to raise happy, well-adjusted and confident children, and that does not occur by happenstance. The Army invests in the compensation and continuing development of a cadre of passionate, compassionate and dedicated professionals who offer regulated care options in safe, functional facilities. These professionals all pass stringent background checks, and all providers are certified and evaluated to ensure they meet training, health and safety standards. Centers and their staff are subject to four unannounced inspections per year.

Army CDCs must meet national accreditation standards through an external evaluation process. Programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children for ages birth to five or by the Council on Accreditation for ages 6 to 12 years old. Army CDCs maintain a 98.8% accreditation rate compared to about 10% nationally. High quality child development is measured by ongoing compliance with defined program standards with clear and routinely measured metrics.

Simply stated, all these things work together to make Army childcare significantly better than what is available off the installation. It is this commitment to quality in people and programming that is producing our nation's next generation of leaders. As our children grow into adulthood, the head start they got at Army CDCs will position them ahead of peers who grew up in systems of ordinary daycare.

So, if you are one of the more than 200,000 children enrolled in an Army CDC or one of their parents, you should recognize the advantages you've been given as a result. The tiny hands which today finger paint or stack blocks, share toys with classmates, or count fingers to work out math problems will one day hold the providence of our nation and our world. ♦

# Pesticide usage in Belgium: What to know

By Pauline Mahieu

USAG Benelux Environmental Division

## WHAT ARE THEY?

Pesticides kill certain insects, plants or other undesirable organisms. Pesticides include both biocidal products and plant protection products. Plant protection products are used in agriculture, golf courses or grassy fields. Biocides are pesticides that are used outside agricultural activities, including those used at home. Examples include insect baits and gels, wasp sprays, fly sprays or other products used to kill pest species.

## WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Today, most pesticides are synthetic. This era of synthetic pesticides started in the 1930s, taking advantage of synthetic chemistry and chemical weapons research during the World War I. The thought at that time is synthetic pesticides would provide the magic bullet to control all types of pests.

In the first half of the 20th century, the development of synthetic organic chemistry resulted in the appearance of a large number of compounds. The primary organic insecticide of this period was dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane or DDT. It was used to combat agricultural pests and to control the mosquitoes that carried malaria, yellow fever *Courtesy graphic.* or dengue.

During the second half of the 20th century, the scarcity of cheap labor for weeding contributed to the emergence of chemical selective herbicides. Advances in plant protection research have largely contributed to higher yields and more consistent production quantities. Easy to access and use, and relatively inexpensive, plant protection products have proven to be very effective and reliable in a large number of cases and over large areas.

## WHY GO "BACK"?

As soon as we began to use chemicals to control insects, rodents and plant pests, the pests developed means to combat our poisons. They are becoming resistant to these chemicals and are no longer effective. We are finding that the frequent and continual use of these products is causing environmental problems. These chemicals are being called into question regarding increasing awareness of the risks they can generate for the environment, biodiversity and human health. New technologies can detect infinitesimal traces of pesticide residues and observe their effects on the animal and its metabolism.

Furthermore, established risk assessment methods currently used for pesticides registration methods do not sufficiently take into account the effect of products added to the active substance when manufacturing a pesticide (e.g. wetting, emulsifiers). The "cocktail" effect (synergies and interactions between several active substances) can have a more detrimental effect than the active substance on its own. In addition, research articles show and propose alternative methods that would allow crop production to be



Graphic courtesy of the U.S. Library of Congress.

conducted without pesticides while generating yields similar to those achieved through conventional agriculture. There is therefore increasing support within society for expanding the use of alternative methods and progressively curtailing the use of pesticides.

## WHAT HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE?

In Belgium, new legislation has already entered into force regarding pesticide use. Chemical spraying of impermeable surfaces has been prohibited since September 2014 and, as of June 1, 2018, it is forbidden for non-professionals to use glyphosate. Glyphosate is often used as an active ingredient in herbicides such as Round-Up. In addition to glyphosate, the neonicotinoids present in certain insecticides are called "bee killers" because of their impact on the health of these insects. The country is experiencing a significant fall in bee populations (e.g. a decrease of nearly 50% in Brussels this winter) which poses a problem on the broader environmental level given their importance in the balance of our ecosystems. Given that neonicotinoids are neurotoxic, it is especially alarming that they are ubiquitous and can be found in water, air, soil, plants, and even in our plates and glasses.

A near-total ban on the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids was recently adopted by the European Union. This law will be enforced by the end of this year. The use of pesticides in public places will also be banned from June

**PESTICIDES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

2019 onwards. In Belgium, each region has set up its own Programme Régional de Réduction des Pesticides – PRRP (Regional Pesticide Reduction Program) 2018-2022. This program aims to significantly reduce the use of pesticides in each region by managers of public spaces and professionals, as well as by individuals. The regional programs are brought together under the name “NAPAN” or the Nationaal Actieplan Plan d’Action National.

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

You can avoid pesticide usage. At home, prevent insects and other undesired animals from invading your house by disposing of garbage regularly and keeping bags in closed trashcans. Use physical means of prevention such as sticky strips and mosquito nets instead of the chemicals found in aerosols, sprays, diffusers, ant boxes. Also remember that today’s trash left out can attract tomorrow’s bugs! Regular cleaning, especially in the kitchen and the bathroom, is essential. Try using home remedies such as baking soda, vinegar, black soap, clay, etc. or ecological cleaning products and avoid chemical wipes and other aggressive disinfectants such as bleach. In the outside of your house (balcony, courtyard, terrace, garden, etc.), you can remove unwanted plants by regular weeding, hoeing and mulching. These methods prevent weeds from growing in your flowerbeds.



*Regular yard maintenance such as weeding, hoeing and mulching, is key to preventing weeds. The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Environmental Division encourages community members to maintain yards naturally as opposed to treating them with harsh chemicals. (Courtesy photo)*



*Because of the dangers associated with pesticides, home remedies, such as baking soda, are recommended for preventing insects and other pests from invading homes. (Courtesy photo)*

If you still use pesticides, always read and follow the label! When purchasing pesticides, please choose products labeled “BIO” or “ECOLOGICAL.” Read the label carefully, and seek the advice of a specialist seller. Only purchase enough product for the task and avoid stocking up on chemicals. When you are using pesticides, please always wear appropriate personal protective equipment and follow the instructions on the product label such as the frequency of use and all safety instructions. Do not use the product near water areas or on surfaces connected to sewers. Keep children and animals away from treated areas for the duration stated on the label.

If you have to store pesticides, make sure that the product is stored appropriately: away from frost, heat and moisture and out of reach of children. It should be kept in its original packaging, well-closed, and away from food and medicine.

Finally, remember that pesticides, and even their empty packaging, need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. You can drop them off at a recycling center in your town. Please never pour leftover product into the toilet, sink, or sewer and never dispose of empty packaging in the trash.

For more information regarding pesticides and safe disposal, please contact the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Environmental Division at DSN 361-6269 or +32(0)68-27-6269. ♦

**KEEPING YOU CONNECTED**

**The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux**

**Listen to AFN:** Brussels : 101.7 FM | Chièvres : 107.9 FM  
SHAPE : 106.5 | Tri-Border community : 99.7 and 96.9 FM

**AFN BENELUX 360 Internet Radio <http://benelux.afneurope.net>**

## ALL COMMUNITIES

### Government Driver's License

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

### 2018 U.S. Elections

- If you want to vote in this year's elections, please make sure that you register for an absentee ballot. Even if you registered for an absentee ballot in previous elections, please remember that most states require voter registration to be updated or validated annually. This can be done by completing the Federal Post Card Application, or FPCA, and sending it to the elections administrator in your state. For more information, contact the Voting Assistance Officer for USAG Benelux, at DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-326192 or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

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

### Army Community Service at your location:

- 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

### Aug. 9 and 23

- **Positive Parenting** - Learn techniques on how to teach your children to control themselves from 10 a.m. to noon.

### Sept. 11 and 25

- **Couple's Communication** - The class will be from 10 a.m. to noon.



## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

### 24-Hour Fitness

- Eligible users may register their ID card to gain entry into the Brussels Fitness Center during non-regular hours. Patrons will be able to knock out some cardio, lift weights, and improve their overall fitness and health. To get access, visit the Brussels Fitness Center or call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-717-9667.

### 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 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.

### July Fitness Challenge

- **"Tour de Brussels"** - Challenge yourself like the athletes on the Tour de France by tackling the mileage on indoor exercise bikes (or your own bike). Log in 20 hours at the Brussels Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

### Through Aug. 3

- **Child and Youth Services Fall Soccer Open Enrollment** - The season starts Sept. 20 and ends Nov. 8. Participants must be registered with CYS and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. Cost is \$25 for children age 3 to 5, and \$45 for children age 6 to 15. For more information, call DSN 368-9539 or +32 (0)2-7179539. Volunteer coaches are needed! If interested, please contact CYS Fitness.



### July 26

- **3 Star Dinner Special "All You Can Eat BBQ Chicken and Ribs"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$6 for kids. The alternative kids menu is chicken strips with potato wedges for \$5. Reservations are required by July 24 and can be made at [reservations3star@yahoo.com](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com).

**SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY**

See also page 6 in "All Communities."

**Schinnen MP Desk New Phone Number**

- The Schinnen Military Police Desk can be reached at the following new phone number: DSN 597-4555 or +31 (0)45-5340555.

**Schinnen Gas Station Hours**

- **Schinnen Service Station (GAS)** - Effective July 1, the new hours of operation for the Schinnen Gas Station are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed Sunday and Monday.

**Closures**

- **Brunssum Postal Service Center** - The Brunssum PSC will be closed July 27 for training. For more information, call DSN 360-7273 or +31 (0)46-4437273.
- **Netherlands Law Center** - The Netherlands Law Center in Schinnen will be closed for U.S. Army Europe, or USAREUR, holidays on Aug. 3 to 6. For more information, contact the Netherlands Law Center at DSN 360-7682/7691 or +31 (0)46-4437682/7691.

**Through Aug. 3**

- **CYS Flag Football Open Enrollment** - Flag football is open to children age 10 to 15 of all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders. Practice will begin by Sept. 11 at the Slagheap Sports Field. The season will last from Sept. 20 to Nov. 8. Cost is \$45. Participants must be registered with CYS and have a valid assessment at the time of enrollment. Spaces are limited. For more information, call DSN 606-364-4195 or +31 (0)45526-4195. Volunteer coaches are needed! Interested? Contact the Youth and Sports Fitness office at the phone number above.
- **CYS Soccer Open Enrollment** - Soccer is open to children age 3 to 15 of all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders. Practice will begin by Sept. 11 at the Slagheap Sports Field. The season will last from Sept. 20 to Nov. 8. Cost is \$25 for children age 3 to 5 and \$45 for children age 6 to 15. Participants must be registered with CYS and have a valid assessment at the time of enrollment. Spaces are limited. For more information, call DSN 606-364-4195 or +31 (0)45526-4195. Volunteer coaches are needed! Interested? Contact the Youth and Sports Fitness office at the phone number above.



**Through Aug. 19**

- **2018 Summer Reading Program** - Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders up to age 18 through Aug. 19. Children interested in this program should register at <https://brunssumlibrary.beanstack.org>. 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 +31 (0)45-5262669 or +31 (0)45-5262469. JFC HQ Library is open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders in the Tri-Border Community and is located next to B&S Central Store Bldg. 604.

**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).

**July 29**

- **Darryl Worley Outdoor Concert** - The show starts at 4 p.m. in Schinnen. Bring a blanket and/or a comfortable chair. Country music artist Darryl Worley's six albums have produced 18 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts. This is Worley's fifth tour with Armed Forces Entertainment since 2013. For more information, contact DSN 360-7560/7370 or +31 (0)46-4437560/7370.

**Aug. 16-17**

- **Host Nation - Newcomer's Orientation & Cultural Tour** - From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen ACS. All newcomers and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. On day one, explore the Dutch culture with an introduction to the language and get an overview of Tri-Border services. On day two, go beyond the gate to visit a few local attractions and shopping areas and learn how to use the local train system. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7500 or +31 (0)46-4437500.



**Aug. 18**

- **Benelux Expo 2018** - Got questions about the community? Learn about Family and MWR facilities, community programs, private organizations, clubs, and more in the Tri-Border Community! Held at the Schinnen Recreation Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://schinnen.armymwr.com>.

Inside the Gate

## SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities."

### 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

- **Circuit Training (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

- **Summer Reading Toddler & Preschool Story Time STEAM** - Join the SHAPE International Library (Bldg. 307) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an afternoon of stories and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). The program will start with a story time and end with a hands-on project. Recommended for ages 2-4. No cost. For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32(0)65-445631.



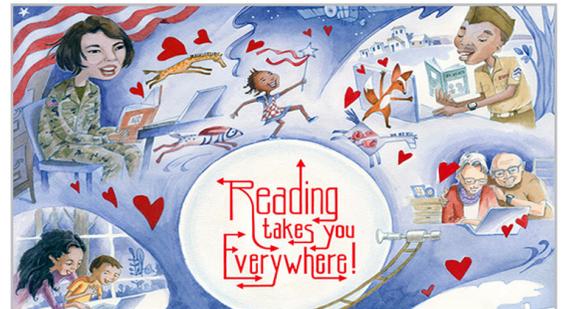
- **Self-Defense** - Men and women over age 18 can attend this beginner-level self-defense course hosted by certified instructors from the Spanish Forces every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the SHAPE Main Gym Basketball Court. Registration is free. Contact self\_defense\_shape@outlook.es.
- **POV Orientation Class** is conducted at SHAPE Bldg. 220 in room 104 from 8 a.m. to noon. Schedule an appointment in order to receive study material.

### Every Wednesday

- **GOV Orientation Class** is conducted from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. U.S. and Canadian personnel must complete a POV orientation to obtain a SHAPE driver's license. Call DSN 366-6603 or +32 (0)65-326603 for more information.

### Through Aug. 31

- **Summer Reading 2018** - You can register online or visit the SHAPE International or Chièvres Library. All you have to do is read, be read to, or listen to an audiobook. Summer Reading 2018 is open to all ages, and you can read in any language. Track the minutes you have read, or listened to an audiobook, and you will receive prizes throughout the summer. If you are on holiday, you have until Aug. 31 to collect your prizes. The SHAPE International Library also offers programs through the summer, but you do not have to attend the programs to take part in the reading portion of Summer Reading. No cost. To register for Summer Reading please either visit the SHAPE International or Chièvres Library, or register online at <https://shapeinternational.beanstack.org/reader365>. If you are a non-US NATO family, select 'Army' when asked which branch of service. For more information, contact DSN 423-5631 or +32 (0)65-445631.



### July 20

- **Fun for Kids** - Meet new friends during Fun for Kids at the Chièvres Community Activity Center. Open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can get together a game of pick-up basketball or play on bouncy castles. It's also a great opportunity for newcomers to the community to meet other parents. Open to U.S., NATO, U.S. Mission, and US Embassy ID cardholders. No entrance fee.



### July 26-29

- **Beauty and the Beast and Winnie the Pooh - SHAPE Players/Performing Arts School** - SHAPE Players/Performing Arts School presents 2018 Summer Theater Camp in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Fractured Fairy Tales* Camp in *Winnie the Pooh*. Performances are Thursday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Entry is €15 for adults and €10 for children. For more information, visit [www.shapeplayers.net](http://www.shapeplayers.net).

### July 28

- **Brocante/Flea Market** - The SHAPE Joint U.S. Navy and Air Force Ball Committee will host a flea market at the SHAPE Fest Tent from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Miscellaneous items are for sale. Food will be available for purchase. Rent a table for €40. For more information, email [jointballshape@gmail.com](mailto:jointballshape@gmail.com).



# JULY 21: BELGIUM'S NATIONAL DAY

## Special to the Gazette

On July 21, Belgium celebrates an important day in its history. Belgian National Day commemorates an event that occurred July 21, 1831. Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian Constitution and became the first King of the Belgians.

The king's vow marked the start of the independent state of Belgium under a constitutional monarchy and parliament.

In 1830, drawing inspiration from the recent July Revolution in France, the southern provinces of the United Netherlands rebelled against Dutch rule after a period of growing economic and religious disparity.

The Dutch were forced out of the area, Belgium gained independence and a National Congress was created to write a Constitution for the new state, which explains why the King was only sworn in 1831.

July 21 is a day of national pride for the Belgian people who celebrate this public holiday with concerts, parties, fireworks and more.

Because the holiday occurs on a Saturday, SHAPE will observe the holiday on the following Monday.



The Atomium in Brussels is a symbol of Belgium. (Courtesy photo)

## Saturday Closures

A lot of places will be closed July 21 including post offices, banks, pharmacies, administrative services and stores. Some supermarkets will be open in the morning only.

Outside the Gate

## Top Community Events

**Parades, concerts and fireworks in Brussels:** On Saturday, from 10 a.m. on, a big popular fest between the Royal Park and Place Poelaert will be held in honor of the National Day. Numerous activities and free parades will take place, including the military and civilian parade, sports, concerts, performances, military tanks and aircraft, a police village, a European village, activities for children, and more. The National Day will end with fireworks at 11 p.m. Visitors are welcome at Place Royale. For more information, visit <http://2107.be>.

**A Te Deum and lots of activities in Mons:** After the ceremony held at Square Saint-Germain at 10:30 a.m., the Hainaut Province governor will host a Te Deum at 11 a.m., at St Waudru Church. Te Deum is a Christian hymn of praise to God that Belgium uses on every independence day to mark the importance of the nation. It is sung in every major Belgian city on July 21. There will be also a lot of activities near the bell tower as well as food and drinks, concerts, DJ sets, and more.

See other activities in the Outside the Gate (page 11 and 12)

**July 21 events will attract large crowds. Remain vigilant and don't forget to maintain situational awareness at all times.**



There will be fireworks at the popular fest in Brussels. (U.S. Army photo by David Coldwell)



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Through July 22**

- **The Fest Days of Gent** - A cultural folkloric festival held in the center with shows, theater, exhibitions, rides, old crafts market, parades and more. For more information, visit [www.gentsefeesten.be](http://www.gentsefeesten.be).

**Through Aug. 12**

- **Brussels Beach 2018** - Brussels opens its urban beach at the Quai des Péniches near Place Saintelette. There will be a lot of events and activities for all ages. The site is closed on Tuesdays. No entrance fee.

**Through August 19**

- **Midi Fair 2018 in Brussels** - The traditional and gigantic Midi Fair stands along the Boulevard du Midi every year. Hundreds of attractions are there for all ages -- some traditional, others the most modern. Open from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the weekend and on the eve of the public holiday. For more information, visit <http://www.foiredumidi.be>.

**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).

**Through Sept. 30**

- **Bastogne War Museum (Summer Program)** There will be Escape Rooms (Aug. 28), one-day internships, a night walk (Sept. 29), new things to see in the museum, and more. Held on Colline du Mardasson, 5. Call +32 (0)61-210220 or visit [www.bastognewarmuseum.be](http://www.bastognewarmuseum.be) for more information.

**July 20**

- **National Ball 2018 in Brussels** - On the eve of National Day, the National Ball is an inescapable event in Brussels. The public can listen to music and dance the night away. Held on Place du Jeu de Balle, a well-known square in the district of the Marolles. The event starts at 7 p.m. No entrance fee.

**July 21**

- **National Day at Grand-Hornu** - There will be activities for children, giant games, guided tours, foodtrucks, live music, fireworks (starting at 10:30 p.m.), and more. Held at Grand Hornu on Rue Sainte Louise, 82. Open from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. No entrance fee. Visit <https://www.grand-hornu.eu/> for more information.
- **Volksmarch in Huissignies for 5, 10 or 20 km** Departs from Rue de l'Eglise from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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

**July 20-22**

- **Mystical Fantasy Fair** - Enjoy Celtic, medieval and shamanic activities at Hoeve Weltevreden on Rukven 3 in Heeswijk (NL). Open Friday from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €7.50, and free for children age 11 and younger.

**Through July 21**

- **Days of Fishery** - Held in the harbor and center of Bruinisse (NL). The event offers fun activities for all ages such as rides, fair, naval parade, live music, all kinds of delicacies to taste, games and more. Entry is free.

**July 21**

- **International Painters Market (BE)** - Held from noon to 6 p.m. around St. Lambertus Church in Neeroeteren (BE) near Maaseik (BE) with live demonstrations and entertainment.
- **Plant & Castle Market** - This market has a lot of plants, antiques, curiosa, regional products and more. Held around and at Castle Rosendael Estate in Rozendaal (NL) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €10.
- **Lempkesmarkt** - Held from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the center of Ubachsberg near Voerendaal (NL). All stands are decorated with lights.
- **Antique & Curiosa Market** - Held at Kloosterwandplein in the center of Roermond (NL) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also held on July 28.

**July 21-22**

- **Vesting Spectaculum** - Held at the fortified historic town of Bourtange (NL), visitors will travel back to the time between the 13th and 17th Century. Tradesmen, magicians, musicians and all kinds of characters from those centuries will re-enact events. Open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Magic Fair** - Held at Castle Erenstein in Kerkrade (NL) has 60 stands, music, theater, knights, witches and lots of magic. Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €8 for adults and €4 for children.

**Through July 22**

- **Bloem & Tuin 2018** - The most versatile and blooming garden event in the Benelux is held at Gulbergen Estate near de Schoutse Vennen in Nuenen (NL). Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12, and free for children age 14 and younger.

**July 22 and 29**

- **Birds of Prey Show** - Held at the Castle ruins on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). The shows are at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Entry is €12 for adults and €9 for children age 4 to 12. This includes also entry to the Velvet Cave.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

- **Volksmarch in Wiers for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue du Rivage from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **"Ducasse de Jurbise"** - There will be activities for children, games, dance, live music, food and drinks, fireworks (at midnight), and more. Held at Parc Communal on Rue du Moustier, 8. Open from 10 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. No entrance fee.

**July 21/22/29**

- **Carillon Concerts in Tournai** - Enjoy the talent of some carillon ringers. Held on Grand'Place from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. People might get the chance to admire the concert from the top of the belfry's 257 steps. For more information, call +32 (0)69-222045. No entrance fee.

**July 22**

- **Flea Market in Mons (Grand Large)** - Held on Avenue du Grand Large featuring 350 booths from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Jurbise for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs from Rue du Moustier, 8 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**July 22/29 and Aug. 5**

- **Summer Dance Festival in Mons** - Held on Grand'Place every Sunday from 3 p.m. to midnight. Initiations into dance, parties, shows and more. No entrance fee.

**July 27 and Aug. 3/10/17/24**

- **Laeken Fireworks in Brussels** - Activities for the whole family start at 6 p.m., and fireworks start at 11 p.m. The themes of this year include "Circus world with Atom'circus" on July 27, "A Do it Yourself village with creative workshops" on Aug. 3, "Jungle Fun, an adventurous course with playful challenges" on Aug. 10, "Urban Colors serves colorful street art" on Aug. 17, and "A musical journey through time from the 1940s until now: *Back in Time*" on Aug. 24. Held at the Heysel plateau, at the foot of Palace 5. No entrance fee.

**July 28**

- **Flea Market and Craft Market in Warquignies** Held on Pavé de Warquignies featuring 85 booths from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**July 28-29**

- **Medieval Camp in Enghien** - There will be knight shows, a craft market, and more. Held at Parc d'Enghien from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €7 for adults and €3 for children.

**July 29**

- **Volksmarch in Nimy for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs from the football field on Avenue du Roi Chevalier from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mainvault for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs from Chemin du Bois Hellin from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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

**July 26-28**

- **Mussel Festival** - Held on Vlasmarkt in Middelburg (NL), visitors will enjoy live music, street artists and, of course, mussels as well as other seafood. Open July 26 from 2 p.m. to midnight, and Friday and Saturday from noon to midnight.

**July 26-29**

- **Krabbenfoor 2018** - This festival is full of history, culture and amusement in the center of Bergen op Zoom (NL). Open July 26 from noon to 7 p.m., July 27 from noon to 9 p.m., July 28 from noon to 7 p.m., and July 29 from noon to 5 p.m.

**July 27-29**

- **Sparrenburgfest (GE)** - This is an attractive medieval festival held in the scenic surroundings of Castle Sparrenburg in Bielefeld (GE) with many acrobats, actors, antique crafts, demonstrations, music and more. Entry is €5. Children shorter than 1 meter and 20 centimeters (the height of a sword) have free entry. Open July 27 from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., July 28 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and July 29 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**July 28**

- **Rotterdam Summer Carnaval** - This is a cultural festival with music, dance, theater and a carnival parade at Witte de Withkwartier in the center of Rotterdam (NL) from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Vois Tropical** - Held at Prins Willem Alexanderplein in Vaals (NL), this is a summer festival with music, palm trees, delicious cocktails and more. Starts at 8:30 p.m. Entry is €13.50.

**July 28-29**

- **Culinary Herbs Market** - Held at Tuincentrum Klerks on Peperstraat 27 in Oisterwijk (NL), visitors can taste several regional products such as cheese, herb bread and pizzas. There will also be ceramics, soaps and other health products made with herbs for sale. No entry fees. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Medieval Festival** - Held at Landgoed (Estate) Het Laer on Het Laar 2 in Ommen (NL), visitors will get to know how life was like in the Middle Ages. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €8 and €5 for children.

**July 29**

- **Montmartre Market** - Held in the center of Doesburg (NL). This antique and curiosa market will be in the style of Montmartre in Paris. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**July 31**

- **Historic Market** - Held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Historic Market Square in the center of Veere (NL).

# 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. We will provide regular updates to ensure that the community is informed and prepared.

## Outside the Gate



**Road congestion:** Many people will go on vacation during the summer, and road congestion may occur. Please stay safe on the roads.



**Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15):** The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoux has been underway since August 2017. This project involves 15 km in both directions. The first part is now completed, and the second part in the direction of Luxembourg is scheduled to be completed by September 2018.



**Jemappes (N51):** Pay attention if you drive on N51. There is a degradation of the pavement in Jemappes (R5) in the direction of Valenciennes from 9.6 km to 9.7 km. Please drive safe.



**Brussels:** During July and August, the Leopold II Tunnel is 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.

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.mbx.communication@mail.mil.