

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

Spring Forward

Just like in the United States, people in Europe have to change their clocks twice a year in observance of Daylight Saving Time. In 2018, European summer time will begin Sunday. You will have to turn your clocks one hour forward on Saturday night. There will be more daylight in the evenings and less in the mornings.

Women's History Month

Join the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community on March 29 to honor women who fight all forms of discrimination. Held at the Caserne Daumerie Chapel from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Awareness Drive

There will be an American Legion Margraten Post NL01 Awareness Drive March 31 at the Schinnen Commissary. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.facebook.com/PostNL01/ for more information.

Brussels Library Closed

In observance of Easter, the Brussels Library will be closed April 1.



Table of Contents

News.....2-3
 Inside the Gate.....4-7
 Outside the Gate.....8-12

Children enjoy Easter Egg Hunt tradition in Brunssum

The Easter Bunny meets a little girl during the 2018 Easter Egg Hunt and Kinderfest held at the Child Development Center in JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands, March 17, 2018. Families celebrated the arrival of spring with fun and games. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)

See Page 3

Migratory birds return to Chièvres this season

By Valentin Wallers
USAG Benelux Environmental Division



Whinchat on Chièvres Air Base freshly returned from Africa, May 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Maarten Jacob)

A migratory bird is a bird that travels seasonally from its breeding to its wintering grounds.

In contrast to sedentary birds, migratory birds need to move to another habitat as the seasons change, often in response to a lack of available food. For example, in Central and Northern Europe, during winter, insectivorous birds may be unable to find enough food to survive, whereas grain-eating and omnivorous birds are able to diversify their diet.

Some species, such as the Meadow Pipit or the White Wagtail, fly south, while staying on the same continent. Other species are long-haul travelers: the European Swallow, White Stork and Chiffchaff all leave Chièvres for a 10,000 kilometers or 6,000 miles average trip to spend warmer days in Africa.

Before departure, these birds gather in groups. They make sure they have enough fat reserves for their long and exhausting journey. The departure date depends on the animal's internal clock and external factors such as day length or temperature. You can observe birds returning from their southern habitats from March to May and leaving again from September to November. During their trip, their

body weight will reduce by 50 percent.

To be sure they are flying towards the right place, these birds use various cues and have an innate sense of direction which allow them to navigate:

- **Visual information:** They learn from their journeys and remember safe and dangerous paths. They use natural cues like the sun, seas and mountains.
- **Stellar compass:** As they also travel at night, they are able to orient their flight by following the stars.
- **Magnetic compass:** Sensitive to magnetic fields, they can choose their direction based on the terrestrial magnetic field and remain on course when the sky is cloudy.

NUMEROUS THREATS

In addition to natural predation, numerous anthropogenic threats are present along the way. Artificial lighting reduces the bird's capacity to see the stars and can lead them circle the light beam, resulting in loss of their energy reserves or even death. Casualties also occur when birds collide with high, reflective surfaces such as skyscrapers. Climate change has also adverse impacts on migratory birds by changing the length or timing of their journeys.

Conversely, some species, such as the Great Tit, Common Kestrel and Little Owl have adapted to winter conditions and are therefore able to stay on base during this period.

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux is dedicated to protecting the wildlife at our installations. Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division has installed and monitors several nest boxes designed for these species on its installations in order to enhance their chances of survival.

In addition to protecting our feathered friends, the DPW Environmental Division wants people to watch out for amphibians. March's balmy and rainy nights mark the start of the breeding period for amphibians. As migration routes sometime cross roads, people should slow down, drive safely and avoid hitting amphibians.

For more information about the Environmental Division, call DSN 361-6369 or +32(0)6827-6369. ♦

Children enjoyed Easter Egg Hunt and Kinderfest in Brunssum

By Rita Hoefnagels
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Despite a biting east wind and snow, children came to the Child Development Center in JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands, to participate in the 2018 Easter Egg Hunt and Kinderfest on March 17.



1. Children run to grab eggs at the Kinderfest and Egg Hunt March 17, 2018, on JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)



2. Because of the cold and snow, the majority of activities for the kids were held inside the Child Development Center, on JFC Brunssum, The Netherlands. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)



3. Small children had their hunt inside the building, but older children up to 9 years had a whole basketball field filled with eggs. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)

The Army Emergency Relief still ongoing in the Benelux

By USAG Benelux Financial Readiness Program

Brussels' Army Emergency Relief 2018 Kick-off Campaign was held March 1 in the Army Community Service Conference Room. Raymond S. Myers, deputy garrison manager for USAG Benelux in Brussels, conducted the ceremony and spoke about the need for a program like AER. Myers also gave personal insights on the program based on his experience while he was on active duty and how AER serves soldiers.

Members of the Brussels and NATO communities attended the ceremony. Michael Doorbal, and Wallace Turner, Benelux Army Emergency Relief officers, provided training to unit representatives and also handed out AER promotional materials. The NATO and Brussels communities have been great supporters of the AER Campaigns in the past, and they look forward to their generosity again this campaign season, according to Doorbal. ♦



Melissa Westerlind, ACS information and referral specialist, and Raymond S. Myers, deputy garrison manager for USAG Benelux in Brussels, cut the cake during the AER Kick-off, March 1, 2018, in the Army Community Service Conference Room, Brussels, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Dave Coldwell)

ALL COMMUNITIES

BOSS Information Fair

- Single service members are welcome to stop in and learn more about the USAG Benelux Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, Program. Held at the Chièvres SSQ Dayroom March 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and at the 3 Star Recreation Center in Brussels March 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



The following is a 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

March 28

- **Basic Investing** - From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., attendees will review basic investment products such as certificates of deposit, mutual funds, and insurance products.



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, 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.

Every Thursday and Friday

- **Community Movie Night** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m. The schedule includes *The Post* (PG-13) on March 23, *Coco* (PG) on March 29, and *Maze Runner: The Death Cure* (PG-13) on March 30. 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 welcomed. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

March Fitness Challenge: Fitness Around the World - Europe Edition

- Join the Brussels Fitness Center for a cardio challenge with a very international flair! Participants will use three cardio machines to "travel" a route around Europe that totals 2416 miles. Register at the Brussels Fitness Center. NATO, U.S. Embassy, and U.S. Mission cardholders are welcome to participate in the challenge. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

March 24

- **Shamrock Shuffle 5K (rescheduled)** - Because of inclement weather, the Shamrock Shuffle 5K, originally scheduled for March 17, has been rescheduled. The event starts at 9 a.m. at the Brussels Fitness Center and is open to U.S., NATO, U.S. Embassy, and U.S. Mission ID cardholders. Sign up online on www.brussels.armymwr.com, or at the Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

March 29

- **3 Star Dinner Special "All You Can Eat Pizza and Salad"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children. The alternative kids menu is chicken strips with potato wedges for \$5. Reservations are required by March 27 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

April 3

- **Eat Better, Feel Better** - This is a fun and informative class about the importance of good nutrition. You'll receive a four week nutrition and workout plan. Held at the Brussels Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.



April 6

- **Chili Cookoff** - It's time to showcase your special recipe! Community members will judge the winners who will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. No cost for cookoff contributors. Cost is \$2.50 per bowl of chili for tasters. Registration deadline is April 5. Email: Reservations3star@yahoo.com. Open to NATO, U.S. Embassy and U.S. mission cardholders. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also page 4 in "All Communities."

Closure

- **JFC Brunssum Library** - In observance of Good Friday and Easter, the JFC Brunssum Library will be closed March 30 to April 2.

Tri-Border AA 12 Step Meeting

- AA meeting provides a venue where members can go and talk about their recovery as well as any problems they experience along the way. If the individual who is doing the talking has built a successful recovery, then it can inspire other members. Held at the JFC Brunssum Chapel every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call +31 (0)6-50416741 or send an email to casanders2001@yahoo.com.

Registration is open

- **Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program SFL/TAP** - The following SFL/TAP classes will all take place at the Schinnen Education Center Classroom Bldg. 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. SFL/TAP classes are mandatory for separating and retiring service members. **April 2 - Personal Financial Planning for Transition:** this briefing will help prepare you and your family with the financial management tools and resources to help assure your family's strong financial future. **April 3-5 - Department of Labor Employment Workshop (DOLEW):** learn the skills needed to make your transition to civilian life successful. DOLEW includes effective job search, résumé-writing and interviewing techniques. Be sure to bring a laptop computer or electronic tablet to all three days. **April 6 - Veterans Affairs I and II briefings:** VA Benefits I and II briefings are part of VA's portion of Transition Goals, Plans, Success, or GPS, which is designed to help military members make the transition to civilian life. Find out the latest on VA policies, benefits and eligibility from the people who know. To register or for more information, call DSN 606-244-3848/3475 or +31 (0)45-5263848/3475.
- **Teen Babysitting Course** - Register now at Parent Central Services in Brunssum (Bldg. H-602) and become Red Cross Certified in Pediatric CPR and First Aid. The class will meet in the Youth Center in Brunssum (Bldg. H-602) April 17, 19, 20, 24 and 26 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Every first and third Tuesday of the month

- **Open Wall Climbing** - Available at the Schinnen Climbing Wall. Next sessions are April 3 and 17 as well as May 1 and 15. Cost for adults is \$40 for 5 visits or \$10 for one visit. Cost for children age 12 and under is \$32 for 5 visits or \$8 for one visit. For more information call DSN 360-7370/7560 or +31 (0)46-4437370/7560.



March 26-29 & April 3-6

- **Spring Break Camp** - Week 1: Escape room and trampoline park. Week 2: Laser tag, go kart and snowboarding. Held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register by March 23. Participants must be registered with CYS and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. For more information, call DSN 606-244-3121 or +31 (0)45-5263121.

March 26-April 6

- **CYS School Age Center Spring Camp** - STEM egg drop & rocket launching, art, coloring eggs, egg balancing and bunny hop race. Adventures to the surrounding area will be disclosed upon registration. Open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Camp fees may apply. For more information and to register, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45-5263121/2023.

March 26 - April 20

- **Registration for Archery/Blow darts Clinics** - Enroll between March 26 and April 20 at the Parent Central Services JFC Brunssum (Bldg. H602) for archery/blow darts clinics. Open to youth age 9 to 18. There will be 6 sessions, two hours each, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The clinic dates are May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6. The cost is \$155 (includes transportation and 2 hours of professional instruction). For more information, call DSN 606-244-3121 or +31 (0) 45-5263121.



March 29-30 & April 4-6

- **Spring Break Fun** - For some fun during the Spring Break, go to the Schinnen Bowling Center on March 29-30 and April 4-6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fun includes "Cosmic Bowling", indoor wall climbing (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), bouncy castles, basketball shoot, corn-hole and much more. Cost is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased on the event days at the Schinnen Bowling Center. For more information, call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0)46-4437560 or email usarmy.schinnen.id-europe.list.dfmwr-crd@mail.mil.

April 4

- **LEGO Day** - Held at the JFC HQ Brunssum Library from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 606-2442469 or +31 (0)45-5262469.

April 14

- **Pickleball Challenge** - Pickleball is a paddle sport, similar to a racquet sport, that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis created for all ages and skill levels. Give it a try, and sign up for the upcoming "Couples" Pickleball Challenge held at the Schinnen Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration by April 10. For more information, call DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.



April 19-20

- **Host Nation - Newcomer's Orientation & Cultural Tour** - Held at Schinnen ACS from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All Newcomer's and spouses are invited to learn about your new community, including local customs, culture, and language. On the first day, explore the Dutch culture with an introduction to the language and get an overview of Tri-Border services. On the second day, 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.

April 20

- **American Legion Post NLO1 General Membership Meeting** - Held at Schinnen Bldg. 3 (classroom A) at 5 p.m. Chartered by The American Legion National Headquarters, the Margraten Post was formed by veterans to help fellow veterans, their families, widows of veterans and orphans. Today, the mission is still to serve U.S. military veterans and also to maintain and build relations with veterans of Allied Nations to honor all sacrifices. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/PostNLO1.

April 21

- **Flea Market** - Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Schinnen Community Activity Center. If you did your spring cleaning and need to get rid of all kind of goodies then rent a table for \$10 and sell them. Setup is at 9 a.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7370/7560 or +31 (0)46-4437370/7560.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 4 in "All Communities"

Closure

- **CAC Early Closure** - To prepare for Eggstravaganza, the Chièvres Community Activity Center will be closed at 2 p.m. on March 23.

Tax Center Services

- The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance at SHAPE Bldg. 318 to eligible clients from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. Services are also on Chièvres Air Base inside Andrews Federal Credit Union on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Services are by-appointment only! To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868/4906 or +32 (0)65-444868/4906 or email nlctaxcenter@gmail.com.

POV and GOV Orientation Classes

- POV Orientation Class is conducted at SHAPE (Bldg. 220, 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.

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. Parents are responsible for their children during the class period. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders.

Through March 23

- **CYS Sports Spring Soccer Clinic Registration** - The season will last from April through May. The cost is \$25. Child, Youth and School Services registration and health assessments are required. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.

Through March 26

- **26 Day 350,000 lbs / Bench Press Challenge** - Competitors have 26 days or less to lift 350,000 pounds. Awards will be given to the first competitors that reach it (male and female categories). For more information, call DSN 423-3193 or visit the SHAPE Sports and Fitness Center.

Through March 30

- **30 Days Squat Challenge** - Competitors have 30 days to do as many squats as possible. Awards will be given to the first competitors that reach it. For more information, call DSN 423-3193 or visit the SHAPE Sports and Fitness Center.

Through March 31

- **Harry Potter Quiz at the SHAPE International Library** - Participants can pick up an entry form at the library. All correct entries will be entered in a raffle for some amazing Harry Potter prizes! For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32(0)65-445631.

Through April 10

- **Eight Nights of Harry Potter** - Starting at 6 p.m., watch *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* at the SHAPE Cinema. Admission is €2 per person. The next screenings will be held April 3 and 10.



Through May 30

- **Softball Registration** - From June 5 to July 21, there will be softball games each Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The team roster deadline is May 30. Teams may consist of NATO, U.S. service members, dependents and civilians age 18 and older. The mandatory coaches' meeting will be held May 31 at 1 p.m. at Bldg. 313 (Room 205). If you are interested, call +32 (0)65-443193.

Starting March 14

- **3 on 3 Basketball Madness** - Held at the Chièvres Fitness Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m each Wednesday and Thursday. If you don't have a team, you can just show up. After five weeks of play, teams that place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the tournament will be presented with prizes.



March 24

- **Eggstravaganza** - There will be lots of kid-friendly activities and a special visit from the Easter Bunny! The egg hunt will take place by the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base from 10 a.m. to noon and will be divided into age groups. For more information, call DSN 366-6791/6810/6813 or +32 (0)65-326791.
- **Half Marathon** - Get ready to run 21 kilometers! Pre-registration advised. Participation fee is €10. Come and register at the SHAPE Sports and Fitness main desk.

March 26, April 9/10/30, May 14/15/29 & June 18/19/25

- **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. You must register in advance. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

April 11

- **Spring Break Bowling** - Cost is €1 per game, and €1 for shoe rental. Held at the SHAPE Bowling Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is requested by April 10 with Army Community Service. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

April 28

- **Daddy-Daughter Dance** - The American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02, in partnership with the Girl Scouts, hosts a Daddy-Daughter Dance at the SHAPE Event Center. The theme is "An Evening in Paris." All nationalities and ages are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact shapedaddydaughterdance@gmail.com.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- Amsterdam, Netherlands, **March 24**
- Northern Italy, **April 3-12**
- Cruise on the Main River in Frankfurt, Germany, **April 7**
- London (with optional musical Dreamgirls), **April 14**
- Gouda & Keukenhof Gardens, **April 21**
- Reims with Champagne, **April 28**
- Rhine Dinner Cruise with Fireworks, **May 5**
- Budapest, **May 9-13**
- Paris, **May 12**
- Oxford and The Cotswolds, **May 19-21**
- Dover Castle and Canterbury, **May 26**
- Cologne with Breakfast Cruise, **June 2**

- Monet's House and Gardens in Giverny, France, **June 16**
- Bruno Mars Concert in Paris, **June 30**
- Rotterdam with Harbor Tour, **July 14**
- Strasbourg, France, **July 28**
- London, **Aug. 12-15**
- Kevin Hart Comedy Tour in Antwerp, **Aug. 25**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- Indoor skiing in Bottrop, Germany, **March 24**
- Clay Pigeon Shooting in the Netherlands, **March 31**
- Family Day Trout Fishing, **April 7**
- Keukenhof Gardens, **April 21**
- Deep Sea Fishing at the North Sea, **April 22**
- London Express, **May 26**
- Weekend Trip to Normandy, France, **July 20-23**

The bells are coming to town: Easter traditions in Belgium

By **Stéphanie Borrell-Verdu**
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Easter is a religious holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his Crucifixion. The holiday is associated with spring. Many families celebrate Easter.

There is no fixed date for Easter like there is for Christmas. It is celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon that follows the first day of spring. This year, Easter Sunday is observed April 1.

Each country has its own way of celebrating Easter so let's take a closer look at the Belgian traditions.

The major difference between Belgian and American Easter is the character which distributes the eggs to the children. Say goodbye to the Easter bunnies and hello to the Easter bells!

According to an old legend in Belgium, France and The Netherlands, the church bells disappeared on the Thursday before Easter and flew to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. While there, they picked up chocolate eggs that they could drop in the children's garden on their way back to the country. The origins of this legend dates back to the 7th century, when a rule prohibiting churches from ringing bells from Easter Thursday to Easter Sunday came into effect.

In Belgium, children have a two-week long break from school around Easter time. Moreover, Easter Monday is a federal holiday in Belgium. It is important to know that almost every shop is closed that day.

Other traditions are pretty much the same in Belgium



In Belgium, the Easter bells distribute the eggs to the children. (Courtesy photos)

as in other countries, such as avoiding eating meat on Good Friday for Christians and attending church service on Easter Sunday.

One of the highlights of Easter is Sunday morning when the children go to their garden to collect the eggs left by the bells. Whether they are hard boiled or chocolate ones, eggs are everywhere on Easter Sunday! Most families gather around a meal, usually including Easter lamb. In addition to chocolate eggs, Belgian children usually receive gifts from their family on Easter Sunday.

Plenty of egg hunts are organized across Belgium on Easter Weekend, so look closely at your commune's schedule to see if there is one organized close to you. ♦

Starting Sunday, religious services will be held in observance of Easter in the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community. For the full schedule, visit www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-rso.html.



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>

Top summer music festivals in Belgium

By Clarisse Peche

USAG Benelux Public Affairs



Belgian festivals attract many artists and huge crowds. (Courtesy photo)

Outside the Gate

Europe is known for its music festivals. Every year, these festivals attract huge crowds. Every summer, people can attend at least one festival per week.

If you want to attend one of those, don't wait to buy tickets, they are on sale now! This week, we present to you a list of the festivals you don't want to miss in Belgium. Next week, there will be a list of the festivals held in The Netherlands and Germany.

• Couleur Café

When: June 29 to July 1.

Where: Osseghem Park, Brussels.

Couleur Café is a global music festival held in the Belgian capital city. Now in its 29th year, the festival is one of Belgium's oldest and most popular. Musical artists such as Damso, Angèle and Chronixx will perform this year.

Entry is €85 for three days, €42 for one day. For more information,

visit www.couleurcafe.be/en/.

• Les Ardentes

When: July 5 to 8.

Where: Astrid Park, Liège.

Les Ardentes is a Belgian four-day electro-rock music festival, which occurs annually in Liège in early July. The festival regularly plays host to musicians of rock, pop, rap, electronic music and other music genres. It showcases international renowned acts alongside rising stars and exciting local talent. Many artists such as Wiz Khalifa and Migos will perform this year.

Entry is €140 for four days (campground fees included in price). For more information, visit www.lesardentes.be/festival/en/.

• Rock Werchter

When: July 5 to 8.

Where: Werchter Festivalpark, Werchter.

Rock Werchter is a rock music

festival held in the city of Werchter, near Leuven, during four days. It received the Arthur Award multiple times for being the best festival in the world at the International Live Music Conference. Over 88,000 people attend the festival daily. Franz Ferdinand, Gorillaz, George Ezra, The Arctic Monkeys, The Script, Snow Patrol, London Grammar, Rae Sremmurd, Pearl Jam and many other bands are performing this year. Many campgrounds and nearby lodging accommodations are available.

Entry is €238 for four days, €102 for one day. If you need more information, visit www.rockwerchter.be/en/.

• Dour Festival

When: July 11 to 15.

Where: Plaine de la Machine à Feu, Dour.

Dour Festival is one of Belgium's biggest and most popular music

Music festivals, Continued from page 9

festivals. This year, the festival celebrates its 30th anniversary. The festival is now held over five days, and nearly 250,000 people attend. The year's line-up includes famous acts like Beth Ditto, Tyler, The Creator, the Chemicals Brothers, and Diplo.

Price is €160 for five days, €70 for one day. For more information, visit www.dourfestival.eu/en/.

• **Les Francofolies de Spa**

When: July 19 to 22.

Where: Place Royale, Spa, Belgium.

Les Francofolies de Spa is an annual music festival in Spa. The event aims at promoting francophone music and is, nowadays, one of the biggest music festivals in Belgium. Half of the artists on the line-up are from Belgium, and a part of the event is dedicated to children. This year, artists such as Calogero, Coeur de Pirate, Francis Cabrel or Lost Frequencies are on the line-up. Campgrounds are available for attendees.

Price is €113,50 for four days, €53,50 for one day. Visit www.francofolies.be for more information.

• **Cirque Magique**

When: Aug. 3 to 5.

Where: Sint Pieterstraat 8880, Ledegem, Belgium.

Cirque Magique is an electronic music festival in Ledegem. Gathering house and techno masters, the festival is a three-day immersive experience. This year's line-up includes DeeJames, Jaydee, Joyhauser, Dimitri Cooman, DJ Ghost and more.

Price is €99 for three days, €59 for one day. For more information, visit www.cirquemagique.eu/home.

• **WECANDANCE – Electronic Beach Festival**

When: Aug. 11 to 12.

Where: Zeedijk, Zeebrugge, Belgium.

WECANDANCE is an electronic music festival at the beach in Zeebrugge. The event will transform the beach into the Wild West. Many artists will be there, such as Agora, Black Mamba, Full Crate and Sabo. No campgrounds are available, but attendees can rent houses at Sunparks, De Haan.

Price is €102,75 for the weekend, €61,75 for one day. For more information, visit www.wecandance.be.

• **Brussels Summer Festival**

When: Aug. 14 to 18.

Where: Place des Palais, Brussels, Belgium.

Brussels Summer Festival is a music and cultural festival held in Brussels. People can enjoy performances by Orelsan, deus, Arsenal, Lord Gasmique and other musical artists.

Price is €55 for five days, €20 to €25 for one day. For more information, visit www.bsff.be.

• **Pukkelpop**

When: Aug. 15 to 18.

Where: Kempische Steenweg, 3500 Kiewit/Hasselt, Belgium.

Pukkelpop is a three-day festival which has become one of Europe's greatest music events. Pukkelpop offers a great range of musical genres. The event's tradition is its Boiler Party night on the eve of the festival. Festival-goers come and pitch their tents in a campground before getting in the party mood during this huge warm-up session. Arcade Fire, N.E.R.D, and Kendrick Lamar, the very talented American rapper, will perform.

Tickets are not yet on sale and prices are still to be announced. For more information, visit <https://www.pukkelpop.be/en/>.

• **Graspop**

When: June 21 to 24.

Where: Kastelsedijk, 2480 Dessel.

Graspop Metal Meeting is a Belgian heavy metal festival held in Dessel each year since 1996. Artists such as Black Stone Cherry, Cancer Bats, Ozzy Osbourne, Iron Maiden and Guns N' Roses will be performing. Hurry up! It's almost sold out.

Price is €89 to €99 for one day. For more information, visit <https://www.graspop.be/en/>. ♦



Music lovers will find all kinds of music during summer festivals in Belgium. (Courtesy photo)



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through March 25

- **Eurantica in Brussels** - Fine Art & Antique Fair held at Brussels Expo (Palais 1) on Place de Belgique, 1 with more than 150 antique dealers and art galleries of international renown. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is €20 for adults, free for children age 18 and under.

March 23-25

- **"Ducasse de Messines"** - Yearly fest in the Messines area of Mons (Rue de Bertaimont, Avenue Jean d'Avesnes and Place des Martyrs). The fest will start on Friday at 6 p.m. On Saturday, there will be a secondhand bicycle fair on the Belfius Bank parking lot at 2 p.m., a parade with giants starting at the same hour and many other activities. On Sunday, a huge flower market will open on Rue de Bertaimont, Grand rue and neighboring streets. There will be a religious service at 9:30 a.m. at the Notre-Dame de Messines church and another giants parade at 2 p.m.

March 24

- **Flea market in Mons** - Held on Avenue Jean d'Avesnes and neighboring streets featuring 250 booths from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flea market in Neufvilles** - Held on Rue Godimont featuring 150 booths from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 24-25

- **Tournai Beer Festival** - The program of the festival includes tasting 100 typical Belgian beers, various activities relating to beer, and collector's exhibitions. Held at the Halle aux Draps, on Grand'Place. Open Saturday from 2 p.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Free entry.
- **Chocolate Fest in Mons** - Held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the pedestrian area, near Grand Place, with tastings, conferences, "chocolate shows", contests, activities for children and many surprises. No entry fee.

March 25

- **Brussels Water Days 2018** - Visit the water village called "Maxi Mille Liens sur Senne" with a lot of events, shows and activities. Held at the farm of the Maximilian Park on Quai du Batelage, 2. Discover also the clothes of Manneken-Pis related to water at the GardeRobe MannekenPis, Rue du Chêne 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (in Dutch and French). Free entry.
- **Volksmarch in Ath for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs Rue de l'Agriculture, 301 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Uccle** - Held on Avenue des Eglantiers featuring 100 booths from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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

March 23-25

- **Easter Farm Market in Pulheim (GE)** - Held on Market Square with decorations for home and garden, traditional decorations, all kinds of culinary delicacies and regional products. No entry fee.

March 24-25

- **Spring & Art Market in Bad Waldliesborn (GE)** Held at Haus des Gastes with more than 40 artists who display their works of art as well as all kind of decorations for home and garden. No entry fee.
- **Easter Art Market in Gladbeck (GE)** - Held on Horsterstreet with art and Easter decorations for home and garden and regional culinary surprises. Open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. No entry fee.
- **Easter Market in Xanten (GE)** - Held in the center with a lot of Easter decorations, art and flowers. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entry fee.
- **Antiques & Curiosa Spring Fair in Zeist** - Held in the gardens around Castle Zeist on Zinzendorflaan, 1. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entry is €6 for adults and free for children age 12 and younger.

March 25

- **Spring Feel Good & Shop Event in Diessen** - Culinary delicacies and live music. Held at Tussen Koe & Kroonluchter Farm on Beerseweg, 7 in Diessen. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entry fee.
- **"Grevener Fruehling in Greven (GE)** - Walk through the town and enjoy all the beautiful flowers, plants, decorations, car shows, classic cars and more. Open from noon to 6 p.m. No entry fee.
- **Children's Clothing & Toys Fair in Hilversum** More than 270 stands offering new and second hand children's clothing and toys. Held at Dudok Arena on Arena, 303. Open at 10 a.m. Entry is €2, and free for children age 11 and younger.
- **Wellness, Health & Beauty Fair in Kermt (BE)** Health, beauty and wellness products, workshops and demonstrations. Held at Cultureel Centrum "Kermeta" on Diestersteenweg, 204. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. No entry fee.
- **International Flower & Plant Market in Opdorp (BE)** More than 100 participants. Held at Vitsstraat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entry fee.

March 30

- **Easter Year Market in Deventer** - Held in the historic center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Through May 13

- **Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse** - Spectacular floral displays planted in endless varieties among beautiful works of art. Keukenhof is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m. Entry is €16 for adults, and €8 for children age 4 to 11.

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



Potholes: Because of the bad weather, there are many potholes on the roads in Belgium. The damage caused to vehicles from potholes can be detrimental and costly. Pay attention and don't drive too fast!



Route d'Ath in Jurbise: The second phase of the road construction on Route d'Ath in Jurbise, begun near Soleil Indien (Route d'Ath n°300). There is still access near Rue A. Criquelion and Chemin des Charbonniers. In a few days, the road construction will move near Déco 3000 (n°320). There will be two other phases afterwards. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-April. There is road congestion in both directions. If possible, consider taking an alternative route to your destination.



Silly (RN 57): Road construction is ongoing in Silly on Chaussée de Ghislenghien, between Rue Mauvinage and Rue du Noir Jambon, in both directions. Work is expected to last four months. There is a deviation, or detour, via the village of Thoricourt.



Ath: There is a road construction and traffic lights on Chaussée de Mons in Ath next to Carrefour and Intermarché. Work is scheduled to be completed by April 27.



Brussels: Renovation of the Reyers tunnels is in progress in the center of Brussels. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The Reyers-Meiser tunnel is closed in the direction of Meiser for a few more weeks.



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.