

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### APOs begin holiday hours

U.S. military post offices on SHAPE and Caserne Daumerie will adopt holiday schedules Monday until Dec. 18.

Sections of the post offices will adopt the following hours (closed on federal holidays):

- Postal Finance will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Personal Mail Pickup will be open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### Europe to CONUS holiday-mailing deadlines

To ensure packages addressed to locations in the United States are delivered before Christmas, be sure to mail them by the following dates:

- Nov. 25 for space available parcels;
- Dec. 3 for parcel airlift;
- Dec. 10 for priority parcels and first-class letters; and
- Dec. 17 for express mail.

### AFN films holiday greetings

American Forces Network Benelux will film holiday greetings today at the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Schinnen headquarters in the Building 8 lobby (or outside if the weather is nice) from 2 to 6 p.m.



### USAG Benelux pays tribute to veterans

Kerstin Basham visits the Veterans Tribute display at the Community Recreation Center on Chièvres Air Base, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015. More than 150 people visited the display, which included U.S. military uniforms and equipment from WWI to present. Items on display were from a private collection owned by Eric Daniel. USAG Benelux host nation workforce also contributed in honoring U.S. veterans by providing refreshments.

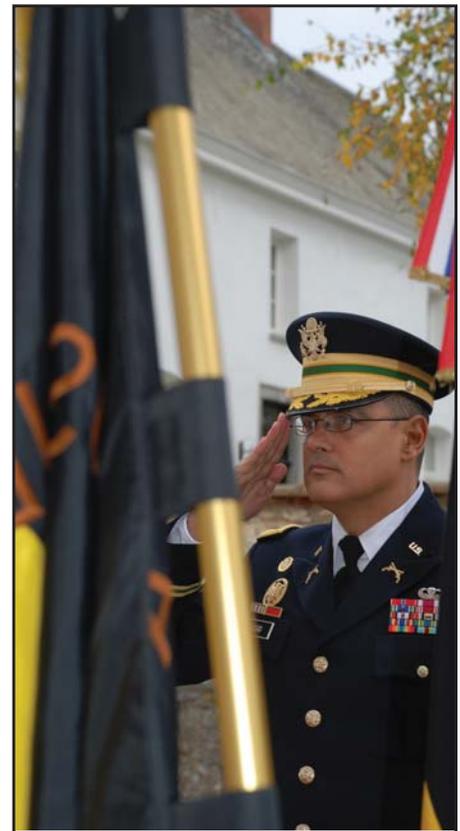
"We are fortunate to have teammates like this - who pause to remember the very essence of military service and honor the sacrifices made by our veterans," said Cheryl Hess, USAG Benelux deputy to the garrison commander. "I am proud to be part of such a team." (U.S. Army photo by Eric Daniel)

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## Benelux community remembers Armistice Day, Veterans Day



In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I hostilities ended. At the conclusion of "war to end all wars," November 11th became "Armistice Day," a universally recognized day of commemoration. (Clockwise from top) The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Color Guard participates in a ceremony hosted by AFNORTH US High School/Middle School at Margraten American Cemetery, the Netherlands, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, in observance of Veterans' Day. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels) • Maj. Cesar Ocasio, representing the USAG Benelux commander, salutes at the ceremony held in Brugelette, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. The ceremony included three wreath laying ceremonies honoring the victims of both WWI and WWII. (U.S. Army photo by Cis Spook) • USAG Benelux Command Sgt. Major William L. Majors salutes during the ceremony held in Chièvres, Nov. 11, 2015. The Color Guard members in attendance are (from left to right), Sgt. Devlin Trefethen, Sgt. Michael Cherry, Spec. Rodney Lloyd, Spec. Darian Keller and Sgt. Charles Yates (not shown in picture). (U.S. Army photo by Marie-Lise Baneton) • The Mayor of Brugelette, André Desmarlières, and Maj. Cesar Ocasio, representing the USAG Benelux Commander, pay respect during a torch-lit ceremony at the war monument in Brugelette, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

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# Plastic waste: Reduce, Recycle, Re-use

## Special to the Gazette

Plastic offers a cheap, convenient and disposable product that transformed the way we live. It is in almost every part of our life: we drink and eat from it, we wear it, we use it, and we play with it.

However, what makes it so useful in our daily life - it is one of the most durable and quasi indestructible materials on earth, has a negative impact on the environment for that same reason, it never goes away!

Following different paths like sewage networks, rivers, wind, animals, or illegal dumping, most plastic products that fall through the cracks in recycling end somewhere in the oceans.

Once there, part of the plastic debris will wash up on the coasts, some will sink, and the rest will agglomerate over the ocean currents to form the Great Pacific Garbage Patch also known as the Pacific trash vortex.

From the total amount of plastic waste found in the oceans, 10 percent comes from fishing and boating activities, another 10 percent is directly disposed on beaches, and the remaining 80 percent comes from inland activities.

The issue has worsened during the last five decades with the intensification of human activities, which affected fauna species.

Death due to plastic occurs in several ways: intoxication

or rupture of internal organs by ingestion, strangulation or dismemberment of trapped animals, or degradation of ecosystems by dissemination of parasites fixed on tiny plastic pieces.

However, we can all play a part to help reverse this trend and reduce our footprint on the environment.

For several years, the combined efforts of USAG Benelux community members and environmental divisions lead the recycling rate of our waste up to 76.6 percent for USAG Benelux.

You can contribute by following these simple tips in your daily life:

- Collect plastic wastes in your close environment and report illegal dumping spots;
- Store waste in places where they won't be scattered: no wind or rain, etc.;
- Don't tear up plastic waste if possible;
- Reduce your waste amount and consume responsibly:
  - Use recycled paper or biodegradable bags and avoid single packaging when shopping; and
  - Re-use your plastic bags and give a second life to your plastic waste when possible.

Generally speaking, keep in mind the "3-R's" rule: Reduce, Recycle, Re-use.

## IC3 organizes toy drive

The SHAPE International Chapel Centre Charity Association is holding its St. Nicolas Toy Drive through Nov. 30. IC3 connects the SHAPE international community with local charities.

The SHAPE charity organization offers community members an opportunity to buy a Christmas gift for a local child in need. IC3 is looking for toys and warm clothing. (Maximum cost per item: €30.)

The drive will benefit children in eight foster-care homes and other charities this December.

IC3 still needs gifts for a home of handicapped children, ASBL Institut Médico Pédagogique Sainte Gertrude, in Brugelette,

IC3 will try to match you with a child. You may ask for a boy or girl of a certain age by sending an email message to shape.ic3@gmail.com.

## CFC Overseas - Benelux



This year's Combined Federal Campaign ends Nov. 20.

If you still wish to donate, you can do it online at <https://cfcoverseas.org> and <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

If you have questions or need assistance in contributing, contact your CFC representatives at DSN 361-5296/5165/5973 or civilian 068-275296/5165/5973.

## Chièvres, Schinnen commissaries offer in-store Wi-Fi

The Chièvres Air Base and Schinnen Commissaries now offer free in-store Wi-Fi access for patrons.

Through its Commissary Patron Internet Mobile System, or CPIMS, the Defense Commissary Agency opened customer Wi-Fi access initially in all stateside commissaries and is now being rolled out in the overseas area.

There's a lot of shopping information on <https://www.commissaries.com>, such as digital coupons for the Commissary Rewards Card, sales flier, the online Savings Aisle

for access to promotional prices and much more.

Prior to accessing the store's free Wi-Fi from the sales floor, patrons must accept Defense Commissary Agency's "Terms of Service" agreement, which can be obtained at the Customer Service window at the front of the Chièvres store.

Patrons with questions about accessing Wi-Fi should contact the Chièvres Commissary's customer-service representative.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### Nov. 12

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy spaghetti and chicken Parmesan from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$12; children, ages 12 and under, \$6. (Alternate children's menu: hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before by sending an email message to reservations3star@yahoo.com.
- **Movie Night (Limited seats)** - Meet at the Boss Movie Area, Building 1, 3rd Floor at 6:30 p.m. to watch The Avengers: Age of Ultron (PG-13).

### Nov. 12 & 19

- **Military Family Month "Keeping our Military Strong"** - Celebrate the Military Family Month by taking a free family photo from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the 3 Star Lounge. For more information, contact ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

### Nov. 13

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community Fridays from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup, potato wedges and more. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.
- **Movie Night (Limited seats)** - Meet at the Boss Movie Area, Building 1, 3rd Floor at 6:30 p.m. to watch Man from U.N.C.L.E (PG-13).

### Nov. 15

- **Sunday Stories at Brussels Library** - Join the library staff once a month for this special story time from noon to 1 p.m. This edition of the event celebrates International Girls Day. Children, ages 3 to 10, and their parents are welcome to learn about famous women in history through stories. They can also enjoy crafts and snacks.

### Nov. 18

- **Children's Story Time** - Join the library staff from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for a fun day of making Thanksgiving and Fall-themed crafts, snacking on fall treats and reading stories together. Open to all preschoolers and their parents. For more information, contact the library at DSN 368-9791 or civilian at 02-7179791.
- **Library Book Club** - Join the club to discuss *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact the library at DSN 366-9791 or civilian 02-7179791.

### Nov. 19

- **Employment Readiness Program "Resume Writing Workshop"** - For more information, contact your ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

### Volunteer now

- **Coaches needed** - All coaches will receive National Youth Sports Coaches Association, or NYSCA, Coaches Training and Certification. For more information, contact CYSS Sports & Fitness at DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.

### Register now

- **New Parent Support Home Visitor** - The New Parent Support Program's home visitor will be available **Nov. 18 to 19** for office hours, hospital and home visits to all U.S. ID card-holders. To schedule an appointment, call Schinnen Army Community Service at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

### Register by Nov. 19

- **Basketball Coaches Clinic** - The class will be held Dec. 9. To register or for more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31(0) 45-526-4195.

### Register by Nov. 27

- **CYSS sports programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports programs offered by Child, Youth and School Services during the Jan. 16 to Feb. 20 season. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders, but spaces are limited. Youths must be registered with CYSS and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. For details, contact CYSS Sports & Fitness by stopping by Building H602 on JFC Brunssum or calling DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.

**Coed basketball** - Youths ages 3 to 15 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for children ages 3 to 5 and \$40 for those ages 6 to 15.

**Junior girls basketball** - This sports program is offered to youths ages 13 to 15. Cost: \$40.

**Cheerleading** - This sports program is offered to youths ages 6 to 15. Cost: \$40.

### Register by Dec. 9

- **Basketball Officials Clinic** - The class will be held Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at JFC Brunssum, Building H 602. To register or for more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31(0) 45-526-4195.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY continued

### Nov. 17

- **Marketing Your Volunteer Experience: Resume Writing** - The class will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the ACS Training Room. Learn to assess your volunteer experience and transform it into an effective resume. For information or to register, please call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437269/7500.
- **American Education Week celebration** - Come celebrate the American Education Week while enjoying free cookies, coffee, hot cocoa and assortment of teas from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Schinnen Education Center.

### Nov. 18

- **Pre-departure Briefing** - The briefing will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Schinnen ACS. If you are PCS'ing, separating or retiring, learn valuable information to help in your transition. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.
- **Sponsor Training** - The briefing will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen ACS. Find out what the responsibilities of being a good sponsor are and the local information that will make your job stress free. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.

### Nov. 18 and 19

- **The New Parent Support Home Visitor** will be available for office hours, hospital and home visits to all US ID card-holders. To schedule an appointment, call ACS at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.

### Nov. 19 and 20

- **Host Nation Orientation/Newcomer's Tour** from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen ACS. All newcomer's and spouses are invited to learn about your new community, including local customs, culture, and language. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### Tickets on sale now

- **Urinetown: The Musical** - The SHAPE Players at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre in Building 207 present a musical satire, "Urinetown," featuring the SHAPE International Band. The curtain goes up **Nov. 18, 19, 21, 25, 27 and 28** at 7:30 p.m. The curtain goes up on Sunday matinees **Nov. 22 and 29** at 3 p.m. Tickets: adults €16, students and children €8. For details on the SHAPE Players version of this 2001 Broadway show, call DSN 423- 3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

### Register now

- **Movember mustache-growing contest** - SHAPE Healthcare Facility will host a Movember event **Nov. 30** from noon to 1 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the clinic. For more information or to register for the competition, call Preventive Medicine at DSN 566-5336 or civilian 065-325336.

### Register by Nov. 27

- **CYSS sports programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports programs offered by Child, Youth and School Services. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders, but spaces are limited. For details, stop by SHAPE Building 503 or call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097.

**Basketball** - This program is offered during the December-to-March season to youths ages 6 to 15. Cost: \$40. Call CYSS for appropriate league.

**Developmental basketball** - This program is offered during the January-to-February season to girls and boys ages 4 to 5. Cost: \$20.

**Cheerleading** - This program is offered during the December-to-March season to youths ages 9 to 12. Cost: \$40.

### Registration through Nov. 30

- **Cross-country** - This CYSS program is offered during the December-to-February season to youths ages 10 to 13. Cost: \$15. For questions or to volunteer as a coach, call the CYSS Youth Sports Office at DSN 423-4448 or civilian 065-444448. To register for cross-country, contact Parent Central Services at SHAPE Building 503 or call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097.

### Nov. 14

- **Christmas market** - Held at the International School Cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Santa will stop by from 1 to 1:20 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Canadian School and charities.
- **A Taste of Norway** offers raffle/tombola, Norwegian café with cakes and sandwiches, Glogg (Norwegian glüwein), a selection of Norwegian Christmas decorations and gnomes, kids Christmas workshop and activities and handmade arts and crafts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the SHAPE Chapel Center.

### Nov. 16 to 17

- **Host-Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service invites all service members, civilian employees and their family members to learn about the SHAPE/Chievres community and all it has to offer. The group will also learn how to use public transportation and visit the Ste. Waudru Collegiale in Mons. Meet at the ACS conference room 15 minutes earlier than the start time of 8:30 a.m. Call ACS at DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

# Travel the Benelux

## Cyclo-cross racing is action-packed excitement

**Story and photos by Tim Clark**  
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Exhilarating, entertaining and fast-paced, cyclo-cross racing has everything you need for a great spectator sport. Fans line the course — standing so close that they could reach out and touch the riders as they scramble past. Cyclo-cross incorporates mud, grass and pavement into every course, and uphill climbs, sharp turns and steep descents play a part in most races.

Cyclo-cross started in Europe as a winter diversion for road racers. They took their bikes off the road for some variety in their training. It quickly became a specialized discipline.

Because it's a major sport in Belgium or, more precisely, Flanders, professional cyclo-cross rankings are dominated by racers from the Benelux. Current elite rankings for men (as determined by Union Cycliste Internationale, or UCI, the world governing body for cycling,) show three Belgian and two Dutch riders in the top five. In the Oct. 15 issue of *Velo News*, an American magazine devoted to bike racing, a feature story

on the most iconic and dynamic venues for cyclo-cross in Europe cited five courses, all in Belgium. In January, the world championships will be held in Belgium. There hasn't been an elite world-championship podium without a Belgian on it since 1998: Belgians have taken the top spot 12 times and swept the podium five times.

"This is where the best riders in the world are; that's why I'm here," said four-time U.S. national champion Jonathan Page, who is based in Oudenaarde, Belgium, for the September-to-March season.

Courses often have a section in which riders dismount and carry their bikes because it's unrideable or just quicker to run. Elite cross races are usually an hour for the men and 40 minutes for the women. Races end when the time limit is reached rather than after a specific number of laps or distance. Most races use short laps from 1.5 km to 2.5 km (about a mile to a mile-and-a-quarter) over terrain from bogs to cobblestones to

farmer's fields. Weather conditions can vary widely from warm and sunny to freezing and snowy.

Fans seem to prefer the more challenging weather. The day of the Koppenbergcross, the weather was warm, and the sun was shining — in short, perfect. Well, that's what you would think — until you come across true cyclo-cross enthusiasts.

"We like it when it's raining or snowing," said one fan along the course, "then it's fun to watch."

Cross racing isn't just for the pros. There are many races for beginners, both adults and children.

"Racing cyclo-cross is a total rush," said Amy Holmes, a USAG Benelux employee who has competed in cyclo-cross races in the United States. "You are riding at your maximum speed for the entire race while dodging obstacles, pushing your bike up muddy slopes and carrying your bike on your shoulder up stairs. The fans really make cyclo-cross racing fun!"

Visit <http://www.uci.ch/cyclo-cross>.



### Upcoming races of note

- Nov. 22:** UCI World Cup, Koksijde, Belgium.
- Dec. 6:** Druivecross, Overijse, Belgium.
- Dec. 20:** Namur World Cup, Namur, Belgium.
- Jan. 9 to 10, 2016:** Belgian National Championships, Lille, Belgium
- Jan. 9 to 10, 2016:** Dutch National Championships, Hellendoorn, the Netherlands.
- Jan. 30 to 31, 2016:** World Championships, Heusden-Zolder, Belgium.

# Local orphans submit their wish list to Santa

Outside the gate



Santa makes a merry Christmas for the children of La Fermette, the local orphanage in Ath. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

Christmas is around the corner, and the children of the local orphanage "La Fermette" in Ath are ready for a visit from Santa.

Ever since the U.S. community settled in the SHAPE/Chièvres area in 1967, it has been supporting the local orphanage "La Fermette" in Ath. "La Fermette" takes care of a total of 60 children under the age of 18 in two facilities located close to Ath. Some of the children still live with their families but the orphanage is providing specific attention.

To make Santa's job easier, the children have submitted their wish list for Christmas. The goal is to provide each of the children with one of their wishes at a party the afternoon

of Dec. 16 which is being organized this year by the American Legion Post BE02, to include the Ladies Auxiliary. Details are still being worked out, but Santa has already saved the date.

If you want to support the program, you can do so in two ways.

First, you may request a copy of the wish list, sign up and purchase the gift for a particular child.

Second, you can donate funds to be used to purchase gifts that haven't been spoken for by other donors.

If you want to take a look at the wish list or if you have any questions on the orphans program, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or civilian 068-275694.

## Upcoming organized trips

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Carolus Thermen spa in Aachen, Germany, Nov. 14**
- **London, Nov. 14**
- **Paris: Moulin Rouge, Nov. 21**
- **Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival in Brugge (Bruges), Nov. 28**
- **German Christmas markets overnight, Dec. 5 to 6**
- **Alsace Christmas markets overnight in Triberg im Schwarzwald (Black Forest), Dec. 12 to 13**
- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas markets, Dec. 20**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 28**
- **London New Year's, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016**
- **Amsterdam with the Heineken Experience, Jan 16**
- **"The Nutcracker" Ballet, Brussels, Jan. 24**
- **London with "Wicked" show, Feb. 20**
- **Les Orres (French Alps) ski trip, varying dates**

### SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Antwerp, Belgium, and the Red Star Line Museum, Nov. 19**
- **Cologne Christmas markets, Nov. 24**
- **Canterbury, England, Dec. 3**
- **Aachen Christmas Market, Dec. 10**
- **Paris Lights, Dec. 15**
- **Snow World, the Netherlands (transportation and four-hour ski pass), Jan. 19, 2016**
- **Trocs and Leuven, Jan. 28, 2016**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Express Trip to Paris, Nov. 21**
- **Cologne Christmas Markets, Dec. 5**
- **Disney's Enchanted Christmas Celebration at Disneyland Paris, Dec. 19**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

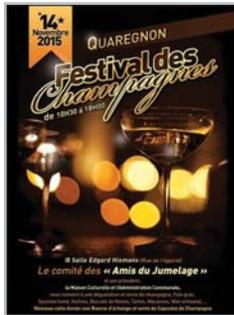
**Nov. 13-15**

- **Cartoon festival in Dour** - Festival held at the cultural center on Rue du Marché 1, will cover cartoons for young and old. Over 30 authors have confirmed their presence for autographs. Entrance fee is €5 per adult. Children under 12 get in free of charge. For additional information, check <http://www.bdour.be>.



**Nov. 14**

- **Flea market in Quiévrain (40 booths)** - On Rue de l'Abattoir from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Secondhand clothes, toys and baby equipment sale in Mons** - At the "Amphithéâtre Richard Stiévenart" on Rue du Joncquois 53 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Secondhand children clothes and toys in St Ghislain** - At the School "Athénée Royale" on Avenue de l'Enseignement from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No entrance fee.
- **Champagne Fest in Quaregnon** - Event is held in partnership with Quaregnon's sister city Ay in the Champagne area. Possibility to taste and buy Champagne straight from the winegrowers. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at "Salle Edgard Hismans" on Rue de l'Égalité. Entrance fee is €7.
- **Flea market for sewing material, embroidering and knitting in Le Roeulx** - At the Cultural Center on Rue d'Houdeng 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Wine tasting in La Louvière** - At the Brewery Le Mansart on Place Jules Mansart, second floor from 2 to 8 p.m. Entrance fee is €5.



**Nov. 15**

- **Secondhand children clothes and toys in Masnuy St Jean** - At the school on Rue du Bois de Genly from 2 to 5 p.m.
- **Wine and food tasting in Herchies** - At La Vacressoise on Rue Valère Letot from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Entrance is €3, including a wine tasting glass.
- **Mountain bike ride in Wihéries for 15, 30 or 45 km** - Departs "Salle de Gymnastique" on Place du Jeu de Balle, 25 between 8 and 10:30 a.m. Participating fee ranges from €4 to €6.



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

**Nov. 12 to 15**

- **La Table Fair in Naarden** will be held in Grote Kerk at Grote Markt 13 in the center of this fortified city. This Christmas fair features festive table settings. More than 50 exhibitors will display antique and modern china, silverware, glassware, wines and more. Open Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Nov. 14 and 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €15; children, ages 13 and under, free.
- **Norwegian Christmas Fair in Rotterdam** at Noorse Zeemanskerk (Norwegian Naval Church) on Westzeedijk 300. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Nov. 13 to 19**

- **Art & Christmas Fair in Gescher (GE)** held at Kutschenmuseum (Coach Museum). Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Indoor Winter Fair in Utrecht gives visitors a taste of the coming festive month. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €20.

**Nov. 13 to Dec. 23**

- **Christmas Market in Valkenburg** in a cave located in Gemeentegrot on Cauberg 4. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays to Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays and noon to 6 p.m. Admission: €6; children 5 to 11, €3.
- **Christmas Market in Valkenburg** held in the Fluwelen (velvet) Cave under the castle ruins on Daalhemmerweg. Open from noon to 7 p.m. Sundays to Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 23. Admission: €6; children 5 to 11, €3.

**Nov. 13 to Jan. 3**

- **Christmas Town in Valkenburg** offers illuminated streets, decorated Christmas trees and Christmas songs. Enjoy the only Dutch town in real Christmas settings: in one of the many restaurants and pubs, in the decorated shops, at the fine hotels, the sights and, of course, the Christmas markets in the caves. Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. and every Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. a Christmas Parade with floats, dancers and animators will move through the center.

**Nov. 14 to 15**

- **Winter Fair in Kerkrade** at the Botanical Garden on St. Hubertuslaan 74 - Open from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: €4.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



**Nov. 15 Continued**

- **Ceramic and glass fair in Le Roeulx** - At the Cultural Center on Rue d'Houdeng 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No entrance fee.
- **Secondhand toys and sports items in Ath** - At the Quai de l'Entrepot 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Familleureux for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs Rue Ferrer 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Horrues for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Chemin à Rocs 4 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Bois-de-Lessines for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Place de Bois-de-Lessines 52 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Thuin for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from the school on Drève des Alliés 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Basècles for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Maison du Peuple on Rue des Déportés 21 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - On Avenue Maréchal Foch from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (200 booths)** - On Route de Mons (Cora) from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Flea market in Trivières (40 booths)** - On the square from noon to 7 p.m.

**Ongoing**

**Through Dec. 10**

- **Brussels Museums Nocturnes** - Every Thursday evening from 5 to 10 p.m., at least seven museums will



stay open to visitors. It is the ideal opportunity to (re) discover the cultural treasures of Brussels. Admission: €3 per museum, €1,50 for 25 and under. Some late-evening openings are free. More information at <http://brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be/en/>.

**Through Jan. 17**

- **Exhibition "Mankind, The Dragon and Death. The Glory of St Georges" in Mons** - The exhibition (including paintings, sculptures, drawings and illuminated manuscripts) shows how the iconography of St George and the dragon has always been a powerful driver of the European imagination. At the MAC'S on Rue Sainte Louise 82. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information at <http://www.mons2015.eu/en/man-dragon-and-death>.



**Nov. 14 to 15 continued**

- **Christmas Market in Velbert (GE)** in and around Castle Hardenberg is illuminated with lanterns. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday.

**Nov. 15**

- **Warm Winter Curiosa Fair in Oosterbeek** held on Stephanieweg is held every year and has special and exclusive curiosa to offer. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Free admission.

**Nov. 18 to 22**

- **Spirit of Winter Fair near the town of Apeldoorn** turns the park of Palace Het Loo into a magical winter garden filled with winter fest ideas. The outdoor fair features crystal, furniture, silver, china, plants and Christmas decorations and provides beautiful decor ideas. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 20. Admission: 17.50 (includes entrance Palace); children (4-17), €7.50.

**Nov. 19 to 21 and 26 to 29 & Dec. 3 to 6, 10 to 13 and 17 to 20**

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bad Sasendorf (GE)** Open from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursdays to Fridays and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays.

**Nov. 19 to 22 and 27 to 29**

- **Finnish Christmas Market in Rotterdam** on Gravendijkwal 64 with lots of Finnish articles and delicacies is open on from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission.

**Nov. 19 to Dec. 23**

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bochum (GE)** on the historic market square at the foot of the St. Paul Church. Open from noon to 9 p.m. and closed Nov. 22.
- **Nikolaus Market in Düsseldorf (GE)** on Market Square in the historic center. Christmas Markets are also held at Stadtbrückchen (trendy), Schadowplatz (nostalgic); Heinrich-Heine-Platz, Flinger Strasse, Schadowstrasse and Königsallee in the center of Düsseldorf. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays to Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays to Saturdays. Closed Nov. 22.

**Through Dec. 20**

- **Christmas Show in Valkenburg** offers entertainment in English country style at Ricos at Hekerweg 37. Open from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays and from noon to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

**Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.**