

# THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the Chièvres Air Base, Caserne Daumerie, SHAPE and Brussels communities

### Basketball Clinic

A basketball referee clinic will be held December 7 and 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the main SHAPE Gym DSN 423-3993 or civilian 065443993.

### Local orphans

Children from the local orphanages in Ath have submitted their wishes for Christmas. If you would like to buy or contribute to one of their wishes, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694.

### Driving class

Intermediate Driver's class for Soldiers under 26 years of age, includes non-drivers. Class on December 14, Bldg 220 RM 113, SHAPE.

### Runway Traffic Light

Drivers are reminded to pay attention to the runway traffic light on the N56 near the turn for Pari Daiza. Ignoring this signal is considered a major violation of traffic laws.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed at the Green Gym on SHAPE to fill SAM gift boxes and load the charity trucks. Times are:

Box Filling - December 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Box loading - December 7, and 8 from 9 to 11 a.m.



Capt. Michael Quigg (right) U.S. Army Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander presents Certificates of Appreciation to Airmen of the 309th Airlift Squadron. The certificates signed by Col. Rick Tillotson, USAG Benelux Commander were in recognition of the support the Air Force provided for the Elsenborn Field Training Exercise earlier this year.

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# Choosing the right tree for the holidays

**Special to the Gazette**

It's time to think about choosing this year's tree. But before you do, there are a few things to consider.

First, measure the area where you will place the tree to make sure you don't buy a tree that's too large.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center forestry specialist Don Reed recommends making sure you get the freshest tree.

"It's best to get your tree from a 'choose-and-cut' tree farm if at all possible to insure that it is fresh," Reed said. "You just never know when those trees were cut that you buy from retail stores."

If you have to buy from a store, you can do a few things to determine whether the tree is fresh or not.

"For customers who have to buy pre-cut trees, there is a 'freshness test' you can do to determine just how fresh the tree is," Reed said. "Gently grasp a branch and pull it toward you. If the tree is fresh you won't pull off many needles."

You can also shake the tree to determine freshness, Reed explained. "Again, if a lot of needles fall off, that's not a tree you want to buy."

Once you make the choice and bring the tree home, you should make a cut straight across the base of the trunk about one-quarter inch above the first cut and get it in water as soon as possible.

"During the first couple of days, the tree will take up

lots of water," Reed said. "So make sure you monitor the tree and don't let the water get low."

If the tree does happen to sit out of water for more than a day or two, you may need to make another cut on the base as before to allow the tree to take up water. It doesn't take long for the tree to build a callus on the cut end of the trunk, so even when you put water back in the stand, the tree won't take up the water, Reed said.

"I can't stress enough how important it is to keep fresh water in the stand as long as the tree is up," Reed said. "That's all you need, just fresh water, nothing added to the water."

Not only will water help to keep the tree looking fresh, but it also will avoid creating a fire hazard, he said.

Other important tips to help you be safe with your tree this year include:

- Make sure the tree is placed away from any heat source, like furnaces, which causes the tree to dry out more quickly.
- Inspect the wires and connections on all lights before placing them on the tree.
- Keep gifts and other flammable materials away from direct contact with the tree.
- Only plug lights in if responsible individuals are at home, and keep an eye on the tree.
- Unplug lights before you go to bed.

## THE GAZETTE

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# Dealing with mold tips for preventing mold, mildew

## **Special to the Gazette**

### **What is Mold?**

Mold is a part of our natural world. Mold spores are microscopic organisms found virtually everywhere, indoors and outdoors, including in the air we breath. In simple terms, mold is a common type of fungus that serves an important role in our environment including the manufacturing of medicines and the growth of crops. Other common types of fungus include yeast and mushrooms. Although, fungi account for a small portion of the actual food that we eat, they are also widely used in the production of foods and drinks. Some of these foods include cheese, beer and wine, bread and some soybean products.

While mold and other fungi are common to our environment, mold and other fungi can produce an allergic reaction, cause itchy skin, trigger nasal and eye irritation and lead to episodes of sneezing and coughing among other reactions. Although it is not possible to completely eliminate airborne mold, it is wise to take the necessary steps, when possible, to prevent excessive levels of mold spores in the air and eliminate any visible mold growth on surfaces in your home.

### **How Does Mold Grow in a Home?**

Like most living things, mold growth requires three conditions to be present: warmth, food and water (moisture). Although commonly found in bathrooms, basements or kitchens, mold can grow in other rooms if conditions are present. The climate in the region where you live, and your living habits, can have a significant impact on the ability of mold to grow and the amount of airborne mold spores present at any given time.

Mold spores prefer wet or damp parts of your home; including areas around house plants, especially where plants have been overwatered. In as short as 48 hours, a wet or moist surface combined with a warm environment can lead to mold growth and therefore elevate levels of mold spores present in the air.

### **How Can Mold Enter a Home?**

Mold spores are too small to be seen by the naked eye. Again, airborne molds are everywhere around us and you cannot avoid being exposed to them. Mold spores attach themselves to skin, clothing, hats, shoes, packages, pets, shopping bags, etc. and travel through the air into a home through open doors and windows or ventilation systems. Once mold spores enter a home, they will settle on countertops, flooring, carpeting, bedding, furniture and other surfaces in your home. It is not possible to keep spores out of your home or eliminate them completely, but regular cleaning, dusting,

drying of wet or damp surfaces and vacuuming can prevent the conditions that result in excessive mold problems and contain them before they arise. Remember it is the excessive mold growth that is cause for concern, not the presence of any mold in your home.

### **How Can I Prevent Mold in my Home?**

By following these steps, you will be able to prevent mold from growing in your home:

- Do not block or cover any heating, ventilation, or air conditioning ducts.
- Whenever possible, maintain a temperature in your home between 70 and 76 degrees Fahrenheit in the air conditioning season and 65 to 74 degrees during the heating season.
- To allow an exchange of air and permit sunlight to enter your home, air out your home when weather is warm and humidity is low. Run the fan on your furnace to help circulate fresh air.
- In damp, humid, or rainy weather, keep windows and doors closed.
- Clean and dust your home on a regular basis. Use environmentally safe household cleaners.
- Regular vacuuming and mopping removes household dirt and debris that contribute to mold growth. A vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter will help remove mold spores.
- Periodically clean and dry the walls and floor around the sink, bathtub, shower, toilet, windows, and patio doors using a common household disinfecting cleaner. On a regular basis, wipe down and dry areas where moisture sometimes accumulates, such as countertops, windows, and windowsills.
- When bathing or showering, open a window or run the fan to remove the moisture from the air.
- If you have an exhaust fan in your kitchen, turn it on when cooking or while the dishwasher is running and allow the fan to run until all excess moisture has been vented from the kitchen.
- If you have a clothes dryer in your house, clean the lint filter after each use and promptly report any damage to the vent connection. If condensation forms within the closet, wipe it dry. Dry damp clothing as quickly as possible.
- Limit houseplants to a reasonable number to limit excess humidity in your home and limit molds that could grow on the solid surface. Avoid overwatering.
- If you clean up a spill on your carpeting, blot the area dry.
- Do not overfill closets or storage areas. Overcrowding restricts airflow.

### **What Do I Report to the Housing Office or the Landlord?**

- Any leak or water damage.
- Any malfunction in your heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system.
- Windows or doors that don't open or close properly.
- Any areas if visible mold (except very small areas that respond to routine cleaning).
- Musty doors.

## Local community briefs

### SHAPE GB Food Drive

Come help unsponsored families by donating a few items at the SHAPE GB Food Drive December 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call civilian 0478744496.

### Instructor Training Course

An Instructor Training Course will be held Dec. 6 through 8 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bldg. 318 on SHAPE. The class is available to all Military Branches, Civilian Employees, Volunteers and Family Members. Build a foundation of presentation skills, group interaction skills, and the ability to demonstrate confidence in front of a group. For more information call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065445324.

### Holiday Gift Baskets

ACS is creating gift baskets to ensure that the holiday season is bright for everyone. Baskets should be filled with enough items in them for a family of four. Baskets should be brought in by Dec. 9. Things which would be appropriate are non-perishable food items, gloves, scarves, toys, books, holiday music, gift certificates (for phone calls back home or something else), etc. For more information call DSN 368-9693 or civilian 027179693.

### Postage increase

On January 22, the price of the first class stamp will go up to .45 cents. However, stamps that are bought before that date will automatically be valued at .45 cents. The price for each additional ounce remains unchanged at .20 cents. Other changes taking effect in January are:

-The postcard stamp increases to .32 cents

New international prices will be:

-.85 cents to Canada/Mexico

-\$1.05 elsewhere.

### Marquee on Chièvres

Want to wish your friend a happy birthday? Or say thanks to a favorite teacher? You can now display your message on the MWR marquee on Chièvres Air Base. There is a maximum capacity of five lines and 15 characters per line. The cost is \$10 for one week. To get a copy of the grid to fill out, contact MWR at DSN 361-5907/5841.

### Volunteering during the tax season

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers during the upcoming tax season. This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. Best of all, the training is conducted by an IRS representative and it is free. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN: 423-4061 or Civilian: 065-44-4061.

### Beauty Shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:

Tue - Thur from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fri & Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun & Mon closed.

### Barber shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:

Tue - Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun & Mon closed.

For information, call DSN 361-5635 or civilian 068-27-5635.

### Barber and Beauty Shop at Family Care Center, Brussels

Opening hours are:

Tue - Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each 1st and 3rd Sat from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each 2nd and 4th Sat closed.

### Employment

Andrews Federal Credit Union is looking for individuals who want to advance their careers with a progressive full-service local financial institution. During this exciting time, Andrews Federal offers a full-range of financial and lending services for its members. European branches are located in Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. As a stable and thriving institution, Andrews Federal has the resources and experience to help individuals further develop their careers. Here are some career opportunities in area branches:

-Branch Manager - Brussels

-Member Services Representative/Teller Floater - Benelux Region

-Part-Time Member Service Representative - Brussels

-Branch Manager - Chièvres

-Senior Teller - Chièvres

For these and other career opportunities or to apply online, go to [www.andrewsfcu.org](http://www.andrewsfcu.org) or call Overseas Headquarters Office Civilian 0611.978.7502. All applicants must have a U.S. passport. Andrews Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Education

### University of Maryland University College

UMUC is now registering students for the upcoming Spring Session 1 Term. Classes begin 16 January 2012 and end 11 March 2012. The current schedule can be found at [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu) Please contact a UMUC Field Representative for more information DSN 423-5173 or Civilian 065-44-5173.

### University of Phoenix

Degree Programs Offered:

Master of Business Administration

Master of Arts in Education/ Adult Education & Training

Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Leadership

Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Education

(Elementary, Secondary, & Special Education)

Open to all SHAPE, NATO, Embassy ID holders.

For more information stop by the USAG Benelux Education Center, Bldg. 212, Rm 113 or call DSN: 423-4645.

### University of Oklahoma

Next on-site course at SHAPE for the Master of Arts, International Relations program will be IAS 5940: Topics in International Studies: Contemporary China.

The course will be November 15-20 and students will discover how China became an international financial power, better understand the Chinese perspective of Americans/Westerners, develop a basic understanding of the current social, political and economic situation in China. For more information, call DSN 423-3654 or civilian 065-44-3654.

# USAG Benelux and local community briefs

## Christmas Holiday Art Contest

Chièvres FMWR and Grandma's Attic are sponsoring a children's Holiday Art Contest for all Shapians in the age categories 4-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years. This year's theme is the North Pole. To participate, create an original artwork on an unlined, white sheet of paper: US Letter (8.5 x 11 inches) or A4 (21 x 29 centimeters). Any medium (crayons, markers, paint, pastels, etc.) may be used but the picture must be in color.

Artwork must be entirely original work, created by the submitting artist, and cannot include any copyrighted image or likeness.

Entries must have the artist's name, age, nationality, parent's name and email address printed on the back. Entries should be delivered to CYSS Parent Central, Building 503, SHAPE, Monday-Friday between 1:30 and 5 p.m. The deadline for submission is Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.

## CYSS Skies Classes

- **Tae Kwon Do** for ages 5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is Dec 12 through 23.
- **Gymnastics** for ages 14 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is Dec 12 through 23.
- **Ballet** for ages 3.5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is Dec 12 through 23. Fees vary by age and level.
- **Karate** for ages 6 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is Dec 12 through 23.
- **Indoor Soccer** for ages 13-16 from Jan. through Mar. Fee is \$20. Registration is open through Dec. 23.
- **Piano** for ages 3.5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is Dec 12 through 23.
- Sign up at Parent Central Services, SHAPE Bldg. 503 Mon- Fri 9 a.m. to noon (appointments only) and 1:30 to 5 p.m. (walk-ins welcome). For information, call Parent Central Services DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612 or DSN 423-5611 or civilian 065-44-5611.

## Perishing Poles Winter SAC Camps

The dates for week 1 are: Dec. 19-23, the dates for week 2 are Jan. 3-6. Registration is starting Dec. 5 and will run until Dec. 15. Join an exciting expedition to the chilly world of Perishing Poles. Discover icebergs taller than a house, camouflaged polar bears, pesky penguins and icy ravines.

The schedule for week one will be as follows:

- Monday:* Explorers on ice
- Tuesday:* Pals in the Polar seas
- Wednesday:* Iceberg bowling
- Thursday:* Incredible icebergs
- Friday:* Polar people

The schedule for week two will be as follows:

- Monday:* CYSS will be closed
- Tuesday:* Explorers on ice
- Wednesday:* Iceberg Bowling
- Thursday:* Pals in the Polar seas
- Friday:* Incredible icebergs



## Sunday worship service schedule

### SHAPE/Chièvres area

- 9 a.m. – Catholic Mass at SHAPE Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. - Anglican service at SHAPE Chapel
- 11:45 a.m. – Contemporary Protestant service at SHAPE Chapel

For additional information, contact the Chaplain's Office at DSN 361-5381.

Jewish Community Liaison: contact DSN 423-4938  
Muslim Community Liaison: contact DSN 368-9814

### Catholic Mass

Each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:45 a.m. at the Daumerie American Chapel and Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the SHAPE Chapel.

### Brussels area

10:30 a.m. – Protestant service at Chaussée de Louvain 13, St. Stevens Woluwe.

## Christmas Mailing Deadlines

- Priority Parcels – Dec. 9
- 1st Class Letters – Dec. 9
- Express Mail – Dec. 16

### Extended Hours

**Nov. 14 - Dec. 23:**

**Chièvres** Postal Finance: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Chièvres** Parcel Pick-up: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**SHAPE** Postal Finance: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**SHAPE** Parcel Pick-up: 7:30

a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Nov. 15 - Dec. 23:**

**Brussels** Parcel Mailing: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Brussels** Parcel Pickup:

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**The Holiday season dates of closure are Dec. 26 and Jan. 2**

**|| BELGIAN NEWS || || BELGIAN NEWS ||****By Cis Spook***USAG Benelux Public Affairs***Belgian politics**

Political parties in Belgium, which has been without a government for 540 days, agreed on a ruling coalition to be headed by French-speaking socialist Elio Di Rupo. Di Rupo, 60, will be Belgium's first French-speaking prime minister in three decades and one of the few centre-left voices in a European Union dominated by conservative leaders.

Belgium has been led by a caretaker administration since the last government resigned in April 2010 after failing to resolve long-running linguistic disputes dividing the Flemish region and Wallonia. Elections in June 2010 failed to resolve things after a pro-independence party, N-VA, triumphed in Flanders and its leader, Bart De Wever, subsequently demanded radical transfers of powers to the Dutch-speaking region. King Albert II named a series of mediators to try to break the deadlock but breakthroughs were only achieved after De Wever's party was excluded from the negotiating table in August. This paved the way for a landmark deal to devolve more power to the regions in October, an issue that has vexed the nation for decades.

**Pairi Daiza**

Park Pairi Daiza (previously called Paradisio) welcomed 800,000 visitors during the 2011 season which ended on Nov. 6. This represents 100,000 more visitors compared to 2010 or an increase of 14%.

**Belgian cuisine on KLM flights**

Belgian chef Peter Goossens, who owns a renowned restaurant in East Flanders, has been chosen to deliver Belgian cuisine on KLM flights. As of Dec. 1, first class and business passengers on flights with destinations to Asia and the United States will get typical Belgian dishes such as asparagus, chicons (Belgian endives), rabbit and fish prepared in the Ostend way.

**Audi plant in Brussels**

The German carmaker Audi has unveiled the new five

doors version of its A1 model, a model that is only assembled in Brussels. Five years after Volkswagen made 4,000 workers redundant in Brussels, Audi employs over 2,500 workers in the Belgian capital.

**Belgian Defense**

Representatives of the six parties who are engaged in the pre-government negotiations, have made decisions on the Belgian Armed Forces. As such, Belgium will start withdrawal from Afghanistan next year. The withdrawal should be completed by 2014. By 2015, the Belgian Armed Forces staff will decrease to 32,000: 30,000 military and 2,000 civilians.

**Police seize hundreds of military weapons in Antwerp province**

In Ravels, Antwerp province, the police seized hundreds of illegal weapons and ammunition at a weapons dealer. The dealer also ran an illegal firing range. Investigators are now examining whether the dealer simply collected weapons or if he also sold them. The bomb squad had to deploy three trucks in order to collect all the weapons and ammunition.

**Rail season ticket becomes chip card**

Belgium's publicly owned railway company, the NMBS, is planning to launch a new season ticket which will be a chip card. It will also be possible to use the chip card to store season ticket data for other transport companies like De Lijn in Flanders, the MIVB in Brussels and even the TEC in Wallonia. The card will be operational by the summer of 2012. By then, train conductors will scan your chip card instead of checking your season ticket. Starting 2013, travelers will be able to purchase train tickets and other NMBS products using a chip card as well. People who own a smartphone or a mobile phone that can connect to the internet, can already purchase their train ticket via the website. They then receive a text message that replaces the paper ticket.

give online at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org)

You can give online at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org) and show you care in three easy steps:

1. **Choose your charities**, go to the "Donate now" button and use the online search to select from more than 2,400 charities,
2. **Make a commitment**. Donate via payroll allotment, credit/debit card, e-check, cash or check.
3. **Submit your pledge**. If you gave through the printed pledge option online, you must give a copy to your representative to complete the pledge process. For the paperless options (check, credit or e-check) you do not need to submit a form to your representative but remember to retain a copy of your pledge for tax purposes.

**Through 15 January**

- **Snow & ice sculpture festival in Brugge** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information about the program and prices, visit [www.icesculpture.be](http://www.icesculpture.be).

**6 December through 11 December**

- **Agribex in Brussels** (Heysel) at Brussels Expo from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: agriculture, breeding and gardening.

**8 December**

- **Brussels Museums Late Night openings.** The following museums are exceptionally open from 5p.m. to 10 p.m.: City of Brussels Museum of Costume & Lace, Jewish Museum of Belgium, NEW Marc Sleen Museum, Museum of the City of Brussels (Maison du Roi), National Museum of the Resistance, Toy Museum, Wiels - Center for Contemporary Art. More information on [www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be](http://www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be).

**9-11 December**

- **Bastogne Barracks open doors** to commemorate the Nuts Day in Bastogne: free entrance, shows, material expositions, reenactment, military memorabilia (WWII vehicles exposition, visit of the Vehicle Restoration Center).

**10 December**

- **Run & bike in Grez-Doiceau** for 6 and 12 km. Departure is from the local school on Rue Pont au Lin.
- **Volksmarch in Brussels** for 16 and 12 km. Departure is at the Athénée Fernand Blum on avenue E. Renan 12 from 2 to 7 p.m. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Volksmarch in Tournai** for 7, 12, 13, 20 km. Departure is at the Ecole du Château on Avenue Leray 33 from noon to 3 p.m. for 13 and 20 km and from 5 to 9 p.m. for 7 and 12 km. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Volksmarch in Aiseau** for 4, 6, 12, 21. Departure is at the Salon Communal on Rue Lambot from 7 a.m. to noon for 21 km and from 7 .m. to 3 p.m. for 4, 6, 12 km.
- **Flea market in Ath** on the Place du Faubourg de Mons from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Christmas concert** in Jurbise at the church Saint Eloi on Route d'Ath at 8:30 p.m. Entrance fee is €12.

**10-11 December**

• **Bastogne commemorations:**

- *34th Historic Walk* covering 7, 13 or 22 km. Departure is from the Sports Center between 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Registration will be at the sports center from 3 to 8 p.m. on December 9 and from 7 to 9:30 a.m. on December 10. Participating fee is €6.
- *Official commemorations* will start on December 10 at 3 p.m. with a parade led by the USAG Benelux Color Guard to Patton's monument and McAuliffe's monument for wreath laying ceremonies. Upon the parade's return at the city hall, authorities will throw nuts from the city hall balcony.
- *Vintage military vehicles-parade* on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. through the center of the town.
- *McAuliffe's cave* at Base Bastogne on Rue de La Roche will be open during the entire weekend from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Reenactment in Recogne and Cobru:**

- *Reenactment of the 44-45 occupation of the village and the wood* on 10 December from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exposition of Allies positions in Recogne and German in Cobru at 10 a.m., dropping of US parachutists (in historical uniform) from a Dakota C-47 between Recogne and Cobru (depending on weather conditions).
- *Reenactment of the 44-45 occupation of the village and the wood* on 11 December from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exposition of Allies positions in Recogne and German in Cobru. From 10 to 11:20 a.m. commemoration ceremony at the Monument des Fusillés (Monument of the shot people) of Noville and at the monument of the temporary US military cemetery of Foy-Recogne

- **Flea market in Wasmes** at the Espace Magnum on Avenue Schweitzer from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**11 December**

- **Mountain bike ride in Vossem** for 30, 40 and 50 km. Departure is from the British School of Brussels on Leuvensesteenweg 19 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Montigny-Le-Tilleul** for 15, 25, 40 km. Departure is from the cultural center on Rue Wilmet 1 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Participating fee is €3-5. Showers and bike-wash available. (465 participants in 2010).
- **Mountain bike ride in Havré** for 27 and 50 km. Departure is from Rue Doyen 7 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Participating fee is €3-5. Showers and bike-wash available. (288 participants in 2010).
- **Volksmarch in Cortil-Noirmont** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Route de Gembloux 2 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erquelinnes** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Rue de Maubeuge 197 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Lens** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the local school on Rue du Thy 3 starting at 8 a.m.

- **Volksmarch in Silly** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the main square starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Eugies** for 6, 12 and 20 km. Departure is from Le Foyer on Rue Haute 38 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**15 December**

- **Brussels Museums Late Night openings.** The following museums are exceptionally open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.: Ixelles Museum, Museum of Musical Instruments More information on [www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be](http://www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be).

**16 December**

- **Brass Band of Thudinie concert (brass and percussion band) in Soignies** at the Espace Culturel Victor Jara on Place Van Zeeland 31 at 8:30 p.m. Entrance fee is €6 (€4 for students).

**16-18 December**

- **Special weekend in Soignies** on the theme of Charles Dickens, 19th century and old England: special events throughout the weekend.

**17 December**

- **Volksmarch in fleurus** for 4, 6, 13, 25 km. Departure is at the Ecole du Vieux Campinaire on Chaussée de Gilly 107 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for 4, 6 and 13 km and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. for 25 km. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Mountain bike ride in Diest** for 26, 30 and 41 km. Departure is from Sportstadion De Warande, Leopoldvest from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participating fee is €3-4. Showers and bike-wash available. (1096 participants in 2010).
- **Mountain bike ride in Huissignies** for 20 and 30 km. Departure is from La Marcotte on Rue de l'Eglise from 5 to 8 p.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €6.

**17-18 December**

- **Flea market in Leupegem** (30 booths) at the School-complex on Ronseweg from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Books flea market in Namur** (125 booths) at the Namur Expo on Avenue Sergent Vrithoff 2 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entrance fee is €3.
- **Flea market in Brugge** (200 booths) at the Beurshalle on Hauwersstraat from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

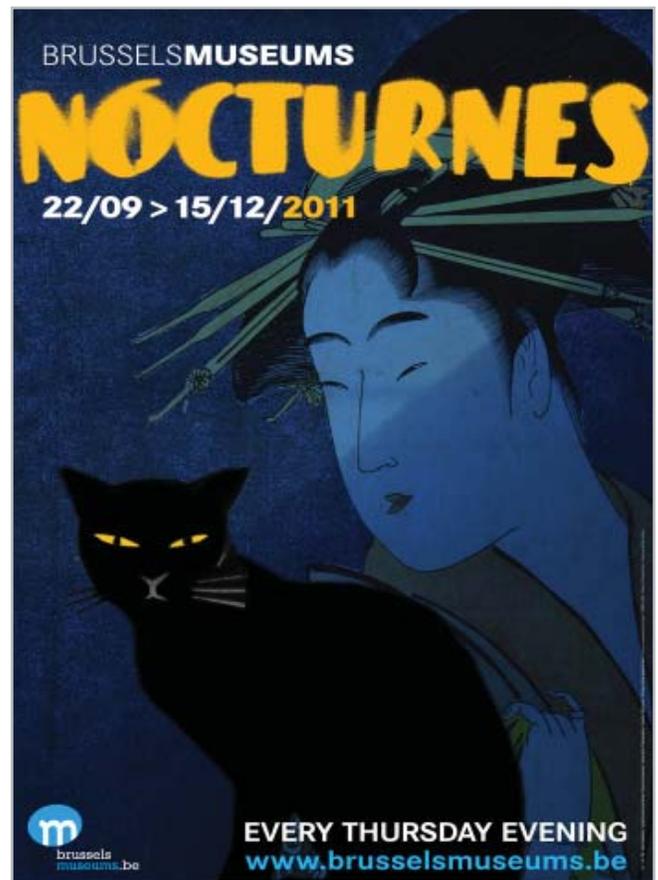
**18 December**

- **Volksmarch in Steenkerk** for 5, 10, 15 and 20 km. Departure is from the Salle du Club on the square 9.
- **Volksmarch in Plancenoit** for 5, 10 and 20 km. Departure is from Maison de Tous on Rue de la Bâchée.
- **Mountain bike ride in Aarschot** for 25, 35, 45 km. Departure is from Parochiezaal Bekaf on Bekafaan from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Meslin-L'Evêque** for 25, 35, 45 km. Departure is from the square from 8 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €3.
- **Mountain bike ride in Maredsous** for 20, 30, 40 km. Departure is at the Maredsous Abbey from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €5.



Cris Spook

USAG Benelux Soldiers participate every year in the Bastogne commemorations to be held this year, Dec. 10.



Brussels Museums Late Nighth Opening - See Dec. 8

# Upcoming Christmas Markets



The below list of Christmas markets and activities includes the ones that start this week. The list will be updated on a weekly basis to include the markets starting the week of the Gazette's publication date.

## Ongoing Christmas markets:

### Through 5 December

- **Christmas market in Etterbeek** at Market Square. Open: Nov. 26, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Nov. 27 & Dec. 4-5, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Nov. 29-30, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Dec. 3, from 4 to 10 p.m.

### Through 30 December

- **Christmas market in Liège** (170 booths) on Place St Lambert and Place du Marché from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (max. to 10 p.m. during the week and 12 p.m. the weekend).
- **Christmas market in Floreffe** (45 booths) at the Abbey site on Rue Séminaire from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

### Through 1 January

- **Winter Wonders in the center of Brussels.** Ice-skating rink and a Christmas market. Open Mondays-Thursdays, from noon to 9 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dec. 24 & 31, from noon to 6 p.m. and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, from noon to 10 p.m.

### Through 2 January

- **Christmas market in Dour** and ice skating rink at Parc Communal on Rue Grande in the center of Dour.

### Through 3 January

- **Christmas market in Bruges** on the Grand'Place and Place Simon from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Through 8 January

- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas market, ice-rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open: Sundays-Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, from 10 to 1 a.m.; Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 1, from 2 to 11 p.m.

### Through 30 December

- **Christmas market in Tournai** on the main square open on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Through 31 December

- **Christmas market in Namur** (70 booths) on Place d'Armes from noon to 7 p.m.

### 8 December through 1 January 2012

- **Christmas market in Mouscron** (40 booths) on the Grand'Place from 2 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends and on public holidays.

### 9-11 December

- **Christmas market in Havré** (120 booths) at the Château des Ducs de Croÿ from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 12 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in La Hulpe** (40 booths) near the church from 6 to 10 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Nivelles** (30 booths) on the Grand'Place and cloister from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Rebecq** (70 booths) at the Moulin d'Arenberg on Rue Docteur Colson from 7:30 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Woluwe-Saint-Lambert** (100 booths) on the Place St-Lambert from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Ixelles** at Place Flagey from noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on



• Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

**9-18 December**

- **Christmas market in Louvain-La-Neuve** (150 booths) on the Place de l'Université and the Grand'Place from noon to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the weekends.

**10 December**

- **Christmas market in Chimay** at the Grand'Place and in the Castle courtyard from 1 to 7 p.m.

**10-11 December**

- **Christmas market in Binche** (25 booths) on Place du Centenaire 20B from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Ellezelles** (20 booths) at the hall "Chez Nous" on Rue d'Audenarde from 3 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Evere** (70 booths) at the town hall on Square Hoedemaekers 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Itterbeek** (55 booths) on Keperenberg 37b from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Leuze-en-Hainaut** (60 booths) at the town hall from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Waterloo** on the square of the town hall and on Rue F. Libert from noon to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Ath** at the Salle du Séquoia on Quai de l'Entrepot 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Profit are used for disadvantaged children.

**10-28 December**

- **Christmas market and ice-skating rink in Antwerpen** at the Grote Markt from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays to Thursdays and from noon to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 24 & 25 December.

**9 through 31 December**

- **Christmas market in Mons** (40 booths) on the Grand'Place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays to Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays to Sundays.

**11 December**

- **Christmas market in Silly** (50 booths) on the square and at the cultural center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**16-18 December**

- **Christmas market in Anderlecht** (100 booths) at the Place de la Vaillance and near the church from 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Enghien** on Parc du château d'Enghien from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Neufmaison** (80 booths) at the communal square at the hall des Manous from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Christmas concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, at 5:30 on Saturday and at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Santa will be offering candies at 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Soignies** (60 booths) with Snow slide on the Place Verte. This year, visitors will be plunged into the 19th century and old England atmosphere: decorations, barrel organs, bagpipes, piano-accordion, town crier. Open from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

**17 December**

- **Christmas market in Givry** (30 booths) at the Grand' Place from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**17-18 December**

- **Christmas market in Braine-L'Alleud** (70 booths) on Rue Saint Jean 83 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days.
- **Christmas market in Sirault (15 booths)** on Rue Jules Ruelle as of 2 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

**18 December**

- **Christmas market in Ecaussinnes** (20 booths) on Rue René Casterman from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Lens** (50 booths) at the Place Trinité from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Lessines** (70 booths) in the city center from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Ath** at the Grand' Place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the presence of Santa, ice sculpting demonstrations, shows and music.
- **Christmas market in Villers-la-Ville** in the center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

# SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,  
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884.



Courtesy Photo

## Events & Happenings

- **London Christmas Shopping, December 10** - The day is yours to see London in lights. Price: €65. Departs SHAPE at 5:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 a.m.
- **Brugge Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival, December 17** - Come see 300,000 kilos of ice & 400 tons of snow, kept at minus 5°C, that a team of 40 international artists have transformed into an Ice Fantasy. Enjoy a drink "on the rocks" at their very own ice bar. Dress warmly. Then head into town for the festive Christmas Markets complete with ice skating rink. Price: €43 Adult, €40 Youth 4-12, €30 Child 0-3. Departs SHAPE at 9 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - Come escape with us for a relaxing day in Paris. Whether you're strolling along the Seine or soaking up city life from a sidewalk café, you'll see why Paris is the ideal spot for a relaxing get away. Of course, you can't miss the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre. Savor an éclair from a pâtisserie or a glass of Beaujolais in a romantic bistro. From culinary delights to cultural sights, Paris will tempt every one of your senses. Price: 45 Euro. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **New Year's In London, December 30 - January 1 (Friday - Sunday)** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye, and the annual New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon. Price: €420 Single, €260 Double, Twin, Triple, €175 Youth 5-12\*, €100 Child 0-4\* (\*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m. on Friday and returns at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Amsterdam, January 7** - Take a ride through the winding canal lined streets on a guided bicycle tour, walk the town or visit the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, sip coffee at the world's best cafés or enjoy a day of leisure in this beautiful city. Amsterdam is famed for its beautiful canals and outrageous cafés. So whether you're an art lover, music lover or a culture lover, Amsterdam has more to offer than you could possibly wish for. Come spend a day in this unique city. Price is 40 €. Depart SHAPE at 7 a.m. and returns at midnight.

**7 December**

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE Alcoholics Anonymous Group meets on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For a recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see the website [www.aa-europe.net](http://www.aa-europe.net).
- **Preschool Story Time** - Meets every Wednesday from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the SHAPE International Library and helps preschoolers build confidence, learn socialization skills and make friends. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.
- **Infant Massage Class** - Meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. Expectant mothers and mothers with newborns and older infants are welcome. Mats and oils are provided. No pre-registration is required. Open to all U.S., NATO and SHAPE ID cardholders. Call ACS DSN 423-4274 or civilian 065-44-4274 for more information.

• **Breastfeeding Support Group** will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. For information, call SHAPE WIC Overseas at civilian 065-44-5971.

• **Make The Right Move** - Prepare yourself for your next PCS and attend the "Make the Right Move" briefing from 2 to 3 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE. For information, call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.

**9 December**

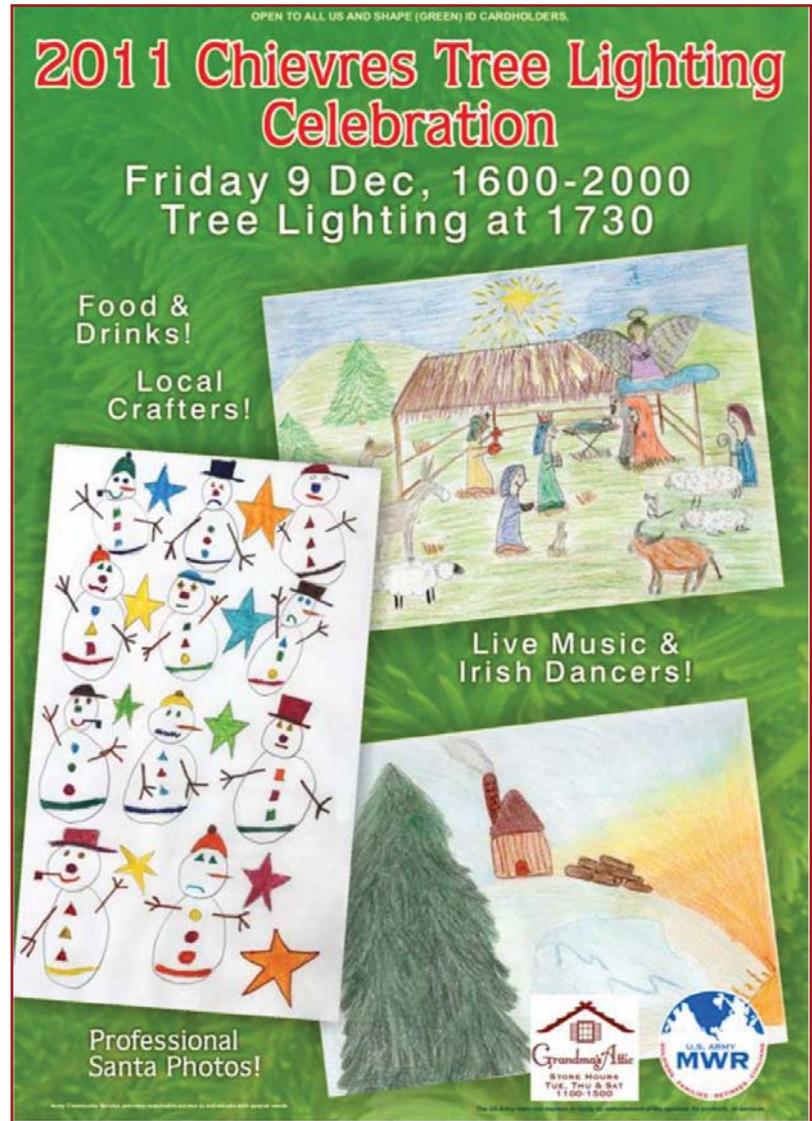
• **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE AA Group meets on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see [www.aa-europe.net](http://www.aa-europe.net).

**12 December**

• **Stroller Time** - Bring your child and stroller for a walk on the SHAPE path from 10 to 11 a.m. from the ACS, Bldg. 318 on SHAPE.

**13 December**

• **Preschool Story Time** - As of today, enjoy the additional Preschool Story Time every Tuesday from 5 to 5:30 p.m. for stories, finger plays, songs. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.



Have Something for the Gazette?

Email [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil)

## AT USAG BRUSSELS

- **Taco Night** is back at the 3-Star Recreation Center on USAG Brussels. Join us Thursday, starting at 5:30 p.m. Prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 10 years and under. Children 2 and under eat for free. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Movie Night** - Before you plan a trip to the movie theater, check out the listing of free first run movies being shown at the 3-Star Recreation Center. Movies are shown on Thursday and Friday evening beginning at 6 p.m. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Youth Sports** - Youth Sports and Fitness has begun its fall sports seasons for cheerleading, flag football, and soccer. For more information on games and practice times please see your child's coach or contact the Youth Sports and Fitness office at 02-717-9680 or DSN 368-9680.
- **Children's Christmas Craft Day** sponsored by the USAG Brussels Chapel. To register, call civilian 02-717-9677.

## FITNESS CLASSES

All classes are held at the USAG Brussels Fitness Center in Bldg. 3 and are free of charge. For more information, call 02-717-9667.

- **Big Will's Body Shop** - Sessions are from 1 to 2 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **Spin Class** - Every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga-Flo** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Zumba** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Body in Motion** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **Zumba Toning** - Every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon and every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## ANDREW FEDERAL HOLIDAY GIVE-A-WAYS

Andrews Federal Credit Union has announced it is supporting its garrison communities through the upcoming holiday season by giving away six \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Cards. Each Andrews Federal branch is offering a chance to win a \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Card to logistically supported US citizens, age 18 years or older, now through Dec. 16. Stop by the branch during business hours between now and Friday, Dec. 16, to enter to win. It is as easy as completing an entry card. Remember, to be eligible to win, you must be a logistically support U.S. citizen, age 18 or older.

The Brussels Branch is located on USAG Brussels in building #4, hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Andrews Federal Credit Union and its community involvement, visit [www.andrewsfcu.org](http://www.andrewsfcu.org).

**Brussels Army Community Services will host a Playgroup Holiday Party and Potluck on December 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Santa is going to be there with all his regalia, so that photos can be taken with parents and children. It will be held in the Chapel Activity Center. RSVP at DSN 368-9693 or civilian 027179693.**