



Consul's Corner

Happy Birthday America!

The United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4. It is a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, first U.S. Ambassador to The Kingdom of The Netherlands, the holiday is, "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance. . . It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."



Fun Facts About Independence Day

2.5 million

In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

302 million

The nation's population on this July Fourth.

More than 1 in 4

Chance that the hot dogs and pork sausages consumed on the Fourth originated in Iowa.

6.8 billion pounds

Total production of cattle in Texas in 2006. Chances are good that the beef hot dogs, steaks and burgers on your backyard grill came from the Lone Star State.

About 50-50

Odds that the baked beans in your side dish came from Michigan or North Dakota.

\$5.3 million

The dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags in 2006; the vast majority of this amount (\$5 million) was for U.S. flags made in China.

30

Number of places nationwide with "liberty" in the name. The most populous one is Liberty, Missouri (29,042). Iowa has more of these communities than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

\$99 billion

Dollar value of trade last year between the United States and the United Kingdom, making the British, our adversary in 1776, our sixth-leading trading partner today.

For more interesting facts, visit the U.S Census Bureau at http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/010033.html.

Independence Day Community Picnic

The American community in The Netherlands is invited to an American Independence Day Picnic and Celebration at ABF International Sports Club in Wassenaar on Sunday, July 1 from 2 to 6 p.m. sponsored by the American Community Council, a private organization.

Come celebrate American Independence Day and enjoy children's activities, games, music and fun. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers will be on sale, or you may bring your own food and drinks. The celebration will take place on a large sports field. If it is a sunny day, don't forget the sunscreen - there will be very little shade!

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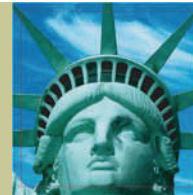
The Consulate General will be closed on July 4 (Independence Day). For emergency cases involving American Citizens, please call 070-310 2209.





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The field is easy to reach by car, and parking will be available at The American School of The Hague (ASH). For directions, go to: www.ash.nl; click on "Transportation," then "Visiting ASH". It is a short walk from ASH's parking lot to the Picnic. There is also public transportation to ABF via train and bus. Take the train to Leiden Centraal Station, then take bus #43 in the direction of Den Haag. Get off at the Ammonslaantje stop, which is around the corner from the ABF entrance. See www.9292ov.nl for specific public transportation information.

For more information about the Community Picnic, contact Stephanie McMichael at stephmc@yahoo.com or 020 623 2541.

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative Update

The U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security announced June 8, 2007 that U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda who have applied for but not yet received passports can nevertheless temporarily enter and depart from the United States by air with a government issued photo identification and Department of State official proof of application for a passport through September 30, 2007. The federal government is making this accommodation for air travel due to longer than expected processing times for passport applications in the face of record-breaking demand. NOTE: This exception does NOT apply to U.S. citizens traveling to or from The Netherlands or any other country not listed above. For more information please visit http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html#affect.

Hotdogs, Softball, Passports and More

On **Sunday July 1**, a representative of the U.S. Consulate General will provide consular services to all American citizens at the Independence Day Celebration in Wassenaar. The representative is authorized to:

- accept passport applications
- register children for U.S. citizenship (Consular Report of Birth Abroad)
- provide notarial services.

Location: ABF International Sports Club, Ammonslaantje 1, 2240 AC Wassenaar

Hours: 3-5 pm. No appointment is necessary.

Payments: Can be in cash (dollars or euros), and only exact change can be accepted. We now also accept credit card payments (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express, or Diner's Club), but we do not accept PIN payments. Fees for the services provided are as follows:

Passports: The typical fee for an adult passport (16 and over) is \$67 or 53.60 euro. A \$30 (24.00 euro) execution fee applies in some cases. Passports for children under 16 cost \$82 (65.60 euro). Please see the Consulate General website at http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_svcs2.html for details on which documents to bring to apply for or renew a passport (please note the special instructions for children under 14, especially the requirements that the child and both parents must be present and that the parents sign the application in the presence of a consular officer: http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_minors.html). Please bring U.S.-size passport photos (5 cm. by 5 cm.). Photo specifications, and a list of some Dutch shops that make the proper size photos, can be found at http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/us_photo_instr.html.

Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs): The fee for a CRBA, primary evidence of U.S. citizenship for a child born abroad, is \$65 (52.00 euro). The child and at least one American parent or legal guardian must be present to apply. Please see <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/crba.html> for complete instructions on what to bring. If both parents are present, they can apply for the CRBA and the child's first passport simultaneously, for a total cost of \$147 (117.60 euro).

Notarial acts: The fee for each separate notarial act is \$30 (24.00 euro). For more information please see http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/notary_svcs.html.

If you have any questions, please check the Consulate General website at <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/>, send an e-mail to USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov, or call 020-575-5309 between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

(Please note that visa services will not be provided.)

Interested In Hosting A Consular Visit?

In recent months, we have provided American Citizen Services in Rotterdam and Groningen. This was possible due to the support of our hosts. If you are interested in hosting a Consular Outreach Visit, please write to USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov.

For your request to be considered, the location must be within The Netherlands and should be at least an hour's drive from Amsterdam. We require a minimum of 20 customers and sufficient space for meeting with them. Access to a copy machine would also be a plus. We look forward to receiving your e-mails!