

What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

Inquiries in English: Yokosuka City, International Relations Division 046(822)8138

* The schedule posted may be subject to change.

March 10, 2014 Vol.30

CALENDAR

MARCH

16- Cherry Blossom season

begins (-4/12) **pg 2**

21- Spring Equinox

21- Recycle Fair

23- Kitashitaura Marathon

30-U.S.-Japan Spring

Friendship Day (open base)

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APRIL

26- Kanrin-maru Festival **pg 3**

29- Showa Day

30- Deadline for Taura Photo

Contest

MAY

3- Constitution Day

3-5- Mt. Takeyama Azalea

Festival **pg 3**

4- Greenery Day (obs. 5/6)

5- Children's Day

10-11- Yokosuka Curry Festival

17-18- Spring Rose Festival

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The Yokosuka Call Center

046-822-2500; 8am-8pm

daily offers English info
about events in Yokosuka.

Operators may need time to
search for info.

Yokosuka Curry Festival 2014

When: May 10 (Sat.)- May 11 (Sun.) 9:00-16:00

Where: Mikasa Park

What: If you haven't noticed, curry is kind of a big deal in Yokosuka. The annual Yokosuka Curry Festival celebrates and strengthens this connection between city and food. Like most Japanese festivals, there will be a multitude of activities and performances, but the real star of the show is, you guessed it, CURRY! Not only will you get to try local versions of Yokosuka's famous *Kaigun* (Navy) Curry, but restaurants from all over Japan will be bringing their own unique curry recipes. Entrance to the park is free, but eating will run you a few hundred yen.



Why is curry such a big deal in Yokosuka?

Inherited from the British, the Japanese Navy began serving curry-rice on ships in the late 19th century; the dish then spread across Japan. Due to its strong naval connections, Yokosuka laid claim to "*Kaigun* Curry" based on a 1909 Navy recipe, and began a campaign to

promote its new signature dish in 1998. The branding was a success, and in a 2009 national Asahi Newspaper survey, Yokosuka *Kaigun* Curry was voted the number one local curry.

Sucurry, the Yokosuka *Kaigun* Curry Mascot



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS

Funakoshi Nango Park

When: Mar. 16-Apr. 12

Where: Nango Park, a 5 minute walk from Keikyu Taura Station (Funakoshi-cho 4-6).

Tsukayama Park

When: Mar. 24-Apr. 8

Special events: 3/29

Where: Tsukayama Prefectural Park, a 25 minute walk from both Hemi and Anjinzuka Stations (Nishi-Hemicho)

Kinugasayama Park

When: Mar. 27-Apr. 7

Where: Kinugasayama Park, a 20 minute walk from JR Kinugasa Station (Koyabe 4-922)

※*One of Japan's top 100 cherry blossoms spot*

Uwamachi Roman

When: Mar. 29-Apr. 6

Where: Yokosuka Central Park-a ten minute walk up from Chuo station (Fukadadai 19)

Kita-kurihama

When: Mar. 29-Apr. 6

Special events: 4/5, 4/6

Where: Negishi Traffic Park, a 7 minute walk from Kita-kurihama Station. (Negishi-cho 3-17).



Hanami

Cherry blossoms are the quintessential representation of the Japanese obsession with the fleeting nature of beauty. In theory, *hanami*, the activity of gazing upon the briefly blooming flowers, should lead to deep epiphanies about the impermanence of life. In reality, it is a great chance to enjoy good company, delicious snacks, and warm sake beneath blossoming cherry trees.

The map above lists some of the bigger cherry blossom festivals around Yokosuka. The parks are open to set up a tarp and sit under the trees any time, but there are bigger festivities on the weekends with performances and food stalls. Cherry blossom festivals are very popular, so parking will be very limited. Please use public transportation. Good luck finding the perfect *hanami* spot!

UPCOMING EVENTS (All events are free unless otherwise noted)



U.S.-Japan Spring Festival

When: March 30 (Sun.) 9:00-16:00

Where: Fleet Activities Yokosuka, U.S. Naval Base Enter and exit from Mikasa Park

What: A number of times every year, the United States Naval Base opens to the public. During the Spring Festival, visitors can get a taste of American life in Japan all while enjoying Japanese cherry blossoms. Make sure you bring a photo ID, as you may be asked for proof of nationality.

Kanrin-maru Festival

When: Apr. 26 (Sat.)

10:00-16:00

Where: Sumitomo Heavy Industries LTD., Uraga Factory (Uraga 4-chome)

Directions: Five minute walk from Uraga Station.

What: There will be countless activities – food booth, competitions, informational displays, etc. – at this festival which commemorates the *Kanrin-maru*, the vessel sent to the United States in 1860 to ratify unequal treaties.



Mt. Takeyama Azalea Festival

When: May 3 (Sat.)-May 5 (Mon.) 9:00-15:00
(-13:00 on 5/5)

Where: Summit of Mt. Takeyama (Take 1-3040)

What: 2000 Azalea trees will be in bloom.

Spring Rose Festival

When: May 17 (Sat.)-May 18 (Sun.) 10:00-15:00

Where: Verny Park
(Shioiri-cho 1-1-1)



YEARLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

April	-William Adams Blossom Party -Kanrin-maru Festival -Camp Kurihama SDF Open Base	October	-Yokosuka Fish Festival -Yokosuka Mikoshi Parade
May	-Takeyama Azalea Festival -Yokosuka Curry Festival -Rose Festival	November	-Kannonzaki Festival -Yokosuka <i>Sangyo</i> Matsuri
June	-Yokosuka YY Transport Festival -Iris Festival	December	-Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Illumination -Yokosuka NYE Countdown
July	-Kurihama Perry Festival -Yokosuka Umikaze Carnival -Yokosuka <i>Kaikoku</i> Festival	2015 January	-New Years Fire Review -Takeyama Hatsufudo
August	-Uraga Port Festival	February	-Taura Plum Festival -Taura Photo Contest
September	-Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Cosmos Festival	March	-Cherry Blossom Festivals -U.S.-Japan Spring Festival

YOKOSUKA LIVING

Disaster Preparation

On a Sunday morning in January, I woke up in a school gymnasium. My breath danced in white in the cold winter air as I wrestled to escape from my sleeping bag. On all sides, my neighbors were engaged in the same struggle. A father across the gym helped his young daughter roll up her bag. The early risers were already in line for bread and tea. I finished packing up my things and went over to join them. The fresh bruise on my hip – a memento from my night on the hard wood floor – ached as I walked across the gym. This was my introduction to life in an evacuation center.

I stayed overnight as a participant in a city sponsored disaster training program. In addition to this overnight event held every January, Yokosuka city sponsors a number of other disaster prevention events in English throughout the year. It is especially important for non-Japanese speakers to take advantage of these resources, because there is no guarantee that there will be any English speakers at your evacuation center during a real disaster. Interpreters attend these trainings, so the experience of staying a night in an evacuation center with English explanations will prove invaluable during an actual evacuation situation.

As we commemorate three years since the Great Tohoku Earthquake Disaster, I can think of no better way to honor those who lost everything than to prepare as best we can for future disasters. Check out the following tips to prepare for disaster.



Pack an evacuation bag – Include important documents (passports, birth certificates, etc.), change of clothes, medicine, food, etc. Keep it near an exit.

Find the nearest evacuation center – It will most likely be the closest elementary or junior high school. If the school is close to the coast, it should not be used during a tsunami warning.

Get to know your neighbors – In time of emergency, you are likely to give and receive help from your neighbors before rescue workers arrive.

Register for the disaster information service email – Disaster information is sent automatically in emergency situations. To register, send a blank email to bousai-yokosuka@raidenc.ktaiwork.jp

-Marshall Smith, a native of Illinois, U.S.A, is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. "Yokosuka Living" is in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka and includes useful information for everyday life in Japan.

READER SUBMISSIONS

Send in your submissions to ir-mo@city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp



"No Two Snowflakes are Alike on Blue Street" by Jessica A. Paje



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