



Naka Ward promotes the Naka Ward Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Action Plan to help non-Japanese residents build ties in the local community. This newsletter is published by Naka Ward in English and Chinese to provide foreign nationals with useful information on topics such as municipal administration, social programs and rules for everyday living.



Looks Interesting! /

## Local Events and Activities

Local communities hold many events and activities, but it sometimes takes a bit of courage to participate. Living in Japan is even more enjoyable when you can meet new people and discover new things through local participation.

Many events and activities are currently not being held because of Covid-19, but why don't you check out an event/activity that interests you so you can participate in the future once it returns with infection-prevention measures in place.



### A Helping Hand!

### Participate in Events with Naka International Lounge Staff

Naka International Lounge runs a program in which lounge staff will participate in a community activity with you. If you're worried about attending a community event on your own, this is a good way to start.

Example Activity

We interviewed a participant and the event organizer for [the Yokohama Chinatown Cleanup](#).

#### Participant

#### It brought me closer to the community

Galina Fujimori-san

This is her third year in Japan since coming from England



#### —What made you want to participate?

I found out this cleanup event while attending Japanese classes at Naka International Lounge. I thought it would be good for my child to learn about making the community beautiful, so the two of us participated.

#### —What did you do?

They had prepared gloves, tongs and vests for us to wear, and we picked up litter while joking around and talking. It was a very friendly atmosphere.

#### —What did you think about the event?

There are a lot of volunteer activities in my home country, but nothing like this event. So it was interesting, and I had a very fun time. Everyone from children to the elderly participated grew closer to each other.

Participating in a local community event felt really good, and I am proud that I did it. I think that I feel closer to Yokohama and the community through this activity.

My child also had a lot of fun participating and enjoyed meeting various people.



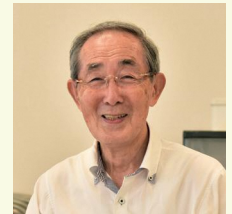
#### —Are you interested in any other kinds of events?

I'm also interested in activities related to Japanese culture, such as cooking simple Japanese foods.

#### Community Events Organizer

#### It can be a good opportunity to learn about Japanese customs

Yamashita-cho Neighborhood Association  
Shigeo Kurita, Association Head



#### —What kind of activity is this?

About 10 years ago, there was a litter problem, so we decided to do something about it. On certain days, we gather at Yamashita Park around 3 p.m. and split into groups, gathering litter along two courses for about an hour.

#### —Who would be participating?

Many people participate, including people from the Yamashita-cho Neighborhood Association, the Yokohama Chinatown Development Association, schools, businesses and shops in the community, and municipal government. It is an overall community effort in which almost 100 people participate. The amount of litter has decreased significantly because of this effort.

#### —Are foreign nationals welcome?

Naka International Lounge asked if they could participate this time, and I think it's a great idea. Foreign nationals are also most welcome. I hope this activity can be an opportunity to learn more about Japanese rules regarding garbage.

We would like our town to be a place that is comfortable to live.

#### —Are there any other local events that foreign nationals can easily participate in?

Events have been canceled to prevent the spread of Covid-19, but in previous years, foreign nationals have also enjoyed our summer festival while dancing *Bon Odori*. Local radio calisthenics gatherings are also an easy way to participate in something in your immediate community.

Join Us for This Lounge Event

Connecting People and Communities—  
Participating in Local Activities with  
the Help of Naka International Lounge

**Yokohama Chinatown Cleanup**

- ▶ **Dates/time:** Oct. 22, Nov. 12, Dec. 17  
(all days fall on a Friday), 3–3:45 p.m.
- \* Gather at 2:30 p.m. at Naka International Lounge
- \* Advance application required



**Inquiries:**  
**Naka International Lounge**  
Address: 35 Nihon-Odori, Naka-ku  
(Naka Ward Office Annex, 1F)  
TEL: 045-210-0667  
E-mail: nakalounge@yoke.or.jp  
Hours: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
(8 p.m. on Tuesdays/Saturdays)  
Closed: 3rd Sunday of each month



**Naka International Lounge  
Japanese Language Classes**

Small group classes for those learning Japanese for the first time.

1. Introductory Level Course  
Total of 10 classes (held 6 times/year) Fee: 2,000 yen
2. First Term/Second Term Beginner Level Course  
Total of 30 classes (held 2 times/year) Fee: 6,000 yen  
+ course materials fee (around 1,500 yen for each term)

\*Please inquire for more details.

- **Date/time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
- **Eligibility:** In principle, persons living, working or studying in Naka Ward
- **How to apply:** 1. Apply by phone or e-mail  
2. Apply for an interview by phone/e-mail in order to participate

It's a lot of fun.  
You'll meet  
people  
from all over  
the world.



Very Important!  
Disaster Prevention Activities

Foreign Residents in Action!  
Join the Volunteer Fire Corps

Volunteer fire corps, made up of people who live, work or study in Naka Ward, help protect the community from fires, earthquakes, storms and floods.

The range of activities, which include providing security at community events and promoting first aid knowledge, provide many opportunities to contribute and interact.

Excellent training is provided in a positive atmosphere. Why not consider become a volunteer fire corps member? Please inquire for details such as requirements.



▲ Ebrahim-san's regular job is selling kebabs  
"It's enjoyable working together with my fire corps colleagues from various walks of life. And because we undergo various kinds of training, it is useful both personally and for the community."

**Inquiries:**  
**Naka Fire Station, Somu/Yobo**  
**(General Affairs and Fire Prevention) Division,**  
**Fire Corps Section, TEL: 045-251-0119**

Various Kinds of Local Events!

Neighborhood associations, etc. carry out their own various activities. Check information on your local bulletin boards and home-to-home circulation boards.

**Summer Festivals** A *yagura* (raised stage) is set up in local plaza for *Bon Odori* dancing. Along with food stalls, people dressed in *yukata* (Japanese traditional summer clothing) and the sound of drums, you can have an enjoyable Japanese summer festival experience.

**Caring for Parks** Volunteers from the Park Protection Association, etc. help maintain parks by cleaning the park and watering grass and flowers. Working with neighbors to keep local parks beautiful is a rewarding activity.

**Emergency Drills** Each community carries out its own preparedness drills. When disaster strikes, it is important to help each other regardless of place of origin.

Check out the Naka Ward version  
of *Koho Yokohama*!

*Koho Yokohama* is a public relations newsletter published by the Yokohama government. The Naka Ward version of this newsletter has administrative information and event information for both Naka Ward and Yokohama. Have a look to discover local events and other useful information! (Published on the 1st of every month.)

[https://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/naka/kusei/koho/koho\\_naka/naka2021.html](https://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/naka/kusei/koho/koho_naka/naka2021.html)



Check out the multilingual Naka Ward Office website!

Selected information from the Naka Ward version of *Koho Yokohama* is posted to the Naka Ward Office website in English, Chinese, Korean and easy Japanese. The content includes information useful for daily life (updated monthly).

<https://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/naka/naka-lang/en/>



**If you're registered as a resident, you can apply for a My Number Card (Individual Number Card) with photo.**

A My Number Card can be used as personal identification since it has your photo. This card can also be used as proof of a registered alias since it also shows your alias name. It can also be used to obtain a copy of your *juminhyo* (certificate of residence) at convenience stores and apply online for government administrative procedures.

▶ **To apply:** Go to Counter No. 99 on the 2nd floor of Naka Ward Office.

Note: If you plan to apply to renew your Period of Stay or change your Status of Residence within the next few months, please apply for your My Number Card after the renewal/change of status.

▶ **Receipt of card:** The card takes about two months to prepare. When you make an appointment to pick up your card, please confirm what you need to bring (identification, etc.).

<Yokohama My Number Card Hotline, TEL: 0120-321-590, Weekdays 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Weekends/Holidays 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese)>

**Covid-19 vaccinations update**

Yokohama has started accepting reservations for Covid-19 vaccinations for those age 12 and above. For details, please confirm via the call center or the City of Yokohama website.

<Yokohama Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center, TEL: 0120-045-070, 9 a.m.–7 p.m. (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Spanish, Portuguese)>



**Enrolling your child in daycare from April 2022**

Daycare centers take care of children when their parents are working, sick, etc. and cannot look after their child at home during the day. Children can be enrolled from 57 days old through pre-school, but the age of the children accepted varies according to facility.

▶ **Applications to enroll from April 2022**

• **Application period:**

Oct. 12 (Tue)–Nov. 2 (Tue)  
(Submit by mail. Applications must be postmarked no later than Nov. 2 (Tue))

If you applied for FY2021 but were not accepted, you will need to reapply for FY2022.

<Kodomo Katei Shien (Children and Families Support) Division, Naka Ward Office, TEL: 045-224-8172>

**Flu vaccinations for seniors before flu season begins**

Influenza can affect seniors and the immunocompromised quite seriously, so vaccination is recommended. Seniors can receive a flu shot at cooperating Yokohama medical institutions\* for 2,300 yen.

- **Eligibility:** Age 65 and above
- **Period:** Until Dec. 31 (Fri)

Note: Please bring something to verify your age, name and address, such as your Resident Card.

\* Please visit Naka International Lounge (1F, Naka Ward Office Annex, TEL: 045-210-0667) if you prefer help in English/Chinese on which cooperating institutions are providing vaccination service.

<Fukushi Hoken (Health and Welfare) Division, Naka Ward Office, TEL: 045-224-8332>

**Rubella antibody test and vaccination**

Rubella is highly infectious. If a pregnant woman is infected, she can pass it on to her unborn child, who may develop congenital rubella syndrome. Eligible males are recommended to take this opportunity to get a rubella antibody test. If antibodies are too low, an MR vaccination (for measles and rubella) will be given to help prevent infections of any close friends or family. For details, inquire with the Yokohama Vaccination Call Center (TEL: 045-330-8561 FAX: 045-664-7296).

- **Eligibility:** Men born between April 2, 1962 and April 1, 1979

- **Cost:** Free

- **Period:** Until March 31, 2022

<Fukushi Hoken (Health and Welfare) Division, Naka Ward Office, TEL: 045-224-8332>

Good to Know!  
About Japanese Culture



**Joya no Kane (New Year's Eve Bell)**

If you've been in Japan on New Year's Eve, perhaps you've heard the low ringing of a bell sounding from somewhere in the middle of the night. This custom, known as *Joya no Kane*, is a Buddhist ritual in which the temple bell is sounded 108 times to bridge into the new year. According to Buddhism, human beings have 108 worldly desires, so the bell ringing 108 times is said to cleanse those desires to start the year.

If you are in Yokohama Bay area when the new year arrives, you can also experience a unique Yokohama customs, as all the ships in the port whistle exactly at midnight.

Greet the new year with *Joya no Kane* and the midnight whistle!

**International Service Staff**  
Naka Ward Office, Counter 23 (2nd floor)  
English 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

International Service Staff provide assistance with matters such as guidance on Naka Ward Office activities, interpretation at various ward office counters and support for filling out certificate applications. Stop by if you would like assistance.

Help Me Know  
**Q&A**



**I want to be more familiar with the local community. Are there any local activities that I can participate in?**

▶ If you'd like to be a member of the community, doing activities while communicating with other locals or people with the same interests, you might be interested in the *なかく活動ガイド* (Naka Ward Activities Guide), which lists the various community groups and their activities (published only in Japanese).

**What kinds of groups are included?**

The guide lists various groups, from lifelong learning and hobby clubs to volunteer groups and organizations working to solve local issues. It also includes the places, dates and times, and fees for activities as well as the age range, etc. of members.

**What genres does it cover?**

Activities are split in to seven genres: music/drama, art/handicrafts, literature/history, sports, practical/recreational study, multicultural symbiosis and volunteering/community activities.



**Where can I find this guide?**

A digest version of the guide is distributed at community centers, community houses, community care plazas and other facilities for ward residents. You can also download the digest from the Naka Ward website.

**How do I participate in an activity?**

The contact information for each group is available at the Naka Ward Community Activity Center. If you are interested in a particular club or organization, please phone or e-mail as follows.



<Naka Ward Community Activity Center, TEL: 045-224-8138 E-mail: na-katsudou@city.yokohama.jp>





# Celebrating a Century of Public Transport



## Go for a Visit

On April 1, 2021, Yokohama Municipal Transportation turned 100. A variety of initiatives are in place to celebrate this important milestone.



## Understanding the Historical Background

Public transportation in Yokohama began in 1921 with trams. Municipal bus service was added in 1928 and the municipal subway began operating in 1972. This infrastructure has supported the development of the city for the lives of residents. The 100th anniversary website for Yokohama's municipal transportation introduces this history, commemorative events, etc.



Motomachi on February 21, 1970. Photo by Yoichi Takenaka.

## Discover Showa-Era Yokohama

The Yokohama Tram Museum (3-1-53 Takigashira, Isogo-ku) is holding a commemorative photo exhibition under the theme of "A Nostalgic Time When Streetcars Ran in Yokohama." The contents of the exhibit are changed out after a period of time. The museum also has an official YouTube channel where you can see past exhibitions. You can get an idea of what Naka Ward looked like around 1965.



## 100th Anniversary Ticket to Ride (Minato Burari Ticket)

An original design for this one-day pass to ride the municipal subway and municipal buses in the Bay Area is on sale. The pass serves many of the downtown tourist spots and shopping facilities.

- On sale only until Dec. 31 (Fri)
- Cost (fare): 500 yen for adults, 250 yen for children
- Sellers: Yokohama Municipal Subway (Blue Line)—Yokohama Station, Takashimachō Station, Sakuragichō Station, Kannai Station, Isezaki-chojamachi Station, and others

## Thoughts of a Foreign Resident Life and Culture in Japan



## Participating In Local Events



I didn't know anybody when I first arrived in Japan. But participating in events organized by my condominium and the residents' association helped me get used to life here.

In the condominium where I live, we regularly participate in cleaning activities for a nearby park organized by the local residents association. On these days, everyone in my family works from the morning in this activity. Since we're all volunteers working together to clean up the park, it gives us a sense of accomplishment. Afterwards, association officers distribute drinks as a thank you. The local environment becomes cleaner and I have become friends with the people around me because of this activity. You'll meet new people, after which they are not strangers

but familiar faces to exchange greetings with when you encounter them out in the community.

There's also an annual rice-pounding event. We wash and cook sticky rice and make the rice cakes, enjoying the freshly made rice cakes like a family around the kitchen table. When you actively participate in local events, you will not only get a deeper understanding of Japanese culture but also get to know the people in your community. Although there are fewer events because of Covid-19, why not think about participating when there is one since there are many things to gain.

(Naka International Lounge Chinese Language Staff)

## For Your Use! Facilities That Everyone Can Use



Information about public facilities that any Naka Ward resident can use

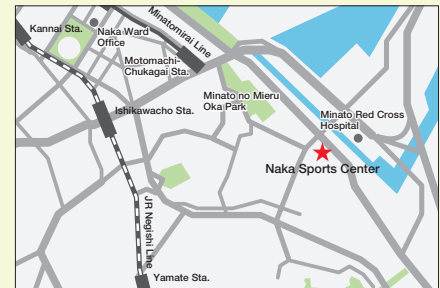


## Naka Sports Center



This sports center can be used by both groups and individuals. The "One-Day Classroom" is a no-pressure way to try new things that you have been interested in. Regular adult classes include tennis and other ball-based sports, yoga, and dance, and cultural classes such as Japanese calligraphy. The many regular children's classes include gymnastics and karate.

\*Calls for classroom events are currently suspended to prevent the spread of Covid-19. It is undecided when this program will resume. Please check the website for the latest information.



3-15-4 Shinyamashita, Naka-ku  
TEL: 045-625-0300 FAX: 045-624-1969  
Hours: 9 a.m.–9 p.m. (currently until 8 p.m.)  
Closed: 4th Monday of each month (but open when the Monday is a national holiday and closed the next day)

We are always looking for locations to distribute *Naka Ward Town News*. If you have many foreign visitors to your shop, clinic, organization, etc. and would like to make this newsletter available to them, please contact us at 045-224-8123 to arrange delivery. The next issue will be published on January 1.