



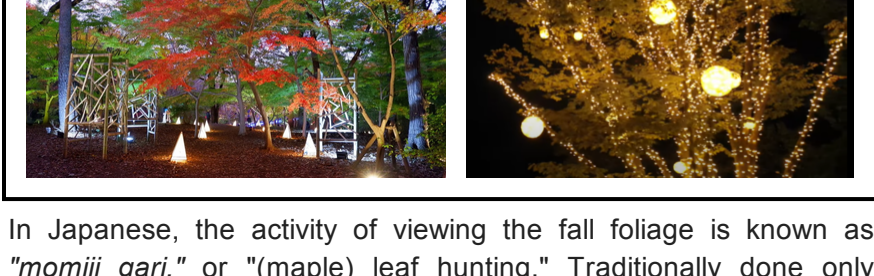
ConsuLink

November 2022 Newsletter

Keeping you updated on Japan-related news in Michigan and Ohio

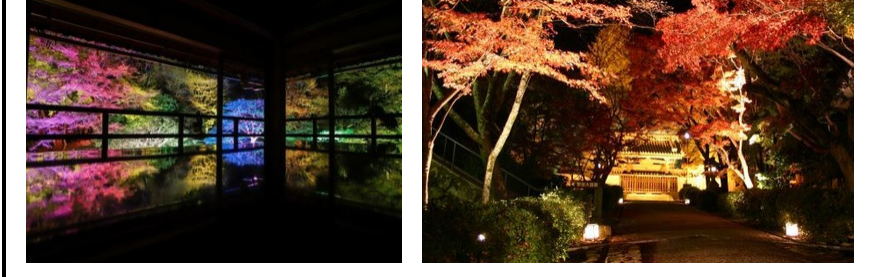
Illumination Events Light Up Japan's Fall Colors

Admiring the changing colors of the leaves is a popular autumn tradition in Michigan and Ohio, and in their sister states of Shiga and Saitama Prefectures in Japan. In Michigan, people may enjoy the fall colors by driving through the "tunnel of trees" on Highway 119 near Harbor Springs or riding on a dinner train out of Tecumseh. In Ohio, hikers may visit the Osage orange tree tunnel at Sugar Creek Metropark near Dayton, or enjoy a color tour by car, train, or even horseback through the Hocking Hills.



In Japanese, the activity of viewing the fall foliage is known as "momiji gari," or "(maple) leaf hunting." Traditionally done only during daylight hours, leaf-hunting has recently expanded into the evening through "illumination" events, similar to the cherry blossom "light up" events popular in the spring.

In Ohio's sister-state of Saitama, for example, Shinrin Park in Namegawa hosts three light-up events every autumn. Between their Halloween Night in the Forest in October (above right) and Starlight Illumination in December is the Autumn Color Viewing Night event (above left) for several weeks in November. In Michigan's sister-state of Shiga, autumn illumination events take place at various temples and historical sites, including Saikyō-ji (below right) and the Former Chikurin-in (below left) at Enryakuji in Sakamoto, Otsu, and at Hikone Castle in Hikone.



Honda Marks 45 Years in Ohio with New Investment for Electric Vehicles

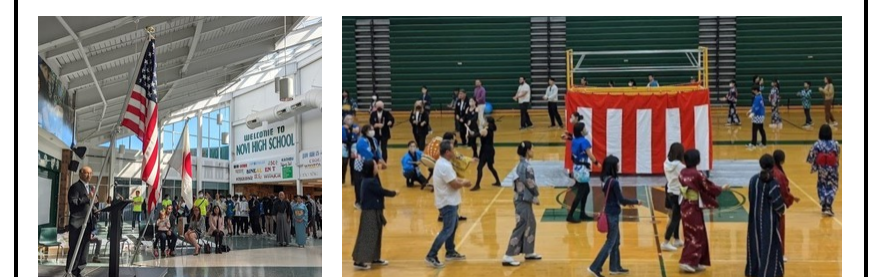


Photo credits: Office of the Governor, State of Ohio

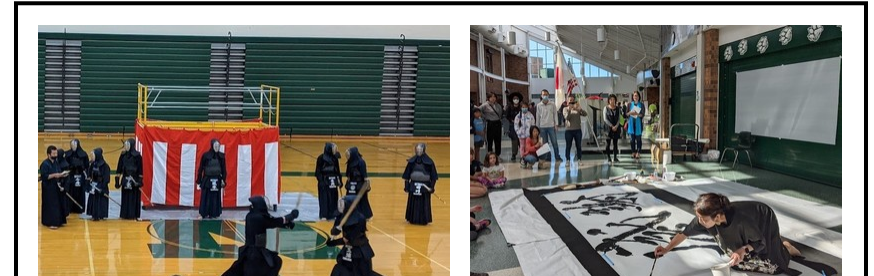
On October 11, the 45th anniversary of the announcement of its first motorcycle production facility in Ohio, Honda revealed plans for a \$3.5 billion investment, this time in an Ohio battery plant for electric vehicles. Part of a joint venture with LG Energy Solutions, the new plant is to be built in Fayette County, while existing Honda facilities in Logan County and Union County are to receive an additional \$700 million to retool for the production of electric vehicles. As pictured above, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and other Ohio officials gathered with Honda and LG Energy Solutions representatives at the Ohio Statehouse, where the original 1977 announcement was made.

RECENT CONSULATE ACTIVITIES

Novi Japan Festival is Back, Bigger than Ever!



On Sunday, October 2, the Novi Japan Festival returned after a two-year hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic. Co-hosted at Novi High School by the Japan Business Society of Detroit and the JSD Women's Club, this celebration of Japanese culture draws thousands of attendees each year. This year's festival seemed more crowded than ever, with local residents and families of Japanese heritage and otherwise filling the hallways, classrooms, gymnasium, and cafeteria all afternoon.



Attendees had the chance to participate in a Bon Odori dance, enjoy musical performances by groups such as Ensemble Hanabi and Great Lakes Taiko, and observe demonstrations of tea ceremony, kendo, and a special on-site calligraphy "performance" by Kyoko Fujii. The festival also included displays of ikebana, information booths by local Japan-related organizations, origami and calligraphy workshops, traditional Japanese festival foods, and traditional children's games.

This annual celebration of Japanese culture included opening remarks by Consul General Shindo and a free crafts workshop hosted by Consulate staff where festivalgoers could try their hands at creating *chigiri-e* torn paper collages and customized *uchiwa* fans, and doing tricks with traditional Japanese toys. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped make the 2022 Novi Japan Festival such an enjoyable event!



SPOTLIGHT ON JAPANESE CULTURE ENTHUSIAST FROM OHIO

Traeonna Wagener Embraces and Teaches a Kimono Lifestyle



Ms. Traeonna Wagener of Toledo, OH, has never visited Japan, but is a huge fan of the traditional Japanese apparel known as *kimono*. In fact, Traeonna owns over 100 kimono, and wears them nearly every day. She began as a fan of the "Lolita fashion" trend popularized in Japan in the 1990s, then moved into wearing a fusion of *kimono* (*wafuku*) and Western (*yōfuku*) styles, before shifting to wearing *kimono* in a more traditional manner. Now, she even teaches others the art of *kitsuke*, or how to wear *kimono* properly.

Traeonna's own *kitsuke* teacher lives in Kyushu, so their lessons take place via videoconference. Due to the pandemic, they have not yet been able to meet in person. Traeonna wears *kimono* to events like the Saginaw Japan Festival (above left) and the MI Bon Festival in Novi (above right) and even when driving or shopping. For relaxing at home, she wears the lighter, cotton version of *kimono*, called *yukata*.



ConsuLink is the official newsletter of the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit

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CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Through Nov. 20: ["The Soul of a Moment:" Linda Beeman Woodblock Prints](#) @ Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, MI

Nov. 12 - May 7, 2023: [Clay as Soft Power: Shigaraki Ware in Postwar America and Japan](#) @ UMMA, Ann Arbor, MI

Thur.-Sun., November 3-6 [Youmacon Anime & Cosplay Convention](#) @ Detroit, MI

Fri., November 4 [WMU-JOI Virtual Japanese Conversation Table](#) @ online platform

Sun., November 6 [Children's Author Talk About Architect Minoru Yamasaki Book](#) @ Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

Thurs., November 10 [Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @ online platform

Sun., November 13 [Miki Saito: Songs from Japan Concert](#) @ Homerville, OH

Tues., November 15 [JASGC Samurai Armor Webinar](#) @ online platform

Thur., November 17 [OSU-IJS Lecture on Aviation and Japan's Aerial Imaginary](#) @ Columbus, OH

Fri., November 18 [Application deadline for Japan Exchange and Teaching \(JET\) Program](#) @ online platform

QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

KIZUNA



[Kizuna: The official magazine of the Government of Japan](#)

Digital publication reporting on a variety of topics, promoting stronger links between Japan and the world.

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