

Fuuran-no-Yakata “Oyster Hut” Opens

Winter Tastes: All-You-Can-Eat “Native Kumihama-Raised Oysters”

January 7, Kumihama

On January 7th, the Fuuran-no-Yakata “Oyster Hut” (Kamai, Kumihama) opened. There one can savor the winter taste that represents Kyotango City: native, Kumihama-raised oysters.

The Kamai & Asahi Revitalization Council (Chairman: Gorō Furuhashi) opened the Oyster Hut, which is managed by the city-designated facility Fuuran-no-Yakata, as part of a project to promote sea-related businesses, and also in hopes that it would serve as a point of exchange between tourists from urban areas and local residents. Other than providing fresh oysters cooked *teppanyaki*-style in a covered pan, they have also prepared a menu including dishes such as fried oysters and oyster rice.

Last year, on December 11th, ward residents and affiliates were invited to the unveiling party, with about 60 attendees coming to celebrate the facility’s completion.

Chairman Furuhashi enthusiastically said “We were able to reach this moment with the cooperation of many people. By promoting this as the region’s new tourist spot, I want the whole nation to know the appeal of native Kumihama-raised oysters.”



↑ Tasting oysters cooked *teppanyaki*-style in a covered pan in “The Oyster Hut.”

Days of Operation: Open until the end of May (closed on Wednesdays)

Hours of Operation: 11am-2pm

Contact: Fuuran-no-Yakata 0772-83-1033

Mineyama Nishiyama Community Center Construction Complete “A Relaxing Place for Local Residents”

December 11, Mineyama

The reconstruction work on the aging Mineyama Nishiyama Ward Community Center is now finished. At the completion ceremony on December 11th, residents and affiliates gathered to celebrate.

The community center is a wooden, single-story, earthquake-proof building with a tile roof and a total floor space measuring 128.091 square meters. Not only can it be used as a place for local residents’ connectedness and as a central spot for community building, but in times of disaster it will become an evacuation shelter. For that purpose, it is easily recognizable from the sky above, due to the large letters spelling out “Nishiyama” on the rooftop.

Ward chairman Yoshiyuki Fujiwara said “I would like you all to use it widely as a meeting place for children and seniors alike, as well as a place of relaxation for ward residents.”



↑ Ward residents taking a commemorative photo for Nishiyama Community Center’s completed reconstruction.

Kimono-Clad Dinner Party

Kimono Exchange Club Holds a Kimono-Wearing Class

December 15, Amino



↑ Participants enjoying a meal after learning how to put on kimono.

On December 15th in Amino’s “Little White Flower” Hotel, thirteen men and women from the city participated in a class teaching how to put on kimono (hosted by Kyotango City Kimono Exchange Club).

The lecturers, Yōko Nishizu and Takāki Ikebe, said at the outset that “in order to put on a kimono that fits you, it is important to know one’s measurements. A kimono that suits your measurements will feel very good when you wear it.” They then showed the participants how to take their own measurements. Afterwards, they put on kimono while explaining complicated elements in detail, such as how to tie the *koshihimo*, a cord tied around the waist of the kimono before the *obi* (kimono sash), and the *datejime*, a thin fabric belt worn over the kimono and under the *obi* to protect the fabric. They also advised each participant on how to correct their kimono if it was out of shape. The participants received good advice, all the while making friends with each other.

After putting on their kimono, everyone enjoyed a dinner party in the hotel, eating their fill of courses such as pasta and pizza. One participant, Terumi Imai (Amino), said “when I wear a kimono, my mood brightens up. I want to be proactive in making more opportunities to wear it.”

Santa's Presents and Children's Laughter

Tango Kindergarten's Christmas Party

December 20, Tango

On December 20th, Tango Kindergarten had a Christmas party, and the kindergarteners enjoyed this great event.

First, the kindergarteners did a candle service, and the dim hall gleamed with fantastic light. Next, a short skit was performed by staff members, comically acting out Santa's daily life while disguised as reindeer and Santa Claus.

Finally, the "real" Santa appeared and attracted everyone's attention. The kindergarteners excitedly asked Santa "Where is your house?" and "How do you make the presents?" and listened attentively to the English answers. After the questions were done, Santa gave the kindergarteners all presents, and they said "thank you" with smiles on their faces.



↑ The staff's short skit.



↑ Kindergarteners receiving presents from Santa.

Ocarina Sounds Ring in a Chapel

Ocarina Breeze Concert

December 4, Omiya

On December 4th, the Lyrish Ocarina League Yano Class performed an “Ocarina Breeze Concert” in the Chapel of the Wind at Centrale Hotel Kyotango (Omiya) to a crowd of over 140 participants who came to enjoy the show.

This concert was started four years ago by instructor Reiko Yano as a way to show many people the tone quality of the ocarina, and to show the results of the members’ practice. This year, 9 groups that attended the class participated in the concert.

For the opening, all players performed a synchronized ensemble piece. After that they performed pieces from a wide range of years, such as “Edelweiss,” “Koi Suru Fortune Cookie,” and “Believe.” Attendees were entranced by the gentle tones that filled the hall.



↑ The performance of the group “Peace • Hatsukaze.”

Mizotani Welfare Committee Donates to Council of Social Welfare
Bazaar Earnings Put to Use for Welfare Improvement
November 30, Yasaka

Yasaka Mizotani Welfare Committee (Representative Ikuko Haga) members and Children's Committee representative recently visited the Kyotango City Social Welfare Council Headquarters and presented their donation money.

Last November, the same committee held "Intergenerational Exchange Meetings" to provide local residents with a chance to exchange with each other while playing, cooking, and so on. In the midst of that, they held an "End-of-Year Aid Bazaar," and collected proceeds to donate to the improvement of local welfare.

Representative Haga said "I would like to continue with activities related to the spirit of our local community."



↑ Members of the Mizotani Welfare Committee visiting and handing over their donation money at the Kyotango City Social Welfare Council Headquarters.
