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Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival welcomes Japanese Consul General

Consul General of Japan Kazuo Sunaga will join the opening ceremonies of the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival on March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

“We are honored that Consul General Sunaga, the official representative of Japan for the southeastern U.S., will be with us for our inaugural event,” said Mayor Pro Tem and Festival Chair Rebecca Chase Williams. “We look forward to a long friendship as we grow as a city and as our cherry blossom trees welcome visitors from afar, including Japan.”

Traditionally, the cherry tree is a symbol of peace and good will. It was adopted in April of last year as the City’s official tree. Under the guidance of landscape designer Kerry Blind, a total of 225 cherry trees – a variety of Kwazan, Yoshino, and Autumnalis – were planted across six city parks and at the entrance to the City along Peachtree Road.

The lineup of festival entertainment includes the Mirani-Kanai Taiko Dance Company and kayamuta string musician Soon Heo, both appearing on the main stage beginning at 5:30 prior to the opening ceremonies Friday evening.

Festival headliners are “The Drifters” and “The Coasters” on Saturday evening, starting at 7 p.m. Joining the entertainment line-up are Beatles tribute band The Return, House Broken, Heavy Chevy, jazz fusionist Eric Thomas, guitarist Myles Brown and Joe Gransden and his 16-piece Big Band.

The free concerts are part of the three-day Festival, which also includes a 5K Run/1K Walk, a Children’s Village, Pet World with the original Stunt Dog Show, and some of Atlanta’s most popular food trucks.

Special hotel packages are available at Hyatt Atlanta Perimeter at Villa Christina, the Hilton Garden Inn, and the pet-friendly Microtel Inn & Suites, and Holiday Inn.

What:	Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival
When:	Friday, March 27 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 28 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, March 29 from Noon to 6 p.m.
Where:	Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Brookhaven, GA
Cost:	FREE (not including food and drinks); Pet Parade \$20; 5K/1K Run Walk \$20

The 2015 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival is graciously sponsored by DeKalb County, AutoTrader.com, xfinity, Belhaven University-Atlanta, Regency Centers Corporation, Gables Residential, The Hyatt Atlanta Perimeter at Villa Christina, The Heights at Brookleigh, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Perimeter Summit, Primrose School of Brookhaven, Northside Hospital, Georgia Power, Brookhaven Children’s Dentistry, Collette McDonald & Associates-RE/Max Around Atlanta, Perimeter Community Improvement Districts, NorSouth Development, Banfield Pet Hospital, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP, Post Brookhaven Apartment Homes, Town Brookhaven, Universal Tennis Academy, Coro Realty Advisors and Easlan Capital. **Media**

Sponsors: The Brookhaven Reporter, The Brookhaven Post, The Dunwoody Crier, and Southbound Magazine.

The Festival is presented by the Brookhaven Office of Tourism and produced by The NUN Group.

Visit www.brookcherryfest.org for event schedule, parking information and details or call 404-637-0516. Follow us [@brookcherryfest](https://twitter.com/brookcherryfest) | [#brookcherry2015](https://twitter.com/brookcherry2015)

*Festival Facts: The Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival is a **rain-or-shine** event. **Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets** to use while enjoying the entertainment. **Coolers and outside food/beverage are not allowed.** A wide variety of food is available for purchase onsite, as well as beer, water and soda.*

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