

March 14, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Cherry Blossom Kite Festival April 6**

The Springfield Sister Cities Association hosts the 9th Annual Cherry Blossom Kite Festival Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield.

Kids and adults are invited to fly kites at the park as well as take part in kite-decorating, origami and other Japanese crafts. Japanese snacks will also be available for sale.

The festival celebrates the reopening for the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, located in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. The stroll garden will be open 9 a.m. to dusk. and admission is free the day of the festival. The Botanical Society of Southwest Missouri will give free guided tours during the festival 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Admission to the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival is also free. Children's kite construction kits will be available for \$5.

The festival is a partnership between the Springfield Sister Cities Association, the Missouri State University Elementary Education Program, Friends of the Garden, the Botanical Society of Southwest Missouri, Kickapoo High School Japanese Language Club and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

The Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden is open seasonally, Saturday, March 30 through October, Thursdays through Mondays, 9 a.m. to dusk (or 7:30 p.m.) Regular admission is \$3; children age 12 and under are admitted free.

For more information, call the Springfield Sister Cities Association at 417-864-1341 or visit [PeaceThroughPeople.org](http://PeaceThroughPeople.org). For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.