

Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget. No.0009

New Year Greetings from the Mayor

The year 2007 is the 60th year of operation for the Chigasaki municipal organization, and I would like to celebrate it together with 230,000 citizens. Also, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to a number of forerunners who contributed to rediscovering the charms of this city and developed the city to its current prosperous level

Let me refer to a couple of things that we are trying to accomplish.

(1) To correspond to the new era.

To think of a general trend of a decreasing number of youths and increasing number of elderly people, even the situation in Chigasaki is becoming more severe. Under the circumstances, I would like to have the administration deal with two goals that aim at a "Chigasaki that is able to correspond to the new era". One of them is to bring about KAIZEN or improvement in the city's finances. It means the execution of reducing personnel expenditure and the administrative reform while another goal is to get the scale of finance to an appropriate level so we can be prepared for the decreasing population trend and tax revenue that will occur in the near future. In our five-year plan starting in 2006, we will try to create simple and effective organization and introduce private sector vitality.

(2) Community building with a long-term strategic view.

We will complete our master plan under our basic policy of urban development in the future, and will propel priority strategy. Our role is to maintain the virtue of this city and to let our next generations inherit and develop it in the same way. We will be tackling various issues strenuously and continuously so that citizens can feel that it is good to live in this city.

Dialogue between the Mayor and the citizens

Mayor Hattori is having town meetings more than 10 times a year, trying to listen to civic opinion and recognize various issues brought up in the dialogue so that he can reflect its result on the way the city is administered.

A number of subjects are discussed there in their various forms. They include problems related to the environment, finance, public utility, the basic autonomous regulations, staff and even the mayor's leadership.

On the staff issues such as their realignment, their attitude and awareness are touched upon, while on public utility, its effectiveness is reviewed. The introduction of designated organization systems is also in plan.

These town meetings are held at twelve districts as far as *Jichikai* or where neighborhood organizations are concerned, and many local people join the discussion. The Mayor is thus working positively to make the city of Chigasaki better in many ways.



Scenes from the New Year

A number of people were visiting Samukawa Shrine to pray that 2007 is a happy and healthy year.

Before praying, it is polite to rinse your hands with holy water.



Garbage Collection System Changes An Important Message from the City

From April onward, all the recyclable garbage is going to be collected at the same place but in a different way from the present collection system as they have been handled separately depending on the types of recyclable garbage. (It has already been adopted in a limited number of districts, however.)

So far, glass bottles, cans, and pet bottles have been required to be put out at different point from the point for the other types of recyclable garbage such as old paper, cardboard, drink cartons, clothes, etc. That is to say, the collection point has been separated despite both being recyclable.

By changing the system, the number of collection point in Chigasaki goes down from 6,790 to 2,470 points and it is expected to be able to cut down the collection/transportation cost from ¥150 million to approximately ¥100 million a year.

Through the collaboration among citizens, the business proprietors and administration, the city is trying to decrease the amount of garbage and increase recycling resources, but the burden of expenditure is getting larger. The city plans to save personal expenses, the truck operation costs, etc. and make use of the savings more effectively to help overall administration cost.

Citizens, therefore, are strongly requested to dispose garbage in definite separation by the types of garbage of which collection tables/calendars will be made available after April when new fiscal year term starts.

ENVIRONMENT A civic activity of loving and keeping the region, *Shimizu-Yato*, richly endowed with nature.

There are several hectares of hills called "*Shimizu-Yato*" in the northern part of the city, featuring ecological diversity including forests, wetlands, creeks, grass fields, ponds, rice paddies and fields with various kinds of creatures inhabiting them. The members of the civic group, led by Mr. Michio Sasaki, voluntarily work for conserving the precious environment every Tuesday all the year around. They work to secure water catchments from springs to downstream in rice paddies or remove earth and sand from the creeks to keep the streams flowing. They cut the grass in wooded areas and carry away old logs, fallen leaves, etc. They also remove foreign species of plants and tangling vines. They work wearing fatigues and long boots so as to protect against yellow jackets and adders. Their goal is to hand down the benefits which nature has bestowed upon people to future generations.

The *Shimizu-Yato* group will welcome your participation!

People in Town

Vesna Pavlovic

ベスナ パブロビッチ



Vesna Pavlovic came from Serbia to Japan in 1996 and she spent the first 4 years in Shin Koiwa, Tokyo, then in November 2002 she moved to Chigasaki. Her hometown is Belgrade and there she was working with a Japanese NGO; JEN (Japan Emergency NGO) which was working under the auspices of UNHCR. For their activity, a Japanese representative had the role of coordination while local staff who speak English were supporting the so-called psycho-social program for refugees. *Vesna* was one of them and she came to Japan with the Japanese representative. She speaks English because she used to live in Long Island, NY for 4 years until she was 12 years old. Her father was a representative for a Serbian textile company headquartered in New York.

At present she is teaching English for kids at Higashi-kaigan but she likes graphic design and is interested in writing books for kids as well as drama for kids though she hasn't been able to accomplish the same as yet. For IAC's International Understanding Education program, however, she has attended classes at junior high school in Chigasaki or she has participated in an activity at Kominkan to introduce her country and their culture. She is trying to get involved in local community life this way.

She speaks Japanese very well, she has a 6 year-old boy, and she likes Chigasaki very much as it's bright, clean, calm and it has a nice beach. Initially, Japanese people looked too shy or some of them seemed even reluctant to speak to foreigners but she now understands it's not necessarily coming from ill will. In contrast, Serbian people talk loudly, they are talkative and they don't keep much inside, according to her.

On the present social problems in Japan, she feels there is lack of communication in many areas but is sympathetic that housewives are required to spend a long time outside of home.

She is now reading "The Book of Tea" written in English in the early 20th century by Kakuzo Okakura. In the book she learns the art of Tea, it's cultural background and its influence on every aspect of Japanese culture, thought and life.

Vesna Pavlovic would like to stay in Japan for a long time hoping to develop her talent of writing books and making and playing drama with/for children. She goes to Tokyo often and she is a very active woman enjoying her life in Chigasaki.

A Letter from and Exchange Student My stay in Japan

My name is Grant Smith. I am from Melbourne, Australia and I have stayed in Japan for the last 10 months and have had some of the hardest and some of the most enjoyable moments of my life this year.

I started head strong, seeing as I had studied Japanese for 9 years before last year. I thought I would be able to survive easily....I was wrong. I actually found that in the first 3 months I was just learning how to listen to Japanese rather than how to speak Japanese, which was a very long process. The people around me were very supporting of me during this time though, which am very thankful for, otherwise I wouldn't be here in Japan at the moment. During the next 4 months I was learning lots of grammar and increasing my vocabulary as fast as I could so that I was able to speak with more people about more things.

For the last 3 months I was revising all of the Japanese grammar and vocabulary that I had learnt, so that I will be able to continue on my Japanese at university and further into my life. I have experienced many different cultures while I have been her in Japan, including tea ceremony, judo, temples, meditation and learning how to play "Go".

I am very sad to be leaving Japan soon, but at the same time, I know that I have accomplished every single goal that I set out to do this previous year.

I found that the Japanese students were very interested in English speaking countries, and I also found out that there were students who had been to Australia and America in my grade, some of whom can speak English much better than I can. I enjoyed practicing Japanese with them. Over all, I am thankful to Chigasaki for letting me stay for 10 months and I hope to return sometime in the near future. But for now, I have to return to Australia to complete my education.

IAC Orientation

IAC orientation will be given on February 6, or the first Tuesday in February, and on March 3, the first Saturday in March at the Support Center from 13:30 through 15:00. The center is located on the other side of JUSCO Super Store on the Chuō-Dōri. Whoever are interested to know about our activity or considering to participate in IAC, please feel free to join.

IAC ACTIVITIES

Assistance to Overseas

One of IAC'S major activities is to support children in overseas countries who are unable to get an adequate education nor medical care because of poverty.

In the year of 2006, IAC's monetary assistance was ¥200,000 to Cambodia through Asia Children Educational Fund, ¥100,000 to Peru through Gracias Amigo, ¥50,000 to Nepal through Lalupate, and ¥50,000 to Laos through Japan/Laos Exchange Association. Additionally in the previous year, they supported Indonesia by sending ¥50,000 for people suffered from Tsunami, and ¥50,000 to Malawi of SADC (South Africa Development Community). Such monetary support is not necessarily large in amount, but IAC is hopeful that their assistance will help children grow up desirably in each countries.

Representative of NPO in Cambodia Passed Away

Relative to our activity mentioned above, we have to tell you a sad story. A representative of Asia Children Educational Fund, Mr. Takashi Horimoto died at 39 of a traffic accident in Battambang, Cambodia on November 10, 2006. The accident actually occurred only one day before the opening ceremony of newly built occupational training school. In the ceremony, he was to receive a scroll of appreciation in the name of Cambodia premier.

IAC had continued to support his activity in the last 10 years. The news of his death gave a big shock not only to people in Cambodia but also in Japan including those of IAC's Sewing Box group. They were working hard to make fancy handicrafts and sharing a large part of the IAC's monetary assistance.

2006 IAC End-Of-Year Party

The IAC end-of-year party was held on December 17, inviting a number of foreign residents who have some connections with the IAC. They are from various overseas countries, and one representative person was Mr. Shimane L. Kelatse, Counselor of Embassy of The Republic of Botswana. There were about 100 people in total to see a magic show and percussion drumming played with a number of the visitors participating. The party was very lively and enjoyable. These parties are open to everyone and you don't have to be a member of the IAC. If you are interested, please join us at the end of December.

International Understanding

The IAC has a program that asks foreigners in town to make a presentation about their country and culture at schools for students to learn about it and study what is international understanding. These are done at primary, junior-high and high Schools in the city.

In a year, the number of countries being introduced reaches almost 20 and it is appreciated by students and schools. One of the recent exciting things was a map presented by Australian university students. The map showed Japan upside down with the North Pole shown at the bottom.

IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperativeness, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as earth citizens, respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.

The History of Chigasaki Station

Chigasaki station opened on June 15 of Meiji 31 (1898). It was much later than Fujisawa and Hiratsuka because both of them had developed as major post towns already at the time *TŌKAIDŌ* (the present National Route 1) was running between Edo (present Tokyo) and Osaka. In those days the area where Chigasaki is now located was just a clump of 24 villages where travelers stopped to take a rest or have something to eat or drink. That's why the area had been called Chaya-Machi; a town of tea houses literally speaking. There were no places to stay over night like in Fujisawa and Hiratsuka.

The person who worked on the Japan National Railway to build a station in Chigasaki was *Satonosuke Itoh*. He thought he could revitalize Chigasaki village by having a railway station.

He intended to invite people from other cities and to increase the population by introducing residential areas on the seaside with beautiful nature, and to advance economical and cultural development of the village.

The opening of the station brought an unexpectedly big effect. It greatly helped transportation of fresh fish and vegetables to cities and also increased the number of people who enjoyed beachcombing in the summer making the local economy pick up to an unexpected level.

The full transportation service of the Tokaido railway between Shinbashi and Kobe Station was opened in July of Meiji 22 (1889).

The operation of the present Shonan Line started in Showa 25 (1950) between Tokyo and Numazu in Shizuoka Prefecture. That is after World War II.

The charms of Chigasaki city was thus brought about by *Satonosuke Itoh*, chief of the old village in those days.

Confucius says.....

"Do not worry that the others do not know about you, but rather worry about not knowing about the others."

Private Workshop Series III NOGUCHI Shoe Studio

On the Tomoe Street that runs from the JR station toward Nango across the Southern street, there is a shoe studio on the right side. The studio called Noguchi Kutsu Kobo (Shoe Studio) is traditional Japanese style architecture. The front of the house is not so conspicuous that you might pass by, but the house is 50 years old and inside you can also see an old large beam supporting the roof.

The owner of the studio, Mr. Masaji Noguchi who used to be a public officer became a shoe maker and started teaching shoes making. They are very popular among those who want to wear their own shoes, especially women. His career of a shoe maker began with a small piece of an article in magazine which he happened to see. At that time, he was looking for some other work which will satisfy him life-long.

The present studio is the second one since he had opened his first studio in Chigasaki in 2001. Recently the classes are full. So, it might take some time to join class but you must be able to make shoes of your own style as you desire.

Entrance Fee ¥10,000, Monthly Fee ¥10,000, material costs may range from ¥6,000~¥10,000

NOGUCHI Shoes Studio "Lobby Chigasaki"

Address: 1-11-15, Tomoe, Chigasaki

Tel/Fax: 0467-88-6967 E-mail: info@nogutsu.com

URL: <http://www.nogutsu.com/>



Subsidy for Child-seat Purchaser

The city is offering a rebate for child seats equipped in cars for children under 6 years of age, and those who purchased child-seats are given partial rebate though it is necessary to apply within one year after the purchase. To equip child-seat is regulated by the law.

The object: Those who purchased a new child-seat for a second baby and satisfy the following conditions: (1) The one who has his/her address in the city at the time of purchase. (2) The one who supports more than two children.

The amount: The city will subsidize 50% of the amount paid although the amount is maximized at ¥5,000 for a second baby and up to ¥10,000 for a third baby on, though only one rebate is allowed for the same baby.

The application requires you to attach (1) Application form filled in (available at the Child Section of City Hall), (2) The original receipt (which clearly shows the day of purchase, the amount, and the commodity name), (3) A copy of quality guarantee card, (4) A copy of the car inspection certificate, and (5) The bank deposit note of the applicant (excepting the post-office savings note).

In the case of new car purchases with a child-seat already equipped or if there are any other questions, it is required to consult with the Child Section of City Hall.

A Good Little Thing

A reader's column

One of our readers contributed the following story.

ちよっと
い話

My wife and I went to a local city in Chiba Prefecture last year to see my son's family. His home was in Tokyo but he moved to Chiba recently so our visit was the first one.

Since it was a weekday, we had a fairly large case filled with gifts for his first daughter, and the departure time of our train was during rush hour, so we bought green car tickets. We didn't want to stand a long time holding the luggage.

When we were waiting for our train, I tried to confirm if I had all the tickets; six in all as we had bought return tickets too. But, I found there was a ticket missing.

I checked all the pockets of my coat, jacket, etc., but couldn't find it, so I went back toward the entrance gate area assuming the ticket might have dropped somewhere. No ticket was seen on the floor, so I gave up and thought it would be OK if I explain the situation to a conductor.

The green car was full, we couldn't get seats, and had kept standing until we got to Totsuka Station. Even so, we needed to show a lady conductor all the tickets including green car and common fare tickets. Needless to say, I needed to explain I had missed a ticket somewhere. She politely responded for us to explain about it at the final station.

At Totsuka we needed to change trains in order to get to Chiba directly. We got on a green car again and I had the same conversation with another conductor. She was also agreeable. Then we needed to change trains again at Chiba to get on a local line to get to our final destination. Naturally we were asked to show if we have right tickets. This way, we had the same conversation three times repeatedly. We couldn't help doing it because to our final destination there is no line to go direct from Chigasaki Station.

After we arrived at the final destination, we went directly to a window and tried to explain to the man in charge that we lost one of our tickets. The response given to us soon was, "Well, we got a phone call from Chigasaki Station earlier and we know you had bought the ticket. So you may go through here all right."

Presumably, somebody picked that ticket up somewhere and brought it to a window at Chigasaki Station.

When I got back to Chigasaki Station in the early p.m., I went to a window and expressed my sincere thanks to the staff, leaving a little thank you note. That's the only thing I could do and wanted to show my appreciation somehow.

The day's experience was really a good surprise, and it was the most pleasant trip I had in my long life.

TIPS

The following website may be useful.

●Back Issues of Chigasaki Breeze

http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/newsection/bunsui/chigasaki_breeze/inc.ex.html

●Train Route Finder (English)

<http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/>

●The Kanagawa Prefectural Government Homepage

<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/osirase/kokusai/tagengo.htm>

Point and Shoot Your Way to A Full Belly on Chigasaki's Rifle Street

By Lisa Reid Cameron "Pari Pari" Drawing by Giles Mitchel

A few years ago, a friend and I traveled through Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Having very little Russian vocabulary we developed a sure-fire method of ordering our meals. We called it "Point-and-Shoot" and it worked a little like this:

Step 1: Show menu to server

Step 2: Confidently point at several items from different sections.

Step 3: Nod with poise when the food is delivered as if to say "Yes. This is exactly what we wanted."

I acknowledge that the "Point-and-Shoot" method of ordering is not completely failsafe. It is possible to end up with a table full of very odd and unappetizing things. The method does, however, add a certain intrigue and thrill that just doesn't come with a menu you can actually read.

Have you ever stood outside the frosted glass of a restaurant in Japan, eyeing the flapping curtain for some hint as to what the specialty might be? There is no wax food in the display case; no forks dangling high above the mysteriously levitating spaghetti, there aren't even discoloured dumplings (which preferably don't come with the dust). Have you ever decided not to enter one of these restaurants because you were afraid you wouldn't be able to read the menu?

If this sounds familiar, I welcome you to try our "Point-and-Shoot" method of ordering, tested successfully in several countries. And for a limited time only, I am throwing in the bonus offer of this list of delightful restaurants where the dishes are so delectable, you are guaranteed an excellent meal regardless of where your finger falls on the menu.

As the method is called "Point-and-Shoot", I thought it would be appropriate to focus on some of my favourite eateries on Rifle Street (Teppo Dori). All of these places can be reached on the 2 or 13 buses leaving from the South Side of Chigasaki Station. (The bus stops are listed in brackets.)

Guru Guru ぐるぐる 11:30am-3pm 6pm-9:30pm closed Monday (look for the red spiral near Heiwacho)

Guru Guru is unique in that it has a menu including food from Ogasawara Island. The couple running the restaurant are very friendly and the food is very fresh, varied, and reasonably priced. You will come out feeling healthier than when you went in.

Bhojan 11:30am-2:30pm 6pm-9:30pm closed Monday and Tuesday (near Hamasuka Iriguchi across from the Chigasaki Animal Hospital)

With the red brick exterior, cobbled path, and the soft colour of the walls lit by the skylights, *Bhojan* had already enchanted me before I even sat down at a table. Specializing in Indian food, the menu at *Bhojan* is incredible. (And, not to be crass, but make sure you check out the washroom, especially the soap-dispenser.)

Manpuku Tei まんぷく亭 11:30am-2:30pm 5:30pm-9pm (near Matsugaoka 2-chome across from Matsumoto Kiyoshi)

This place is so popular it is often difficult to get a seat. Specializing in Chinese food *Manpuku Tei* has a thoroughly delicious menu. Entering my dreams at night are the incredible Pari Pari Gyoza, dumplings served with a soup base rather than in vinegar and soy sauce. They are crispy, juicy deliciousness and, if you haven't tried them, you must.



Kaito 海渡 11:30am-2pm 6pm-1:30am (1 min from Chuzaishomae)

This little pub is fantastic. The atmosphere is very cool and the food is varied and amazing. The udon here is wonderful, especially the Mekabu Udon.

Regardless of your Japanese ability, all of these eateries are sure to hit the mark! Simply point, shoot and enjoy! Happy Eating!

Consultation for Foreign Residents

BUNKA SUISHIN-KA section of the city hall will be receiving phone calls from foreign residents at any time, so either interview or consultation can be arranged based on the reservation. The timing depends on the availability of interpreters but the appointment will need a week or so to be arranged. Visitors should be able to consult not only in English but also in Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese. (Tel: 0467-82-1111 extension: 3309)

Medical Information Series IX Doctors Available for Consultation in English

Moriya Adults & Children Clinic (I.m, G, S, Pe, D, P)

Higashi-kaigan kita 3-10-14 Tel.86-5885,5834

Yano Shohnika Clinic (Pe)

Tokiwa-cho 7-47 Tel.82-8561

Ebihara Jibika (Tr, E)

Nango 2-14-5 Tel.82-8053

Ozawa Seikei-Geka (O)

Hamami-daira 17-13 Tel.82-5181

Kozue Shinryoh Clinic (Pc, Pm)

Hamami-daira 17-13 Tel.82-1838

Sakuma Clinic (I.m, C)

Nango 2-13-31 Tel.89-2810

Remark:

I.m=Internal medicine G = Gastrointestinal

S = Surgery Pe = Pediatrics D = Dermatology

P = Proctology Tr = Trachea

E = Ear (otolaryngology)

O = Orthopedic surgery Pc = Psychiatry clinic

Pm = Psychosomatic medicine

C = Circulatory organs clinic

Everyday Conversation IX

What do you say in such situations?

At Police

1. Kōban wa doko desu ka.

交番はどこですか。

(Where is police box?)

2. Suri ni aimashita.

すりにあいました。

(I had my pocket picked.)

Suri: Pickpocket

3. Kodomo ga inaku nari mashita.

子供がいなくなりました。

(My child is missing.)

4. Eigo ga dekiru bengoshi wo yonde kudasai.

英語ができる弁護士を呼んでください。

(I need an English-speaking lawyer.)

Bengoshi: Lawyer

5. Amerika Taishikan ni shirasete kudasai.

アメリカ大使館に知らせてください。

(Please advise the American Embassy.)

Japanese Proverbs with the English Equivalents

• *Korobanu saki no tsue*

ころばぬ さきの つえ

Look before you leap.

• *No aru taka wa tsume o kakusu*

のう ある たか は つめ を かくす

He who knows most speaks least.

• *Shitashiki. naka ni mo reigi ari.*

したしき なかにも れいぎ あり

Familiarity breeds contempt.

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) invites you to come and join our International Activities and Intercultural Events.