

# Chigasaki Breeze

*Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.*

## 2008 NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HATTORI

*In the New Year message, Mayor Nobuaki Hattori expressed that his administration will work hard to make the city so that citizens can take pride in living there as in the following:*

**“HAPPY NEW YEAR!”**

2007 was the 60th anniversary for the municipal organization, and a number of events and businesses commemorated this. Additionally, a cheerful baby was born as the 230,000th citizen. For the city, the population is expected to grow in the next 15 years, but because of the low birthrate and rapid aging taking place, it is expected to decrease thereafter.



The city's finances are anticipated to remain in a severe condition due to a decrease in the duty income and the rise of crude oil prices will put further negative pressure.

In the meantime, the civic concern is high in the enforcement of policies on welfare, the environment, education, etc., and we will make effort to promote the security of financial source by introducing simple and effective organization to revitalize the private sector. Thus, the current situation is severe but we will be steadily working towards a Chigasaki that can correspond to the new era.

This year again we will pursue five important measures under the Forth Enforcement Plan to realize a peaceful and safe city, upbringing of the next generation, creation of industrial vitalization, a healthy environment, and an environmentally-oriented city. Also, we will tackle specific projects such as the development of the area surrounding west exit side of Tsujido Station, and of the Kagawa and Hamamidaira districts. In addition, we will promote safety of public facilities and a program for the basic law of self-governance.

Finally, we will aim at a city where all the citizens can feel proud of living and will be working closely with citizens listening to their broad opinions. We hope to receive the cooperation and understanding of the citizens in Chigasaki.”

## HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE IN TOWN?

*A Bicycle is a light car if you ride.....*

We often take some important things for granted. Riding bicycles is one example, as it can be a lethal weapon depending on how you use it, and in fact the number of accidents is significantly large. Under the circumstances, the Conference of Autonomy points out and suggests the following rules for citizens to observe:

- (1) In pedestrian areas or pedestrian malls, walkers have priority at any time, not bicycle riders.
- (2) Do not use mobile phones while riding a bicycle.
- (3) Pay serious attention to aged persons and young children walking on the street.
- (4) At an intersection (a crossing), be sure to stop for a while to watch or confirm the flow of walkers and cars approaching either from the right or left.
- (5) A two-seater or to ride tandem, is dangerous.
- (6) Many bicycles are found to have no lights on after dark. Be sure to put a light on.
- (7) Do not cross where crossing is prohibited.
- (8) Do not ride bicycles side by side with your friends or family
- (9) At the stairs of an underpass, get off your bicycle and walk as you might slip and fall down.
- (10) When you get closer to walkers, slow down and pay close attention.

In regards to riding bicycles, there are such laws that give a (1) penalty up to 50,000 yen such as for riding with an umbrella or riding using mobile phone, (2) penalty up to 20,000 yen for blocking pedestrians, and (3) penalty up to 50,000 yen for riding without a light in the darkness, but these are not well observed. Yet a few court cases will tell us how serious it is to cause trouble by bicycle ride.

- (A) In August 1996, a decision made at the Osaka Local Court was for the one who caused the damage to other person to compensate about 2.1 million yen. The accident was caused by a rider holding an umbrella and ran into a walker causing injury.
- (B) In July 1996, a decision made at the Tokyo Local Court was for the person concerned to pay compensation of about 17.4 million yen. The person blocked the walker and caused serious injury.
- (C) In October 1996, the Osaka Local Court decision was about 25.8 million yen for the person who rode a mountain-bike and collided with a walker. The walker suffered after the accident.

They say that “the principal” of the traffic rules or to maintain good manners when riding is **YOU** and **I**.

## PLUM FESTIVAL & TEA CEREMONY AT *SHŌRAI-AN*

On February 11, a group of people in the Kaigan district (beach side) will hold a plum festival at *SHŌRAI-AN* where they serve you *Amazake* (a sweet drink made from fermented rice) free up to 2,200 people, and there will also be a tea ceremony (*CHA-KAI*) with a 300-yen fee.

*SHŌRAI-AN* is located at Takasuna Ryokuchi near the Municipal Library and it's well known as the place of many plum trees and flowers that bloom in the early spring. The tea ceremony is open to anybody who wishes to enjoy or try having tea in *tatami-mat* rooms. Why don't you enjoy the tea ceremony and viewing beautiful pink and white plum flowers?

In the meantime, there will also be flower arranging and a market where they display and sell pottery, glass ware, etc., and you will find many people enjoying the festival. (No car parking lot. If it rains, only the tea ceremony will be held.)

## THE LARGE PINE TREE ROW ON ROUTE No. 1

Near Chigasaki Senior High School on National Route No. 1, or the so-called *TŌKAIDO*, there are large pine trees in rows on both sides. They are the remains of black pine trees that originated from the Edo Period, some hundred years ago.

On the road, *Tokugawa Ieyasu* (the founder of the Edo Shogunate) founded the system of *Shukueki* (the place for travelers to take rest or lodge) in 1601, Keicho 6 year, in order to secure the transportation system between Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto.

Then in 1604, he ordered the building of *Ichirizuka* (marks of milestones) on the road and planted pine trees. The rows of pine trees created shade for travelers, and it was helpful to avoid the wind and rain. They were supported by the villages along the road and at the end of the Edo Period, there were 1,176 pine trees in this area. However, after the Meiji-ishin (the Restoration of 1868), this major walking road was replaced by rail, as the *TŌKAIDO LINE* was laid to meet the needs of industrial development.

Meanwhile, the construction of utility poles threatened the rows of pine trees. The Meiji Government soon laid the communication lines between Tokyo and Nagasaki in order to develop the communication system, but they were laid on the road. So the rows of pine trees, which had gotten in the way of the communication lines, were cut down. Also, the pine trees which had grown to be as old as several hundreds years were cut down each time the road was repaired or widened due to the increase in the number of automobiles. Nevertheless, when the Tokyo Olympic Games were held in 1964, there were about 1,000 pine trees on both sides of the 7,100 meters of *TŌKAIDO* in Chigasaki City.

At present, there are only 307 large black pine trees remaining in the city, and some citizens are deeply concerned about protecting them. And in fact, there are only few places remaining as far as the *TŌKAIDO* in Kanagawa Prefecture is concerned, and, therefore, it would be natural that people will want to keep them alive.

They are a precious historical legacy.

## IAC Activity



## JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR FOREIGNERS

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and Chigasaki City will jointly hold a Japanese Speech Contest for foreigners living mainly in the city on March 16 (Sun.), 2008. The contest is becoming popular among those who are interested in addressing what they think while living in these areas. The majority of speakers will be the ones who go to Japanese language classes opened by volunteer groups in the city including the IAC.

The sponsors will welcome foreigners who are interested in participating as a speaker, and they will be looking forward to receiving your contact either at the IAC or the Bunka Suishin-ka (Culture Promotion Section) of the city hall although there may be some time limit and conditions to be accepted.

To those who make a good and impressive speech, or show progress in speaking Japanese in a short period, some prizes as well as gifts will be presented in the name of the city mayor and the IAC.

## A WORLD TRAVELLER WILL TALK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE

On February 23 (Sat.), 2008, a man who has traveled to 60 countries since 2001 by riding his 650 cc *TRANSALPH* motorbike, will give a talk on the experiences he had during his travels and on the people he visited. He will refer to three main subjects; (1) *What is popular in Japan is not popular in other countries*, (2) *The distance between people and people differs in different countries*, and (3) *The Japanese will be required to have strength of heart*. His name is *Masaki Nishioka*, and he is now a teacher at a primary school in the city. The places he has visited so far include Australia, North America, Europe, North Africa, Scandinavia, India, and some Eurasian countries, etc., and the way he drives his *TRANSALPH* so to speak is to cross the earth vertically or horizontally in a trip for one month period.

He says he never felt in danger on his trip as long as he went where people were. He found that all the people were kind and cooperative regardless of the countries.

His address will be held at the AB conference room in the annex of City Hall, and young people especially are asked to attend to listen to his address.

For your further information, please contact the Bunka Suishin-ka of City Hall at 82-1111, or Hideo Yuge at 0467-82-8869.

## IAC Mission Statement

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

## SUPPORT OVERSEAS COUNTRIES BY RE-COLLECTING GARMENTS SOLD

*A garment supplier is trying to be friendly to the environment and help people in poverty .....*

In recent years, environmental issues are becoming a large concern and Al Gore's movie drew the attention of all the people in the world. In a word, global warming and its impact on the **ENVIRONMENT** is key reason. In fact each individual seems to be trying to do something to save the earth today. In Japan, the symbolic catch phrase is "REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE" as a concept of keeping up the need to stay safe environmentally.

Now, this is to introduce that one garment supplier is trying to re-collect the garments they sold under the name of "Thank You Recycling" campaign. In short, they accept clothing at their stores directly from customers and they are sorted into garments for reuse and for recycling. The clothes that can still be worn are distributed to developing countries through the Japan Relief Clothing Center, UNHCR et al, and clothing that is not suitable for reuse is recycled into fiber, or used to make thermal insulation, thick work gloves, cotton rags, etc. Otherwise they are recycled into power-generating fuel.

The supplier is **UNIQLO** and they will be accepting used garments in March and September 2008 if customers bring them directly to the store. There are some conditions for the quality of used garments to be brought back, but anyway they say they were able to collect 140,000 items during a one-month campaign back in September 2006 of which 90% was donated to refugee camps.

The recent news on **UNIQLO** was that they are trying to expand their branch stores in Europe and other countries. For your reference "Thank You" can be read three (san) and nine (kyu) in Japanese and that's the reason why they do this collecting job in March and September.

It's getting close now!

## People In Town

### **DENNIS ORINA**



*I hope to work with the Kenyan government, International organizations like the UN and with Non Governmental Organizations in the future .....*

**Dennis Orina** was born in **Kisii, Kenya**, but he moved to France for his studies in 2002 and came to Japan from France in October, 2007. He goes to Yokohama National University as an exchange student as it was the only university that had an agreement with his home university in France, the University of Paris. Right now, he is living in Minesawa International Student Dormitory, Yokohama, and he is preparing for his masters degree in International Relations.

He speaks five different languages and he likes reading, traveling, playing tennis, meeting new people and making friends. In fact he seemed to have many friends already from all over the world in Japan including Japanese.

It's been only four months since he came to Yokohama but he has found something he had not experienced deeply in the many countries he had visited, and said Japanese people are very courteous and the Japanese family structure is something he really appreciates, the fact that families live together taking good care of their aged parents.

So far he has visited Tokyo, Odawara Castle, Kamakura, and Tsujido, and he is scheduled to return home at the end of August 2008. After he returns, he hopes to work with the Kenyan Government, International Organizations like the UN, and with Non Governmental Organizations. His major interests are sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as mediation and conflict resolution

When we met **Dennis Orina** for the interview for the first time, he was teaching English to five Japanese students at the English café in Tsujido, and he seemed to be very kind in the way he teaches.

We sincerely hope that he will enjoy staying in Japan for the remaining period and study hard so that he gets his masters degree and realize his future dreams.

## **EXHIBITION OF TARO OKAMOTO AT THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM**

The Chigasaki Municipal Museum is now exhibiting the works of the famous artist, **TARO OKAMOTO** together with the primitive art of *Jōmon* and *Yayoi* period excavated from the Shōnan and the neighboring areas. When **TARO OKAMOTO** had stayed in France with his parents, he saw the art of **Picasso** and he was much influenced by the art, reportedly.

The exhibition will be open until March 9, 2008, excluding all Mondays except February 11.

Entrance fee is 300 yen, but the fee for those aged over 65 years and under high school students is free.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

*A Lot of erosion is occurring at Chigasaki Beach.....*

Readers will know that Chigasaki Beach is known as the beach where green pine trees have grown alongside the beach line in contrast with the white sand, while you can enjoy beautiful scenery including Mt. Fuji, Enoshima Island, and even Bōsō Peninsula and Ōshima Island on fine days.

The environmental issue there is the erosion of the beach which is said to have lost 50 meters in the last 50 years. Historically, the sand that flowed into Sagami Bay from upstream of the Sagami River had built the beach, but dams constructed in 1960's up on the hill side are said to have stopped the accumulation of the sand. Also the concrete protection work for the bank made at the time of Tokyo Olympic games held in 1964 has been said to be another reason. Right now, a number of trucks carry down the sand from these dams to the beach to fill the eroded area, but it isn't enough to recover the old beach and its beautiful bay shape anymore.

According to Mr. Takahashi who has been observing the beach for half a century and loves the beach so much says it has drastically changed since 1964.

## Have You Received Notification for Entering Elementary School or Junior High School?

Regardless of nationality, children who are six or twelve years of age as of April 2 can enter public elementary school or junior high school respectively as new students starting from April, if they so desire. Please make sure if you have received the notification from your local municipal office.

### Inquiries in Japanese to:

Your local municipal section in charge of school entrance  
Child Education Support Division, Education Bureau, K.P.  
Board of Education  
Tel: 045-210-8084

## Educational Subsidy Available for Those Attending Special Support School (School for the Blind, the Deaf, and Children with Disabilities)

The special-needs education schooling subsidy is provided to parents or guardians to reduce the economic burden for sending their children to a special support school. The subsidy financed by the national and the prefectural government covers part of the expenses necessary for schooling.

● Eligible persons: Parents or guardians of preschoolers, pupils, and students who attend prefectural, municipal, or private special support schools (schools for the blind, the deaf, and children with disabilities)

● Categories of the expenses to be covered: Expenses for textbooks, school lunches, transportation, dormitories, excursions, school things, and items necessary for commuting

● Amount of subsidy: The categories of the expenses to be covered and the subsidy rate are different depending on the division of the school being attended, the income of the family, etc.

● Application: Submit the necessary documents to the school being attended.

### Inquiries in Japanese to:

Office of the school being attended  
Child Education Support Division, Education Bureau, K.P.  
Board of Education  
Tel: 045-210-8217

(Source: Hello Kanagawa)

### Confucious says ....

"A man lives straight and honest. If a man survives without honesty, he is lucky to escape punishment. If a man is untrustworthy, I do not know how he can find out his possibility and capability as a human being."

## Something special in Chigasaki

### Woolen Spinning & Weaving Company

茅ヶ崎紡織

You would probably be surprised if you knew that a company in Chigasaki makes products like woolen yarn. In other words, the products made in Chigasaki are not necessarily only sea products, fresh vegetables, and meat.

In Hagisono located close to Hiratsuka City over Sagami River, there is a spinning factory; *Chigasaki Woolen Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.* The factory began its operation in 1948 and now it is the only one in the Kanto area, and it is said that a factory such as this having both of office and factory together in the same site is very rare. The founder Mr. *Ukai*, the grandfather of the current president, decided to locate his factory here in Chigasaki for two reasons. One is there was enough land in those days, and another is the weather in Chigasaki was almost the same as in Australia where the material for the yarn, wool, is gathered, stocked and processed. For this factory, natural materials such as angora, cashmere, and wool are first gathered in Australia and China, and then dyed in Osaka to be made into two kinds of knitting yarn.

If you have interests in seeing precious 50-year-old spinning machines and this process, why don't you visit their open house? These machines particularly are worth seeing and they kindly offer this service for free. You can also watch the video that explains the factory and shows actual machines in operation. If you want, they will offer you samples of yarn too!

### Open House

Season: From around April to September

Day and time: Monday through Friday (10:00~ and 14:00)

The whole tour takes 1.5 hours to 2 hours)

Note:

It is required to call them in advance.

Please visit the factory with appropriately safe shoes.

Since the machines are dangerous, only children from 13 years old are accepted.

Chigasaki Woolen Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.

Address: 2650 Hagisono, Chigasaki, 253-0071

Tel: 0467-86-3221

## Japanese Proverbs with the English Equivalents

● 貧乏 暇 なし Poor people have no leisure.  
(Binbo hima nashi)

◆ There is no rest for the weary.

● 身から 出た 錆 Rust comes from within the body.

(Mi kara deta sabi)

◆ As you make your bed, so you must lie in it.

*The Chigasaki Breeze* has been issued by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC). If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to the International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to send e-mail to [shimadayut@jcom.home.ne.jp] Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada. Editing staff: Riko Arimura, Yoshiyasu Itoh, Satomi Furube, Seiji Nakane, Mayumi Okuyama, Daiki Kuroiwa, Ayako Sakai, Yukiko Wada, and Hideo Yuge.