

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0020

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR NOBUAKI HATTORI

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Having a new spring of the year 2009, let me trust that you had the New Year in good health and spirit.

Concerning the municipal administration management, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your support in many areas.

Last year, a number of people who have close relationships with Chigasaki demonstrated very valuable activities in various fields. To show our appreciation, we sent Citizens' badges of honor to those people. They are astronauts *Soichi Noguchi* and *Takao Doi*, a female softball player at the Beijing Olympics *Masumi Mishina*, and *Masahiro Yamamoto* who achieved 200 victories in the professional baseball field. Moreover, there were many other people who took an active part in the fields of other sports and culture activities in Japan and in the world.

The fifth execution plan starts.

This year, the fifth execution plan starts out of the new comprehensive basic plan of Chigasaki for the latter term, and it will become an important year. We will succeed to place emphasis on the measures given and proceed forward

based on the policy. The district-based maintenance business around Kagawa and Hamamidaira districts, and Tsujido Station west exit area will be promoted as a measure of emphasis.

Plan-making for the next ten years

Since the present comprehensive plan will come to an end by the end of the fiscal year 2010, we are promoting the decision works for a comprehensive plan for the next term.

Changes in the social environment, the deteriorating financial status due to the economic recession accompanied by the deteriorating world economy, and the countermeasures to a decreasing population will become our subjects to pursue from now on. It has also been required to revitalize and make the management of internal administrative organizations and regions attractive.

We will indicate the direction of town-making so as to be able to correspond to the requirements of a new era and the administrative management of the city, and with the cooperative relationship with citizens, we will promote our idea of plan-making.

We will be looking forward to receiving the understanding and corporation from all of the citizens, and wish all of the citizens in Chigasaki a wonderful year and all the happiness throughout the year 2009.



THE NEW YEAR

sho gatsu
正月

Akemashite Omedeto-gozaïmasu!

Shogatsu means January, but it's more than the first month of a new year for the Japanese as it has a ritualistic background to the extent that millions of people visit shrines in the month to pray for their happiness in the year. Also, it's the most important time for families and relatives to get together and celebrate the coming of the New Year. You will hear the words "*Akemashite Omedeto-gozaïmasu*" in Japanese at homes and on the street especially on the first day of the New Year; *gantan*. The greetings can be heard until January 15.

People celebrate the New Year by giving children a present called *otoshidama* (some amount of money in a bag) while people drink *otoso* (spiced Sake), and eat *ozōni* (vegetable and rice cake soup) for the breakfast plus a side dish called *osechi-ryori*, the special New Year dishes. They are cooked in advance to be preserved for at least three days of the New Year holidays so it allows housewives to take a rest from their duty during the period.

The content of the dishes varies from place to place, but in this area cooked black beans (*kuromame*), herring roe (*kazunoko*), and dried small fish (*gomame*) are always included in the *osechi-ryori* due to their particular significance. The black beans symbolize diligence, because the words bean and diligence are homonyms in Japanese as in *mame*. The herring roe signify the prosperity of the offspring, while the *gomame* fish indicate the harvest. Others included in *osechi-ryori* are sea bream (*Tai*), kombu [tangle] roll (*kobumaki*), etc. Sea bream (*tai*) has a sound of being auspicious, yellowtail (*buri*) symbolizes success because its name changes many times as they grow, and shrimp (*ebi*) reflects longevity because of its shape. Also, there are sweet foods called *datemaki* using egg, *kurikinton* using chestnut, etc., and their golden color is meant to reflect money making.

Thus, *osechi-ryori* is almost a 'must' for the Japanese to have in the *shogatsu* to make lives safe and comfort during the year.



HAND-MADE JAPANESE KITE

Flying a kite in the high sky is a typical children's game especially during the New Year days. In the city, there is a free class teaching elementary school children how to make a kite by hand.

Why don't you let your children try making and flying a Japanese kite? It's a good opportunity for your children as they could spend a wonderful time together with other participants gathering to make kites. The details of this kite class are as in the following:

Place: Nango Kominkan at 86-4355 **Date and Time:** January 17, at 9:30 ~ 12:00

Accommodation of elementary school boys and girls: up to 20

Application: By January 8, 2009



2009 National Holidays

1/1 (Thu) New Year's Day
 1/12 (Mon) Coming-of-Age Day
 2/11 (Wed) National Foundation Day
 3/20 (Fri) Spring Equinox Day
 4/29 (Wed) The Day of Showa
 5/3 (Sun) Constitution Day
 5/4 (Mon) Green Day
 5/5 (Tue) Children's Day
 5/6 (Wed) Substitute holiday
 7/20 (Mon) Marine Day
 9/21 (Mon) Respect-for-the-Aged Day
 9/22 (Tue) National Day
 9/23 (Wed) Autumn Equinox Day
 10/12 (Mon) Sports Day
 11/3 (Tue) Culture Day
 11/23 (Mon) Labor Thanksgiving Day
 12/23 (Wed) The Emperor's Birthday

Consultation for Foreign Residents

BUNKA SUIISHIN-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 ext. 3301)



A number of people are trying to get on pleasure boats which cruise between Chigasaki fishing port and Eboshi-iwa rocks about 1,800 meters off the shore of Sagami Bay taking about 40 minutes to go around. On a fine day, you could look over beautiful Mt. Fuji.

DECLARATION OF FINAL INCOME TAX RETURNS

Declaration of Final income tax returns

The time during February 16 (Mon) ~ March 16 (Mon) is the time for your final income tax returns. The person who does the refund declaration can submit the final tax return form to the tax office in January.

◆How to obtain the declaration form.

Fujisawa Tax Office is delivering the form at present.

City Resident's Tax Section, Koide Branch Office, and City Resident's Gallery will deliver the form after January 26 (Mon).

◆Acceptance at Fujisawa tax office

Day and time: Monday through Friday during February 16 ~ March 16, February 22 (Sun), and March 1 (Sun) from 9:00~17:00

Note: The parking lot is closed until the middle of April.

◆Acceptance at Chigasaki city hall

Day and time: February 16 ~ March 16 From Monday through Friday

At 8:00~ 11:30 • 13:00~16:30

Place: City hall lobby

Eligible people: Pensioners and salaried employee's expecting refunds

[Fujisawa Tax Office Tel: 0466-22-2141]

BRIEFING FOR NEW STUDYING CHILDREN AND STUDENT'S GUARDIANS

A briefing will be held for new studying children/student's guardians in fiscal 2009.

Please bring slippers, writing tools and winter clothes.

Please refrain from coming by car.

[Each school • School Affairs Section]

SUBSIDY FOR FIRE ALARM PURCHASERS

Save your life! Let's all install a fire alarm!

The Firefighting Law recently made it compulsory for all houses to install a fire alarm by May 31, 2011. The reason of the law is a number of fatal accidents by fire increasing just because of a little delay or failure to rapidly escape from fire. A fire alarm has a sensor to catch heat and smoke and then make a sound, and it takes effect at the time of emergency. In other words, if you know an outbreak of fire a few seconds earlier, you could save you and your family's life. To be in that situation, the installment of a fire alarm in the house is important and inevitable. If a fire alarm were there, the failure would have been avoided.

A fire alarm can be purchased from around ¥5,000 ~ ¥10,000 at the so-called Home Center or at stores where they sell general household appliances. And the suggestion is to choose a fire alarm with the "NS mark". If you purchase this, the city subsidizes one third of the cost or up to ¥5,000. City Hall is trying to make Chigasaki **the City of Safety and Comfort**, and this is the whole idea of the subsidy for you to install fire alarms.

Whoever is interested, please contact the Anti-Disaster section of the firefighting headquarters.

HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

THE YANAGISHIMA HACHIMANGU SHRINE

The *Yanagishima Hachimangu Shrine*, a historic heritage site of Chigasaki, is located at Yanagishima 2-3-10, Chigasaki, in the south-western part of the city, and it's very close to the Koide river.

On September 1, 1923 (Taisho year 12), there occurred the Great Kanto Earthquake of which the seismic center was off Sagami Bay, and the earthquake caused a great deal of damage to this area. At that time, the population of the town of Chigasaki was about 20,000 versus the present 230,000, and not only common houses but also the buildings of facilities/institutions such as the town hall and elementary schools suffered damage. The number of houses damaged totaled 4,474, and of which the completely destroyed houses counted 2,112. There were 156 victims and 61 persons were seriously injured.

In relation with this earthquake disaster, there are 9 shrines in the city that have the monument or the steeple of memorial for the victims. They include the Mishima Shrine (Hagisono) and the Kaizenji Shrine (Chigasaki district), but the area which had the most extensive damage was the Yanagishima area. At that time, the number of households in Yanagishima was 161, and all houses were destroyed except for three.

The *Yanagishima Hachimangu Shrine* had been reconstructed in 1840 (Tempo year 11), and the shrine was given the cordial faith by the people of the area as Yanagishima Sohchinju (the head shrine to protect the Yanagishima area). The shrine's main building was proud and of a splendid appearance due to a number of restoration projects done afterwards. But at the *Yanagishima Hachimangu Shrine*, not only the main building but also the whole building were destroyed and the *Torii* (the gateway at the entrance to the shrine) was broken into pieces due to severe shakes by the Great Kanto Earthquake. The chief of the Ward, S. Katano, decided to reconstruct the shrine and the *Torii* working together with representatives of the town.

The existing *Torii* in front of the shrine was newly built in September, 1926 (Taisho year 15) with the efforts of the local people under the protection of a deity, and at the same time, there are 6 pieces of stone *Torii*, large and small, covered by Zelkova trees, which were broken down by the earthquake but were fixed and preserved jutting out of a concrete pedestal.



IAC ACTIVITY

JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST BY FOREIGNERS



The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and Chigasaki City will jointly hold a Japanese Speech Contest by foreigners on March 22 (Sun.), 2009 at the Community Hall, the 6th floor of Bunchosha; the city hall annex. The time is from 13:30 through 16:00. Speakers don't have to be living in Chigasaki but those who are learning Japanese will be prioritized. The contest is becoming popular among those who are interested in addressing what they think of living in these areas. The majority of speakers actually are going to Japanese language classes opened by volunteer groups in the city including the IAC's two classes.

The sponsors will welcome foreigners who are interested and qualified 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 of time, some prizes as well as gifts will be presented in the name of the city mayor and the IAC. More details will be made available in the next issue.

A WORLD TRAVELER WILL TALK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE

On February 1 (Sun.), 2009, a senior teacher at Tsurugadai junior-high school Mr. Kimiya Takebe will give an address on his experiences he had during his travels and on the people he met. He traveled to 40 countries through Africa and Asia and also participated in the activity of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The place of his address is the AB conference room in the city hall annex. His address will interest young people in particular.

This program is arranged jointly by the IAC and the city and the purpose is for international understanding and awareness. For your further information, please contact the Bunka Suishin-ka of the city hall at 82-1111.

“IRISH NIGHT” LECTURE CONCERT WENT SUCCESSFULLY

The Lecture Concert of fiddler *Kana Otake*, held on November 30, at the Labor Citizen Hall, gathered almost 100 people and the room on its 6th floor was fully occupied by people who enjoyed listening to her fiddle playing and lecture. The audience also enjoyed dancing Irish dance altogether hand in hand following *Kana Otake's* gestures. Also, her lecture on Ireland, Scotland, and Bretagne in France, impressed all the people so much.



AUSTRALIAN UNIV. STUDENTS RETURNED HOME WITH GOOD MEMORIES OF CHIGASAKI

It was only three nights for 10 students from Australia to stay at host families in Chigasaki, but they returned home with good memories of Chigasaki and that we learned at the welcome/Sayonara party held by the IAC on November 28 at the Civic Culture Hall. They came from various cities as such as Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, etc. and the schedule was fairly tight, but they went through all the programs prepared including how to wear kimono, how to drink green tea, etc., while visiting *Hamasuka* junior high school and having an exchange with the students.



PEOPLE IN TOWN

Parinaz Hirokawa from Iran

Parinaz came to Japan from Tehran, Iran in June 2007, first to Utsunomiya, Tochigi prefecture, and then to Mutsuai, Fujisawa, in April 2008. She is not living in Chigasaki now but visits the city every Thursday to learn Japanese at the IAC's



free Japanese class being held at the citizen's gallery NESPA (City Resident's Center) near Chigasaki station. It's been only a year and half since she came to Japan, but she dropped by Thailand in 2006 and had a chance to get acquainted with the Japanese. She is now 25 years-old and is 170cm tall, which is roughly 5cm taller than the average height of Iranian ladies. For the people in Iran, age has a meaning in that it tells everything about the person, and she takes it positively to tell her age to whoever she meets. She was born in Babol but moved to Tehran 7 years later. She went to Azad University in Tehran to major in nursing, but came to Japan before graduation. She can read *katakana* and *hiragana*, but she hasn't been able to speak Japanese fluently as yet.

Now, the reason for her coming to Japan was her marriage with a young Japanese man. She met him at an International Exhibition held in Tehran where he, Mr. T. Hirokawa, was working as a Persian translator for a major Japanese company at that time. They say their wedding ceremony in Tehran was something like a home party, but they are intending to have a formal ceremony in Japan when the time comes.

While learning Japanese conversation at the class, she recognizes the kindness of Japanese teachers who voluntarily teach Japanese language free for a number of foreign students. She has been so impressed and she thinks she'd like to develop this sort of activity in Iran in the future. *Parinaz* says there is no such custom in her country because people in Iran have large families and so many relatives, and they have many things to take care of or to help each other.

Personally, she likes dancing as it's typical to people in Iran, and in Japan she enjoys Karaoke with her husband. She likes to sing pop songs. So far she has been to Fukuoka in Kyushu, and Nikko, but in so far as the city is concerned, her impression is the cities have been kept cleaner and more systematic than those in Iran.

Parinaz has made some friends already, but most of them are people from countries such as Indonesia, Taiwan, the Philippines, etc. They are attending the same Japanese class, while she says it's a little bit difficult to find Japanese friends in her neighborhood. Needless to say, the Japanese teachers are her good friends. What was funny to her was that a fairly old man whom she saw at the platform of Fujisawa station was using a game machine and he looked like he was enjoying the game so much.

In so far as food is concerned, she likes sushi, especially *toro*, a part of oily tuna fish, and *Okonomiyaki*, but somehow she doesn't care for *Oden* which is popular among the Japanese.

In Iran, the New Year holiday starts on March 21 and ends 13 days later. They have a custom of giving New Year's gifts or *EIDI* to children, just like *otoshidama* in Japan, and the first, tenth and the last day are very important days for celebrating the New Year.

Parinaz finds Japanese people to be polite, kind and friendly, and she feels comfortable living in Japan, but she is very much expecting to be able to work as a model some day. (H. Y.)

“CHIGASAKI-KAN” WILL BECOME A REGISTERED CULTURAL PROPERTY



On December 12, the National Cultural Council sent a report to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to list a long-established Japanese style inn or *ryokan* *Chigasaki-kan* located in Nakakaigan as a registered cultural property. *Chigasaki-kan* is well known as a *ryokan* where a world-famous film director *Yasujiro Ozu* regularly stayed for a long time.

Chigasaki-kan was built on a hill overlooking Shonan Coast in 1899, and its four wooden buildings built at the end of the Taisho period (1912~1926) were registered at this time. Its special design work, the so-called *SUKIYAZUKURI*, characterizes the *ryokan* and it symbolizes the city of Chigasaki which had developed into a villa ground or a health resort after a Kabuki actor *Danjuro Ichikawa* built his villa here in 1898.

Yasujiro Ozu stayed at *Chigasaki-kan* from fall to winter every year for more than 10 years to work out his scenarios using a room facing the beautiful garden. His masterpiece includes "Late Spring", "The Spring in the Barley Harvest Season", and "Tokyo Story", and even today many domestic and foreign fans visit this *ryokan* in memory of the director *Ozu*.

The owner's son *Hiroaki Mori* says that he wants the value of *Chigasaki-kan* to appeal to the younger generation, adding that he will try to keep those buildings as a precious historical property.

FROM "HELLO KANAGAWA"

2009 Application for Special Allotment of Admission to Kanagawa's Public High Schools for Foreign Residents

●**Eligible applicants:** Persons who satisfy the following conditions:

① Persons who live in Kanagawa Prefecture with their guardians, are expected to graduate (or have graduated) from junior high school, and will be 15 years of age or older as of April 1, 2009.

② Those who have foreign nationality, or will have acquired Japanese nationality within the past three years as of February 1, 2009, and will have been in Japan for three years or less in total as of February 1, 2009.

* If a person has graduated from a junior high school overseas, he/she must obtain the approval for eligibility in advance.

●**Schools to accept applications:** Prefectural Tsurumi Sōgō High School, Prefectural Kanagawa Sōgō High School, Prefectural Hiratsuka Shofū High School, Prefectural Hashimoto High School, Prefectural Arima High School, Prefectural Zama Sōgō High School, Prefectural Aikawa High School, and, Yokohama Commercial High School

●**Schedule:** Application days, Feb. 6 and 9, '09; days for changing school to apply Feb. 12 and 13, '09; screening, Feb. 19 and 20, '09; announcement of screening results, Feb. 27, '09.

* In addition to the above, the applicants who satisfy the specified conditions can receive special consideration at the time of the ordinary entrance exam; for example, extension of the exam time and addition of *hiragana* to *kanji*.

[Inquiries in Japanese]

High School Education Planning Unit, Education Bureau, K.P. Board of Education Tel: 045-210-8084

Information on the Minimum Wage

As of October 25, 2008, the minimum wage per hour in Kanagawa Prefecture was raised to ¥766 (¥30 increase from that of last year).

This minimum wage is applied to all workers employed in Kanagawa Prefecture, including regular, temporary and part-time workers. Employers must pay at least this minimum wage.

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Wage Div., Kanagawa Labor Bureau Tel: 045-211-7354 or Labor Affairs and Welfare Division, K.P.G., Tel: 045-210-5739

Administrative Information

NAME STAMP REGISTRATION

In Japan, a name stamp (*inkan*) is generally used on documents instead of a signature. If someone has various name stamps, the imprint of the one that is used for official documents should be registered at the city office. Attaching a name stamp registration certificate issued by the City Office to documents certifies the authenticity of the name stamp.

●APPLICATION FOR NAME STAMP REGISTRATION

Anyone 15 years of age or older who has completed resident registration or foreign resident registration in Chigasaki City is eligible to register a name stamp. Please bring the name stamp to be registered and some form of personal identification, such as your foreign resident registration card, and complete the appropriate application procedures in person. You will be issued a name stamp registration card (plastic card). There is no handling fee for the registration process.

As a rule, name stamps that can be registered must show the name that is on the foreign resident registration card. The name stamp to be registered must be between 8-mm square and 25-mm square. Name stamps that are mass produced by machine may not be registered.

Inquiry: Residents' Section (Shimin-ka)

●ISSUANCE OF A NAME STAMP REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

To apply for a name stamp registration certificate, you must submit your name stamp registration card (plastic card). You do not need to bring the name stamp itself. The fee for the certificate is ¥300 per copy.

Inquiry: Residents' Section (Shimin-ka)

Source: Guidebook for Foreign Residents in Chigasaki City.

WELCOME FUROSHIKI

A community service provided by Oak Associates

Are you a new foreign resident in Japan?
Would you like to know more about a wealth of services available in Japan?

Welcome Furoshiki is a free, nonprofit welcoming service. One of our trained representatives will visit you, providing a wide range of useful information for foreigners new to life in Japan.

To arrange a visit for more information call:
(03) 5472-7074 (Tokyo, Yokohama and Shonan areas)

Homepage: <http://www.welcomefuroshiki.org>

JAPANESE PROVERBS AND THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

●畑から蛤はとれぬ

HATAKE KARA HAMAGURI WA TORENU

(You can't catch clams from the field.)

You can't get blood from a stone.

●塵も積もれば山となる

CHIRI MO TSUMOREBA YAMA TO NARU

(Even a small amount of dust makes a mountain if accumulated.)

Great oaks from little acorns grow.

●昔とった杵柄

MUKASHI TOTTA KINEZUKA

(The pestle's hilt got in the past.)

You never forget your own trade.

●珍客も長座に過ぎれば厭わる

CHINKYAKU MO CHOZA NI SUGIREBA ITOWARU

(A welcome guest little expected who would stay longer is disliked.)

Fish and visitors stink in three days.

●歳月人を待たず

SAIGETSU HITO WO MATAZU

(Time won't wait for your growth, so you'd better give every spare moment to studying now.)

Time and tide wait for no man.



The foundation of the Peace (left) was built in 2007 replacing the cenotaph built in 1967(right).

The foundation symbolizes Chigasaki city's desire for an eternal peace all over the world.

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) invites you to come and join our International Activities and Intercultural Events. Whoever is interested, please send email to Y. Shimada: shimadayut@jcom.home.ne.jp

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.

Chigasaki Breeze has been issued jointly by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and Chigasaki City since July 1, 2008. If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to the International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishin-ka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email us at: shimadayut@jcom.home.ne.jp Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada. Editing staff: Yoshiyasu Itoh, Seiji Nakane, Daiki Kuroiwa, Ayako Sakai, Yukiko Wada, Hideo Yuge, and Claig Gaunt.

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