

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0024

OPEN FORUM PLANNED BY THE CITY

しみんとうぎかい
市民討議会

How to make this city better for people to live in comfort and security?

In order to incorporate the wider voice of ordinary citizens on municipal administrative decision making in the future, the City is planning to hold an open forum or “Citizens Discussion Meeting”. This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, October 31, and throughout the day on Sunday, November 1, at the Community Hall in the City Hall annex. The motivation for this is the changes that have recently been taking place in social circumstances and the developments in the decentralization of government. This is the first attempt by the city and they are eagerly awaiting citizens’ participation.

In the past, there have been no opportunities for ordinary people to directly or indirectly participate in the administrative processes and the City has come to consider it necessary to create such opportunities or citizens to express their opinions to their local government.

This forum was devised by the Shōnan Research Institute, Bunkyo University and the Youth Chamber Commerce of Chigasaki in collaboration with the City. To put this plan into action, in September the City is going to send out letters of invitation to a random selection of 800 citizens. From among those who agree to participate, a final number of 30 people will be selected by the drawing of lots. It is expected that the participants will freely exchange their views, expectations and opinions and that the results of these discussions will be taken into consideration in the City’s policy making in the future.

THE CITY WILL SUPPORT YOUR BABY CARE

“Konnichiwa Akachan” VISIT

あか
赤ちゃん ほうもん
訪問

Chigasaki City has started to carry out a baby care program where a midwife, a health nurse, or a childcare specialist will visit all families with young babies under 4 months old. The visit will be made with prior notice based on the notification of birth and the basic residents register. It is free of charge so you don’t need to pay.

The City appreciates that mothers who are taking care of babies of this age may have a difficult time due to challenges to a mother’s mental and physical health created by demands such as breast-feeding. If you visit the Health Section (Kenkōzukuri-ka), you can consult with them on general issues including breast-feeding, weight measurement and so forth.

They will support you in many ways, so feel free to go ahead with a consultation to help solve any problems or concerns you may have about any aspect of taking care of your baby.

Inquiry: Health Section (Kenkōzukuri-ka)

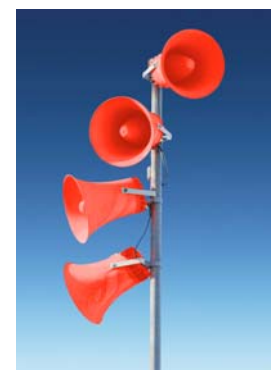
J-ALERT SYSTEM FOR DISASTERS

さいがいけいほうおん
災害警報音

From this August, Chigasaki City has begun a policy of broadcasting the nationwide instant alerts when disasters are anticipated or already occurring. It is called the J-ALERT system. Its purpose is to let people know of any imminent or occurring emergency situation by sounding an alarm so they can quickly take action to protect themselves.

The following is a list of the different kinds of sounds that signify each emergency. You can listen to them on the City’s homepage:

- Urgent Earthquake Flash: “chiro-rin, chiro-rin” (The sound of chimes.)
- Tsunami Alert (Large tsunami):
Siren - The siren sounds for 3 seconds, stops for 2 seconds, repeated three times.
- Tsunami Alert:
Siren - The siren sounds for 5 seconds, stops for 6 seconds, repeated three times.
- To draw attention to a Tsunami Warning:
Siren - The siren sounds for 10 seconds, stops for 2 seconds, repeated twice.
- TOKAI Earthquake prediction news: “pin-pon-pan-pon” (The sound of four chimes)
- Ballistic Missile Alert: The siren sounds for 14 seconds



SYSTEM TESTING

しけんほうそう
試験放送

In connection with above report on the J-Alert system, the City will carry out testing of the warning sound system using the radio. The chimes and sirens will be broadcast simultaneously across all districts of the city.

The dates and times of the tests are as follows:

- September 18 (Fri) 15:00
- October 18 (Sun) 10:00
- November 16 (Mon) 15:00
- Warning sounds for the test broadcast:
The chime signifies the event of an earthquake and the siren an imminent tsunami warning
- Just before and after the broadcast, an announcement will be made to confirm that it is just a test.

Anti-Disaster Section in charge of Disaster Prevention Crisis



SAMUKAWA AND SIEA

(Samukawa International Exchange Association)

さむかわちょう 寒川町とSIEA

Samukawa is the town that comprises Koza-Gun (County), Kanagawa Prefecture. It is surrounded by four cities, Chigasaki, Fujisawa, Hiratsuka and Ebina, and as of July 1, 2009, the town's population stood at 47,812, compared to that of Chigasaki, which is a little over 230,000.

At one time, there was an opportunity for those cities and *Samukawa* to merge but this didn't come about. However, not only because it is so close to Chigasaki but also because *Samukawa's* name often crops up in Chigasaki City publications, people may think it is actually a part of Chigasaki City. However, it is not. The town is its own separate entity in terms of its administration.

In *Samukawa* there exists a body called the SIEA, which works to develop closer ties with foreign countries, while there are about 700 foreign residents today.

The SIEA was established in 1994 aimed at encouraging young people in the town to have contact with non-Japanese people and gain exposure to the cultures of various different countries. It has its executive office in the Town Office, about thirty officials and 100 association members work to run it, and their activity consists of four sections overseeing language training, interaction with foreign people, public relations, and homestay.

In addition to the SIEA News, the association holds various annual events, including special junior high school classes taught by overseas students from Yokohama National University, English conversation lessons, the setting up a booth at the Samukawa Industrial Fair, games at Halloween and a New Year party. Furthermore, students from Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania visit the town every two years.

Through its cross-cultural communication program, the SIEA has done much to foster interaction between *Samukawa* junior and senior high school students and their non-Japanese counterparts. Soccer games between *Samukawa* teams and a Peruvian team have been held, it has arranged host families for overseas visitors here and vice versa, and many junior high school students have gone on homestay visits to foreign countries. So far, young people from New Zealand, the United States, Russia, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Brazil and other countries have visited *Samukawa*.

Future projects include how to organize meetings with foreign residents and how to provide them with news on issues concerning their daily lives. As part of its 2009 agenda, the SIEA, in conjunction with the town's Board of Education and the Town Office, is planning to make Japanese language lessons available to foreign residents.

What characterizes *Samukawa* is that there is quite a lot of industry, and there is a famous shrine called *SAMUKAWA JINJA*. This shrine is very well known all over the country and every year millions of people visit, particularly during the time of the various festivals and celebrations such as the New Year days and the day of the *shichi-go-san* celebration for children in particular. This is when families celebrate the fact their children have reached the ages of seven, five and three. This festival falls on November 15, and at *SAMUKAWA JINJA* you will find many children and families wearing beautiful *kimono*.

SIEA Homepage: <http://www.shj.or.jp/siea>



Town Emblem

EBOSHI-IWA AND ITS BOAT TOUR

いわ しま しゅうゆう えぼし岩と島の周遊

In December every year, there is a cruise boat service to take passengers around the rock called *EBOSHI-IWA*. This rock is a part of the *Uba-jima*



reef, and is a symbol of Chigasaki, not only because its shape resembles the headgear worn by court nobles in the *Heian* era (794~1185), but also because of its particular geology.

EBOSHI-IWA and the reef are a part of the stratum consisting of two layers of volcanic rock and sandstone forming stripes, and its birth is said to go back 3 to 6 million years with the strata piling up over the long period.

Through the years, as there are rich fishing grounds around it, the reef had attracted fishermen from further afield than just the local Kowada area of Chigasaki, and this had caused some serious disputes. In the *Edo* era there was a trouble especially between fishermen from Izu and Kowada. However, the story goes that in the end some undeniable historical record was discovered referring to the ownership of the *Uba-jima* area, and this helped the Kowada fishermen win the dispute.

Concerning the cruise boats, the Chigasaki City Tourism Association offers the "*EBOSHI-IWA* boat tour" where people are able to take a boat from Chigasaki fishing port and enjoy an hour cruise around the rock and reef. From beyond the reef, it's possible to enjoy a superb view of the rock with a snow-capped Mt. Fuji as a backdrop.

Since this boat tour is so popular, many people apply to take it every year, but it will take some more time till we know when and how this tour will be arranged this year. Last year, it was on Sunday in December, the boat departed four times on the day, and the fare was ¥1,500. Those who wanted to go on board were required to make application by early November. One requirement was that passengers must be over 110cm in height. Should the number of applicants be more than this, places will be decided by drawing lots, and in the event the weather is stormy, the cruises will be cancelled.

The air is usually clearer in winter, so you could also enjoy a view as you look over the thick greenery of the hills and mountains.

Why don't you give this cruise a try?

Inquiry: The Chigasaki City Tourism Association at
0467-84-0377



A number of people wearing life jackets are boarding the boat on a sunny December day at Chigasaki fishing port.

HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

DAI-ROKUTEN SHRINE

だいろくてんじんじゃ 第六天神社

Dai-Rokuten Shrine is located at Jukkenzaka in Chigasaki, about 100 meters west of the Jukkenzaka 2chome crossing on Route 1 in the direction of Hiratsuka. You can see the shrine on the right hand side of the road. It takes about 12 minutes on foot from Chigasaki station to get there.

The year of the shrine's establishment is not clear, but it is estimated to be in the early years of the Edo era (1603~1867) when the local area started to become populated.

The deity of Dai-Rokuten Shrine used to be worshipped as the god that bestows good physical health and eternal life. It was also the one that looked after the safety of travelers on the old Tokaido (Route 1) going back and forth between Kyoto and Edo, present Tokyo, as the shrine is located on the Tokaido. Also, the deity of the shrine has been worshipped as the god that bestows charity and all kinds of joy.

In recent years however, the deity of Dai-Rokuten Shrine has come to be worshipped as the guardian deity related to production, manufacturing and construction.

The deity enshrined here is said to be *Nobunaga Oda*, a conqueror in the age of wars, who had a very strong faith. Hideyoshi Toyotomi, who took over the power of *Nobunaga Oda* and unified the whole country, ordered the abolition of Dai-Rokuten Shrine because he feared the word and the deed of *Nobunaga* were the crucial power enshrined here.

For this reason, almost no Dai-Rokuten Shrines exist in the western part of Japan, and even in the eastern part they are extremely few in number. The question is whether this shrine has remained in direct association with the main shrine, or been allowed to remain as a result of the name of the god having been changed. It is said that this is one of only two independently existing Dai-Rokuten Shrines in the prefecture.

The shrine performs many rituals and events. One of these is taking part in Hamaori-Sai at Chigasaki Nishihama Beach on Sea Day (Umi no Hi) in July.



PEOPLE IN TOWN

Morgan Paul Williams From UK

I love the ocean breeze, Chigasaki's Aloha Spirit, and that I can see Mt Fuji from my window.....



Morgan Paul Williams is from Cardiff, Wales (UK). He came to Japan in 1986 when he was 27, a few years after graduating from University of Wales. He lived 13 years in the Hiroshima area, teaching English at local universities and at his own school. He's also a musician, and played music with his own band there for more than 10 years.

In the UK, he played semi-pro soccer for 11 years, ending when he came to Japan. He has also lived on the U.S. East Coast for one year in 1981/1982, in France in 1983, and in Hawaii, on the island of Kauai, from 1999 through 2006. In Hawaii, he worked as a healing therapist and full-time musician, playing mainly Irish/Celtic Folk Songs. He was also a member of the Kauai soccer team that competed in the Hawaii State Championships in Honolulu in 2000~2003. After coming back to Japan in 2006, he lived in central Tokyo for a couple of years before moving to Samukawa on June 6 this year.

In this way, Paul is much talented, internationalized, with a very reasonable understanding of the cultures of different countries. He is quite new in this area but he knows about Japan and the Japanese very well, speaking fluent Japanese. What motivated Paul to move to Samukawa was mainly work, though he liked the proximity to the ocean and the breeze that he experienced as soon as he first set foot here. He was also looking for a slower paced environment in Japan, more akin to the one he enjoyed in his 7 years in Hawaii.

Paul thinks Japanese are generally kind people, have good hearts and real integrity, and he appreciates the safety aspect of life here. He also says food is great, good quality and very healthy. A couple of things he's not so keen on however are the very expensive car inspection fees and the cost of moving into an apartment, which is very different from Hawaii and the UK.

When he came to Japan, the economy was in the middle of the bubble era. Since then to this date, he has noticed many changes, one very noticeable one being that many people, especially kids, are no longer wowed by the sight of a foreigner. This was far from the case when he arrived in Japan for the first time. He says people seem to have lost a kind of innocence, though personally he feels it's nicer to be able to go about without the attention.

At the present time he is in the process of writing a book about Crystal Healing Therapy, of which he is a therapist and teacher. He is also working to set up English lessons, as well as looking for places to play music in this area. He currently plays regularly in Irish pubs in Tokyo and other cities in Japan.

RESPECT-FOR-THE-AGED DAY

けいろう ひ
敬老の日

This year, the National Holiday called Respect-for-the-Aged Day or *Keirō-no-hi* falls on September 21, as it's always held on the third Monday of the month.

This holiday is a day to honor older people, celebrate their long life and pray for their good health in the future, in addition to fostering a deeper understanding of the welfare issues affecting senior citizens. In addition, 131 *Jichikai* or neighborhood organizations in Chigasaki and local Senior Citizen Support groups will stage many events such as variety shows, and they will be donating mementos. Also, volunteers in each district will make courtesy visits to the homes of senior citizens.

Now, September 23 is also a National Holiday, called *Shūbun-no-hi* or Autumn Equinox, and so the day between these two celebration days has become a holiday too. This makes it four consecutive holidays from September 20 through September 23. *Shūbun-no-hi* is the day when the length of both the day and the night are the same, just like the Spring Equinox, and it marks the change of seasons, the end of the summer heat and the coming of the cool fall.

Japan has the world's longest life expectancy, and the percentage of elderly people within the total population will definitely increase over the next 10~15 years. Therefore, this holiday will become more and more meaningful.

IAC ACTIVITY

CROSS-CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE KAIGAN YOUTH HALL

かいがんせいしゅうねんかいがん いぶんかこうりゅう
海岸青少年会館での異文化交流



With the aim of creating a cross-cultural exchange opportunity for young local students and foreign visitors/residents to enjoy calligraphy and Japanese *sumi-e* together, the Kaigan Youth Hall and the IAC worked together to stage events on July 18 and August 8.

On July 18 six university students from France and a few other foreign residents from Vietnam learned how to use a *fude*, Japanese writing brush, while on August 8 twelve foreign residents of the city from Indonesia and Vietnam enjoyed practicing *sumi-e*. It was a challenging study for many of these non-Japanese people and they seemed they really enjoyed themselves.



Each day they spent about an hour in their studies, and then enjoyed making, cooking, and eating Japanese dishes such as shaved ice, *maki-zushi* (rolled sushi), *udon*, and vegetables using soy sauce and other seasonings prepared by the IAC's volunteer staff. On both days there were about 30 participants in all and they especially seemed like making *maki-zushi*. Using a Japanese writing brush is quite a new thing for people from overseas, and they had a lot of fun practicing the characters for 'bamboo', 'mountain', 'river', and so forth, on *washi*, Japanese paper.

August 8 was the day of the firework display at nearby Southern Beach, and they particularly enjoyed watching the fireworks from one of the rooms on the 3rd floor. The calligraphy they created will be displayed on the walls of the Youth Hall

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM THAILAND VISITING IN OCTOBER

From October 16 to 18, a party of university students from Thailand will visit Chigasaki in connection with Bunkyo University. The group will consist of eight girls and two boys and the IAC has been asked to find host families for them for two nights.

On the morning of October 16, IAC plans to introduce some Japanese culture at *Shorai-an*; tea ceremony, kimono wearing, etc.

Shorai-an is a Japanese style wooden flat house surrounded by trees and a pond and is located next to the Municipal Library.

No other details on their activity have been confirmed as yet.

CITIZEN'S FESTIVAL

SHIMIN FUREAI-MATSURI

しみん
市民ふれあいまつり

On November 3, Culture Day, a festival called Shimin-Fréai Matsuri will be held at Chigasaki Chuō Kōen, Central Park, near the City Hall. Every year tens of thousands of people come to take a look around this festival.

There is a stage where many groups of both children and adults perform music or dance, and there are also about a hundred booths operated by NPOs selling food, pottery, wooden furniture, various arts and crafts, antiques, etc. as well as displaying information about their own activities. There will be the booths with games and health corners as well.

IAC's "Sewing-box" group will also have a booth at the festival and will display and sell their attractive handicrafts with proceeds going to a Japanese NPO working voluntarily in Cambodia to support children's education in that country.

If you visit the Chuo Kōen, you may be surprised at the large number of people it will attract, as they browse through the many different kinds of goods on offer and enjoy the performances on the stage.

The festival is open from 10:00 through 15:30.

Administrative Information

INFORMATION FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

せいかつじょうほう 生活情報

●Tap Water and Sewage Services

じょうけすいどう 上下水道

● Tap Water

Tap water is potable in Japan.

When moving into or out of your home, please contact the Chigasaki Office of the Kanagawa Prefectural Public Enterprises Agency, Waterworks Bureau.
Address: 4-5-22 Honson Tel: 52-6151

● Sewage

The sewage system covers 93.4% of Chigasaki City. Sewage fees are charged together with tap water fees.

●Offices to Call When You Move Into/Out of Your Home or When You Have Problems with Utilities or Other Services

てんにゅう てんしゅつ とどけで 転入・転出の届け出やトラブル

● **Electricity:** Tokyo Electric Power Company, Hiratsuka Branch Office
Tel: 0120-99-5775

● **Gas:** Tokyo Gas Customer Center Tel: 0570-002211 or 0463-22-2616
(Cellular phone)

● **Telephone:** NTT Tel: 116 (No area code necessary)

● **Post Office: (Information in English)** Tel: 0570-046-111

●Municipal Housing

しえいじゅうたく 市営住宅

Tenants are sought once a year (around December). An announcement is made in the city bulletin (in Japanese).

To apply for housing, there are various eligibility requirements. For example, your monthly salary must not exceed a certain amount, you must have completed foreign resident registration and you must have lived in the city for at least one year.

(Inquiry: Construction Section (Kenchiku-ka))

●If You Have a Pet Dog

いぬか 犬を飼うとき

Owners of pet dogs that are 91 days of age or older are required by law to have these pet dogs registered and vaccinated against rabies once a year. Chigasaki City offers group vaccinations at a designated location every year. Vaccinations are also conducted at other locations, such as veterinary hospitals.

To register dogs brought from overseas, please bring an import quarantine certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

(Inquiry: Environmental Preservation Section (Kankyo Hozen-ka))

From THE GUIDEBOOK FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CHIGASAKI

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

- あつても苦勞 なくても苦勞
Attemo kurou nakutemo kurou
(To have money is anxiety, not to have it is also anxiety.)
To have money is a fear, not to have it a grief.
- 鬼の居ぬ間に洗濯
Oni no inuma ni sentaku
(Do washing while the demon's away.)
When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- 人事を 尽くして 天命を 待つ
Jinji wo tsukushite tenmei wo matsu
(Do your best and wait for God's will.)
God helps those who help themselves.
- ただより 高い 物は ない
Tada yori takai mono wa nai
(Free of charge is a thing of the most expensive.)
Nothing costs so much as what is given to us.
- 所 変われば 品 変わる
Tokoro kawareba shina kawaru
(A place changes and an article also changes.)
So many countries, so many customs.

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

FRUIT PICKING USING THE COMMUNITY BUS

Let's go picking fruit this Autumn using the community bus service!



Do you know the community bus service called 'Eboshi-gō', the one with the blue body which reminds us of the colors of the sea and sky in the Shōnan area? The routes of this smaller-bodied bus run right throughout the city, and incorporate many of the narrower roads. The area it covers is divided into 4 parts, with its base point at the Chigasaki Municipal Hospital in Honson. We can connect with the other routes at the bus stop there.

Here are twelve fruit farms located along the routes in the northern part of Chigasaki and Tsurumine area, where we can enjoy picking such seasonable fruits as pears, grapes, chestnuts, persimmons and kiwifruit. The City supports this tour so that visitors to the gardens can have some extra service if you go there by using "Eboshi-gō". If you are interested, it's a good idea to contact the farm directly to confirm exactly when the fruit will be ripe and ready for picking, as this will depend on weather conditions.

● **Persimmon** (late October ~ mid December) Ichikawa-en, Marunao-en, Ōtō-en, Yamamoto-en, Ishii-en, Marudai-nōen, Suzuki-en, Soeda-en
● **Pear** (~ mid September) Ichikawa-en, Suzuki-en, Kotobuki-en, Konishi-nōen
● **Grape** (~ mid September) Asakura-budō-en, Ichika-en, Marusu- budō-en, Konishi- nōen, Kotobuki-en, Suzuki-en, Marunao-en
● **Chestnut** (~ September) Ishii-en, Ichikawa-en, Suzuki-en, Kotobuki-en
● **Kiwi** (~ November) Suzuki-en

Inquiry: Agricultural Administration Section (Nōsei-ka) 0467-82-1111 (Ext. 2621~2623)

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