

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.31

Finding A Family Doctor

かかり付け医を決めよう!

A family doctor, dentist and pharmacy are important as parts of the medical support network in our lives. Not only do they provide medical care on a daily basis, but we are also able to receive consultations and advice on various health issues. If you have a family doctor, you can consult with them at any time on even the slightest distress or anxiety you may have concerning your health, and this will ensure detection of any problems and early treatment. So, you might want to confirm the location of doctors' offices and pharmacies around you, and find those that you feel will fit your needs.

The choice of family doctor will help ensure you receive more efficient and effective medical care. There is a close connection between clinics and hospitals as they work together, each performing their specific role. The City encourages having family doctors, making the medical care system better as there is no break in the chain of cooperation between local clinics and large hospitals.

This means your local clinic becomes the window for your consultation and if it should turn out that you need more thorough examination or hospitalization, your doctor will then put you in touch with a specialist or a hospital appropriate to your particular health issue. Also, all the parties involved will be aware of your case details and you will receive medical treatment with continuity.

The municipal hospital is working closely with doctors at local clinics and is designating them as registered family doctors. Through this arrangement, patients who have completed their hospital treatment can receive their ongoing medical care at their local clinics. This includes the common use of high-tech medical instruments, so this system is designed to make you feel secure in as many ways as possible. Also, if you initially bring to the hospital a letter of introduction from your family doctor, you can receive a quick and efficient medical examination, as well as save on the standard fee (1,570 yen) payable for a first visit to a hospital.

Culture Day

ぶんか 文化の日

November 3 is a National Holiday called 'Bunka-no-Hi' or Culture Day. It was so designated in 1948 as 'a day of love, freedom and peace' and it is aimed to advance cultural growth in this country. Therefore, very many cultural events and activities take place all over Japan in the form of festivals, presentations, various forms of entertainment, and so forth.

On this day, the central government confers prestigious awards on those who have contributed to Japanese cultural development in various fields. In particular, the ceremony held at the Imperial Palace is the highlight, as the Order of Cultural Merit is conferred on a small number of individuals who have rendered the nation great service in the cultural development arena.

Here in Chigasaki a number of events will be held in November at the Civic Hall (Shimin Bunka Kaikan) and other municipal facilities. These include, for example, a music concert on November 6 at 17:00~20:30 at the small hall, and photo exhibitions (November 5~6) and *bonsai* or potted dwarf trees (November 12~14) on the first floor. You are most welcome to go in and take a close look at these. Particularly in November, schools and civic groups are active in presenting or performing recitals in the name of 'culture'.

Also on November 3, the 27th Citizen's *Fureai Matsuri* will be held at Chuo Kōen (Central Park). Tens of thousands of people gather to enjoy various performances on the stage and to peruse a number of stalls, not only those of just vendors but also of NPOs, who will be displaying information about themselves and their activities in the city.

Actually, 'fureai' means 'contact', and the administration is trying to offer a place for citizens to get together in this way. The 'Fureai Matsuri' is one of the major annual events in Chigasaki.

Cultural Events in Chigasaki

ぶんかさい 文化祭

This Fall, in connection with both Culture Day and the environment, many events and performances will take place, particularly during October and November. As far as November is concerned, the following activities are planned at municipal facilities. Almost all of these events are free, and you will be fun to attend.

Outdoor Events

- Shimin Fureai Matsuri November 3 (Wed) at Chuo Kōen (Park)
- Rainbow Festival November 14 (Sun) at Satoyama Kōen (Park)

Performance at Civic Hall - 3rd floor

- Traditional Japanese arts (Chinese poem recitation, sword dance, Japanese dance, etc.)
November 3 (Wed-holiday) 9:40~16:00
- Civic Music Evening Concert November 6 (Sat) 17:00 ~ 20:30
- Noh farce November 14 (Sun) 13:00~14:00

Exhibition at Civic Hall - 1st floor

- Photos November 5 (Fri) 9:00 ~ 17:00 November 6 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 16:00
- Bonsai (Potted dwarf tree) November 12 (Fri) 12:00 ~ 17:00 November 13 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00
November 14 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00

Civic Hall Large Conference Room - 6th floor

- Tea ceremony November 3 (Wed) 10:00 ~ 15:00 (¥350)

Outdoor Exhibition - front yard of Sōgō Gymnasium

- Chrysanthemum flower show November 1 (Mon) ~ 13 (Sat)

Eboshi-iwa Rock Boat Tour

えぼしいわしゅうせん 烏帽子岩周遊船

Eboshi-iwa rock cruising will be arranged on February 5 (Sat), next year, with four boats departing the Chigasaki fishing dock four times on the day.

If you want to go on board, please make an application during December 15 through January 10.

Should the number of applicants be more than the capacity, who can embark will be decided by lot. The fare for adult is ¥1,500.

On further details, please contact the Chigasaki Tourism Association at (0467) 84-0377.

For Sightseers in Kanagawa

かながわけん かんこうあんない
神奈川県観光案内



Kanagawa Prefectural Government has issued a 25-page brochure entitled 'Kanagawa Rediscovery'. It includes a discount coupon for hotels, restaurants, art museums, the aquarium, and other sightseeing spots located all over the prefecture. All of these facilities are listed in the brochure, and whether or not you will need to take this book with you when you make the visit is indicated.

This brochure is obtainable at municipal offices in Chigasaki.

In the brochure, there is an advertisement for a photo contest for which the theme is 'Rediscovery of Kanagawa through the Camera Lens'. Anyone can enter and send photos taken between October 1 and December 26 this year. Entries can be submitted to the Kanagawa Sightseeing Association anytime between now and January 11, 2011. Prizes for winners include a hotel voucher subsidy for hotels in Hakone.

For more details, please contact the office at Yokohama Silk Center: 45-681-0007

Notice from the City Office

し 市からのお知らせ

Legal Advice at The *Anshin** Center

Date and Time: December 16 (Thu), 2010 13:00~16:40
January 27 (Thu), 2011 13:00~16:40

Place: Chigasaki Social Welfare Conference Room
Content: Legal Advice from lawyers (allowance 40 minutes)
Application: For December, from December 1 (Wed)
For January, from January 4 (Tue)
Contact: Chigasaki Social Welfare Group 85-9650

Note: 'Anshin' means peace of mind.

Quiz Correct answers: Q1 (1), Q2 (2), Q3 (2), Q4 (2)

Lecture by the IAC and the City

Internal Globalization and Foreign media

うち こくさいか
内なる国際化

The IAC and the City Office co-hosted a lecture entitled 'Internal globalization and foreign media' by Akihiko Hiyoshi of Bunkyo University at Women Center on September 9. Internal globalization means that different cultures co-exist in a multi-racial society. At present, the number of foreign people living in Japan is 2.18 million and accounts for 1.7 percent of the country's population. Korean people, from both north and south, have historically topped the list for a long time but these days they have become the second largest with 593,000, following Chinese with 606,000. Next come Brazilians - 310,000, then Filipinos with 200,000 and Peruvians with 60,000. Non-Japanese people living here are very keen to be able to obtain all the information they need for living in a foreign country, such as news about both their home countries and Japan, and events in their mother tongues. To meet their needs, various kinds of media are now reporting on many issues in various languages including Hangul, Chinese, Filipino, Portuguese, Indonesian, Vietnamese in publications ranging from newspapers to ads brochures.

When the massive quake hit the Hanshin area in 1995, many foreigners were unhappy about the lack of information from the Japanese media about their compatriots' safety. So the foreign media joined forces in gathering information on non-Japanese victims and providing aid. The speaker also helped their activities in the disaster-stricken area at that time. He said that his experience drastically changed his whole outlook on life.

Brazilians in Japan were able to watch the World Cup live on the IPC Brazil channel. It's difficult for Indochinese refugees to cross borders, but through the media compiled with the Vietnamese they have built a solid global network for their own culture and amusements.

Foreign media has not only supported non-Japanese in their daily lives but act as an intermediary between the foreign community and Japanese society. It is important for us to acknowledge the diversification of values among various ethnic groups in our surroundings in order to live together harmoniously.

Correction Notice

お詫び

In the special feature in the last 9/1 issue of this paper which featured an area map, some misspellings were found. We have decided to reissue a corrected version, since readers may wish to use it in a long term. The articles below the map and on the front page are different from the previous ones however.

We trust the misspellings didn't cause too much inconvenience, and we offer our sincere apology.

HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

Yagumo Jinja Shrine in Nango

なんご やぐもじんじゅ
南湖の八雲神社

Yagumo Jinja Shrine is located in the neighborhood of Chigasaki Marudai fish market in Nango. A local legend says the shrine has been there since the town was first developed and nearby residents deified as *Ubusunagami* or the god of the birthplace protecting people as the Shrine's guardian.

Around the years of Seiho (1644~1648) and Keian (1648~1652), the Tokugawa Shogunate designated it Chaya-machi, literally 'tea shop town', and it was located close to Nango to be the post town on the Tokaidō highway. Soon afterwards many travelers who stayed in Chaya-machi visited the shrine to pray for their safety on the road. Especially those who were intending to visit Ohyama, the highest mountain in Kanagawa prefecture, for worship would drop by Yagumo Jinja and while praying would visualize the far distant Afuri Jinja Shrine on Ohyama. In fact, Yagumo Shrine is located on a little hill and from there you can see the top of Ohyama.

Once this area became the domain of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1762 (Horeki 12), many important persons from within the government would frequently visit to worship at the shrine. The main shrine building of Yagumo Jinja was reconstructed in 1831 (Tenpo 2) by Mr. Shigeta, the chief of the Chaya-machi at that time, and was again rebuilt in January 1881 (Meiji 14). However, the shrine buildings were burnt to the ground in the Great Fire of Nango in December 1891 (Meiji 24). The following year, 1892 (Meiji 25), the main shrine was once more rebuilt, and the worship hall reconstructed in July 1901 (Meiji 34).

Then in 1923 (Taisho 12), on September 1, the Great Kanto Earthquake struck, and the whole property except for the main shrine was destroyed. All was completely restored however by March 1933 (Showa 8) under a three-year plan begun in 1930, and so they have remained up to the present day.

The god of Yagumo Jinja Shrine is "Susano-o-no-mikoto", and the appropriate Shinto rituals are performed every year; the consolation of the god's soul on March 15, and their own Hamaori festival. This festival is performed independently, following the city's Hamaori-sai Festival, which is carried out on a much larger scale in July.

In this event, the Hamaori of just Nango, the soul of the god of Yagumo Jinja is taken around the whole Nango district.



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.

IAC ACTIVITY

Australian university students homestaying in Chigasaki in November

だいがくせい ちがさき オーストラリア大学生が茅ヶ崎に

Eight Australian university students (five women and three men) will be visiting Chigasaki November 26 (Fri) through November 29 (Mon). They are arriving on the morning of the first day and the IAC is looking for host families for them. The program is sponsored by Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd. and this year is going to be the 25 year.

The students will be visiting Hagisono Junior High School on the same day to talk to the young students about their country and communicate with each other on various topics. On the second day, they will learn about aspects of Japanese culture, such as kimono fitting and tea ceremony, and in the evening the IAC will hold a welcome party at Seishonen Kaikan (Youth Hall) starting at 19:00. On the third day, they are scheduled to spend the whole day with their host families, and will leave Chigasaki on the last day for Odawara. All are welcome to join the welcome party, though there is a charge of 500 yen. A light meal and drinks will be provided.

If you happen to see them on the street, please say hello!

Fureai Matsuri on November 3

ちゅうおうこうえん しみん 中央公園 ‘市民ふれあいまつり’

On November 3, Culture Day, there is a festival called ‘Fureai Matsuri’ at Chuo Park. Tens of thousands of people gather here every year to watch either the adult or children’s performances of dance, music, etc. on the stage, and to browse the stalls selling a variety of food and snacks, clothes, china ware, plants, etc. Also a number of local NPOs will have stalls where they present information about their activities in the community. You will find the stage at the far end of the park. You need to go through all the stalls to get there.

The IAC and its group ‘Sewing Box’ will participate in the festival, and you will find beautiful handy work made by their members and offered at relatively low prices. In addition, this is a good chance for all the members to get together, as they do not have the opportunity to meet so often.

The IAC uses this opportunity to raise money to support children in overseas countries who are suffering economic hardship.

IAC Year-end Party on December 19

IAC イヤーエンド・パーティ

IAC’s Year-end party will be held on December 19 (Sun) at the Community Center, located on the 6th floor of the City Hall annex. The party will start at 14:00. No details of the program have been made available as yet, but non-members including non-Japanese will be welcome to attend. This will make it a good opportunity for communication and to get to know new people.

People in Town

Ryan Phinisee from America

If we can inspire interest between communities, we can bridge cultural divides.

Ryan Phinisee came to Japan from the USA about 9 years ago. He is now living in Chigasaki with his Japanese wife and two children. He says feels comfortable living in Chigasaki, though as a Chicagoan he still loves city life. Ryan had initially intended to live in several different countries around the world starting with Japan; however, after making several great friends in Japan, he became attached to life in Japan. “There are such interesting cultural ideas as well as a great deal of history in Japan,” he said in his interview.

Ryan is one of the founders of CILS, The Chicago International Language School, located on Yuzo Dori in Higashi-Kaigan Kita. (CILS is a division of CUE Kabushiki Gaisha, the company at which Ryan is CEO.) Ryan also works several hours a week as an English Instructor at the elementary and junior high schools in Manazuru. He says that he feels a sense of satisfaction working there because he is able to contribute quite a bit to the curriculum, which is unusual for foreign instructors at most public schools.

He said he has no set hobbies, but always enjoys doing things that allow him to gain new abilities. He says he is always willing to try something new; if he enjoys it he continues doing it; if not, then he just appreciates the experience and reflects on its usefulness. He also stated that he would like to be more involved in community activities.

Ryan’s strongest interests are in education; he says many of the social ills that one finds in Japan can be traced back to the education system in some way, though such problems are not limited to Japan. He pointed out the importance of exposing people to a variety of cultures, languages and ideas, and providing open, accurate, objective education about the world. “If we can inspire interest and participation between widely differing communities, then we begin bridging cultural divides; this fosters acceptance and thereby peace between peoples,” he said. His dreams and expectations revolve around using business to drive education reform and community improvement of not only local communities here in Japan but around the world as well.

Asked about his perception of the younger generation in Japan, he replied that the younger generation from any community can develop a strong moral fiber when they are properly loved, cared for, supported and encouraged—and when they are given exposure to good education and a variety of good people and positive experiences.

In the meantime, he says that there are lots of things causing major changes in the world that people must learn about and adapt to before they find themselves desperate and in the dark. “Change cannot be stopped,” he stated, “but it can be positive if we adapt to it and use it in positive ways.” He says we are only afraid of change when we are unprepared for it or unable to adapt to it.

Finally, while he said many of his great non-Japanese friends have already left, he also talked about the Japanese people who have supported, encouraged and trusted him beyond his expectations. “Those things will most certainly stay in my heart and motivate me to keep strong ties to Japan.”



So many countries, so many customs.

ところか しな 所変われば 品変わる

Ladies are walking hand in hand in Korea!

In Korea, I often see young ladies in couple are walking hand in hand or arm in arm. Japanese people may feel how many homosexual people there are in Korea, but to walk hand in hand is a proof that their friendship is so close. But, it is not only the case of lady, even parents and their adult child are doing shopping in the super market hand in hand, and moreover many men are also walking shoulder by shoulder.

When I walk in town with my friend from Japan, I feel I should do similarly as Korean ladies do, but it’s not easy for me and I feel sad a little bit. Today I can walk with a Korean friend hand in hand or arm in arm, but at the beginning I felt bashful or my heart beating, but once accustomed, I realize that this might be a ‘warmth of Korea’. In Korea, there is no distance people to people. In Japan, there is a delicate air even in ‘You and I’ relations. And in principle, there exists a privacy zone like ‘You are You’ and ‘I am I’. People from overseas might feel embarrassed when they come to Japan. Also, they might feel Japanese are cool-headed and cold. On the contrary, though, Japanese may be considered courteous. Such difference in the gesture of friendship or association might be representing the culture of each country, I feel.

After I came over and started living in Korea, I’m feeling as if I’m missing my relation with Japanese people, but I sometime feel the distance between people to be memorable and comfortable.

What do you think of the Japanese human relationships?

Note: This letter is from one of our staff Ai Ohkubo who used to teach Japanese at IAC’s Japanese language class and married a Korean and went to Korea this year. She is now living in Gyeonggi-do. We will be able to send you her Korean report from time to time.

Chigasaki Rainbow Festival November 14 at Satoyama Park

ちがさき
茅ヶ崎レインボー・フェスティバル

Following the *Fureai Matsuri* scheduled on November 3 at Chuo Kōen (Park), another one called the 'Rainbow Festival' will take place on November 14 (Sun), 10:00 ~ 15:00. This will be at Chigasaki Satoyama Kōen Park, located in the northern part of Chigasaki in the Serizawa/Namegaya districts.

This festival square is divided into three:

- (1) The 'Multipurpose square' with the main stage (for performance of music, local performance arts, etc.), an outdoor market corner (local fresh vegetables, fruits, etc.), the kiosk corner (food, drinks, etc.) and the flea market corner (daily necessities, sundries, handicrafts, etc.)
- (2) The 'Entrance square' with children's corner (Attraction, stage performance, etc.) and gardening corner (help gardening, sales of flowers, plants)
- (3) The 'Wind terrace' to learn pressed flower making, drawing pictures on acorns and other such things.

Satoyama is a hill, and used to be a place near a village where local people would collect firewood and edible wild plants. Today there's still a lot of greenery there, people live nearby and you can enjoy the abundance of greenery around there too.

The park is under the jurisdiction of Kanagawa Prefecture and the festival is backed by the Foundation of Kanagawa Parks. A free bus service is available from Chigasaki (No.1 bus stop) and Kagawa stations.

Why don't you enjoy both the festivities and the natural environment of Satoyama on a holiday in the refreshing autumn?

“Disused Article Bank” 不用品バンク

The following is a list of disused articles being offered free or wanted free as of September 28. If you are interested in this 'bank', please contact the following section in charge at the City office to know how you handle these articles: Citizen Consultation Section, Consumer Life Center (Shōhi Seikatsu Center) at 82-1111.

Articles being offered free

Baby bath, walker, sofa bed, covers for kotatsu, futon/quilt, study desk, TV, washing machine, compact air purifier, dehumidifier, electronic organ, judo suit, a body-board set, wetsuits for women, indoor exercise bike, walking machine, ski-board, beads cushion, dresser, lighter, toilet seat, clock, massage equipment, portable toilet.

Articles wanted

Baby carts, Enzo junior high school sweat shirt set, Enzo junior high school boys uniform, Hamasuka junior high school girls uniform, electric bicycle, bicycle, bicycle for small children, dining table, washing machine, LCD TV, stereo audio, amplifier, radio cassette, projector, propane stove, gas stove, music stand, flute, ukulele, samisen (traditional Japanese three-stringed banjo-like instrument), wooden bath, Japanese taiko drum, drum set, harp, koto (Japanese zither), tenor sax, alto sax, keyboards, body board goods, optical medical instrument, long board, Kyudo utensil, mountain climbing ice ax, surf board, go board, SLR cameras, cultivator, lawn mowers, sewing machine, comic book, moisture proof camera storage, business use ice machine, tea sets, model train, ivory (as of September 28)

Quiz

Facts about Chigasaki Let's find out more about our city!

Q1 How much water does one Chigasaki citizen use, on average, at home a day?

- 1) 250L 2) 350L 3) 450L

(hint: 15% of 440,000 divided by the population)

Q2 How long is the Sagami River?

- 1) 74km 2) 113km 3) 166km

Q3 Who is the historical figure being related to Jokenji Temple?

- 1) Oota Dokan (The first owner of the Edo Castle)
2) Ooka Tadasuke (Town magistrate of the Edo period)
3) Katsu Kaishuu (Minister of Navy in the Meiji government)

Q4 Why are red spider lilies planted around farms and paddies?

- 1) scenic beauty 2) to keep mice and moles off 3) land grows fertile

Note: Please see P2 on correct answers.

TIPS

DESIGNATED BULKY GARBAGE

しついでい おおがた
指定 大型 ごみ

¥500 per item

<Dangerous items for collection and transportation>

Gas table ranges, gas fan heaters, gas rice cookers, cassette portable stoves, fire extinguishers, oil heaters, oil fan heaters, tire chains (metallic), iron dumbbells, barbells, propane gas cylinders (Containers of 10kg or less with the contents drained) and other items alike.

- ◆ After booking by calling, please purchase the city revenue sticker, write down your name, put it on the garbage, and dispose at the collection point on the designated day by 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ The booking at one time can be for up to five pieces of garbage.
- ◆ Please measure the size beforehand.
- ◆ It's not permitted to change or add the item after the booking is made.
- ◆ Please ask stores in case you want to dispose of electrical appliances which are the objects of the Electrical Appliance Recycling Law (Air conditioners/TV sets (cathode-ray tube type)/refrigerators/freezers/washing machines)

Japanese Proverbs and the English Equivalents

◆ 悪銭身に付かず

Akusen mi ni tsukazu

(Ill-gotten money never becomes one's own.)

Ill got, ill spent.

◆ 氏より育ち

Uji yori sodachi.

(Upbringing is more important than birth.)

Birth is much but breeding is more.

◆ 憎まれっ子世にはばかる

Nikumarekko yo ni habakaru

(Bad children thrive in the world.)

Ill weeds grow apace.

◆ 百聞は一見に如かず

Hyakubun wa ikken ni shikazu

(One eyewitness is better than one hundred hearsay witnesses.)

Seeing is believing.

◆ 弱り目に祟り目

Yowarime ni tatarime

(Weak eyes will be cursed by evil spirits.)

Misfortunes never come singly.

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>

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Tap water and Sewage in Chigasaki

ちがさき みず なが
茅ヶ崎の水の流れ

Tap water for the central part of Kanagawa Prefecture has been produced at the water purification plant in Samukawa, north of Chigasaki, since the 1930s. River water is taken from the Sagami River, which originates in Yamanashi Prefecture, Lake Yamanaka and Oshino, and several other places. Lake Yamanaka is one of the Five Lakes of Mount Fuji and Oshino is noted for its clear spring water.

The water taken from the river is purified through the following four steps: flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and chlorine disinfection. The plant has two purification systems, which are able to finish all the treatment processes in about twelve and five hours respectively.

Before the water is delivered to each city, the plant ensures that it satisfies water quality standards required for human consumption. This is done through daily, monthly and quarterly monitoring of heavy metals, inorganic and organic compounds, agricultural chemicals, micro-organisms, pH, hardness, turbidity, smell, electrical conductivity and other parameters. The plant, with a maximum daily production capacity of 750,000 tons, currently supplies 440,000 tons per day to eleven cities and four towns: Fujisawa, Kamakura, Hiratsuka, Odawara, Atsugi, Ebina, Samukawa and Oiso as well as Chigasaki. About fifteen percent of the amount supplied is to Chigasaki by way of the Akabane reservoir.



Samukawa water purification plant

Hardness, an important character of water, is correlated with mineral content. Based on this figure water is divided into four categories in the order of lowest value: soft, moderately hard, hard and very hard. The hardness of tap water in Chigasaki is 68 mg/L, on average. According to general guidelines set by the World Health Organization, the tap water is classified as moderately hard, and softer than that in many foreign cities: Kyongju 550, Beijing and Copenhagen 350, Munich 300, Paris 280, London 220, Brisbane and New Delhi 140, Chicago and Hanoi 120, Los Angeles 90, (Chigasaki 68), Dubai 50, Seoul and Sydney 45, Taipei 35, New York 30, Madrid 25 and Nairobi 20*.

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labor has set requisites for good drinking water. These include hardness, concentrations of chlorine and organic materials, smell and temperature. The city's water fulfills six out of the seven required conditions with only the concentration of carbonates being 2.6, compared with a minimum required level of 3.0 mg/L. Thus, our drinking water almost falls into a good water category.

* <http://sekken-life.com/life/sekainokoudo.htm>

Domestic and industrial wastewater in the city is treated at the sewage treatment plant in Yanagishima, which started operations in 1977. Sewage from other cities along the east bank of the Sagami River: Sagami-hara, Zama, Ayase, Ebina, Fujisawa and Samukawa, also comes to Yanagishima. The plant, having a maximum daily treatment ability of 612,000 tons, currently treats 416,000 tons a day, out of which 79,000 tons comes from Chigasaki.

Sewage treatment is aimed at removing contaminants from wastewater. The process in the plant consists of sedimentation and biodegradation, using activated sludge and chlorine disinfection. About fifty parameters are monitored daily, monthly and quarterly to ensure the treated effluent satisfies national and prefectural regulations. Such characters include biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), suspended substance (SS), total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorous (TP), heavy metals and phenols. BOD and COD give values related to the concentration of water-soluble organic materials in the sewage. SS is the concentration of suspending particles, which reduce the transparency of the water. TN and TP are total respective concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous. These elements promote excessive growth of plankton and algae. Thus, the smaller these figures, the better the quality of the treated effluent. The United Nations classification puts the incoming sewage into a weak to moderate contamination group based on COD, TN, TP and SS. Treatment in the Yanagishima plant mostly removes these contaminants, and all the parameters of the effluent fulfill the regulations.



Yanagishima sewage treatment plant

Needless to say, to decrease the amount of wastewater and/or the concentration of contaminants is one of the most effective measures to promote environmental protection. It also reduces energy consumption in treatment plants, which in turn saves fossil fuels and reduces other damage to the environment. Furthermore, a decrease in the amount of sewage is achieved by less tap water usage. To turn off faucets diligently in our kitchen and bathroom, and not to flush kerosene, cooking oil and other foreign materials down the drains is something we can do in our daily life, which leads to the creation of a virtuous circle.

For your reference, the Prefectural Waterworks estimates one person daily uses about 250 liters of tap water at home. This table gives the breakdown.

	Toilets	Baths	Cooking	Clothes washers	Others	Total
Percentage	28	24	23	17	8	100
Liter	70	60	58	42	20	250

Fish and bird life on the Sagami River

さがみがわ さかな とし
相模川の魚と鳥

The Sagami River not only supports people's lives, but those of animals as well. The river originates in Yamanashi and flows across the central part of Kanagawa into Sagami Bay. While it runs a total distance of about 100 kilometers, the natural features change as it runs down from the mountain through the plain to the ocean. Along the river, diverse ecosystems are created that attract various kinds of animals.

The following are just examples of the hundreds of species of fish observed in the river. Yamame, Japanese charrs, pale chubs and bullheads live in the upper reaches. The middle reaches are inhabited by freshwater fish such as pale chubs, carp, crucians, daces, pike gudgeons, topmouth gudgeons, ayu, loaches and migratory fish like eels and pond smelts that go up and down from Sagami Bay. Many marine fish live around the estuary, including striped mullets, Japanese sea basses, gobies, black scrapers, sardines and gizzard shads. Foreign species like bluegills and largemouth basses have also been observed, which causes concerns that these fish may be affecting the ecological balance of the river.



The river also provides a habitat for a lot of species of birds. Near the source and in the low mountain areas, mountain birds such as bush warblers, cuckoos, woodpeckers and hawks are observed. From the middle reaches to the estuary, water birds and birds living in dry riverbeds including kingfishers, wagtails, plovers, snipes, wild ducks, herons, pheasants and kites live. Birds that live in cities, farmland and woods such as thrushes, skylarks, swallows, crows, great tits, azure-winged magpies, shrikes, falcons, brown-eared bulbul, sparrows, grey starlings and Japanese white-eyes can also be found. Seabirds such as cormorants, grebes, seagulls, black tailed gulls, little terns and black-headed gulls live around the estuary and a little upstream.

Source: http://www.ktr.mlit.go.jp/keihin/whole/illustrated_book/index.htm

Area Map of Chigasaki



Let's find out more about nature in northern Chigasaki

ちがさき県北部の自然を知ろう

There is an abundance of rural scenery spread across the rolling country of northern Chigasaki. In the Serizawa and Tsutsumi districts, farms and rice fields, creeks, ponds and woods produce a peaceful atmosphere, somewhat different from that of the city's coastal area. Walking or cycling there, stopping at Koshikake Shrine, Satoyama Park, Jokenji Temple, The Folk Museum (Wada and Mitsuhashi houses) and other cultural assets will leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed.

At Satoyama Park you can obtain a walking map showing three five-kilometer walking trails to the park from the JR Sagami Line stations of Kagawa, Samukawa and Miyayama.

Red spider lilies (Higanbana), or cluster-amaryllis, bloom along the Koide River in Autumn and the annual festival (Koidegawa Higanbana Matsuri in Japanese) held in September has come to attract a lot of people.

Documentary photos about the residents' preparations for the festival will be exhibited at Satoyama Park Center from Sept. 16 (Tues.) to Sept. 29 (Mon.) between 8.30am and 17.00pm. There is also a vegetable market held in the park on the second and fourth Sundays all year-round.



Serizawa Pond in Satoyama



Red spider lilies



Greenery in Shimizu Yato



Red spider lilies on Koide River