

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.32

New Year Message from Mayor Hattori

Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu あけましておめでとうございます

Happy New Year!

I wish all Chigasaki citizens a wonderful, happy, healthy and cheerful New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for all your cooperation in the smooth operation of administration in the City.

This year, "The Basic Program for Comprehensive Plan for the City" begins its implementation. Through this program we are launching our concept for the future image of the city as "Shonan & Chigasaki, where People are radiant and the Town shines under the Sun, in an environment of Ocean and Greenery." Implementation of the first three-year stage of the program, 2011 through 2013, will come into effect this year.

At present, we are proceeding with the first implementation plan in March, and under this plan, we are anticipating undertaking projects with a total budget of over 360 billion yen, based on both the general and the special account.



In Chigasaki, aging is moving ahead rapidly. By 2015 it is anticipated that one out of every four people will have become 65 years of age or older.

Meanwhile, there is a problem of too many children on waiting lists to enter nursery schools. This issue is pressing and it has to be resolved as soon as possible. In addition, there was heavy rain in some areas and many houses were flooded above and below floor level.

Furthermore, we need to take all possible measures to counter the threat of a major earthquake, such as the anticipated South Kanto earthquake. So though we realize we have many problems to deal with, the most important thing will be to ensure that all the citizens are able to live in comfort and enjoy life in peace.

In April last year, we implemented "The Basic Regulations for Self-Government", a basic rule structure for autonomy in local government. This year we are proceeding to work on "The Regulations for Civic Participation" and aiming at its implementation in April 2012. I am confident that such a vision for municipal administration will come to fruition and we will be able to attain proper accountability in local government.

In conclusion, I pray that 2011 will be an even better year for all the citizens of Chigasaki!



2011...The Year of the Rabbit

うさぎ とし
兎 年

The New Year's holiday is the most important vacation for Japanese people. Schools have a 2-week winter vacation and businesses are closed from around December 30 to January 3. We can see *shogatsu* (first month of the year) decorations, including *kadomatsu* (a decoration made with pine and bamboo and put up outside), *shimekazari* (a braided rice-straw rope or sacred festoon decorated with citrus fruit and put up on the front door), and *kagami-mochi* (a ceremonial rice cake). Originally *shogatsu* was the most important religious ritual in Japan and a part of it is observed in these decorations. On New Year's Day, many people wear *kimono* and visit shrines to pray for health, happiness, safety (*hatsumoude*). Some may greet the first sunrise of the year (*hatsuhinode*). To read *nengajo* (New Year's cards) is also a joy of New Year, just like Christmas cards in western culture. All in all, the New Year's *otoshidama* (a gift of money placed in an envelope) is the most exciting custom for children, as they can expect it to be given by all seniors like parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and so forth.



On the cards you will often see pictures of an animal. In Japan and other East Asian countries, people use the 12 animal zodiac signs as well as the Gregorian calendar to designate the year. Among the five major planets, ancient Chinese people mostly worshiped Jupiter, which goes round the Sun once every 12 years. Chinese astronomers divided the orbit into 12 at even intervals setting 12 points, and recognized the year by checking the position of the planet. Later, animal names were given to each point in the order of rat 子(*ne*), ox 丑(*ushi*), tiger 寅(*tora*), rabbit 卯(*u*), dragon 辰(*tatsu*), snake 巳(*mi*), horse 午(*uma*), ram 未(*hitsuji*), monkey 申(*saru*), cock 酉(*tori*), dog 戌(*inu*), boar 亥(*i*). The system has a 12-year cycle so each animal comes around every 12 years. This is The Year of the Rabbit. People born this year and those who were born in 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, and so on share the rabbit as their Chinese zodiac sign. It is said that people with the same sign have common personality traits. Rabbit people tend to be gentle, warmhearted, sweet, unobtrusive, but indecisive. Do you agree? The rabbit is one of the most fortunate of all the signs and it is said days pass by with peace and happiness throughout the years. It is our wish that you progress in leaps and bounds this year!



Setsubun...the Coming-of-Spring Day

せつ ぶん
節 分

Changes of season are so clear in Japan that there are particular expressions like *risshun*, *rikka*, *risshu*, *ritto*, indicating the actual day of the coming Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The previous day was called *Setsubun* to mean the day of pending seasonal change. In old times, it was believed that bad luck was afoot when seasons change, and *mamemaki* or the bean-throwing ceremony was for that purpose. Even though there are four seasons however, *Setsubun* is used to refer only to the day before the beginning of Spring, *risshun*.

For this reason the day of *Setsubun* in February is translated here as the Coming-of-Spring Day. In the evening of this day, February 3, people throw beans inside and outside of the house loudly proclaiming 'Oniwa-soto, Fukuwa-uchi!' or 'Devils out, Happiness in!'. It is also customary to eat one bean for each year of one's life. At temples and shrines, the ceremony of scattering beans is performed on a grand scale. At Samukawa Jinja, some 300 persons of the Year selected beforehand will scatter lucky beans twice, once at around 11am and again at 2pm. Usually, they are called *toshi-otoko* and *toshi-onna*, who were born under the Oriental zodiac sign for that particular year. In this way they are qualified to scatter the beans at the ceremony.

The scattered beans are supposed to contain lottery tickets to be exchanged for electrical appliances, bicycles and other goods. In Kamakura, a grand bean throwing ceremony is also performed at Tsurugaoka-hachimangu Shrine, Kenchoji Temple and Kamakuragu Shrine, among other places.

Why don't you go and get some good luck, but if you do be prepared to face a large crowd of people.

2011 National Holidays

こくみん きゅうじつ
国民の休日

January 1 (Sat)	New Year's Day
January 10 (Mon)	Coming-of-Age Day
February 11 (Fri)	National Foundation Day
March 21 (Mon)	Vernal Equinox Day
April 29 (Fri)	Showa Day
May 3 (Tue)	Constitution Day
May 4 (Wed)	Greenery Day
May 5 (Thu)	Children's Day
July 18 (Mon)	Marine Day
September 19 (Mon)	Respect-for-the Aged Day
September 23 (Fri)	Autumnal Equinox Day
October 10 (Mon)	Health-Sports Day
November 3 (Thu)	Culture Day
November 23 (Wed)	Labor Thanksgiving Day
December 23 (Fri)	The Emperor's Birthday

Japanese Classrooms by Volunteer Groups in Chigasaki

ちがさきしないにほんご きょうしつ
茅ヶ崎市内の日本語ボランティア教室

As of April 1, 2010

	Time	Group Name	Coordinator	Language
Tuesday	13:30~15:00	SUMIRE	Ms. Inai 0467-58-3492	Japanese English
Wednesday	18:00~19:30	Chigasaki Nihongo-no-kai AIAU	Mr. Sato 0467-52-5150 Satoojin2233@yahoo.co.jp	Japanese English
Thursday	10:00~12:00	International Association of Chigasaki (IAC)	Ms. Suzuki 0467-82-0759 suzuyoko@dream.ocn.ne.jp	Japanese English
Friday	13:00~15:00	Nihongo Dojo	Ms. Nakakuma 0467-86-7395	Japanese Chinese
Saturday	15:00~17:00	Chigasaki Nihongo-no-kai Saturday class	Mr. Ishiguro 0467-85-4574	Japanese English
Sunday	13:30~16:00	International Association of Chigasaki (IAC)	Mr. Kanamori 0467-88-5909 iac@7jp.com	Japanese English

Note:

- (1) Time and place are subject to change. Please confirm with each coordinator before you join.
- (2) Information on Japanese classes in Kanagawa Prefecture is available in their homepage: www.k-i-a.or.jp/classroom/

Events もよおし 催し

- ★1/9 (Sun.) The New Year demonstration by fire brigades 9:30~ City hall west parking lot
Acrobatic performance on a ladder will be seen.
- ★1/10 (Mon.) Coming-of-Age Day ceremony
13:00~15:00 Chigasaki Civic Hall (Large hall)

Okinawa Music Performance at Hagisono

はぎその おきなわさんしんえんそう
萩園での沖縄三線演奏



On January 22 at 13:45~14:45, there will be a free Okinawan music performance held in the lobby of Hagisono Ikoi-no-sato or Relaxation home. The players' group is called 'Gajumaru' (banyan tree) and they play *sanshin* (stringed instrument of Okinawa). You can enjoy impressive Okinawa folk songs and pops to be performed in the spacious lobby, which can accommodate about seventy people.

This event at Hagisono is arranged every other month by the group 'Saturday Music Saloon'. The last performer was the Shonan Mandolin and Guitar Ensemble.

To inquire, please call Ms. Utsu at 88-7513.

5th Shonan International Marathon

だい かいしやうなんこくさい
第5回湘南国際マラソン

The 5th Shonan International Marathon rally will be held this year on Sunday, January 23. Twenty thousand people are expected to take part, separated into three different groups. These are the full marathon (9:00~), the ten kilometers wheelchair run (9:40~), and the half marathon (9:50~). The full marathon runners start at a point near *Oiso* Long Beach on Route 134, then run along Sagami Bay, reach the first turning point near Enoshima Island and come back to *Oiso* Prince Hotel through the second turning point on the Seisho Ninomiya bypass.

This marathon rally used to be held in November, but it was put off till January this year because of the APEC meeting held in Yokohama last November. The period for applications has already ended, but this marathon rally has become well known, attracting so many people to run and to watch as well. The Shonan Marathon will become a national event before long.

Quiz Correct answers: Q1 (3), Q2 (3), Q3 (2), Q4 (1)

HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

Former Wada Family Residence.....Chigasaki Folk Museum

きやうわ だけ じやうきよ みんぞくしりやうかん
旧和田家の住居.....民俗資料館

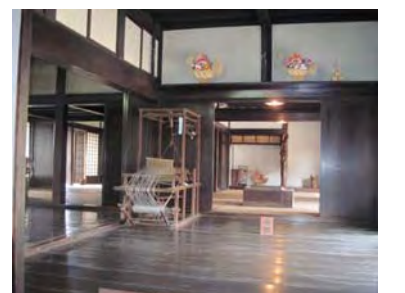
In front of Jōkenji Temple known as the place of the historically famous Ōoka Echizen, there is a large wooden house with a thatched roof. The house was originally the residence of old Wada family, but it has been operated as the Chigasaki Folk Museum by the City since 1985. Just the main wing alone has an area of about 60 tsubo or 198m², and if you step inside you will find a thresher and kitchen range on the earthen floor, and also a loom and a hearth in the *tatami* mat rooms. There are several rooms, it's very spacious inside, and the bare wooden beams and inner walls are very impressive.

Documents say the construction of this large private house was completed in 1855 and took four years in the late Edo era. It is distinguished as a structure by the use of high quality wood such as *keyaki* (zelkova), which doesn't need any remodeling, and the fact that a record of its construction process remains. Therefore, the City decided to accept the offer of its donation from the owner to make it a facility of the City. It was recognized as an important cultural asset, and then dismantled in July 1982 (Showa 57) and moved from Hagisono to the present location in Tsutsumi. It was then rebuilt in 1985 (Showa 60) as it is today.

In the late Shogunate era, the Wada family planted and cultivated rice, wheat, beans, potatoes, radishes, cotton and vegetable seeds on their land, while they also had other tenanted land for which a tax was levied. Five generations of the Wada family used the house for about 130 years from *Sei-uemon*, who built the residence, to *Tokutaro*, *Setsuburo*, *Sei* and *Hisanori*.

As a City facility this Folk Museum is open to the public every day except Monday and national holidays.

Why don't you drop in at this old wooden house and stop awhile? It will be a good chance to look back on the good old days.



IAC ACTIVITY



Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners Scheduled for March 27

外国人による日本語スピーチ・コンテスト

The 15th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners is scheduled this year for March 27 (Sun) at the Community Hall in the City Hall annex 6F. It is arranged by the IAC but the City also backs up to encourage foreigners to take part. No details have been set as yet, but the contest usually starts at 1:30pm with a speech by a guest speaker and lasts about two hours.

Most speakers are those who attend the Japanese Classes in the city, but it is open to any foreigners living in this area. There is also no age limit.

A number of prizes will be awarded, including the Mayor's and the IAC Chairman's prizes, a Humor Prize, which will be awarded according to an audience vote, plus participation prizes for the rest of speakers. The content of the speeches is mostly concerned with their experience while living in Japan, but their stories are often interesting, meaningful, humorous and impressive.

If you are interested in being a speaker, please go to the IAC's URL: <http://www.@7jp.com/iac> or call them at 090-1557-7789 as soon as possible. The deadline for applications hasn't been made clear as yet.

Lecture by the IAC and the City

国際理解講座

Cross-cultural Communication in Chigasaki

.....aiming to make a community working with foreign citizens.

On February 26 (Sat), the IAC's International Understanding Group will hold a lecture at Josei Center, where the speaker will be Associate Professor Chikako Yamawaki of Bunkyo University. She is a sociologist who has been studying foreign communities in Latin-American countries and also about people moving around the world. She will talk to us about how to make the City more open to different cultures in the current globalization era. The IAC will welcome your visit.

“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 November 30. 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.

People in Town

Ishizuka Geralyn from the Philippines

I have to do everything I can to improve my Japanese.....



It has only been five months since Geralyn Ishizuka came to Chigasaki from Manila, the Philippines, together with her Japanese husband. They happened to meet in Manila through surfing and they married there. She had no worries about coming to Chigasaki because the stories about Japan she had heard from her friends were all so nice that she had rather been excited about it.

After she started to live in Chigasaki, she recognized that her parents-in-law take very good care of her. She really loved being one of the family, saying everybody is so kind and thoughtful. At home, dealing with the garbage is her responsibility but she is thankful to her mother-in-law as she kindly puts memos on the calendar so Geralyn understands how she should handle the garbage day by day. Geralyn also admires how garbage disposal here keeps the place so clean, unlike in the Philippines.

So far she has almost no friends around her except for her family, she says, plus a few non-Japanese people she spends some time with at her Japanese classes. But it's nothing bad as she really wants to spend time learning Japanese, in particular to communicate well with her family. In fact, she goes to two Japanese language classes in town every week.

She likes the ocean just as she used to enjoy it in her home country. She also likes Japanese food, almost anything including raw fish, though she has one thing she cannot enjoy - that is *natto* (fermented soybeans). She loves Chigasaki too because she has never been bothered by noise that is usual in cities. She loves everything in her life in Japan while she wants to become better at surfing and swimming to catch up with her husband, on top of learning Japanese. To our questionnaire, she simply wrote in *hiragana* (Japanese cursive syllabary) that her hobby is movies, she is *sengyo-shufu* (full-time housewife), and has nothing to pursue so far except learning Japanese, and added that she has been strongly impressed by warm kindness of her family and Japanese people in general.

She has only been in Chigasaki just five months so far, so it seems she has many things to experience from now on.

Articles offered free: Baby bath, baby chair, indoor slide, baby gate, futon for baby, baby car, low chair, down jacket, bicycle, TV stand, sideboard, chair, desk, record player, washer, electric foot warmer, doll, popcorn machine, single CD, typewriter, Japanese dictionary, water tank, stuffed bird of paradise, sewing machine for industrial use, school satchel, the *go* video, carpet, and others.

Articles wanted: Child seat, tricycle, silk futon, down covers, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, microwave oven, video deck, word processor, home bakery, IH heater, oil fan heater, futon for foot warmer, drum, violin, flute, ski wear, game machine, game software, book, record, CD, DVD, sewing machine stand, mortar and pounder, electric potter's wheel, and others.

So many countries, so many customs

所変われば品変わる

“分け合って食べよう” Let's eat together! This plate is not only for you. It's there to share between everyone!

Korean food is getting very popular in Japan and perhaps everybody will know *kimchi*, *chigae*, *bibimbap*, etc., but they are just a part of so many dishes that Korean people actually enjoy. Yet, how Korean people eat them either at home or at restaurants is the question here.

As you may know, there are thousands of signs for broiled meat on the street wherever you go, and they are busy even on weekdays. To have broiled meat while drinking beer or *shochu* (distilled liquor) is the Korean style, but what is most important for them is to chat or to get talkative each other. Basically, most food is served in a way that people eat them sitting around the table. In Japan, food is served to each person, but in Korea it is served in front of you and is shared by everybody. And this is not limited to just Korean food. Even hamburgers are shared, such as two of you order two different burgers and you then share by cutting each of them in half. And in a cake shop, you won't see cakes sliced as in Japan, their cakes are all whole.

When I was drinking coffee at a café with a friend, there happened to be a group taking their seats at the next table. They started to have a birthday party, and a delicious-looking cake was brought to the person whose birthday it was. I was watching with interest as it looked so nice, then the person in the center gave us a quarter of the cake saying, “Let's eat together!”

Also when my husband was in hospital, I was busy and had no time to have dinner. A little old man who was also hospitalized and in the bed in front of us ordered a pizza at around 9 o'clock at night. He said, “I'm hungry,” then said to me, “Why don't we eat together?” What happened later when the pizza was delivered was everybody in the same room gathered and started to enjoy eating it, saying they'd had no chance to eat such oily food in the hospital. All of them shouted each other saying “Let's eat all of them and get healthy!”

In other words, to share something to eat and also share happiness when something good happens seems to be their custom. I felt like people in Korea take care of others when they are suffering from anything, and when someone is having a bad time they come together and help each other take care so the person can overcome the problem. This must be the power and strength of Korean society.

Note: This letter is from one of our staff Ai Ohkubo who used to teach Japanese at the IAC's Japanese Language class and married a Korean last year. She is now living in Gyeonggi-do. We will be introducing her Korean report from time to time.

Support Centers for Mothers with Young Children

子育て支援センター

The City has recently set up three facilities called Child-raising Support Centers, details are shown below, which provide a free space for pregnant women or those with young babies or infants to relax and spend time talking with each other at any time. No reservation is necessary, and an advisor will be on hand for mothers to consult with if they are feeling stressed in any way about raising children or on any aspect of childcare.

Also, specialists such as midwives, dieticians and health nurses will visit these facilities several times a month to give advice to any mothers experiencing problems.

However, these centers have no crèche facilities and advisors are only available in Japanese.

Facility Name	Eki Kitaguchi* Child-raising Support Center	Eki Minamiguchi* Child-raising Support Center	Hamatake Child-raising Support Center <i>Nobi-nobi</i>
Address & Location	13-44 Shineicho Sagami Nokyo Bldg 3F Tel/Fax: 87-6620	1-1-5 Tomoe Nagashima Bldg 2F (Next to the coffee shop near the station south exit.) Tel/Fax: 87-6531	3-1-14 Hamatake (3 minutes on foot from Tsujido station west exit.) Tel/Fax: 85-7900
Consultation & Inquiry	Monday through Friday 9:00~17:00		
Free Space	Monday through Friday 10:00~15:00 (Except Baby's day)		
	Baby's day--- every Tuesday 10:00~15:00	Baby's day--- every Thursday 10:00~15:00	---
Day Off	The 3rd Monday pm, Saturday, Sunday, National Holidays and Year-end/New Year holidays. Only Kitaguchi is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays		Saturday, Sunday, National Holidays and Year-end/New Year holidays
Parking	Bicycle parking is available	City-owned parking lot can be used.	Bicycle parking is available

Remarks: Eki Minamiguchi = Chigasaki Station south exit Eki Kitaguchi = Chigasaki Station north exit

Japanese Proverbs and the English Equivalent

- ◆壁に耳あり
KABE NI MIMI ARI
(Walls have ears.)
There is a witness everywhere.
- ◆灯台もと暗し
TŌDAI MOTO KURASHI
(The foot of lighthouse is the darkest place.)
The darkest place is under the candlestick.
- ◆早かろう 悪かろう
HAYAKARŌ WARUKARŌ
(To be quick is to be bad.)
Good and quickly seldom meet.
- ◆道理に向かう刃なし
DŌRI NI MUKAU YAIBA NASHI
(There are no swords against reason.)
Reason rules all things.
- ◆臨機応変
RINKI ŌHEN
(Take proper steps for an emergency.)
Other times, other manners.

Changes to the Garbage Collection System

ゴミ回収方法の変更

We previously reported that one area in the city started to collect **glass bottles, cans and PET bottles** in containers and box-style colored nets from April last year. Now, **plastic containers/wrapping materials, metal goods and used oil** are also required to be handled similarly from April this coming year in the following areas: Higashikaigan-minami, Tokiwa-cho, Fujimi-cho, Heiwa-cho, Matsugaoka, Hishinuma Kaigan, Shirahama-cho, Hamasuka, Midorigahama, and Shiomidai.

In addition, all other areas will be required to take the same measures in two steps/years starting from this coming April. As a result, all areas of Chigasaki are expected to have applied this system within the next two years.

In accordance with this change in the collection method, residents are requested to take the following measures at the time of disposal:

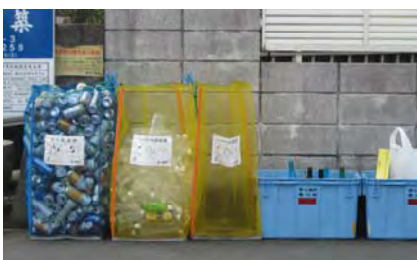
Glass bottles: Rinse well and place them into the container (no plastic bags).

Cans: Rinse and place in the box-type blue colored net (do not crush, no plastic bags).

PET bottles: Rinse, crush, peel label off, and place into the box-type yellow colored net (no plastic bags).

Also, you are urged to make every effort not to make a noise when placing bottles and cans into these containers and nets, which will be put in place by the operators concerned the night before the collection day.

For your reference, the City experimentally started to take such measures in 2010 by designating a certain area as a model so that the same collection system for aforementioned items can be applied in uniformity to all areas of the city from April 2012.



Please handle bottles, cans and PET bottles as follows:

- Put cans and PET bottles in net leaving some room on the top.
- Lay bottles on its side, not on the length.
- Don't crush cans, but crush PET bottles.
- No plastic bags are to be used.
- Not to make noise when glass bottles and cans are handled.

Notice on Breast Cancer Examination

(Inspection/examination by touch, plus mammogram)

乳房ガンの検診

Time: February 26 (Sat) 9:00~12:00, 13:00~16:00

Place: Health Center (medical examination mobile unit)

Eligible persons: Age of 40 years and over with even number age as of March 31, 2011. Up to 40 applicants accepted (decided by lot).

Quiz

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

- Q1 In what part of the world people are having dinner on New Year's Eve, while we are greeting the first sunrise of the year on Chigasaki Beach?
1) in the west of Europe 2) in the center of Asia
3) in the east of South America
- Q2 What does the azalea, the municipal flower, mean in the language of flowers?
1) Truth 2) Always Cheerful 3) Temperance
*Azalea also means one's first love (white flowers) and joy of love (red flowers).
- Q3 What is the correct kanji of Sagami, another name of the central part of Kanagawa?
1) 相撲 2) 相模 3) 相膜
- Q4 The population of Chigasaki is about 235,000. Where does the city roughly rank in terms of the population in all the 800 cities in Japan?
1)100 2) 300 3) 500 4) 700

Note: Correct answers are in Page 2