

# Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.39

## Let's Prepare for Potential Disasters! だいさいがい そな 大災害に備えよう

Nearly one year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Are you still on the alert? If a big earthquake hit Chigasaki, more than ten thousand houses would be expected to collapse, about fifty fires would break out, and an eight-meter high tsunami could reach the coast within minutes, according to simulations by the prefecture. As it may take three days until the first rescue corps arrive in the city, residents will have to live in difficult circumstances during this initial period. Be prepared for natural disasters.

**Warning:** ❶ When an earthquake exceeding five minor on the Japanese seismic scale occurs, or a tsunami is predicted, emergency messages are announced from public speakers throughout the city. When you hear the message, "Kochira wa bousai Chigasaki desu." meaning this is a public emergency warning, or "Tsunami keihou desu." meaning this is a tsunami warning, please listen carefully and ask nearby Japanese people what the message means. ❷ Instructions from the city can be obtained from the City web site in eight languages, public speakers, Twitter and mobile phone email services.

**Evacuation facilities:** ❶ The number of temporary tsunami evacuation sites is 75 as of February 20. When a tsunami evacuation warning is issued, people should rush to the nearest (temporary or long-term) site. Evacuees at temporary sites should then move to longer-term evacuation sites (see ❸ below) once it has been confirmed that it is safe. ❷ Seven facilities with wide open spaces, mostly golf courses, parks and schools, are designated as places to escape from fire, heat and smoke in case of a fire that burns over a large area. ❸ Eighteen elementary and 13 junior high schools are designated as evacuation sites (also known as "district emergency management bases"), and water, food and other relief goods are provided there. ❹ At the 13 junior high schools, designated as evacuation sites, medical treatment will be available.

Be aware of evacuation sites in your neighborhood and routes to them. Locations of these sites can be confirmed on the City's official web site.

**Materials:** ❶ The city has stored rice and crackers (totaling about 180,000 packets), instant stew (about 17,000 packets) and drinking water. ❷ Blankets, sleeping bags, collapsible toilets, tents as well as electric generators, tools are also stocked. ❸ These foodstuffs and materials are also stored in containers set in 45 places across the city. However, the various stocks above are insufficient for all citizens, so it is requested that each household reserve food, water, and non-perishables on a daily basis.

**Preparedness:** Preparedness on the part of citizens also counts towards surviving the first seventy-two hours after a disaster.

Besides the preparations described above, the following are advisable. ❶ Household appliances should be fixed and people should get under a table, a desk or a stable object during a quake. ❷ Last but not least, try to maintain good relationships with your neighbors so that you can cooperate with or rely on them.

For further details (in Chinese, English, French, Germany, Italian, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish), go to: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp>  
 ➔ Foreigners Guide (top right of screen) ➔ Start Translation (below your preferred language) ➔ Disaster measures (second from top of left-hand list)  
 ➔ Place of refuge (tenth from bottom of left-hand list) ➔ Tsunami temporary evacuation place (top of center list), evacuation sites (third item), or safety evacuation area (fourth item)

## Monetary Donation for Disaster-affected Areas ひさいち ぎえんきん 被災地への義援金

Following the 3.11 quake and tsunami, the City asked citizens to make donations to help relief efforts in the disaster-affected areas. As of February 15, the total amount of collected money was 66,615,185 yen. The City has now extended the deadline for accepting donations to April 2013. Donation boxes can be found at the following City offices:

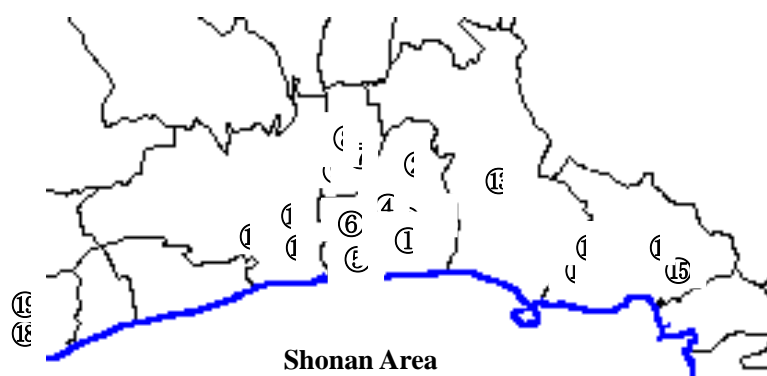
- Health and Welfare Section counter      • City Hall general information counter (Provisional building 2F)      • Koide Branch Office
- All Public Halls      • Municipal Hospital      • Labor Citizen Hall

Donations received by the City will be forwarded to the Japanese Red Cross Society's Kanagawa Prefecture Chigasaki branch.

## Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots さくら み 桜の見どころ

Here are famous spots for cherry blossoms in Chigasaki and its vicinity.

**Chigasaki:** Central Park ❶, Satoyama Park ❷, Tonoyama Park ❸, Jokenji Temple ❹, Cherry tree avenue in the Hamamidaira housing complex ❺, the Koide River bank in Hagisono ❻      **Kawazu-zakura**, early in February to early in March      **Samukawa:** Central Park ❷, the approach to Samukawa Shrine ❸, the water memorial park near the purification plant ❹      **Hiratsuka:** Shonandaira ❺, Central Park ❻, Kaname River bank ❼      **Fujisawa:** Ōba Jyoshi Park ❸      **Kamakura:** Kamakura-yama ❹, Miyouhonji ❺, Genji-yama ❻, the approach to Tsurugaoka-Hachimangu ❼      **Odawara:** Odawara Castle ❸, Shiro-yama Parks ❹      **Kawazu in Izu** is also famous for Kawazu-zakura, which comes into full bloom early in March, one month ahead of Someiyoshino.



The IAC URL: <http://www.7jp.com/iac>

The Chigasaki Breeze is a bimonthly publication and back issues can be seen either by using this URL or on the Chigasaki City website.


## City to further Reduce and Recycle Garbage

### ごみを減らして再生利用を促進

Following completion of the new recycling center in Samukawa, from April 1, the municipal government will extend the separate collection of waste plastics, metals and used cooking oil to cover the entire City. This is one further step towards the goal of creating a resource-saving society by promoting reuse of resources and more efficient energy utilization. The City office has been targeting garbage reduction through various initiatives since 2000 because it has not been possible to find another trash stash for ash from the municipal incinerator. The City now estimates that it can reduce plastic waste by 50t a year if, instead of using plastic bags, residents throw away bottles and cans directly into prepared containers and net cages. Burning 50t of plastic bags is equivalent to 300,000kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which needs 22,000 cedar trees to be absorbed. In 2010, paper trash accounted for 31%, and plastics 13%, of the 55,942 tons of burnable household garbage collected by the City. It is estimated that 4,500t of plastic could be collected separately as a new recycling resource, so reducing the total amount of burnable garbage further. Meanwhile a citizens' group has been investigating how to convert collected used food oil into bio-diesel fuel which contains little sulfur and so does not damage the environment.

## Disposing of Plastics, Metals and Used Cooking Oil

### プラスチック、金属、廃食用油などの資源ごみの出し方

Plastic containers and wrappings: all plastics with  mark

- Rinse with water and throw out in a half-transparent bag
- If stained, discard as burnable garbage

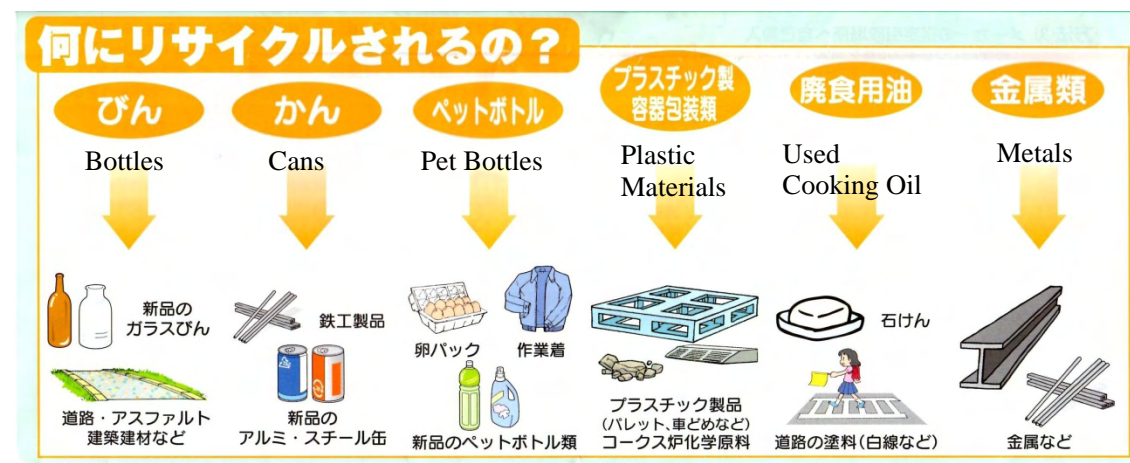
Used cooking oil: only vegetable oil

- Strain into a plastic bottle, allow to cool completely and cap securely

Metals: only designated items: pans, kettles, griddles, knives, cutlery, bowls, colanders, graters and gridirons

- Other items are unburnable garbage.

What is made from recycled garbage?



## “Disused Articles Bank”

### 不用品バンク

The following is a list of articles being offered/wanted free or at a reasonable cost by citizens as of January 30, 2012. Anyone interested in these articles should contact the section in charge of this at the City Office. They will then put you in touch with the people concerned directly.

[Consulting Services for Citizens' Section, Consumer Life Center at 82-1111]

### Articles being offered ゆずります

Dining table chair for small children, baby-carrying belt, cloth diaper and diaper cover, pacifier, medicine syringe, milking machine and mother's milk bag, milk feeding bottle, *bayu* cream for baby, child seat, sling, baby clothes, crib, bedding, junior sheet, bath chair, stroller stepper, a system bed, maternity dress, breast-feeding dress, skiwear and glove for children, down coat, display shelf, desk, table, video-equipped TV, videocassette recorder, electronic piano, dog ornament, water tank, portable toilet, small-sized microscope, *hina* doll

### Articles wanted ゆずってください

Junior sheet, children's bicycle chair, long-sleeved kimono, washing machine, rice cooker, refrigerator, gas range, electromagnetic cooker, *koto* (Japanese zither), flute

## City's PR Character



Eboshi-marou and Miena

## HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

### Satoyama and Shimizu-Yato

### さとやま しみずやと 里山と清水谷

*Satoyama* formerly meant hills near villages where people used to collect firewood and edible wild plants, but it's now a name for the hilly and green places which people live close to. Also, the valleys cutting into these hills are called *Yato*. *Shimizu-yato* located in Tsutsumi, a northern district of Chigasaki, is one of those *Yato*, whilst *Satoyama* is so named because the area is made up of *Yato-den* (literally rice fields in *Yato*) surrounded by mixed forest.

This northern part of Chigasaki is at the southern end of the *Sagamihara-Plateau* and the hilly area, which lies about fifty meters above sea level, is divided by the tributaries of the *Komayose-gawa* and *Koide-gawa* rivers. It is there that a number of *Yato* are formed. From the northern part of Chigasaki to the northwestern part of Fujisawa, many *Yato* existed in the past and were once called “*Kujūku Yato*” or “*Ninety-nine Yato*”. In recent years, however, the number of *Yato* has decreased substantially due to reclamation and development of the land for the disposal of industrial wastes and unnecessary sands.

These *Yato* have varied environments such as mixed forest, tree plantation land, springwater land, streams, wetland, reclaimed land and farm land. For this reason, these environments are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna which help to maintain rich ecosystems.

For example, in “*Shimizu Yato*”, approximately 350 species of plants and 320 species of insects such as “*akashimizu*” have been identified, and this is the only area in the City where you can find the plant called “*shūbunso*” (a member of the daisy family).

Another example is “*Yanagi-Yato*” (literally “willow valley”), a beautiful old *satoyama* which was chosen by the municipality to be at the centre of the Prefectural Chigasaki Satoyama Park in Serizawa when it was created at the start of this millennium.

*Shimizu-yato* was so named because there was a spring there and the word *shimizu* actually means clean or spring water. As we come to understand better the environment of *Shimizu-Yato*, which is like an island floating in the midst of urbanization, we can start to appreciate the importance of *Shimizu-Yato* as an ‘unexplored region’ and the value of nature conservation. Once destroyed, nature will never return to its original form. We should not forget that we have a symbiotic relationship with nature and should preserve and make good use of the greenery around us, even if we need to develop local areas.



## Several sections of the City office will be open on weekends in late March and early April

がつまつ がつはじ しゅうまつ しやくしょ いく か まどぐち あ  
3月末と4月始めの週末、市役所の幾つかの課の窓口は開いています

The City Office, to satisfy increased demand at this time of year, will be open from 08:30 to 17:00 on the following days: March 24 (Sat), 25 (Sun), 31 (Sat), and April 1 (Sun). The following services are available, although some applications or issuing of certificates may take a few days: **1st floor of the temporary office;** [Citizen's section] application for alien registration, legal registration of one's official seal and issue of the registered seal impression; [Health Insurance and Pension] entry and cancellation of national health insurance; [School affairs] elementary and junior high school registration. **2nd floor of the temporary office;** [Tax receipts] tax payments, issuing certifications of tax payment, registration and deregistration of motor cycles; [Municipal tax] advice about taxes; [Child-rearing support] procedures for child medical expense grant, child allowance, and dependency allowance; [Nursery] application to a nursery school. **Koide Branch Office;** entry and cancellation of national health insurance, elementary and junior high school registration, payment of tax and issuing certificates of tax payment.

For more information, contact the City Hall, 82-1111, or the Koide branch, 51-0005.

## The Station-front City Resident's Center is open on weekday evenings, Saturdays and holidays

えきまえし みんまどぐち へいじつ ゆうがた とうりび きゅうじつ あ  
駅前市民窓口センターは、平日の夕方、土曜日・休日も開いています

The Station-front City Resident's Center (third floor of NESPA Chigasaki on the northwest of the Chigasaki Station Building) is open weekdays from 08:30 to 19:30, and Saturdays and holidays from 08:30 to 17:00. Services include issuing certificates of residence and family registration, and making tax payments. However, issuing of alien registration certificates is limited to weekdays from 08:30 to 17:00.

## Japanese Language Courses Available for Foreign Residents

がいこくせきけんみん お こうざ かいこう  
外国籍県民向けの講座を開講しています

Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language and Culture Studies offers various educational programs especially tailored for foreign residents. In addition to "Beginners' Japanese Course" for people who want to start studying Japanese, and "Japanese Class for Foreign Kids and Parents", recommended for mothers feeling anxiety about child rearing in Japan, etc., "Japanese Writing Upskilling Course" (tentative name) started from January this year for residents who can handle everyday conversation but have difficulty in writing long sentences in Japanese. For detailed information, such as date and hour, please contact the Institute at the phone number shown below.

[Inquires in Japanese and English] Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language and Culture Studies Tel: 045-896-1091 Five-minute walk from Hongodai Station on the JR Keihin-Tohoku Line From HELLO KANAGAWA

## People in Town

### Gary Lane from California, USA

*I really fell in love with the culture and lifestyle in Japan.*

Born in Oakland California, Gary Lane came to Japan 12 years ago as a project manager to start up a joint venture stock brokerage (shokengaisha). He found his first experience working in Japan challenging, yet vowed to return, not least because he met his future wife during that first visit. He now works for a foreign trust bank and moved here from Tokyo six years ago after marrying his wife and Chigasaki native, Yuko.



Gary loves being near the ocean and enjoys training for triathlons. He even heads over to Eboshi from time to time in his kayak. The lifestyle here reminds him of California and he's impressed by how well local residents maintain their homes with lots of decks and touches that show a real pride in their Shonan culture.

Now the very proud father of a 5-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy, Gary feels Chigasaki is a great place for raising kids. While he is positive about the Japanese education system for young children, he has concerns about the approach at later ages and feels more time should be spent teaching kids how to think rather than preparing for standardized tests. He really enjoys playing basketball, thinks it's a good sport for kids too, and wishes there were more public courts. He finds it strange that so many of the parks and school fields here are dirt and would like to see more grass. Gary is also concerned about road safety and would like to see more bike and pedestrian lanes on city streets. Being of Mexican heritage, Gary wonders why Japan has so few good Mexican food options and is toying with the idea of opening his own Mexican restaurant here one day!

Gary is active on his company's community service committee which last year organized several staff trips to Tohoku to assist in rebuilding efforts. His company also runs and supports global initiatives focusing on education, such as the Tokyo Shure "free" school which is for kids who have dropped out of the Japanese educational system. He hopes this will raise awareness of an important issue.

With two young kids, Gary's biggest worry after 3/11 is the food supply. If anything were to make him leave Japan, he says, it would be finally losing confidence in the authorities regarding food and public safety. However, he loves living in Japan, especially as his wife's family and their close circle of Japanese friends have been so wonderful to them. It's made living here easy and leaving very difficult.

## So many Countries, so many Customs! ところか 変われば、しな 変わる

## Your life might be determined at the age of One! いっさい じんせい き 一歳で人生が決まるかも知れません

In Korea, people hold a magnificent celebratory party for children when they become one year old, in contrast to the Japanese custom of Shichi-Go-San or 七-五-三, celebrating when children reach the ages of 3, 5 and 7. At the one-year-old celebration in Korea, many people, including families, relatives, their friends as well as the family's company colleagues, get together in a hotel room, restaurant or celebration party room, where they give the child a golden ring, a golden bracelet, or something similar. Whatever it is, the gold is believed to bring you the happiness of staying wealthy throughout your entire life.

One of the most interesting customs at this time is that parents bring a plate on which are several items, and the child chooses whatever they like (as shown in the picture). If the child chooses a pencil, it is believed the child will become a hard worker; if it is string, they will have a long life; if it is a credit card or something gold, the child could become a rich person; if it is brush pen, the child will get a job in the arts; if they choose a musical instrument, they will become a musician; if it is mirror, then the child will become an entertainer, and so on. In other words, the child will predict their future depending on what they choose.

Celebrating a child's anniversary may be common all over the world, to pray for their future happiness, but this custom in Korea might have arisen because, in the old days, so many infants died at a young age. Anyway, the first birthday has a special meaning in Korea as their future life is considered to be determined by the child's choice at the celebration party. Can you believe that?

My husband's one-year-old nephew picked a credit card at his party as shown in the picture!!



Note: This letter was written by Ai Ohkubo living in Korea. She used to teach Japanese in the IAC Japanese Language Class.

## IAC ACTIVITY

### Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

#### 外国人の日本語スピーチ・コンテスト

The 15th Japanese Speech Contest for non-native speakers is scheduled for March 25 (Sun) from 13:30 at the Community hall in the City Hall annex 6F. The IAC hosts the annual event backed by the City to encourage foreigners who are studying in Japanese Classes and arranges for them to attend the contest but it is open to any foreigners living in the area. There are prizes and a guest speaker is invited. Why don't you make use of this opportunity to express your feelings or thoughts in Japanese? If you are interested in being a speaker, please go to the IAC's URL: <http://www.@7jp.com/iac> or call 090-1557-7789.

### Ohka Echizen-sai Festival 大岡越前祭

This festival, named after the famous Edo-period magistrate Ohka Echizen, is scheduled for April 21 (Sat) and 22 (Sun). One of the features of this annual festival is 'the Echizen big parade' in which people dressed in gorgeous Edo-period costumes walk around Chigasaki Station in a procession accompanied by school bands, baton twirlers and some other groups. If you'd like to participate and try to wear kimono, please contact the IAC. Tel: 090-1557-7789

Who was Ohka Echizen? He was renowned for his fair judgement in court and was popularly known as 'Ohka Sabaki'. He has also been the subject of a TV drama series entitled *Ohka Echizen* which was popular among elderly people. He passed away in 1751 at the age of 75 and his grave is maintained in Jokenji temple in the northern part of the City.

### Free Japanese Language Classes

#### 日本語教室について

As we reported in the previous issue, the City's Gender Equality Section and the IAC jointly held a panel discussion on January 28, inviting teachers from the many weekly Japanese language classes that are offered freely by the City to foreign residents. The purpose was to find out how teachers have been teaching Japanese, and in what other ways they interact with foreign students, for example during volunteer activities. However, the discussions also revealed a variety of problems and difficulties experienced by students and/or teachers.

The issues that foreign students raised with teachers were numerous, such as high living costs, human relationships at work, troubles at home, health, jobs, apartments, administrative procedures, mental care, and so forth. In other words, these teachers have felt obliged to spend extra time advising students on top of teaching them Japanese.

At the same time, the problems experienced by teachers were such things as students not telling teachers in advance of their absence (although one reason for this is that students are unable to communicate on the phone). Also, teachers find it difficult to make room reservations regularly at the same place, and they have no lockers to keep their teaching materials and other belongings such as refreshments and hot bottles in. They appealed to the Gender Equality Section members who attended the panel discussion for their advice and support.

Despite the fact that all of these classes have a long history of more than fifteen years, this was the first opportunity for the teachers to exchange information horizontally; among classes having the same purpose of teaching Japanese language voluntarily. Similar meetings will, therefore, be held in the future from time to time.

## Upcoming Events 主な催し

- **Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono**  
March 17 (Sat) 13:45 ~ 14:45  
Hagisono Ikoi-no-Sato  
Latin Music by Los Amigos
- **Ohka Echizen-sai Festival**  
April 21 (Sat) and 22 (Sun)  
Trade Fair at Civic Hall and the City's parking lot  
Spring Festival at Central Park
- **Ohka-sai Parade**  
April 22 (Sun) 13:00~ Chigasaki Elementary School
- **Shonan-sai Festival & Aloha Market**  
April 28 (Sat) and 29 (Sun)  
"Shonan-sai" Stage show on the Southern Beach  
"Aloha Market" Number of stalls selling Hawaiian Goods at Shonan Panasonic Resort parking lot  
\*Please visit the Chigasaki City Tourism Association web site for more details.  
URL (Japanese only): <http://www.chigasaki-kankou.org>

## Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

### 日本と西洋のことわざ

- 石車に乗っても 口車に乗るな  
ISHIGURUMA NI NOTTEMO KUCHIGURUMA NI NORUNA  
(Even though you take the stone vehicle, never be taken in by these sweet words.)  
Fair words make fools fair.
- 薬も過ぎれば 毒となる  
KUSURI MO SUGIREBA DOKU TO NARU  
(Excessive dosing may become poisonous.)  
Everything in moderation.
- 前門の虎、後門の狼  
ZENMON NO TORA, KOUMON NO ŌKAMI  
(A tiger at the front gate, a wolf at the back gate.)  
Between the devil and the deep blue sea.
- 虎穴に入らば 虎子を得ず  
KOKETSU NI IRAZUNBA KOJI WO EZU  
(Unless you enter the tiger's den, you cannot get its cub.)  
Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- 実を見て 木を知れ  
MI WO MITE KI WO SHIRE  
(See the fruit and know the tree.)  
The apple does not fall far from the tree.

## Useful Japanese Expressions 役に立つ日本語

### “GOMOTTOMO DESU” “ごもっともです”

This polite expression is used when you want to respond positively to or you feel agreeable towards something said to you by a senior person or an acquaintance. You can also say it without **ご** (GO) like **尤もです** (MOTTOMO DESU), depending on the situation, though it may sound a little bit blunt and may give the impression that you are not really satisfied or not quite so agreeable.

For your reference, GOMOTTOMO DESU could be expressed in English as follows:

- You are right. / I think you are right. / I'll agree with you.
- I do understand what you said.
- I'm agreeable with your comment.

### “OKAGESAMADE” “お蔭さまで”

OKAGESAMADE is equivalent to 'Thanks to you' in formal English, but Japanese often use it in daily conversation as an opening remark when you want to express your appreciation to somebody. However, it can be used even if you don't owe anything special to the person you are talking to as a polite gesture.

There is another similar expression; **お蔭で** (OKAGEDE) which is used by senior persons when they appreciate a kindness shown to them by a junior person. It can also be used to express gratitude for your good fortune, for example: "Thanks to the good weather, my trip was very enjoyable." ("KOUTEN NO OKAGEDE, TANOSHII TABI DESHITA.")