

# Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.47

## Keep Saving More Energy ! この夏も節電を!

This summer, no numerical target for electricity saving has been set for the Kanto area, but the government is asking people to make energy-saving a part of their everyday lives. The City has developed an anti-global warming action plan whereby greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to 80% of the 1990 level, or 1165 kilotons CO<sub>2</sub>, by 2020. According to the City's simulations, gas emissions from plants are going to decrease compared with the 1990 level. However, the amount from households, schools, hospitals, shops and other commercial facilities is expected to increase by 50% from the 1990 level unless further measures are taken.

The City has already encouraged citizens to, amongst other measures: ① behave in an energy-saving manner; ② introduce LEDs and solar energy systems; ③ use public transportation and bicycles more often, rather than private cars; ④ drive without rapid accelerations; and ⑤ plant trees and/or grass in their gardens. As cars, air conditioners, bath boilers and heaters account for the greater part of most households' energy consumption, it is recommended that citizens review how they use these appliances in conjunction with checking fuel and electricity bills.

The City provides citizens with monetary aid when they install energy generating systems, or purchase an electric car, as follows: ① solar power generation system, ¥10,000/1Kw up to ¥40,000; ② cogeneration system, ¥50,000 a system; ③ solar heating system, ¥50,000 a system; ④ electric car, ¥100,000 a car; and ⑤ replacement of a power line conditioner, 20% of the price up to ¥60,000. The City also lends out for free devices that monitor electricity consumption.

## City School Kids Win Skiing/Judo Competitions

市内小学生が全国優勝

**Skiing** Ayaka Tsuji, who recently graduated from Umeda Elementary School, has won the championship at the All-Japan Junior Ski competition. The event was held in Hokkaido at the end of March, and she won the giant slalom for fifth- and sixth-year schoolgirls. She began skiing when she was a first grader and has been training at weekends from late-October to mid-May in Gunma, Nagano and Yamagata since she was a third grader. On weekdays she exercises to strengthen her muscles. She says she hopes to achieve good results at the Winter Olympics and World Cup Ski Series.



**Judo** A team from Ogawa Judo School has won the All-Japan Junior Judo Tournament held at Kodokan in Tokyo on May 5 (Sun). Each prefecture was represented by one team in the competition. Each team consisted of five members, three of whom were sixth graders, the other two being fourth or fifth graders. At the prefectural stage, the Ogawa team defeated a powerful team from Yokohama in the final. In the national tournament, the team won a victory over the Ibaraki team to claim the championship. The team members were Yume Hirano, Keitaro Sekino, Goki Ogawa, Yukai Inokuma and Ryoka Sato.

The students were trained by Dojo master Naoya Ogawa, a former world judo champion and silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics. You may also be interested to know that foreign residents are welcome at Ogawa Judo School located in Higashi-kaigan Kita.

## University Libraries Open Doors to Citizens

大学図書館が利用できます

Citizens, especially those with an interest in academic subjects, will be interested to know that they are allowed to use libraries at four universities in and around the city. Tokai and Nihon Universities have recently agreed to provide the City with reading, copying and lending services. Similar arrangements with Bunkyo University and the Shonan Institute of Technology have been in effect since 1991 and 2010, respectively. To use these libraries, citizens must have registered at the City Library, be twenty or older (eighteen or older at Tokai University), and not be students.

**(Tokai University)** The libraries on Shonan campus (Kita-Kaname, Hiratsuka) and on Isehara campus (Shimokasuya, Isehara) together own about 1,670,000 books on human and social science, science and technology, art and medical care. The Shonan campus library provides a lending service (three books for two weeks). **(Nihon University)** The library at the College of Bioresource Sciences (Kameino, Fujisawa) owns about 290,000 books on the production and utilization of bio resources, life science and environmental science. It lends five books for a week. **(Bunkyo University)** The library on Shonan campus (Namegaya, Chigasaki) owns about 170,000 books on information, international relations, and health and nutrition. It lends five books for two weeks. **(Shonan Institute of Technology)** The library (Tsujiido-Nishi-Kaigan, Fujisawa) has 190,000 books on mechanical, electrical and communication engineering. It lends two books for two weeks.

## Beware of Rip Currents along the Headland

ヘッドランド両側の離岸流に注意

The sea around the Headland "T-bar" of Chigasaki Beach in Higashi-kaigan is open to the public throughout the year, and is used by surfers, water scooter riders, yachtsmen and people enjoying other marine sports regardless of the season. However, the sea closest to the T-bar is extremely hazardous due to strong rip currents (currents flowing away from shore) which sometimes occur along both sides of the T-bar, according to Keiichiro Ogawa, the leader of the Surf 90 Chigasaki Life Saving Club, whose headquarters are in a yellow cabin at the neck of the T-bar.

He warns that anyone carried away by the current should not attempt to reach the nearby wave-dissipating blocks (tetrapods) piled around the T-bar because waves may send them in amongst the blocks where they could get trapped and possibly drown. Rather, they should move at least twenty meters away from the tetrapods, then float and wait for rescuers, or swim away from the current to the shore, avoiding the T-bar. Novice surfers and swimmers in particular must take this advice to heart. Coastguards, fire fighters, fishermen and also the weekend life saving club are co-operatively engaged in rescue operations. Ogawa adds that if visitors are new to the beach, they had better listen to what local swimmers, surfers or riders advise to have a safe and enjoyable time.



## Fireworks Display at Southern Beach

## サザンビーチちがさき花火大会 はなびたいかい

A spectacular display of 3,000 fireworks will brighten the night sky on August 3 (Sat) at Southern Beach, Chigasaki from 19:30 to 20:20. Tens of thousands of people from neighboring cities are expected to join local residents in enjoying what is a typical scene during summer which adds a poetic charm to the season. Watching the display, you will see many people wearing colorful *yukata*, casual summer kimono, which complement the visual splendor of the fireworks.

You can observe the display from other places near the beach, but on the beach itself, there will be 350 pipe chairs available for renting, at a cost of 2,000 yen each.

This event is organized by the Chigasaki Tourism Association, but you will see 'Fireworks' fund-raising boxes at the Tourist Information Center in the station lobby, and also in the lobbies of City Hall and the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, shops and other facilities who support this activity.

Money collected in these fund-raising boxes goes towards the operational costs of the fireworks display, and if you put a hundred yen or more in a box, you will be given a charming round fan.



## A Festival at Daybreak on Marine Day "Hamaori-sai"

## 浜降祭 はまおりさい



On July 15 (Mon) at daybreak, the major Chigasaki festival of *Hamaori-sai* commences with a procession of *mikoshi* or portable shrines, each carried by a score of believers from the local shrines of Chigasaki and Samukawa. In each *mikoshi*, the ghost or spirit of a Shinto shrine deity is believed to ride.

This year, 34 *mikoshi* will gather at sunrise, from around 04:00, at Nishihama beach near Chigasaki fishing port. At around 07:00, once all the *mikoshi* have arrived, a purification ritual will be held on the beach, and then the *mikoshi* will depart one by one, the last leaving the beach by around 08:00. The many carriers crowded together beneath the weighty *mikoshi* chant 'Dokkoi Dokkoi' in loud voices and appear to be dancing, which makes for a vivid and splendid spectacle.

The origin of *Hamaori-sai* is unclear, but one tale says that in 1838 (Tempo 9), the *mikoshi* of Samukawa Shrine fell in the Sagami-gawa river from a bridge near Samukawa Shrine because of a dispute with the parishioners of a neighboring village shrine. The object of worship within the *mikoshi* was carried away by the river and could not be retrieved. Several days later, the object of worship was found in the sea by Magoshichi Suzuki, a Nango fisherman, and he returned it to Samukawa Shrine. To express their appreciation for the safe return of their deity, the parishioners of Samukawa shrine visited Nishihama beach to pray, so starting the *mikoshi* procession festival.

Another tale suggests that Tsurumine-Hachiman-sha Shrine had offered up *mikoshi* to the god of the sea at Nishihama beach in a purification ceremony, praying for the well-being, good health and safety of their families much earlier.

As *Samukawa Shrine* and *Tsurumine-Hachiman-sha* each had their own ritual on the same beach, they discussed the issue in the Meiji Era and agreed to hold a combined *Hamaori-sai* festival on July 15. The *Hamaori-sai* festival, which has now been taking place annually since 1923 (Taisho 12), has been classified as an 'intangible' cultural asset, and was chosen as one of the top fifty festivals in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1982.

A ceremony to kick off the beachgoing season on Southern Beach will be held on July 6 (Sat). At 10:00, a Shinto priest will pray for safety in the sea, and at 10:50, there will be a tsunami evacuation drill using sirens to guide people to a safety zone. There will also be various attractions such as live stage music and watermelon-smashing on the beach. On this day, too, many beach houses open and beach umbrellas can be borrowed rent free.

### HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

## Tōma Family Residence Designated as City Historic Site

### とうまけやしきあとししせき 藤間家屋敷跡が市の史跡に

The Board of Education of Chigasaki City recently designated the residence of the Tōma Family in Yanagishima as a historic site of the City, and the Fukabachi-type pottery from the latter half of the Jōmon era found within the Tsutsumi "kaizuka" (a shell mound or prehistoric refuse heap consisting chiefly of the shells of edible mollusks intermingled with evidence of human occupancy) as a cultural asset of the City.

According to a death register of the Tōma Family, the residence in Yanagishima has been passed down from one generation to the next since the Bunshō era (1466-1467). The present landlord, Yuzō Tōma, is the eighteenth generation of Tōma's to own the residence. During the Edo era, they served as chief of Yanagishima village (when it was part of Kōza County) over several consecutive generations, and ran a large-scale shipping agency using Yanagishima as its home port.

The Tōma Family has preserved many family records and other documents which describe social conditions in the Edo era, as well as stories and legends about the shipping agency. Much of this documentary material is said to have been collected by the thirteenth generation Ryūan (Zengorō) Tōma, who was selected as one of "the Kanagawa 100 Persons". Ryūan Tōma was born in the Yanagishima residence, and learned from Seichi Hata, a famous calligrapher of the Edo era, through whom he made many friends within the intellectual community. In fact, Ryūan Tōma recorded the social situation at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate in detail, including a detailed account of Commodore Matthew Perry's appearance in Tokyo harbor (which forced Japan to enter into trade with the US and open its ports to US merchant ships).



Jōmon "Fukabachi" pottery found within Tsutsumi Kaizuka (Shell mound)

Based on these historical accounts, a considerable amount of research has been conducted by the Culture Museum or members of the City's Editorial Committee. Furthermore, archeological investigations of the vast Tōma Family residence site (which covers an area of about 4,700m<sup>2</sup>) have confirmed the existence of artefacts which pre-date the Edo era. It is believed that these relics, which are undergoing considerable analysis, could yield insights into the pioneering days of the southern Chigasaki areas of Yanagishima and Nango which have remained a mystery until now.

In addition, there is a *kyaraboku* or aloe tree on the site which, due to its beautiful shape, was selected in 1984 (Showa 59) as one of "the Kanagawa 100 Noble Woods" and subsequently designated as a special natural monument of the City two years later.



Stone wall uncovered below Tōma Family residence



*Kyaraboku* or aloe tree



## IAC ACTIVITY

### IAC Charity Concert チャリティコンサート



The International Association of Chigasaki will hold a charity concert performed by pop singer, Mayo Shono, on September 5 (Thu) from 18:30 at Chigasaki Civic Hall's small hall.

Mayo Shono's music is a reflection of her experiences from the 28 countries she visited during a two-year journey around the world some 25 years ago. Her interest in nature and her belief that "people make the environment" led her to found Musicians without Borders, an NPO that "uses the power of music to

connect communities, bridge divides and heal the wounds of war and conflict". She has also donated unwanted musical instruments such as keyboard harmonicas and recorders to orphanages in developing countries after gathering them in Japan.

The admission fee of this concert is 2,000 yen. Receipts from the sale of tickets will be allocated to helping children in Cambodia, Laos and Nepal.

## Aid School Construction in Laos

### ラオスでの学校建設支援

In its role as a provider of overseas aid, the International Association of Chigasaki is supporting the construction of a primary school in Laos through Swari Arimura, who hails from Thailand.

Though now living in Chigasaki with her husband and daughter, she has kept up her volunteer activities to construct schools in her mother's hometown in Laos near the border with northern Thailand. She visits the site in Laos once a year to directly hand over donated money to a constructor and confirm what progress has been made, but sometimes she is hampered reaching the site because of flooding along the Mekong River.

She said the school now under construction consisted of just columns the year before last, a roof was added last year, and this year they should be completing the walls. Even so, the children study with big smiles on their faces in the rough building.



## People in Town

### Mindy Norström from Uppsala, Sweden

*A song of Utada Hikaru "Hikari" inspired me to come over to Japan.....*

Mindy Norström, from Uppsala, Sweden, came to Japan last September as an overseas student and attends a high school outside of Chigasaki. She spent the first three months with a host family in Ayase, Kanagawa, but since



January, has been staying with another host family in Matsukazedai, Chigasaki. This coming September, she will return to Sweden to enter a local college, most probably to major in linguistics. To our surprise, not only does she speak fluent Japanese (and can write *kanji*, too), but she has mastered five other foreign languages, namely: English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin and Korean. She also appears to be talented in music, enjoying listening to music and playing the piano, violin and flute as hobbies.

It's been five years since Mindy had a dream to come to Japan. Through the internet, she enjoyed many Japanese dramas, actors, and music, thus gaining a lot of knowledge about Japan. Now, she says she feels very happy as she can enjoy all of them on TV in Japan. Her enthusiasm is so deep!

After coming to Japan, she has been fascinated by convenience stores as they sell such a wide variety of foods she gets confused. Also, what surprised her early on was hearing the sound of water when entering public restrooms.

She has made many friends at school, although it took a few months as everybody was quiet initially. She has realized that they are all kind, and appreciates their assistance whenever she has difficulties.

While schooling in Japan, she has noticed some differences between the Japanese education system and that of Sweden, but has accepted them without any problem. Firstly, she said, Swedish teachers can finish classes earlier or later than the scheduled time if they choose, allowing students to go home or occupy themselves at school somehow. Secondly, Swedish students are encouraged to express their own opinions and use reasoning when answering the teacher's questions. The tests that students take in Sweden are therefore very different from those in Japan. Currently, Mindy is studying Japanese at the IAC's language classes on Sundays and plans to take Level N3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Mindy and her family visited Japan four years ago and travelled to Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima at that time. Her parents are visiting Japan again in July to see Mindy and meet her host family, staying for ten days to make the most of her last few weeks in Japan.

## So many Countries, so many Customs!

ところか 所変われば、しな 品変わる

### Well Dressing

みず かんしゃさい 水の感謝祭

Throughout the summer months, many villages of the English counties of Derbyshire and Staffordshire decorate wells, springs and other water sources with mosaic-like pictures made of organic materials, especially flower petals. The pictures traditionally depict stories from the Christian Bible, though many reflect current events, important national anniversaries and even popular children's stories.

The custom of *well dressing* (or *well flowering*) as practiced today is said to have originated in Tissington, Derbyshire, to give thanks for the purity of their well water which people believed helped the village escape the Black Death, an outbreak of bubonic plague which killed about half the English population between 1348 and 1350.

Although well dressing is a skilful art, the entire village community usually gets involved in the activity. To make a well dressing, large wooden frames are filled with wet clay to a depth of about 5cm. A picture design sketched on thin paper is laid on the clay and the outline pricked into the clay. The design is then painstakingly filled in with flower petals, beans, berries, seeds, mosses, grasses, leaves and even tree bark and small cones. One well dressing can take ten days to complete, during which time the clay has to be kept damp else it will crack. The completed designs are then carefully transported to the wells where they are erected and blessed in a short ceremony.

Each year, some fifty thousand people visit Tissington in late May at the start of the well dressing season to view the beautiful dressings of its six wells. One by one, villages throughout the Peak District hold their own events, culminating in a large week-long festival in Eyam at the end of August.

Despite all the love and hard work that goes into creating these elaborate decorations, they only last for a few days, so it's a good idea to check the well dressing calendars before visiting a particular village.



Note: This letter was written by Adrian Wilson, an English teacher from London, England, now living in Chigasaki.

## University Students from France

### フランスから<sup>だいがくせい</sup>大学生がホームステイ

As we reported in the May issue, six French university students are now staying with volunteer host families in Chigasaki. In addition to the schedule shown below which the IAC has prepared for them, trips to climb Mt. Fuji and go sightseeing in Kyoto are also planned. The students will also attend IAC-run Japanese language classes every Tuesday and Friday during their stay.

July 4	(Thu)	Visit to Bunkyo University
July 6	(Sat)	Welcoming party at Labor Citizen Hall from 18:30
July 8	(Mon)	Visit to Daiichi Junior High School
July 10	(Wed)	Visit to Tsurumine High School
July 11	(Thu)	Culture Experience - tea ceremony and kimono wearing
July 12	(Fri)	Visit to Keio University
July 19	(Fri)	Courtesy call to the Mayor
July 27	(Sat)	Japanese Speech Contest Farewell Party at Labor Citizen Hall from 14:00
July 28	(Sun)	Leave Chigasaki

Needless to say, each year, the everyday contact and development of close relationships with their host families, especially with the children, appears to be the most exciting part of the trip for visiting students, and gives them many fond memories to take home with them.

This one-month stay by students representing top class universities in France started in 1999, so it's an ongoing experiment, but so far the opportunities offered through this program and the experiences of students are reportedly highly regarded. If you happen to see them riding a bicycle in town, feel free to say hello.

For further information, call Noriko Fukumura on 85-1337.

## Change to Foreign Driver License Procedures

### がいこくせき かた うんてんめんきょ てつづ いちぶ へんこう 外国籍の方の運転免許手続きの一部変更について

With the new Resident Registration system covering foreign residents starting on July 9, 2012, foreign residents are required to submit residence certificates when:

- applying for a driver's license for the first time;
- switching to a Japanese driver's license from another country's;
- requesting reinstatement of a driver's license after it has expired;
- changing nationality, name, or date of birth on a Japan-issued driver's license;
- applying for a new driver's license after losing the previous one for a motoring offence.

Foreign nationals whose residence certificates have not been issued yet must present their passports, documents to prove their place of residence, etc. instead.

[Inquiries in Japanese] Examination Division, Driver's License Headquarters  
Kanagawa Prefectural Police Department Tel: 045-365-3111

(From HELLO KANAGAWA)

## Useful Japanese Expressions

### やく た にほんご 役に立つ日本語

### Utoi <sup>うと</sup> 疎い

*Utoi* is used when you want to say that someone knows very little about or is unfamiliar with something, but you don't want to call them ignorant, which could be considered impolite. You may not hear this expression often, but *utoi* is not a bad expression and there is some elegance to it. You've been in this position, haven't you?

### Chinpunkanpun <sup>ちんぶんかんぶん</sup>

In contrast with *utoi*, there is a word "*chinpunkanpun*" which you can use when you don't understand anything that you just heard or saw. It may sound funny and you may not have heard it often, but "*chinpunkanpun*" is a fairly common and familiar expression. Be careful, though, as it can be used in a dismissive way or as a parting shot in some situations. In English, you can simply say "*gibberish*" as in: "It's complete gibberish to me.", or you can use an expression such as: "It's as clear as mud." or "I can't make head or tail of it."

The shorter "*chinpunkan*" (written as 珍糞漢 in kanji) can be used as an adjective, for example: "*chinpunkan na kotae*" (ちんぶんかんな答え) or a rambling reply, or "*chinpunkan na go*" (ちんぶんかんな語) or a long word.

## Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

### はぎその どよう 萩園の土曜ミュージックサロン

On July 20 (Sat), from 13:45 to 14:45, the local Ando Band and a hula group "KAPUAHULAO KAMEALOHHA" will perform together at Hagisono-ikoi-no-sato. Saturday Music Salon is held every other month, and admission is free.

## "Disused Article Bank"

### ふようひん 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 June 5, 2013. 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 on 82-1111]

#### Articles being offered ゆずります

▽Baby bed ▽Hamamidaira Kindergarten boy's uniform ▽ three-wheel step for baby car ▽Boys' May Festival dolls ▽ high-low chair ▽yukata and obi (belt) ▽table-use cooker stand ▽steel shelf ▽electric bed ▽automatic washing machine ▽hot sandwich maker ▽laptop computer ▽kotatsu or fireplace with a coverlet ▽digital terrestrial tuner ▽oven range ▽dish dryer ▽electric kettle/water-heating pot ▽coffee maker ▽electric fan ▽piano ▽keyboard ▽ mountaineering boots ▽health footstool with electronic counter ▽Futon mat

#### Articles wanted ゆずってください

▽Baby bed ▽Takasuna Kindergarten boy's uniform ▽ baby car ▽single bed ▽speaker set ▽adult's bicycle ▽ tent

## Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

### にほん せいよう 日本と西洋のことわざ

●恩を仇で返す  
ON WO ADA DE KAESU  
(Return evil for good.)  
The axe goes to the wood from whence it borrowed its helve.

●金持ち けんかせず  
KANEMOCHI KENKA SEZU  
(Rich people never quarrel.)  
Agree, for the law is costly.

●喧嘩両成敗  
KENKA RYŌSEIBAI  
(When two quarrel, both will be punished.)  
It takes two to make a quarrel.

●叩けば埃が出る  
TATAKEBA HOKORI GA DERU  
(The beating raises dust.)  
Many without punishment, none without fault.

●目は口程に物を言う  
ME WA KUCHIHODO NI MONO WO IU  
(The eyes say more than the mouth.)  
The eyes are the mirror of the soul.

#### 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.