

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.28

REORGANIZATION AND MOVE OF THE CITY OFFICES

市の組織再編と事務所移転

The city office is undergoing reform of its main building to be earthquake-proof and its work became an opportunity for them to change their organizations and move locations of offices in connections with the reorganizations.

Here are examples of some offices where foreign residents might frequently visit in the city office buildings.

▼Office Move

○In the end of March, some offices on the 2nd floor in the annex moved to its 5th floor, and offices in the 1st floor in the main building to its 2nd floor.

○Temporary office building will be installed at the north parking lot to be set by the end of September, and offices on the second floor will be moved to this temporary building.

▼Reduction of overweight of the main building

In order to reduce overweight condition of the main building, the offices of Information Promotion Section will be moved to the annex by January, 2011.

▼Others

A stand located in the 1st floor of the main building will be moved to a place in front of the elevator of the annex, and tea room Café Dot Com to the temporary building.

●Main Building

2F Newly established・Re-organized

Childrearing Consulting Section (Fatherless Family, Physical checkup for Babies and Infants, Family Children Consultation and others)

Window Changes

Childrearing Support Section (Parent/Infants Medical Care, Kindergarten Promotion and others)

3F Move

Consumer Life Center (from 1st floor to 3rd floor in the Main building)
Residents Consulting Room (in the same floor)

●Annex

2F Newly established・Re-organized

Health and Welfare Section (District Welfare Officer/Child Committee member, Basic Physical Checkup/Cancer Checkup, and others)

RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF CHIGASAKI

市基本条例と外国人との関係

The Basic Autonomy Ordinance of Chigasaki City came into effect from April 1, 2010.

This ordinance specifies that citizens have the right and obligation to participate in the workings of municipal government, and has ruled to take steps for improvements in the environment and to make it easier for citizens to participate in the process. The object of this ordinance is to encourage the participation of all residents, including foreign people, and in fact states that collaboration and cooperation with the international community is one of its aims.

THE IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT AMMENDED

入国管理法改正

Previously, the regulation of foreign residents in Japan was undertaken by the Immigration Office through the Immigration Control Act, while the corresponding role at local government level was based on the Alien Registration Law. However, in July 2009 the system was changed and everything will be administered by the Ministry of Justice.

The new law is going to be enforced by 2012 and after that a new photo ID Foreign Resident Registration Card will be issued to replace the one being used currently.

In cases where there are changes in circumstances, foreign residents will be required to report to the authority concerned. The card will be canceled either if false representation is made or if there is a failure to report a change of residence.

THE MONETARY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

子どもてあて 子供手当

The new support system for childrearing enacted by the Hatoyama government last year has started.

All residents who have a child aged under fifteen are eligible to receive allowance for childrearing 13,000 yen per month. You need a procedure to receive it. An application form is mailed to those eligible people until late April so those who received have to mail back up to September 30. A copy of some identification notes is also needed. The allowance is to be paid in June, October and next February. If there are any questions, please contact:

City office counter of childrearing support
Tel 0467-82-1111

TIME TO PAY RESIDENT TAX

じゅうみんぜい 住民税

June is the month for self-employed people and those people living on pensions to pay resident tax. As you know, there are two kinds of taxes which are levied on people's incomes: income tax and resident tax. However, their respective tax years are different.

Income tax is payable on annual income from January through December and is paid within the year. As this tax is levied before incomes are fixed, the difference between the estimated and final income is offset at the year-end tax adjustment for salaried workers and a final income tax return in February or March of the following year for self-employed and pensioners.

However, resident tax is charged after annual income is known. For most salaried workers, resident tax is deducted automatically from their salaries every month, while self-employed and people who receive pensions pay this tax themselves after the city sends them tax notices in June. They can choose either a lump-sum payment or installments (mostly in four installments: June, August, October and January). It is possible to pay the tax at the municipal office or at banks in the city. A new system applying to pensioners who are 65 and older as of April 1 was introduced in October last year. Resident tax is paid directly from their pensions (April, June, August, October, December and February).

In short, income tax is levied on the current year's income, resident tax on that of the previous year. Thus, we have to pay resident tax if we worked or had income in the pervious year, even if we are not working this year.

‘THE SHONAN TAGERI RICE PROJECT’ WOULD DO IT

しょうなん まい
湘南たげり米



I wonder if you are aware of a brand of rice called ‘Shonan Tageri’? The ‘Tageri’ or Lapwings that feature in the brand name fly in from Siberia to winter in Nishikubo in Chigasaki and feed on worms, various bugs and small fish that inhabit the rice fields after harvesting has taken place. Tageri can be identified by their long, fine crests and metallic-gold wings, an elegant appearance, which has led to them being called

‘the ladies of winter’ in Japan. The Tageri Rice brand was established by a local environmental protection group called Sansuikai, which was formed in 2000. The black rice has the relatively high price tag of 3,500 yen for a 5kg bag. There has been encouragement from consumers about this rice, and not just for its delicious flavor. A representative of Sansuikai recalls “In the old days, Chigasaki was all rice fields, as far as you could see in all directions. But the area has steadily been engulfed by the wave of urbanization, with rice fields being developed into housing areas and major highways. These days there are a lot less wild birds like the tageri than there used to be.”

Concerned about the future of the rice-growing areas, Sansuikai members sought to engage the farmers in the production of rice, urging more environment-friendly practices that take a long-term view toward sustainability. In return Sansuikai would purchase the rice to sell on to environment-conscious consumers at a high price, the profit from sales being used to found the group’s conservation activities in the area. Now twenty-four farmers are taking part in the project but at the beginning only five locals were involved in the project.

“ENVIRONMENT FAIR” PLANNED FOR 7/3 AND 7/4

かんきょう
環境フェア

The NPO ‘REN’ (The Renewable Energy Network) and SAPOSEN (The Support Center for Citizen’s Activity) will jointly hold an ‘Environment Fair’ which will take place on July 3rd and 4th, under the title “Let’s Make the Best Use of Solar Energy in Chigasaki!” The fair’s main site is SAPOSEN, where REN set up the first solar panel on their roof, the first experiment in the city. There they will introduce and demonstrate how to make and use a solar cooker (see the photo below), LED bulbs and a ‘hand-made’ water heater, among other things. They will also show how a ‘Green Curtain’ of *gohya* plants can keep rooms cool, thereby contributing towards saving energy, and how their solar panel worked effectively in terms of output. They had been monitoring the figure.

Also, they plan ‘environment study’ games for participants to consider how they can contribute towards sustainability in the environment for a wide variety of life forms. The game is named “ECO-COMBI”.

This event will also partly be held at the Community Hall, and its overall aim is to encourage everybody, adults, children, corporations and even tourists, to become more aware of the existing environment, as well as developing environmentally safe, eco-friendly lifestyles.



“TSUYU” THE RAINY SEASON

つゆ
梅雨

The rainy season will be upon us fairly soon. The seasonal rainy weather, a phenomenon characteristic of East Asia, is associated with a stationary front formed along the border between northern cold, dry air masses: the Yangtze River and Okhotsk air masses, and southern warm, wet ones: the tropical monsoon and Ogasawara air masses.

Early in summer the two southern air masses increase in strength and push the rain front northward. As the front reaches Japan’s southernmost parts of Okinawa and Kyushu in June, the rainy season sets in (Tsuyu-iri). The front then keeps moving northwards decreasing in strength. In July, just before it reaches Hokkaido, the front disappears and the rainy season is over (Tsuyu-ake).

The humid weather may displease us. We should also be careful of food poisoning. However, this seasonal rain brings us a lot of blessings as well. It supplies the water necessary for rice growing, for trees and for our tap water as well as for hydroelectric power generation. The rain makes hydrangeas and other seasonal flowers look fresh too.

The rain is called Meiyu in China, Changma in Korea and Tsuyu, or Bai-u in Japan. Some of these names are associated with a small fruit, a type of plum growing only in East Asia, indicating that this rain falls when this fruit is in season. After the rainy season, a summer with brilliant sunshine and comfortable sea breeze comes our way.



HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

THE SITE OF HARA VILLA IN TAKASUNA RYOKUCHI

はらべっそうあと
原別荘跡

たかさなりよくち
(高砂緑地)

People living in Chigasaki these days barely give a thought to villas that existed in the recent past, but it’s worthwhile to remember that there was once a large villa here in the city. The site is in Takasuna Ryokuchi where the Municipal Museum of Art is presently located, on Takasuna street extending toward the coast from Chigasaki station.

This villa was built by Yasusaburō Hara (1884~1982) who was president of a company called Nihon Kayaku Seizo K.K. However, originally the yard had been owned by a famous actor called Otojirō Kawakami (1864~1911), a member of the *Shinpa* ‘new school’ theatrical company in the Meiji era, who was well-known for *Oppekepe-bushi* song, and who had built his house in tribute to the ninth *kabuki* actor Danjurō Ichikawa.

In 1919, Hara purchased the site of more than 1,700 tsubo or 5,610 square meters, then constructed on the hill on the northeastern side a main house of southern European style, which he called “Shōrai-sō”, along with a Japanese style garden. This was completed in 1932 (Showa 7). It is said that Hara’s interest and taste are reflected in the design of “Shōrai-sō”.

In 1984, the whole area was purchased by the City and it became a public park, but even now you can still see the remains of the villa days.

First, on the stone gatepost at the entrance you will find the name plate “Shōrai-sō”, hand written by Hara himself. The place where the main house was is where the Museum of Art now stands. It was pulled down in 1984, however a part of the wall of the main house remains on the side of the steps leading to the entrance of the Art Museum. It’s a brick wall and reminds us that the main house was constructed in southern European style. Several parts of the garden constructed in the days of Hara’s villa still remain too, they are the big stone that is laid there, the “Shōrai-an” tea room and the three-storied pagoda and its surrounding pond.

The existence of villas has influenced the local community of Chigasaki in various ways, and it is possible to imagine those bygone days by taking a look at what remains of it today.



CITY HALL LOBBY MINI-MUSIC CONCERT

しやくしよ 市役所 ミニ・コンサート

A mini-music concert will be held in the City Hall lobby on Friday, May 21st from 12:20 through 12:50. The performers are 'Profumo di Musica', which comprises two singers, soprano and baritone, and a pianist.

The program will include the famous HANA by Rentaro Taki, and other Japanese folk songs that have a connection with the month of May. In addition, they will perform an Irish folk song and a song from opera 'The Magic Flute'. They will sing HANA and the Chigasaki city song with audience participation.

This mini-concert is held every three months and the City hopes as many citizens as possible will visit the lobby and enjoy the musicians' performance. The photo shown is of a group Shonan Liebe who played in May last year.

Inquiries: Bunkashogai-gakushu-ka
(Lifelong Cultural Study Section)
Tel: 82-1111



IAC ACTIVITY

JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST A SUCCESS 日本語スピーチコンテスト



The IAC's Japanese Speech Contest For Foreigners held on March 28 ended successfully, with eight speakers from five different countries, England, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Russia, taking part.

A lady from Russia, Evseeva Irina Viktorovna, won The Mayor's Prize with the subject "My Hometown of Spask", while a man from Indonesia, Iruapan, won both the IAC Chairman's prize and 'Popular' prize as a result of the audience vote. The title of his speech was 'The Merit of *Rajio Taiso*' (a gymnastics program broadcast on NHK Radio/TV every morning). The two International Soroptimist Chigasaki prizes went to two speakers from Vietnam, the titles of whose speeches were 'Year of Vietnam' and 'Aozai flower of Vietnam', respectively.

During the event a guest speaker from Nigeria also made a speech, World Peace being her topic.

This contest is one of IAC's annual events involving mainly foreign residents from Chigasaki, this year's event being the 14th.



"SHONAN SAI" ON THE SOUTHERN BEACH

しょうなんさい 湘南祭

A beach festival called 'Shonan Sai (festival)' was held on the Chigasaki beach on April 24 and 25. Tens of thousands of local residents visited the festival site. Various events, including hula dance shows, beach soccer games and a Shonan-girl contest, were also held. There were a lot of shops selling Hawaiian taste goods, bags, sandals, etc. and there was a long line of people in front of a Hawaiian cuisine booth.

This event is a part of Ohoka Echizen-sai festivals and sponsored by the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The festival started 16 years ago and it was 17th this year.



NOGUCHI-SAN RETURNS AFTER THE LONGEST STAY IN SPACE

Astronaut and honorary citizen of Chigasaki, Soichi Noguchi is scheduled to return to earth on June 2. He is now working at the International Space Station as a flight engineer with five other crew members. He left Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Republic of Kazakhstan aboard the Russian spacecraft Soyuz on Dec. 21 last year. He helped astronaut Naoko Yamazaki carry supplies into the ISS from the US space shuttle Discovery. Noguchi is going to stay another month and is expected to exceed the current record for the time spent in space by a Japanese national of 137 days held by Koichi Wakata.



PEOPLE IN TOWN

Robin-Heather Campbell From Canada

I felt like I'd come back home when I moved to Chigasaki from Kyoto ...



Robin Campbell was born in Montreal, Canada in 1951.

She is an artist specializing in sculpture, in which she has a Masters degree. She first came to Japan in 1994 for a short visit, and after three years came back again and started to live in Kyoto in order to add her skillfulness to the new world of sculpture. She lived in Kyoto for ten years. She owned a house with a workshop, and used to have exhibitions of her work every year at Honen-ji temple at Higashi Yama.

What first got her interested in living in Japan was a book entitled 'Visual and Spatial Structure of Landscapes' (M.I.T. PRESS 1983) written by Tadahiko Higuchi, professor at Niigata University. Second was an encounter with a watercolor artist who had been fascinated by Japanese beauty when visiting Japan with her parents as a teenager, and with whom Robin eventually worked in collaboration.

Robin has visited almost all the historical buildings, such as temples and shrines, and gardens in Kyoto, observing them closely to make her work as complete as possible. Living so long there, she has grasped a good knowledge of Japanese art and learned many other things, including Japanese history and culture, which she views with a sharp eye. She also speaks in the local Kyoto dialect, Kyoto-ben, and is very aware of subtleties in language, even differentiating between Japanese-style English and what she calls 'Japanglish'.

It's been three years since she came to Chigasaki. She lives in Higashikaigan and loves Chigasaki beach, which reminds her of a town on the East Coast of New Brunswick where she was living until she was eleven years old.

She rides her bike to her tai chi class and to Hayashi swimming school. She is also teaching English privately, as well as doing some sculpture work at the ceramics class at TOTO. According to an introduction in an art magazine for which she wrote an article, she has been vigorously pursuing sacredness in her work, through which she offers prayers in the hope of having a calming effect on the global environment.

Sculpture is her life and she still visits Kyoto periodically.

EMERGENCY CALL

Dial [119] for fire fighters and an ambulance

The ambulance is free of charge, but you have to cover medical expenses.

Dial [110] for the police

When you get involved in, or witness, a crime or traffic accident.

GUIDEBOOK FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CHIGASAKI CITY

For foreign residents of Chigasaki City, a new guidebook written in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish is now available for a new three year term beginning April 1, 2010.

The book is based on the information that has been current since October 1, 2009 and it's revised every three years.



The guidebook can be obtained free from the reception desk at the City Hall, The Josei Center, and Koide Branch Office located in Serizawa.

The contents have not changed much from the previous issue except for two new items: Latter-Term Elderly Health Insurance and Handbooks for the Disabled/Services for the Disabled.

On top of access data for emergencies, you will find administrative information, such as Foreign Resident Registration, Immigration and Visa Processing, Family Register Notification Forms, Name Stamp (inkan) Registration, Taxes, National Health Insurance, Nursing Care Insurance, National Pensions, and other information on living-related issues like garbage, abandoned bicycles, etc.

READERS' RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON CHIGASAKI BREEZE

In this March we distributed a questionnaire to as many foreign residents as possible to find out how they view and evaluate the Chigasaki Breeze. The return rate was 27% but we were able to understand that they basically are supportive of the publication.

Following are the results of the survey and some comments from readers:

- (1) Range of readers' age: 20s – 28%, 30s – 31%, 40s – 20%
- (2) Awareness of Chigasaki Breeze – 80%, Reading rate – 78%
- (3) Approval Rating: [Useful, Interesting] – 83% [Not useful] – 7%
- (4) Issues/articles readers wish to be informed about:
Local community news – 50%, Introduction of events – 38%,
Introduction of Japanese class – 36%,
Garbage Disposal and other everyday information – 35%,
History of Chigasaki – 35%,
Hospitals/clinics where English can be used – 28%,
Environmental issues – 25%
- (5) 27% of readers who filled it in say they wish to get information on (A) Japanese culture and experience as such as language, art, music, cooking, (B) lectures, attractions restaurants, and (C) Chigasaki local news
- (6) Messages from some readers:
“I really look forward to reading the Chigasaki Breeze - it has helped me learn a lot about the city.”
“Nice newspaper and thanks very much for providing it.”
“I was able to access old editions on the internet and find out a bit about the city.”

We, the editorial staff at the Chigasaki Breeze, very much appreciate your cooperation in sending your responses back to us. We look forward to using this voice from our readers to help us make this paper better in many ways.

Thank you!

CLASSIFIED ADS

- (1) A small English school in Matsugaoka is looking for an experienced, native English teacher for pm lessons and Saturday school. Please send resume to english@bunchkinsplayroom.com
Chigasaki residents preferred
www.bunchkinsplayroom.com
- (2) JEC is looking for Native English teachers who live in Chigasaki for adult and kids lessons. Please send resume to info@jamai-english.com

TO OUR READERS :

ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS LIVING IN CHIGASAKI?

We seldom receive emails or letters from our readers, even though we consider your input very valuable in increasing the usefulness of the Breeze. Your response would be a crystal ball for us. As we should be able to help you by forwarding your messages or questions to the appropriate administrative bodies, we hope you will feel free to write us.

Please let us know whatever the issues or questions you might have. Your voice is always more than welcome!

JAPANESE PROVERBS AND THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

- 貸し物 覚えの 借り物 忘れ
KASHIMONO OBOE NO KARIMONO WASURE
(The creditor well remembers things the debtor easily forgets.)
The creditor has a better memory than the debtor.
- 財布の底 と 心の底は 人に見せるな
SAIFU NO SOKO TO KOKORO NO SOKO WA HITO NI MISERUNA
(Show not the bottom of either the purse or the heart to anyone.)
He that tells his secret is another's servant.
- 大欲 は 無欲に 似たり
DAIYOKU WA MUYOKU NI NITARI
(Great desire is much like great disinterest.)
Grasp all, lose all.
- 人の 口に 戸は 立てられぬ
HITO NO KUCHI NI TO WA TATERARENU
(It is not possible to hold the door against the tongues of men)
Who can hold men's tongues.
- 骨身 惜しむな 無駄 惜しめ
HONEMI OSHIMUNA MUDA OSHIME
(Don't spare effort, but spare waste.)
Waste not, want not.

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

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

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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