



Ode to Joy! Celebrate the Finale of 2016

200 of Chigasaki citizens sing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Chigasaki Philharmonic Orchestra



The 32nd annual Chigasaki Daiku Concert will be held on Sunday, December 4th at the Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan Hall.

The Japanese term Daiku is an abbreviation often used to refer to Beethoven's ninth symphony. "Ode to Joy" has been popular in Japan since World War 1, when a group of German prisoners at a POW camp in Tokushima in 1917 formed a small orchestra and began performing the piece. The famous choral finale is Beethoven's musical representation of universal brotherhood and its lyrics are largely taken from a poem by Friedrich Schiller, which reads "All people will unite as brothers in joy to overcome hardship". By the early 1920s, orchestras all over Japan were playing Beethoven's ninth.

Today, the symphony is popular for end of the year concerts throughout Japan, including here in Chigasaki. Joining the Chigasaki Symphony Orchestra this year will be guest conductor Nobuaki Nakata and vocalists Chiharu Katoh, Makiko Inamoto, Tetsu Sakakibara, and Atsushi Takemura.

Chigasaki Daiku Concert

Date and Time: Dec. 4th (Sun), curtain at 2pm.

Place: Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan Hall

Cost: 2,000 yen for adults, 1,000 yen for children.

**Pre-school age children are not allowed into the concert venue.*



Pickup!



Yume Waku Waku Park

Chigasaki's Yume Waku Waku Park is not like others in the city. Like its name implies, this light sport area is for those seeking dreams and excitement. Although the park was opened in 2008, the uniqueness of this park is not something you should miss. Located near the Koide River conveniently underneath the Shonan bypass, it is the perfect place to go for some fun on a rainy day. The park's 650-meter length features a skateboard park, BMX park, and mountain board area. For the less extreme, there is also a wall tennis court, basketball court, fields for futsal and gateball, and play equipment for children and adults. Pets are welcome too! Enjoy getting some exercise with your animal friends at the dog park and lovely walking path along the park's border. Opening hours are from 8:00 to 17:00 October through March, and until 18:00 April through September. Entrance is free.

Shonan Passport Center

The Shonan Passport Center deals with passport applications and delivers issued passports to residents of Chigasaki, Fujisawa, and Samukawa. Please visit the Shonan Passport Center for your passport application.

Open: From 9:00 to 16:45 on weekdays
*Sundays for delivery only

Closed: Saturday, National holidays, and Year-end and new-year holidays
Location: AI-CROSS Shonan 3F, 2-2-1 Tsujido Kandai, Fujisawa, Kanagawa,
*There is no parking lot for visitors.

Inquiry: 0466-31-2300

Ume Festival at Takasuna Ryokuchi Garden

Their cute image and sweet fragrance makes a beautiful sight

The plum festival takes place each year at Takasuna Ryokuchi Garden, which is famous for its plum blossoms (Ume), and its stands which sell pottery, glass crafts, sweets and vegetables. Amazake, a sweet sake, will be served for free. You can join the tea ceremony for 300 yen at the Shourai-an hermitage in the corner of the park. This year, the festival will be held on February 11th from 10:00am to 14:30pm. Since it is a 5-minute walk from the Chigasaki Station, people across the area come for the festival. Why don't you ask your friends out and try a tea ceremony in a traditional tea room?



Hula & Tahitian dance event Ho'ohanohano Nui is coming soon!

As Ho'ohanohano Nui means "honor the dignity of others" in the Hawaiian language, the event will gather the winners of Hula and Tahitian dance competitions across Japan and all over the world to celebrate their success. You can enjoy a day of Hula, Tahitian dance, and solo performances by the leaders and a special guest. Come and enjoy an exciting look at their dance and music!

Ho'ohanohano Nui

Date and Time: Dec. 10th (Sat), Starting at 13:30 Closing at 20:00

Place: Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan Hall

Admission Fee: 1st floor sheets 2,800yen, 2nd floor sheets 2,300yen.

**Infant (under the age of three and below) sharing a seat with an adult is free of charge*

Ticket: Ticket PIA 0570 (02) 9999 (24 hours available) P-code 453-467



Events & Activities in Town

DECEMBER

4 SUN 9am-3:30pm

THE 11TH SHONAN INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Please see the article on page 4.

4 SUN curtain at 2pm

THE 32ND ANNUAL CHIGASAKI DAIKU CONCERT

Please see the article on page 1.

10 SAT 1:30pm-8:00pm

HO'OHANO'HANO NUI 2016

Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan Hall

Please see the article on page 4.



Event details may change at any time, so please check with the event holder for updates.

JANUARY

9 MON starting at 8:15am

THE 79th KONAN EKIDEN

ROAD RELAY

Long-distance relays will be held around the central area of the city on Coming of Age Day.

9 MON 1pm-3pm

COMING OF AGE DAY CEREMONY

Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan Hall

Celebrating men and women who turned 20 years old in the last year.



FEBRUARY

3 FRI

SETSUBUN FESTIVAL

Festivals will be held at Enzoji Temple (11:30), Dairokuten Shrine (16:00), and Samukawa Shirine (11:00 & 14:00).

4 SAT 9am

RAW WAKAME FESTIVAL

Chigasaki Fishing Port

Selling soft seaweed from Eboshi Iwa

<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp>

[e.ox.hp.transer.com/nousui_gvogvo/1016569.html](mailto:ox.hp.transer.com/nousui_gvogvo/1016569.html)

11 SAT

UME FESTIVAL

Takasuna Ryokuchi Garden

Please see the article on page 1.

17 FRI 10am -9pm

& 18 SAT 10am - 12am

THE TERRACE MALL FLOWER GARDEN

The 1st floor of Terrace Mall in Tsujido, Fujisawa. 200 flowers produced by local horticultural farmers will be displayed.



Translate the clues into Japanese and write them in "Katakana"(カタカナ)!!

Across:

- Chigasaki Breeze
- year-end
- mortar: Japanese mortar for mochi
- the Pleiades
- reindeer

Down:

- Camellia sasanqua
- traditional Japanese New Year's dishes: Osechi-ryori
- snow
- Christmas
- red bean
- rose of winter



*Check the answers at the bottom of this page.

WADA AND MITSUHASHI HOUSES CHIGASAKI'S FOLK MUSEUMS

The Chigasaki City Heritage Museum operates two late Edo period houses on the north side of town situated on either side of Jokenji Temple, the Wada House and the Mitsuhashi House. These houses are significant pieces of Chigasaki's history that offer a glimpse into how the people lived in the Feudal Era. Entry is free and both houses are worth a visit for those who are interested in Chigasaki's history.



Wada House

The Wada house was completed in 1855 in the Chigasaki's Hagisono district by Wada Seiemon. The Wada family patriarchs were nanushi, or village headmen. These were usually farmers or merchants who worked with samurai class administrators to run the village. The Wadas lived in this home until it was moved to its current location.

The Wada house is significant as it is a typical Edo period home built by a prominent local family. It was built from high quality materials, and there have been few alterations made over the last 130 years. Today, it's in the small park in front of Jokenji Temple. It is open from 9:00 until 16:00 and occasionally hosts exhibitions. On December 4th, from 9:30 until 13:00 there will be a work day to clean the old house. Only the first 50 volunteers will be able to participate, so if you are interested, call the Heritage Museum at 0467-85-1733 to sign up.



Mitsuhashi House

The Mitsuhashi house's history is similar to its counterpart. It was completed in 1828 in the Kagawa district of northern Chigasaki. Like the Wadas, the Mitsuhashis were village headmen and prominent figures in their community, and their house is a fine example of the architecture of the time. The home was occupied by six generations of Mitsuhashis before it was donated to the city in 1972.

What sets the Mitsuhashi house apart is that it has seen no significant alterations or repairs. Of the two houses, Mitsuhashi house is better documented. The city still has many of the house's original documents and the builder's plate was found when it was reconstructed. The house is behind Jokenji Temple and may be hard to find for those who don't know it is there. Currently, Mitsuhashi house is closed due to damage sustained in a typhoon in September.

★Answers to the KATAKANA Crossword Puzzle★

Across: 1チガサキブリーズ 2サイマツ 3ウス 4スバル 5トナカイ Down: 2サザンカ 6オセチリョウリ 7ユキ 8クリスマス 9アズキ 10ツバキ

Professional Advice

—LAWYER—

Q: I came to Japan 3 years ago, and I'm working at an English school. I work 10 hours during peak period, but I never got paid for overtime work. HR explained that it is according to the employment contract which states that no additional wage shall be paid for any overtime work. Is there any chance for me to claim?

A: Japanese labor laws generally apply to foreign workers no less than Japanese workers. It is not permitted to pay foreign workers less than Japanese workers, and workers can demand wages for the extended working hours at a rate of no less than 125% of the normal wage per working hour. The clause in the employment agreement which stipulates that no overtime wage shall be paid is invalid because it is against the labor laws. Therefore, you can claim for your overtime work.

Japanese labor laws provide many legal protections for workers. Employers cannot dismiss workers without obviously reasonable grounds. Employees are guaranteed a minimum level of wage (¥930 per hour in Kanagawa Prefecture). Employers must buy employees Unemployment Insurance in most cases. Sometimes foreign workers don't know these laws or systems. Please don't hesitate to ask the Labor Standards Inspection Office or lawyers.

[http://kanagawa-roudoukyoku.jsite.mhlw.go.jp/madoguchi_annai/kankatu.html]

Meet Chigasaki Breeze Hero Suwari Arimura

Suwari Arimura helps to offer more Lao children the opportunity for access to education.

She watched over the final dig at the water well — the two-year project at an elementary school in Laos.

Suwari Arimura has helped build 22 elementary schools in her mother home country over the past 22 years through her volunteer work. She traveled around Japan to raise funds and literally built schools throughout one of the most struggling countries in the world.

"I always pass donated money directly to the builders and see how the work is done," Suwari said, "to make sure that the money is spent for that purpose only"

Suwari was born to a well-educated family in Laos and while she studied at a university in the U.S she met Mr. Arimura Kunitaka, a Japanese IC Card inventor. Since getting married, they've lived in Chigasaki. She started doing volunteer work by delivering textbooks to poor children in Laos, especially in the mountain areas where ethnic minorities live. One day she visited a school and noticed the coconut leaf roof had nearly collapsed. That's when she knew what she was going to do next.

"I sold two of my jewelries to make money and asked around to raise more funds," she said. "Chigasaki Foster Family Association donated 150,000 yen for the last piece of glass windows before rainy season started."

Chigasaki Breeze spoke with Suwari about her work.

CB: What kind of challenges are children in Laos facing?

S: There live more than 40 ethnic groups who speak different languages. Most of them do not speak Lao, the official language. To Learn the common language is essential to develop the country. However, their parents still don't understand the importance of education. They want boys to engage in their farming and they don't think girls need education. The government tries to let all children go to schools but they can't even figure out how many children there are in their country. The number of schools is not enough yet so that it takes children 6 to 8 km walk to go to the nearest school.

CB: What inspired you to build schools for those people with difficulties?

S: My family taught me that we should spend our life for poor people, not for perfect people. I believe this thought always guides me in the right direction.

She leaves the message to foreigners who live in Chigasaki. "Speak to the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) if you are in trouble in town. Volunteer workers will help you." She is filled with love.



Tsujido Railway Station Centennial events

On Dec 1 in 1916, Tsujido Station was opened as the first station in Japan which was built in response to a petition by local residents and built by ground provisions and donations.

It is located between Chigasaki Station (1898) and Fujisawa Station (1887), but it belongs to Fujisawa city. Initially, the station saw only about 225 passengers per day, but with the redevelopment of the north exit through the commercial building projects like Terrace Mall Shonan and Fujisawa Shonan Tokushukai Hospital, it has grown to be 500 times that.

Several centennial events were held on November 26 and 27, such as a parade of festival cars and portable shrines, and a commemoration ceremony.

With a petition signed by over 28,000 citizens, the railway company decided to choose "Hamabe-no-uta", The Song of the Seashore, for the train song at Tsujido station starting on the anniversary day of December 1st. Hamabe-no-uta is a popular Japanese folk song credited to Kokei Hayashi. He had the Tsujido seashore in his mind when he wrote the lyrics.



Bonding with our Sister City
Through Surfing

Sister
City

Honolulu Chigasaki



Two successful years have gone by for Chigasaki City and Honolulu County since the establishment of our Sister City relationship. Efforts to promote a strong bond between the two cities are ongoing. Many events have been sponsored by various organizations over the years in Chigasaki and Honolulu to enhance Hawaiian life style, friendship, and "Aloha Spirit". The annual Aloha Market held in May has been a tremendous success in bringing the two cities closer together.

The Chigasaki Surfing Association (CSA) has also played a major role in the development of the Sister City relationship. The CSA has always desired to enrich the ability of Keiki (kids) surfers in Chigasaki. Every year, The Keiki Class Chigasaki Mayor's Cup is held for local children of all skill levels from beginners to advance surfers ages 6-15. The CSA wants the Keiki surfers to develop their ability and learn to respect others through these competitions – "The Aloha Spirit". Their efforts are also aimed abroad to Hawaii as they keep a close relationship with the Hawaii Surfing Association (HSA). The CSA has been sponsoring the Keiki under 11 years old Surfing Contest in September at Waikiki Queens for the past three years. This surfing event is one of the eleven events held by the Hawaii Surfing Association near the famous Duke Kahanamoku statue on Waikiki beach. Top CSA directors, Jun Usami and Ken Takahashi attend the Queen Surfing Contest to present the Chigasaki Mayor's Cup trophy to the winner. This contribution to the HSA event is a stepping stone for the future of the Chigasaki Keiki surfers, and develops an international bond between the two associations, strengthening the Sister City relationship.

Shonan International Marathon Brings Traffic Delays

The 11th Shonan International Marathon is set for Dec. 4, and will once again bring tens of thousands of spectators and runners to the Shonan area.

The organizers caution residents and business owners that there will be temporary road closures and traffic control measures in effect once again this year. The road from Seisho Bypass Seisho-Ninomiya Interchange to Enoshima Entrance, and Shin-shonan Bypass Chigasaki-nishi Interchange to Chigasaki Kaigan Interchange will be closed between about 8 AM and 4 PM. Kanachu Bus and Community Bus Eboshi-go services will be diverted for the marathon event. Motorists are asked to avoid travel during these times and consider alternative routes. Please plan ahead for potential delays and stoppages on the effected route. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

For more details, refer to the Chigasaki city website at <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp.e.ox.hp.transer.com/sports/1006319/1006338/1020113.html>.



Shonan International Marathon Organizing Committee
TEL: 0463-70-6667 Email: shonan-pr@shonan-kokusai.jp

City Services' Operating Hours over New Year Period

Offices: Closed December 29, 2016 and re-opening on January 4, 2017. Chigasaki City has 4 branches and 2 citizen centers in town.

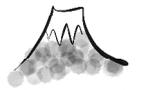
Branch: Koide, Tsujido Station, Kagawa Station, Hamamina
Citizen center: Chigasaki Station, Hagisono

Chigasaki Municipal Hospital: Closed December 29, 2016 and re-opening on January 4, 2017. Emergency care is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Trash(burnable) pick-up: Last collection on December 29th (Thu.), 2016 and re-starting on January 5th(Thu.), 2017 for Mondays & Thursdays Area. Last collection on December 30th (Fri.), 2016 and re-starting on January 6th(Fri.), 2017 for Tuesdays & Fridays Area.

In Japan, it is traditional to clean up your house to welcome the New Year!

Ask Fuji-san



Dear Fuji-san,

Myself and some of my foreigner friends find it hard to make friendships with Japanese people. Many people are nice at first, and we exchange contact information and promise to meet again, but the second meeting never happens. What is the best way to make friends in Japan?

From Z (U.S.A.)

Dear Z

I think it depends on the person. Here are a couple of things I think you might want to try.

One is to break the language barrier. Many Japanese people are not as familiar with foreign language speakers as you Americans are. Even though they are interested in you and they have English skills, they are hesitant to speak to you because they believe they have to speak perfect English. To break the ice, why don't you awkwardly speak Japanese language to them? Then, they will realize they don't have to be perfect to communicate!

The other thing I think you should know is that many Japanese people don't say "No" at first even though they don't want to meet you again. They are too shy to say "I don't think I want to go out with you again". This shyness is one of characteristics of the Japanese, and sometimes makes you foreigners confused. With experience, you will be able to tell if she is interested in you or not by how she says "Yes, we should meet again". Good luck!

From Fuji-san

Jido-club for after-school care programs

Don't miss the application period for 2017 student admission

Children's after-school care clubs, or Jido-clubs, play a significant role in the daily life of working parents by providing after-school care programs for their children in safe and healthy environment. Children can play and spend time after school when their parents are unable to provide childcare at home due to employment, illness or other reasons. There are 27 public clubs and 3 private clubs. The city announced the application period for 2017 student admission to the public clubs.

Application period: from December 15th to December 28th, 2016

Fees: Grade 1 ¥12,000/month (¥1,000 less for each higher grade)

For more details, please refer to the Chigasaki city website at

<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp.e.ox.hp.transer.com/kyouiku/1012745/index.html>
(Nursery Division, Jido-club section)

Don't forget to pay your taxes

The city sent out late payment notices to 74,500 tax payers last year who didn't pay on time. This collection effort cost the city almost 9 million yen, which could have been used for supportive services if all taxes were paid by the due date.

One of the most effective solutions is automatic payments. Please visit the city website to know which banks provide the automatic debit services and go to the bank to apply.

<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp.e.ox.hp.transer.com/zei/1003640/1003811.html>

Email notification is an alternate solution. The city sends an email reminder 3 days before your due date. You can learn how to subscribe to notification email services here:

<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp.e.ox.hp.transer.com/zei/oshirse/1003660.html>

If you have difficulty paying on time, please consult the tax department before it's too late. If you don't pay your taxes on time, the penalties can be severe. The longer you wait to resolve your tax debt, the more difficult and costly it will be.

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

Thank you for the gift of your support. In warm appreciation of Chigasaki Breeze during the past year, we extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season. Now it's time to turn the page and head into another year. We are looking forward to being inspired by you and our wonderful city, Chigasaki. Here's to a 2017 filled with hope, peace and happiness!



Shuhei Miyake

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Back issues are available on the IAC website
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