

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.51

New City Hall Under Construction

けんせつちゅう しやくしょしんちょうしゃ
建設中の市役所新庁舎

The new municipal hall is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2015 and come into service in January, 2016. After the completion of the new hall, the existing annex will be renovated and then the temporary and current main hall will be demolished. The entire construction, including parking lots for cars, motorbikes and bicycles, is projected to be finished by March, 2017.

The design philosophy of the project is comprised of seven pillars, namely that the new City Hall should be: a) a base to support citizens' safe and peaceful lives; b) sustainable; c) efficient in providing public services; d) open for citizens to associate and cooperate with each other; e) friendly to people; f) friendly to the environment; and g) appealing to citizens. These principles are reflected in a number of key features of the new hall, as follows:

- The hall's structure is seismically isolated to withstand great earthquakes and has been designed to be strong and durable with built-in flexibility to facilitate future restructuring.
- Energy will be saved through natural ventilation and lighting, using LED (light-emitting diode) and solar panels.
- For the purposes of disaster management, the new hall is equipped with an emergency power generator, a hovering space for a helicopter, open space and a well.
- Inside, a universal design has been adopted for the disabled, elderly, and mothers with young children.
- A plaza has been designated for Citizens' Associations to hold events.
- The design will harmonize with the local landscape and include a relaxing green zone in front of the building.

The City is building the new hall as a citizens' asset for future generations, and is aiming for CASBEE (Comprehensive Assessment System for Building Environmental Efficiency) certification.



Public to Choose New Motorbike License Plate

ナンバープレート選びに参加しませんか

The City is going to introduce a newly designed license plate for motorbikes that is unique to Chigasaki, and has invited entries from the public into a design contest. The new plate will be used for three classes of bikes based on engine displacement, from 50 to 125 cc, and the design should reflect the City's image. Unfortunately, the deadline for applications was February 28. A committee will shortlist a number of designs from entries received, and display them on the City's website. Then, those selected will be put to a ballot, open to both citizens and non-residents, and the one receiving the highest number of votes will be chosen as the new design. The vote is provisionally scheduled for between April 1 (Tue) and April 15 (Tue) and you will be able to vote at the City office or on the City website. The winning design will be displayed on the website in May at the earliest. It is hoped that the new license plate will start being used from October.

The City hopes that motorbikes bearing the new plates running in and around the city will encourage visitors to have an interest in Chigasaki, make the city livelier, and make citizens feel a stronger attachment to the City.

Chigasaki Station Being Renovated

ちがさきえきかいそう
茅ヶ崎駅改装

The ticketing and travel service center, ticket office, ticket machines and Chigasaki City Tourist Information Center have already been moved to the same side of the station lobby as the ticket barriers. In the near future, the skylight over the concourse will be enlarged for better natural lighting. Lastly, a new main entrance for LUSCA will be constructed opposite the ticket gates. These alterations are intended to simplify the flow of shoppers, passengers and passersby and improve convenience and comfort. The renovation is planned to be finished in fiscal 2015. After that, outside the south entrance of the station, the pick-up/drop-off area for taxis and cars will be restored.

If you would like to experience more of Chigasaki life, why not stop in at the Tourist Information Center for a *Chigasaki Breeze* and *Visitors Guide Map*? As well as informing you more about Chigasaki, on the reverse side of the map, you will find a variety of items written in English about seasonal events, parks, museums, sports and activities, cultural assets, and souvenirs. Local specialties and *Eboshimaro* (the mascot of Chigasaki) items are sold at the Center.



INFO KANAGAWA インフォカナガワ

Kanagawa International Foundation (KIF) provides useful information for foreign residents through the INFO KANAGAWA service directly to your mobile phone or PC in English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog and Japanese. The service covers such subjects as the following:

- Public welfare services and notices from the government
- Information about children's education
- Information about fires, earthquakes, floods, and other disasters
- Multi-lingual information about consultation services and guidebooks
- Information about communicable diseases, immunization, and other health issues
- Event information including international exchange and sightseeing

For example, they recently reported on applying for day care nurseries in 2014; financial assistance for students of high schools, technical colleges/trade schools, and universities; and so on.

Instructions on how to register to receive the latest information digitally, and to be able to read current and past issues online, can be found (in several languages) at the following URL:

http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/shuppan/info_kanagawa.html

KIF asks you to tell your family and friends about INFO KANAGAWA!

Email: infokanagawa@k-i-a.or.jp

URL: <http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/>

Tel: 045-620-0021

Fax: 045-620-0025

 公益財団法人 かながわ国際交流財団
Kanagawa International Foundation

Forthcoming Main Events おも 主なイベント

Chigasaki Saposen Wai-Wai Matsuri ちがさき サポセン ワイワイまつり

On March 8 (Sat), from 09:30 to 15:30, about 80 groups consisting of NPOs, private companies and the administration will exhibit their activities at Chuō-kōen to showcase the best of Chigasaki under such themes as purchasing/eating, watching/listening/singing, making/playing, knowing/experiencing disaster preventing, and *plus-alpha* (or that little extra something). Specifically, there will be food stalls, a stage, a specially-prepared zone for disaster prevention experience, and a stamp rally.

Cherry Festival and Mascot Gathering Party まつ さくら祭り と とうち ゆるーいご当地キャラパーティー!

On March 29 (Sat) and 30 (Sun), many people are expected to gather at Chuō-kōen for two festivities. One, the Cherry Festival, will feature about 20 eateries who will open food stalls offering something for visitors to enjoy eating and drinking. This festival will be open from 10:00 to 19:00 on the 29th, and from 10:00 to 17:00 on the 30th.

The other is called *Yuru-kyara* Party or mascots' gathering where 25 mascots, from inside and outside of Kanagawa Prefecture, are expected to come together and have a party with Chigasaki's Eboshi-marō and Miena. The gathering will take place on both days from 10:00 to 16:00, weather permitting.



Charity Concert by SOROPTIMIST Chigasaki ちがさき ソロフチミスト茅ヶ崎のチャリティーコンサート

A charity concert will be held at City Hall's small hall on April 11 (Fri), from 18:30. The performer is a blues singer Tōru Oki who is apparently called Mr. Yellow Blues in the US. Admission is ¥4,000.

Ōoka Echizen-sai Festival おおおかえちぜんさい 大岡越前祭

This annual festival is scheduled for April 19 (Sat) and 20 (Sun) commemorating Ōoka Echizen Tadasuke, an Edo-period magistrate who was famous for his good work and fair judgment in court, and is also well-known because of a TV drama series. On the morning of the 19th, a Buddhist memorial service will take place at the family temple of Jōkenji, which lies on a small hill in Shimoterao, northern Chigasaki. Following that, in the afternoon, various performances such as drums, cappella (singing without musical instrumentation) and comedy will be held at the nearby Folk Museum, which used to be the residence of the Mitsuhashi family, a big farmer, from 1828 to 1971. On the 20th, we can see a big parade where a number of foreign people participate in a procession wearing Edo Era costumes, as well as school bands, dancing groups and others.

Citizens' Festival in Spring はる しみんまつ 春の市民祭り

On April 20 (Sun) 10:00~16:00, there will be a festival at Chuō-kōen. Sixty-five citizens' groups will set up food stalls where snacks and drinks such as *yakisoba* (pan-fried noodles) and *ramune* (lemon soda) will be available. Meanwhile, on stage, 20 amateur groups will perform hula, jazz, hip-hop, and so on. In addition, children will be able to enjoy woodwork, playing with yo-yos, and other games.

Chigasaki Aloha Market ちがさき 茅ヶ崎アロハマーケット

Chigasaki Aloha Market will be held on May 10 (Sat) and 11 (Sun) at Southern Beach where you can enjoy watching hula performances by several groups and buy attractive unique Hawaiian goods. Every summer since 2004, when the local assembly accepted a proposal by the Chamber of Commerce of Chigasaki to launch the wearing of Aloha-style shirts to stimulate the local economy, not only City office staff but also the Mayor himself have been wearing aloha shirts.

Since then, we can see aloha shirts and other Hawaiian goods here and there in the City. In addition, the City is campaigning to establish sister city affiliation with the city of Honolulu so the festival will gain steam this year.



History of Chigasaki

Shinryū-ji Temple and Waniguchi · Hōtō しんりゅうじ わにくち ほうとう 信隆寺と鱷口・宝塔

On the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 1 with Sangyo dōro, which runs north-south between the districts of Yanagishima and Samukawa, there is a temple called Shinryū-ji, which is a *matsu-ji* or branch temple of Hokekyō-ji Temple in Nakayama, Chiba prefecture. As Shinryū-ji Temple belongs to the Nichiren-shū Sect of Buddhism, it also has a *sango* or *mountain name*, which is Myogan-zan or Myogan Mountain, the same as that of Jōkoku-ji Temple located in Imajuku.



Nichiren Statue

It is said that Shinryū-ji temple was founded by Nobunari Takeda of the Kōshū Takeda family in 1624 (Kan'ei 1) to hold masses for his ancestors, while Jōkoku-ji Temple was founded by Jussei Zenritsuin Nichii, a Nichiren-shū sect monk who passed away in 1642 (Kan'ei 19).

The treasure of the temple, a *waniguchi* or temple gong that hangs at the entrance of the temple, used to belong to Shichimen-dō (a hall within the largest temple of the Nichiren-shū sect located on Mt. Shichimen in Yamanashi prefecture), but the hall burnt down during an air raid in Hiratsuka in July, 1945 (Showa 20), the gong being all that survived. On the *waniguchi*, there is an inscription of the first year of Kan'ei. The bell looks like a wide mouth, and that seems to be the reason why such gongs are called *waniguchi* (as *wani* means alligator and *guchi* stands for mouth).

A statue of the seated figure of *Nichiren*, the founder of the Nichiren-shū Sect, bears an inscription of Eiroku 7 or 1564, and was designated as an important cultural asset of the City in 1996 (Heisei 8).

In a corner of the temple's rear graveyard, there is also a *hōtō* or treasured tower installed in a small concrete temple. The tower has no *sōrin* (a tall spire-like roof ornament of a pagoda), but it is more than one meter in height, and it was determined to have been built at the beginning of the 15th Century (during the Muromachi era) when investigated in 1985 (Showa 60).



Shinryū-ji Temple

IAC Activity

Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

がいこくじん
外国人によるスピーチコンテスト

The Japanese speech contest for foreigners is scheduled for March 23 (Sun) from 13:30 to 16:00 at the Community Hall 6F. This annual event is co-hosted by the International Association of Chigasaki and the City office and is an opportunity for non-native speakers to talk about their own customs, ways of thinking and lifestyles, or their experiences of living in Japan, to an audience.

More than ten people will take part this year. Their speeches are interesting and often surprise us and make us laugh. A foreign student from Taiwan, currently studying at Tokai University, will join as a guest speaker. She won the Soroptimist award in a Japanese speech contest at the university last November. After the speech contest, there will be a social gathering for all attendees. Why don't you come to listen and enjoy some conversation with the speakers?

People in Town

Philip Abu from Nigeria

Team morale is very important to me.

Seventeen-year old Philip Abu, from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, came to Chigasaki in May 2013, invited by Aletheia Shonan High School, not only to become a freshman student but, standing 195cm tall, also to join the school's basketball team.



Aletheia is a private Christian school and they have close relationships with similar schools overseas. Through such connections, Philip was invited because he was a top player in his country and Aletheia is really eager to make their basketball team strong in order to win the Inter-High Tournament this year. The fact that his height is 20cm above his teammates' average height, and the team already has a second foreign player, from Senegal, it came as no surprise when Aletheia won the Kanagawa prefecture rookie meet earlier this year.

He is staying in Aletheia's dormitory located close to the school and he practices almost every day before and after classes, from 07:00 to 08:00 and from 16:00 to 19:00. He has never had such a heavy training schedule in his life, but doesn't feel unhappy about the program. According to the vice-principal, he is always positive and has a nice character, which makes him popular among class- and teammates.

Because of the school's affiliations, Philip has been to Korea twice, to play basketball in Seoul, and also visited another Christian school in Niigata for the same reason.

He likes Japanese food and the songs of EXILE and AKB48 thanks to his friend's help, and visits his classmates' families often. To him everything looks neat and convenient in Japan, and he is enjoying his life here very much. Actually, he didn't have to do anything after he arrived at Narita airport as there was a basketball coach to take care of him and everything had been prepared perfectly.

As mentioned, he has many friends here, but he chats with his family in Nigeria on the phone every day, so he never feels lonely. He speaks English and is learning Japanese, especially from the vice-principal personally from time to time. So he may master Japanese quickly.

Philip's future dream is to play basketball professionally in the US, although Korea is also showing interest in him.

Serendipity Cafe - A Home Away From Home

“セレンディピティ”

我が家のようにくつろげるカフェ

At the corner of Rachien and Teppo Street, there is a café called Serendipity where they not only serve scrumptious food and fabulous drinks from coffee to cocktails, but also feature a plethora of fantastic monthly events including workshops, art shows, live music, charity events and a monthly market on the third Sunday of every month.

The café is cozy, relaxed and internationally-minded, where you can hear English and Japanese, and other languages, too, depending on who is around. They also pride themselves on showcasing Shonan-based artists and musicians, so if you have a hidden talent aching to be expressed, this may be the stage for you.

To find out more about what's taking place at Serendipity, check out these links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Serendipity-cafe/255070147875219>

Livedoor: <http://serendipitycafechigasaki.doorblog.jp/>

To be put on their monthly mailing list, or to talk about your ideas, you can email them at: serendipity.cafe.chigasaki@gmail.com or call 0467-84-5244.

They say Serendipity is your home away from home. They are looking forward to hearing from you or chatting with you over a cozy coffee. Doesn't that sound wonderful?

So many Countries, so many Customs!

ところか
所変われば、しな
品変わる

Maundy Thursday

せんぞくちくようび
洗足木曜日

Also known as Holy Thursday, this day (falling on April 17 this year) marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum, a period of three days commemorating the passion, crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Maundy Thursday itself remembers the Last Supper when Jesus humbly washed and kissed the feet of his twelve apostles and gave them a new commandment (or *mandatum*, from which the word Maundy is derived) “that ye love one another” (John XIII 34).

Washing of the Feet continues to this day as a religious rite observed by several Christian denominations, usually as part of a Eucharist or special church service reenacting the story of the Last Supper where Jesus gave his followers bread, saying “*This is my body*”, and wine, saying “*This is my blood*.” After the service, an all-night vigil is held in prayer to prepare for the following day, Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified.

However, it is not only members of the priesthood who perform these acts of alms and humility. Indeed, for nearly five centuries, it was the practice of English monarchs, starting with John (1199-1216) and ending with James II (1685-1688), to wash and kiss the feet of the poor in Westminster Abbey, and give them gifts of food and clothing, to symbolize their duty to serve and protect their subjects.

Nowadays, a Royal Maundy ceremony is held at one of the many cathedrals around the country. During this service, the Queen hands out two leather purses, one red and one white, to each of a group of local pensioners – one man and one woman for each year of the monarch's age - chosen for their tireless service to the Church and local community. The red purse contains an allowance for clothing and provisions; last year this was a £5 coin and a 50p coin commemorating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The white purse contains specially-minted Maundy Money; silver 1 penny, 2 pence, 3 pence and 4 pence pieces, the total value of which also matches the monarch's age. These small coins are legal tender, but because of their silver content and the fact that only about 2000 sets are minted each year, they are highly collectable.

Although the customs of Maundy Thursday may have changed over the centuries, the aspiration that it commemorates, *to love one another*, remains as relevant and challenging today as it has ever been.



Queen Elizabeth II giving Maundy Money



Maundy Money in a white purse

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

From HELLO KANAGAWA

Minimum Wage Increases

神奈川県最低賃金が上がります

As of October 20, 2013, the minimum hourly wage in Kanagawa Prefecture was raised to ¥868 (an increase of ¥19). The minimum wage is applicable to all Kanagawa employees, including permanent and full- or part-time temporary workers. Employers must pay at least this minimum wage.

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Wage Division, Kanagawa Labor Bureau Tel: 045-211-7354
Labor Welfare Division, K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-5739

National Health Insurance

国民健康保険のお知らせ

National health insurance (NHI) is administered through a public medical insurance system for self-employed persons, part-time workers, etc. who cannot enroll in a health insurance plan at their workplaces. When you consult a doctor for a disease or injury, 70 to 90% of the expenses for treatment and medication will be covered by this insurance. Foreign nationals who are eligible to join the insurance scheme are required to apply through their local municipal/ward office.

● **Foreign nationals subject to the system:** Foreigners who have stayed in Japan for over three months, are registered as residents, and have a *jyumin-hyo* or resident card, in principle. Even if the permitted period of stay is three months or less in the first instance, or you don't yet have a *jyumin-hyo*, you are required to enlist in the NHI system if the length of stay is likely to exceed three months. Your company or school can issue a certificate to this effect if needed.

● **Insurance premiums:** If you enroll in the scheme, you are required to pay the premiums. As for the amount and the methods of payment, please ask your local municipal/ward office. Please note that even if your application is delayed, you need to pay the premiums for the entire period of your eligibility.

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Section responsible for the national health insurance of your municipality/ward
Medical Insurance Division, K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-4881

Disused Article Bank 不用品バンク

The City provides a facility, called Disused Article Bank, for finding new owners for disused articles, either for free or at a reasonable cost. You can offer or request many kinds of articles such as baby beds, bicycles, closet drawers, kindergarten uniforms, and musical instruments. Details of articles offered, including some pictures, are available on the City's website.

Go to: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/> →Foreigners Guide →Start Translation (below your preferred language) →Handbook for living in Chigasaki →Citizen consultation, consumer life →Discarded things bank

You can also contact the Consulting Services for Citizens' Section, Consumer Life Center on 82-1111. If an item interests you, they will put you in touch with the owner directly. If you are offering or requesting an article, they will help you register the details and any pictures. So, why don't you have a look?

Useful Japanese Expressions

役に立つ日本語

Yurui ゆるい

Yurui means loose, lax, slack, gentle, soft, slow, etc. and it's commonly used in such a way as *himo ga yurui* or the string is loosely tied. In its adjective form, you can use it to say, for example, that socks are loose-fitting, or security is lax, or someone's discipline is slack. In a sentence, you can place *yurui* before the noun, e.g. *yurui kisei* (a loose regulation), or use it as the subject complement, i.e. *kisei ga yurui* (the regulation is loose). *Yurumu* is its intransitive verb and you can say something like *samosa ga yurumu* (the cold chill is getting milder).

Recently, you may have heard the word *yuru-kyara* often. Actually, the *yuru* comes from *yurui* and the *kyara* stands for character. It's been coined to refer to a mascot that helps to relax you, and the most well-known mascot among hundreds of them is *kumamon* of Kumamoto prefecture who was taken to Harvard University the other day. The mascot of Chigasaki is *Eboshi-marō*.

Japanese Recipe

Wakame in Season 旬のわかめ

Wakame is a thin, stringy kind of seaweed, dark green or brown in colour, and picking season has come. It is very low calorie and healthy. We use it as an ingredient in miso soup throughout the year but most of it is dried or preserved with sea salt. Only in early spring can you find freshly harvested Eboshiwakame, at fishing bait shops around Chigasaki fishing port. We recommend that you drop in there if you are walking nearby.

To prepare fresh wakame:

1. Parboil for a few seconds.
2. Cut into bite-sized pieces.
3. Pour over soy sauce, mixed vinegar or ponzu sauce.

Add finely chopped raw leek and ginger depending on your taste.



*Repackage any remaining fresh wakame in small quantities and refrigerate.

Hagisono Saturday Music Salon

萩園の土曜ミュージック・サロン

Saturday Music Salon will be held on March 8 (Sat), from 13:45 to 14:45, in the lobby of Hagisono Ikoi-no-sato or Relaxation home. The program includes a piano four hands, reading of a book on the 3.11 disaster, and songs. Their main theme is to remember the day of March 11, 2011.

There will be display of photos taken by a photographer Ryuichi Hirokawa in the lobby.

Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

日本と西洋のことわざ

●海老で鯛を釣る

EBI DE TAI WO TSURU

(Fish a sea bream with a shrimp.)

Use a sprat to catch a mackerel.

●縁は異なるもの味なもの

EN WA I NA MONO AJI NA MONO

(A new relationship can enrich your life.)

Marriage is a lottery.

●大器晩成

TAIKI BANSEI

(Great talents mature late.)

Rome wasn't built in a day.

●自ら墓穴を掘る

MIZUKARA BOKETSU WO HORU

(To dig one's own grave.)

To make a rod for your own back.

●安物買いの銭失い

YASUMONO GAI NO ZENI USHINAI

(Buying cheap goods is a waste of money.)

You get what you pay for.