

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No. 57

“HAMAMINA” to Open in April た もくてき ふくごう し せつ 多目的複合施設「ハマミーナ」が4月にオープン がっ

The multipurpose facility “HAMAMINA” will open on April 1 (Wed) in Hamami-daira. The new facility is being constructed on the site of the Hamami-daira Housing Complex, and it is expected to be the nerve center of everyday life and disaster prevention for the people living in and around this area. The name “HAMAMINA” was selected from among the many suggestions received from citizens, and is a compound word of “Hamami-daira” and “MINA”, the name of one of Chigasaki City’s official characters.

The facility itself is composed of a public area called “HAMAMINA” and a private or commercial area called “BRANCH”. Within these areas, public utilities such as a City Hall branch office, a library, a nursery school, a volunteer center, and a gym, as well as a post office, medical clinics, a convenience store, a coffee house, and so forth will be tenants. In addition, a park which can also be utilized in a disaster prevention capacity will be created nearby.

The establishment of “HAMAMINA” in the south-west of the city should make citizens’ daily lives much more convenient and much safer, especially as they will be able to receive official certificates, perform registration activities or make tax payments at the City Hall branch office therein rather than having to visit the main office.

The opening event will be held on March 29 (Sun), at which a “Mikoshi Parade”, “Hula”, and “Music” by a junior high school students’ brass band will be performed, as well as a “Talk Show” hosted by a special guest.

Dolls Festival まつ ひな祭り

Hina-matsuri, or the Dolls Festival, is a celebration for girls held on March 3. It originates from an ancient Chinese event in which people purified themselves by taking a bath at the waterside. This was introduced to Japan and ancient Japanese people floated simple hina-dolls, made of paper or straw, wishing they would take evil spirits and various sufferings away. During the Edo Period (1603 ~ 1867), people started displaying hina-dolls together with decorations such as bride’s outfits, court carriages, and offerings, wishing for their daughters’ healthy and happy futures. A young imperial couple in the full dress of the Heian Period (794 ~ 1185) is placed on the top of a stair-like altar, three ladies-in-waiting on the second tier, a band of five musicians on the third, two ministers on the fourth, servants on the fifth, and miniature palatial furniture, tools, carriages, etc. on the sixth and seventh tiers.

Today, an increasing number of families display just a pair of dolls because of limited space. Some dolls have refined appearances wearing beautiful silk-made costumes. At night, their graceful expressions can be illuminated by two lamps, one standing on either side of the imperial couple, making them appear as if veiled in the moonlight. In peach-blossom season, you can appreciate hina-dolls at department stores. These days, reasonably-priced small hina-doll ornaments are available at a variety of stores. Alternatively, how would you like to enjoy making your own hina-dolls with origami or papier mâché for your good health and happiness?



Cherry Blossom さくら 桜

The cherry blossom is regarded as an iconic flower of Japan. And, in fact, for many Japanese, it is synonymous with the word ‘flower’. More than 300 different varieties of flowering cherries grow around the country. For over 1,000 years, people in Japan have perceived the cherry blossom to be the mirror of their sensibility. Cherry blossoms have long been used as a design element in various ways – serving dishes, cloths, Japanese sweets By depicting cherry blossoms on everyday objects, people have managed to suggest and enjoy a sense of spring.

In addition, people have long made use of the whole tree for their livelihoods. The leaves and blossoms are preserved with salt to bring out a particular flavor. The leaves are indispensable in the confectionery called *sakura-mochi*, consisting of a sweet pink *mochi* (rice cake) and red bean paste, covered with an edible *sakura* (cherry blossom) leaf. The blossoms are also used to make *sakura-cha*, a tea often served at celebratory occasions. The beautiful barks of the trees embellish tea leaf boxes and letter boxes because the bark is easily removed. The trunks are sold as wood chips, which produce fragrant smoke when burnt.

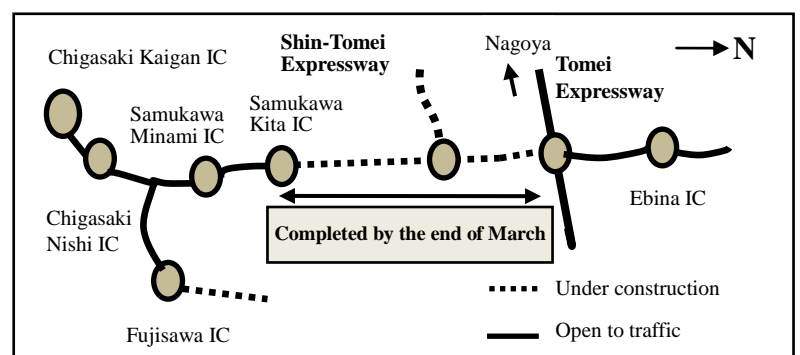
Of course, spring is the season for *hanami* (or flower-viewing), the traditional custom of enjoying the transient beauty of flowers, usually cherry blossom, and these days, the cherry blossom favored by many comes from a rather new variety of flowering cherry tree called *Somei-yoshino*, created in the middle of the 19th Century. *Somei-yoshino* only blooms for a particularly short period of time, their petals seeming to start dropping almost as soon as their buds have opened. This dovetails perfectly with the traditional Japanese aesthetic sensibility that finds beauty not only in the blooming of flowers but also in the way they flutter to the ground.



Sagami Jūkan-dō Road Completed じゅうかんどうろぜんせんかいふう さがみ縦貫道路全線開通

The construction of the Samukawa-Ebina section of the expressway, Sagami Jūkan-dō Road, will be finished by the end of March, leading to the opening of the entire stretch. Chigasaki residents will have access to the nation’s major expressways, Kan-Etsu, Chuō and Tomei Expressways, without having to use local roads, from interchanges (IC) in and around the city; Fujisawa, Chigasaki Nishi and Chigasaki Kaigan on the Shin-Shonan Bypass; and Samukawa Minami on Sagami Jūkan-dō Road. (You cannot get on the expressway from Chigasaki Chuō IC.) As a result, Chigasaki will also become more accessible to people in Ko-Shin-Etsu and Northern Kanto.

In the near future, probably around 2020, the Shin-Tomei Expressway, whose Gotenba-Mikkabi section in Shizuoka prefecture has already been opened to traffic, will be extended east and connected to the expressway at the southern end of Ebina.



Specialties of Chigasaki

Surfboard Stories of Chigasaki

ちがさき ものがたり
茅ヶ崎サーフボード物語

Surfboards are a special item for Chigasaki. Do you know about the three types of surfboards which stand in front of the second-floor elevators in the main building of City Hall?

The left-hand finless wooden *alaia* board, which has regained its popularity in recent years, is modeled after the first surfboard to appear in Japan. It was in the 1920s that this first surfboard was brought back from Hawaii by the then owner of a Chigasaki inn, and is preserved there still, though it was once used as a bench board in the garden. Surprisingly, no one realized its value for a long time.

The middle one is also a rare surfboard, made in Chigasaki around 1970, the brand of which, 'ET Surfboards' (from 1967), no longer exists. ET does not mean Eddie Talbot (the founder of ET Surfboards in the US in 1972) but the late Ernie Tanaka, a legendary shaper from Hawaii, who ran a factory in California in the 1960s and 1970s. Some young Shonan guys stayed there to learn shaping boards from him. ET surfboards were made with urethane foam, which is common today but was the newest material at that time. During the height of the first surfing boom in the middle of the 1970s, many young people moved to Chigasaki to master making modern surfboards. Thus Chigasaki became the point of origin for Japanese surfboard design and manufacture.

Finally, the one on the right is a present-day mainstream short board made using state-of-the-art technology.



Ōoka Echizen-sai Festival

おおおかえちぜんさい
大岡越前祭

The 60th Ōoka Echizen-sai Festival is scheduled for May 2 (Sat) and 3 (Sun). Ōoka Echizen Tadasuke was an able and highly-respected bureaucrat during the Edo Period. He had held important posts in the city of Edo (modern-day Tokyo), such as town magistrate and commissioner of temples and shrines, and was also known as a man of both intellect and culture. The festival has been taking place almost every year since 1913 (Taishō 2) to celebrate his great achievements.

Many events will be held during the two days of festivities, but the highlights are most likely to be;

- ◇ "Chigasaki Brand Bazaar" on the east-side sidewalk of YAMADA DENKI
- ◇ "Station's Front Concert" on the Pedestrian Deck of JR Chigasaki Station's North Entrance
- ◇ "Big Parade" in the vicinity of JR Chigasaki Station (Sun, 13:00 ~ 15:00)
- ◇ "Jokenji Temple Local Festival" at Jokenji Temple
- ◇ "Mikoshi (Portable Shrine) Parade" nearby JR Chigasaki Station's North Entrance (Sun, 12:30 ~ 14:00)

For more details, please take a look at the Chigasaki City website.



Spring Citizen Festival

はる し みん
春の市民まつり

On May 3 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00, Chigasaki City will hold its 31st Spring Citizen Festival at Chuō Kōen. There will be about 65 stalls selling a variety of food, snacks, vegetable plants and flowers. Besides these, there will be games stalls for children.

On the stage, 20 local groups from Chigasaki will perform dance and music.

3rd Gotōchi-Kyara Party 第3回ご当地キャラパーティー

The 3rd Gotōchi-Kyara Party will take place on March 28 (Sat) and 29 (Sun) at Chuō Kōen. In case you don't know, *gotōchi-kyara* are cute mascot characters that are created to promote a place, event or organization, often incorporating motifs that reflect local culture, history or produce. Chigasaki will be represented by Eboshimaro, and many characters from other prefectures will come as well. Participants can enjoy watching the memorial ceremony, taking pictures with the mascots, and a variety of events taking place on the stage. There will also be some stalls selling original goods.

To find out performance information for each character, please go to: www.chigasaki-kankou.org and click on the Eboshimaro icon near the top.



History of Chigasaki

Shinmei-jinja Shrine and a big Zelkova Tree

しんめいじんじゃ おお
神明神社と大けやき

About 50m west from the main entrance of Murota Elementary School on the Ōyama highway, there is an approach to Shinmei-jinja Shrine (also known as Shinmei Daijingū). Alongside the shrine's *Torii* (a gate to mark the entrance to a sacred space), there is a giant 400-year-old zelkova tree whose trunk has a circumference of about 4m at eye-level. The shrine itself is situated in an elevated area set back about 200m from the approach.

According to the historical records of Akabane Village in Kōkoku-Chishi (an official Meiji-era publication which, for the first time, itemized the national topography, i.e. historiographical information about every settlement and county throughout Japan), the shrine was first erected when Minamoto-no-Yoshiie, a general commander of samurai in the latter half of the Heian Era (794 ~ 1185), deified the spirit of god and Buddha during the Jiryaku Era (1065 ~ 1069). The shrine was originally a *so-chinju*, or general tutelary shrine housing more than one deity, in this case to protect the grounds and temples of six neighboring villages, but between the start of the Meireki Era (1655) and the end of the Shōtoku Era (1716), the villages separated and each of them deified their *chinju* separately. In 1649 (Keian 2), Shinmei-jinja Shrine received a *syuin-jo*, or an official document from the Tokugawa government officially recognizing what the shrine owned and entitling them to receive six *koku* (which, at that time, was equivalent in value to about 900kg of rice) from the shogunate.

The shrine is said to have been reconstructed in 1648 (Shōhō 5), in 1694 (Genroku 7), and again in September, 1884 (Meiji 17). And within the shrine, there remain twelve *munafuda*, or ridge tags containing information on the shrine's construction, the earliest dating from 1616 (Genna 2). However, in 1983 (Shōwa 58), to make way for the Shin-Shonan Bypass, the shrine had to be removed and rebuilt on the north side of the bypass together with a new, dedicated, pedestrian bridge over a side path running alongside the bypass.

[Transportation] At Chigasaki Station, take a bus bound for Shonan Life Town/Bunkyo University and get off at Takada bus stop. From there, it takes 10 minutes on foot.



IAC ACTIVITY

Information on Multilingual Hospitals

外国語で対応できる病院の情報

The table below lists hospitals near Chigasaki where many foreigners will be able to communicate in their mother tongues with doctors through a medical interpreter. To use the so-called *medical interpreter dispatch service*, foreign patients have to request the service at the same time they make an appointment to see a doctor. With regard to the cost for interpretation services, some hospitals charge a fee of around 1000 yen, but others do not.

In addition to the listed hospitals, there are 57 doctor's clinics where doctors have a good command of English, according to the "Medical Association of Chigasaki" website.

Hospital Name	Location	Telephone	Interpretation Service Costs
Languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Thai			
Shonan Fujisawa Tokushukai Hospital	Fujisawa	0466-35-1177	Free of Charge
Languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Thai, Korean, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian			
Tokai University Hospital	Isehara	0463-93-1121	¥1000+Tax for 3 hours
Ebina General Hospital	Ebina	046-233-1311	¥1000 +Tax
Atsugi City Hospital (1)	Atsugi	046-221-1570	¥1000 +Tax
Hiratsuka City Hospital (2)	Hiratsuka	0463-32-0015	Free of charge

- (1) Spanish and Portuguese interpreters are permanently on site on Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays.
(2) A Spanish interpreter is permanently on site on Thursday & Friday mornings.

The Foreign Residents Support Group at the IAC are ready to provide foreign residents with useful information for living, such as information on medical care, schools or administrative procedures, an interpretation service and a translation service. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the IAC on 090-1557-7789.

Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

外国人による日本語スピーチ大会

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and the City office will jointly hold a Japanese speech contest on March 15 (Sun) from 13:30 at the Community Hall in the City office annex 6F. Ten or so students from the IAC's Japanese language classes and the winner of last year's contest, as well as a Korean student from Tokai University, will express their thoughts. There will be a social gathering for all attendees after the contest.

Why don't you come to listen and join in some conversation with the speakers?

Workshop: Raising Children in Different Cultures

講演・交流会 異文化の中での子どもの育て方

On March 21 (Sat), 10:00 ~ 12:00, Chigasaki City Shōrin Kominkan will host a workshop in their second meeting room on the challenges of parenting in different cultures, which will include a talk on the subject given by Bunkyo University Lecturer Yuka Inoue. Twenty places are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To register or for further details, please call 0467-52-1314.

So many Countries, so many Customs!

所変われば、品変わる

Mothering Sunday マザリング・サンデー

You may be forgiven for thinking that Mothering Sunday in the UK is just another name for Mother's Day, as celebrated in many countries around the world. And, insofar as it is a day to honour mothers and grandmothers, to visit them and treat them to a special meal or a day out, and to give them cards and gifts, you are not wrong.

However, Mothering Sunday is actually a Christian holiday which falls in the middle of Lent (before Easter), and has been celebrated since at least the 16th Century. Originally, on this day, people would return to their *mother church* (i.e. where they were baptized or attended services as a child) to give thanks for the spiritual nourishment and protection they received as they grew up. Young boys and girls who were 'in service' as maids and servants were allowed this one day to visit their families and attend church together. As they walked home across the fields, they would pick wild flowers to give to their mothers. Even today, some churches give children a posy of spring flowers to give to their mothers as a thank you for all the love and care they have received throughout the year.

Lent is a time for fasting and abstinence, but the rules were relaxed on Mothering Sunday, and for this reason, it is sometimes known as Refreshment Sunday. Indeed, mid-Lent church services used to make a point of talking about food, most notably telling the well-known New Testament story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two fish.

The food item especially associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake, a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is traditionally topped with eleven balls of marzipan, one for each of Jesus Christ's twelve apostles - but not Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus. These days, though, Simnel cake is more commonly eaten on Easter Day.

The custom of Mothering Sunday in the UK underwent a revival in the 1920s thanks to the efforts of Constance Adelaide Smith (1878 ~ 1938), the wife of a Nottinghamshire vicar, who was inspired by an American lady, Anna Marie Jarvis (1864 ~ 1948), the founder of the (secular) Mother's Day holiday in the US, first celebrated in 1908.

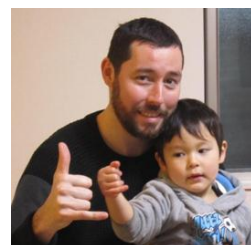
Mothering Sunday in the UK falls on March 15 this year. Some may call it Mother's Day, but either way, it is a day for remembering and celebrating the one person in your life who has probably done more for you, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, than any other.

People in Town

Richard Pitter from France

Japanese people should have the confidence to express their individuality more.

Richard Pitter, from Versailles, a city located about twenty kilometers southwest of Paris and home to a world-famous palace, has been living in Japan for ten years.



After studying Ethnology at university, he came to Japan and worked as a French and English teacher. Now he works for an international recruiting company in Tokyo.

Richard and his family lived in western Tokyo before moving to Chigasaki two years ago. One day he drove west on the Tomei Expressway, and casually got off at the Atsugi interchange, and then drove to the Chigasaki coast. Local people he met there were very friendly and sociable, and he felt time seemed to pass slowly there. That's why he decided to bring his family to live in Chigasaki, which is where their second child was born.

He sometimes practices meditation. He is especially interested in *Reiki*, a technique to reduce stress and aid relaxation, established by Mikao Usui in the 1920s. Richard considers spiritual fulfillment to be one of the essentials in his life.

He speaks fluent Japanese, which he mastered whilst socializing in pubs, according to him. He likes travelling, and has been to more than forty countries, of which he was most impressed by Zimbabwe and Bosnia.

Finally, Richard commented that, in his view, Japanese people are too modest about themselves, their country and culture, and that they should have more confidence and show their individuality more. He doesn't agree with the well-known proverb, 'Stand out from the crowd and you just invite trouble for yourself.'



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

Submission of Final Tax Returns

かくていしんこく
確定申告

You can now submit the final income tax return for your residence for 2014 (Heisei 26). The deadline is March 16 (Mon). If you have not already received your tax forms through the post, you can obtain them from the Citizens Tax Section of City Hall or one of its branches, or from the Fujisawa Tax Office. Otherwise, you can download them from the National Tax Agency website (www.nta.go.jp). An English guide to help you complete your tax forms can also be downloaded by clicking on the [English](#) link at the bottom on the page and then choosing [Consumption and Local Consumption Taxes Final Return Guide](#) on the next page. Alternatively, you can obtain income tax counseling in English on 03 (3821) 9070.

You can submit your final tax return by post, or hand it in, between 09:00 and 17:00 on weekdays, at either Chigasaki General Gymnasium or the Fujisawa Tax Office. A consultation service is available at these locations, but unfortunately there are no interpreters available. It is recommended that you complete the procedure in good time because the submission locations get crowded towards the closing date.

Top 10 Chigasaki News Stories in 2014

ねん ちがさき だい 2014年 第10大ニュース

The City surveyed citizens about events that most impressed them in 2014, between December 8 and 17. A total of 320 people responded, 80% of them via the internet, choosing up to three of 29 news items. The results were as follows:

①Sister-city relationship with Honolulu established (117 votes); ②‘Kibou no Wadachi’ by Southern All Stars selected as Chigasaki Station Tokaido Line platform melody for departing trains (115); ③D.J. HAGGY became City’s first sightseeing and friendship ambassador (73); ④New City number plate for motorbikes started being used (62); ⑤Professional surfer Angela Maki Vernon became City’s first female sightseeing/friendship ambassador (60); ⑥Chigasaki Beef exported to Hong Kong, the first beef ever to be exported from Kanagawa (45); ⑦Professional soccer team Shonan Bellmare won the J2 league, gaining promotion to J1 (34); ⑧Financial aid to women suffering from recurrent pregnancy loss started (33); ⑨The first Shonan Ramen Festival took place (32); ⑩Two heavy snowfalls in February (25).

Congestion Predictions at City Hall Counters

し みん か まどぐち こんざつ よそう 市民課窓口の混雑が予想されます

Significant congestion is anticipated at City Hall counters on Mondays and the day after holidays in March and April, so please try to avoid these busy days, as shown in the table.

In addition, on any day, the period between 11:00 and 14:00 tends to be the most crowded.

Please note also that on March 14 (Sat) and April 11 (Sat), only the counters of the Civil and Insurance/Pension sections will be open.

Applications for the issuance of certificates of residence, copies of family registers and certificates of registered seals are expected to be processed faster at the Koide and Tsujido branches, and citizen centers.

Citizens can hand in notifications of changes of address, changes to family registers, and registrations of official seals at the Koide and Tsujido branches as well as Kagawa Citizen Center.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Mar	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
/Apr	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Closed		Crowded				
	Very crowded		Slightly crowded				

Useful Japanese Expressions 役に立つ日本語

KIREIGOTO きれいごと

Everybody knows that “kirei” means clean, tidy, pretty, beautiful, etc., but, ironically, if someone’s words are described as KIREIGOTO, it means that they are glossing over the situation, using pretty words to make things sound better than they really are, in spite of the expression containing “kirei”. Of course, in the world of diplomacy, KIREIGOTO may be useful to smooth over a misunderstanding between nations, though it is a delicate path to tread - if a diplomat only speaks KIREIGOTO words, they might be accused of not taking the incident seriously, or even of deliberately whitewashing.

By the way, a similar word KIREIZUKI (きれい好き) means a person who is crazy about cleanliness or who likes to keep things neat and tidy all the time, which may be good or bad depending on circumstances.

Fifty Free Shonan Bellmare Tickets

しょうなん かんせん 湘南ベルマーレ 観戦チケット プレゼント

Shonan Bellmare will invite twenty-five pairs of citizens, fifty citizens in total, to its game with Vegalta Sendai on March 22 (Sun) for free.

Send a postcard with your zip code and address, two names, phone number, and a cheering message for the team, by March 10 (Tues) to: 〒253-8686 Chigasaki City Hall Sports/Health Section.

The lucky winners will receive the tickets without prior announcement.



Disused Article Bank 不用品バンク

How about taking a look at items which are being offered for free or at a reasonable cost? If you are interested in an item, contact the Consulting Service Section for Citizens, Consumer Life Center on 82-1111. Here are some of the items on offer as of Feb 2.



Coffee cup set



School bag



Baby high chair

How to get to the Bank on the City’s official website:

Go to www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/ → Click on Foreigner’s guide (top of the initial screen) → Select a language and start translation → Civic consultation, consumer life (hover over Living – just above Eboshimaro - to display a list of categories) → Discarded things bank (bottom) → We hand over registration information (third).

This then shows a list of items, some with pictures.

Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

にほん せいよう 日本と西洋のことわざ

●三度目の正直

SANDOME NO SHŌJIKI
(Third time, honesty.)
Third time pays for all.

●千里の道も一歩より

SENRI NO MICHU MO IPPO YORI
(A thousand-li journey starts with one step.)
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

●暖簾に腕押し

NOREN NI UDE OSHI
(It is like beating the air, useless.)
You can’t catch the wind in a net.

●文は人なり

BUN WA HITO NARI
(His writing reveals himself.)
The style is the man himself.

●昔は今の鏡

MUKASHI WA IMA NO KAGAMI
(The olden days are the mirror of the present.)
Today is yesterday’s pupil.