

43RD FIREWORKS FESTIVAL AT SOUTHERN BEACH



Fireworks have a long history in Japan and are an integral part of Japanese summers. *Hanabi*, literally meaning “fire flowers,” can be compared in popularity to the cherry blossoms of spring. Hundreds of fireworks festivals take place nationwide every weekend during the summer.

This year, Chigasaki will host its 43rd annual fireworks festival at Southern Beach on August 5th from 7:30 to 8:20 p.m. Southern Beach is about a 20 minute walk or 10 minutes by bus from the south exit of the station. There is no parking lot, and there will be traffic restrictions on Southern Street from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., so please avoid driving in the area. In addition to the beauty of the colorful lights bursting in the night sky, one of the main appeals of *hanabi* is the festival atmosphere that comes along with the fireworks. You can enjoy food and games at nearby stalls, wear *yukata*, and relax on the beach. There will also be a painting contest where winning works will become actual fireworks.

With around 3,000 launches planned for the event, you can enjoy many original fireworks and famous designs including “star mines,” spherical shells that can have a variety of burst patterns, and the “underwater peacock,” which is a firework that is launched underwater to create a fan-shaped flower that blooms over the water. Bring a blanket, some food and drink and enjoy this amazing show from the comfort of Southern Beach. Just remember to reserve your spot on the sand early, as this event may get crowded, and don’t forget to help keep the beach clean.

CHIGASAKI’S HAMAORI FESTIVAL

Every summer, newcomers to Chigasaki’s Southern Beach are treated to what would be a strange site. A loud, early morning festival crowds the beach, carrying large, ornately decorated shrines down the sand and right into the water. If you haven’t heard of the Hamaori Festival, it may be a bit of a shock. But for the residents of Chigasaki, it is a long running tradition that marks the height of the summer season.

It is said that the Hamaori Festival started in 1839, when a portable shrine (mikoshi) from Samukawa Shrine was lost in the Banyu River. Several days later, the mikoshi was found by a local fisherman on a local beach. The mikoshi was returned to Samukawa and a festival has been held on Chigasaki’s beaches ever since. Chigasaki’s own Tsurumine-Hachimangu had a similar festival nearby, which was combined with Samukawa’s in 1923. Now, the festival is held every year on the third Monday in July.

This year, the Hamaori Festival will be held on Monday, July 17th, on a national holiday called “Sea Day” (Umi no hi). Very early in the morning, a mikoshi sets out from Samukawa Shrine bound for Chigasaki Southern Beach. Along the way, more than 40 other portable shrines join in the march, reaching the beach by dawn. At about 7:00a.m., once all of the shrines have arrived, gone for a swim, and settled in on the beach, a ceremony is carried out. By 8a.m., the shrines begin to disperse back to their homes and the festival winds down.

The Hamaori Festival is one of Chigasaki’s most famous events. More than 70,000 people usually attend and participate in the festival. It should be worth getting up early for, so check it out.



Summer Shopping Bus Tour in Chigasaki!



Chigasaki abounds in vegetables, meat and fish. You can experience the harvest at Iemon Farm, visit the Saito Stock Farm to see the cowshed and check out Marudai Fish Market in this August. The tour is free, but you do need to buy something at each farm. Apply at Agricultural & Marine section in Chigasaki municipal, by phone or online from July 3rd.

Course:

- (1) One adult + children (elementary school students and above)
maximum 2 children
 - (2) Adults (aged 18+) –
groups of 3 (maximum)
- *Single adults can attend*

Dates:

Aug. 3 and Aug. 29
Registration: July 3 – 14 by phone
TEL: 0467-82-1111

[http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/nousui_no_gyo/1006519/1006566/index.html]



IAC Charity Concert

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) will hold a charity concert on July 1st (Sat) at Husky’s Gallery. Violinist Nonoko Okada and pianist Hiroshi Taguchi will perform well-known masterpieces by Chopin, Kreisler and more. There will be two performances, day session starts at 2:00p.m. and night session starts at 6p.m. The admission fee is 1,500 yen and all proceeds of the concert will be donated to children’s education aid in Cambodia, Nepal and Laos.

Inquiries: TEL: 090-1557-7789

Email: info@chigasaki-iac.org

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN TOWN

JUNE

until 4 SUN 10am-6pm

CENTURY OF BICYCLE EXHIBITION

This exhibition is being held from April 9 to June 4 at the Chigasaki Museum to commemorate of the 70th anniversary of Chigasaki City. You can enjoy 100 years of bicycle history. Entry is 700 yen with children Junior High School age and under free.

20 TUE 9:00am

MORNING FISH MARKET "Sakana no Ichi"

The market will be held at Chigasaki Fishing Port.

JULY

1 SAT 10am- 1pm

BEACH OPENING CEREMONY

The ceremony will be held at Southern Beach Chigasaki

17 MON 7am- 9am

HAMAORI FESTIVAL

About 40 portable shrines(mikoshi) will gather at Southern Beach and the ceremony will be held there from 7am.

30 SUN 9am-5pm

HONOBONO BEACH FESTIVAL

The festival will be held at Head Line Beach near Daiichi Junior High school. The event features live music on the beach.

AUGUST

5 SAT 7:30-8:20pm

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The display will be held Southern Beach Chigasaki. In case of rain, the event will be held on the 6th instead.

6 SUN 4-8pm

The 30th NANDEMO YOICHI

The Nandemo Yoichi will be held at Chigasaki Central Park. This event offers citizens a chance to get together for some summer fun.

Sister
City

HONOLULU WEEK

In commemoration of the sister-city agreement signed on Oct. 24, 2014 between Honolulu and Chigasaki, every year Honolulu Week is held to deepen further the relationship and goodwill between two cities.

This year it will be held from July 1st (Southern Beach Opening day) to August 5th (Firework Display). During this time, if you visit participating shops wearing an aloha shirt, you can get special services or original goods.

All participating shops will be displaying this banner, so you will easily find them. Please enjoy our "Aloha Spirit" this summer in Chigasaki.

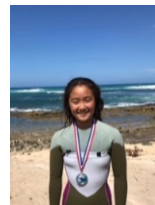


During the week, public facilities like the Chigasaki Library and Community Centers will also hold some special events. For more information, check out the cities website.

[<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/profile/1012577/1013763/1023393.html>]

HONOLULU MAYOR'S CUP GROMMETS SURF CONTEST

The Honolulu Mayor's Cup Grommets Surf Contest is held every year during the summer in Chigasaki. So what does "Grommets" mean? It's surfer slang for children. All levels of child surfers under 15 are eligible to participate in the Grommets tournament. The contest is divided into several categories to compete fairly amongst the same age groups. The champions of U15 in both girls and boys division are given the opportunity to spend their spring break in Hawaii for 10 days supported by Chigasaki City.



The 2016 champion of the girls division was Nanao Sawada (14). She was the champion in the girls division for two consecutive years. The 2016 champion of the boys division was Ayumu Ozaki (13). They both have different reasons for starting the sport but enjoy surfing and spend endless of hours practicing. They will surf when it's raining or even in cold weather as long as there are waves. They will rush out in their gears in the morning before school or after school to catch the waves. They are inspired to get better and their goals are extremely high. Winning this competition gave them the opportunity to surf at the best surfing spots in Hawaii. They practiced for three hours in three sets for a total of 9 hours a day with surf coaches. They also surfed alongside local surfers who encouraged them to work harder and to speak in English. Both of them had a fantastic experience and wishes to surf in Hawaii again. The Championship prize of this competition motivates and encourages the children of Chigasaki to become a future surf stars and to gain a place on the World Surfing Contest.

Professional Advice -LAWYER-

Question:

I've been living at this apartment for almost 4 years, and the end date of the tenancy agreement is approaching. My landlord gave me notice that he will no longer extend the contract because his son will be back and will live in this room. Is there any way to stay here? I love this apartment and don't want to move out.

Answer:

In Japan, a building lessee is strongly protected by the Act on Land and Building Leases. A lessee can not be unreasonably evicted from the building. In cases like your question, it is highly likely that you do not need to move.

A lease contract will be renewed by law even when the period of contract expires. If a lessor wishes to refuse renewal, *justifiable grounds* are required by law. *Justifiable grounds* are basically judged by the necessity to use a building. The fact that the landlord wants his son to use the building when he moves back is not considered to be *justifiable grounds*. However, if his son has a heavy handicap and needs to live with the lessor in that building, it might be considered a justifiable ground.

Therefore, in the case of this question, there is no obligation to leave. You can claim a renewal of the contract, or you may negotiate conditions like compensation and extension, unless there is a breach of obligation such as non-payment of rent.

Please note that this tenant favorable clause is not applicable if your lease agreement is a Fixed Term Building Lease type instead of a standard lease. You should consult legal professionals if you are not sure what to do.

MEET YOUR MAYOR - NOBUAKI HATTORI

On the fifth floor of the City Hall, the Mayor Reception Office—an official meeting room where the Mayor meets his guests—offers a visual history of people, with portraits of former mayors hung on the wall. Waiting for him in the room, I sensed the immense legacy Mayor Nobuaki Hattori has inherited. When he entered the room, the ice I had felt in the solemn room was broken at once with his great smile! He spoke about Chigasaki and his measures for internationalization.



CB: What made you want to become the mayor?

I've been in Chigasaki since I was born in 1961. I started teaching children at my cram school after I quit Tokai University. I wanted to do something more helpful for children so I tried to become a politician. I was elected as a city council member when I was 25 years old. Since then, I've been a local politician because I love Chigasaki and the people living here, and I always want to make it a better place. I was elected the Mayor of Chigasaki after 16 years of servicing on the Chigasaki city council and Kanagawa prefecture assembly.

CB: You have been a member of International Association of Chigasaki, or IAC, since you were a university student. What did you do as a volunteer to help local foreign residents?

I have been involved in IAC since it was launched over 30 years ago. At that time, I engaged in planning and management of programs to host foreign people and students visiting Japan. I hosted Chinese people at my home. It was precious time for me. I struggled with Chinese language though.

CB: We realize more foreign people are moving in. What do you think attracts them to Chigasaki?

I think it's not only because there is gorgeous nature, like the sunny weather, the proximity of the beach, and country scenery stretching across the northern part, but also because people living in town are warm to welcome new people. Chigasaki has increased its population greatly since 1960s. I have never heard of conflict between old residents and new settlers.

The modern history of Chigasaki goes back to Meiji period, when the Tōkaidō railway was extended to here and the city started to be known as a resort area south of Tokyo. It is said that Ichikawa Danjūrō IX, a famous Kabuki actor, is the first to have a large villa in town. Thanks to famous celebrities connected to the city such as Yūzō Kayama and Keisuke Kuwata, the city has since gained a good reputation and attracted more people. I think this history of the town has made local people to be warm and welcome new residents.

CB: What kind of challenges are local foreign residents facing?

For the immigrants, it is difficult to find the first contact with society. Unfortunately, I don't think Chigasaki has greater support for foreign residents compared to cities which have a great population of foreigners. I visited Izumi-sano city last month, which has Kansai International Airport. As a gateway to Japan, there are multilingual sign boards across the city, and the city hall has several language capabilities. In Chigasaki, volunteer workers like IAC have covered the lack of capability of the government. With Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games ahead which Chigasaki will be involved in preparations for, I hope this effort will lead to enhance support for foreign residents as well.



CB: As the mayor of Chigasaki, what did you do and what will you do to make Chigasaki a better place for local foreign residents?

As for support activity for local foreign residents, we thank IAC for their free language program which provides local foreign people with opportunities to learn Japanese. We will continue to back up their volunteer work by providing classrooms in the city hall.

Since we tied a sister city relationship with Honolulu two and half years ago—which is our first experience—we have learned a lot from them about internationalization. Hawaii has a great immigrant history and various cultures which we should learn. We would like to develop exchange programs for children. Globalization is expanding faster than ever. We think the next generation should have more capability to communicate without any hesitation, share different values with foreign people across the world, and respect different cultures mutually. This year, we will send Grade 4 and 5 students to local schools in Hawaii, and invite Hawaiian children to our city next year.

How do you listen to the voices of the foreign people?

We have counselors who will help the citizens solve their issues. However, we receive just a few voices a year from foreign residents. I am afraid many foreign people don't even know we have counselors. We should make more efforts to let foreign residents know we can be supportive. We will listen to the troubles you are in and arrange helps that you need. We have people who speak foreign languages in the office. We have hired some experienced people from business sectors. If you have trouble in town, please feel free to contact us. There should be something we can do to help.

(PHOTOGRAPHER: Aya Watada)

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSIONER: AS YOUR CONSULTATION PARTNER

Twelve civil rights commissioners are engaged in human rights activities in Chigasaki.

On June 1st, Chigasaki city is holding a "Human rights consultation day". Civil rights commissioners will give advice on troubles concerning human rights. For those interested, visit citizen's consultation booth between 1p.m. and 4p.m. Advance reservation is necessary.

Human rights consultation service

2nd Friday, 4th Tuesday 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

Place: Citizen's consultation section.

Telephone consultation service

Hours: 8:30a.m.-5:15p.m. on Weekdays

Human rights consultation: 0570-003-110 (Navigation dial)

Children's Human rights consultation: 0120-007-110 (Navigation dial)

Women's Human rights consultation: 0570-070-810 (Navigation dial)

International Association of Chigasaki also provide consultation service for foreigners residing in Chigasaki.

Contact: Tel 090-1557-7789 E-mail info@chigasaki-iac.org

Feel the Summer Breeze on Two Wheels!



As the weather gets better, it is a great time to cycle around the city. This year, the city's bicycle rental program has expanded, with more shops available to rent bikes throughout town. Rental costs 500 yen for the day, and some shops may require a security deposit. This program offers a convenient way for residents and tourists to travel around town, and several new bicycles have recently been added. Each of these bicycles also has a name related to the sites and activities of the city. More information about the hours and bicycle rental locations can be found at the tourism information office next to Chigasaki station.

Rental Fee:

500 Yen for the entire day

Some stores require a security deposit.

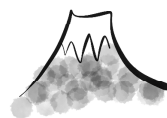
Chigasaki Rent-a-Cycle shops:

Ogawa Toryouten (a paint store), Tea and Dango Ogawaen, North exit of station cycle park, Kume bicycle&Co., the Southern Beach Surf House, Daiwa cycle, Daiwa real estate, Takenaka cycle, Tanaka bicycle, Tamuraya, Nuno koubou Kumaji (kimono fabric shop), Chigasaki tourist information office, Touyoko Inn, and Hamadaya south exit branch.

[Transportation Planning and Urban Policy Division]



Ask Fuji-san



Dear Fuji-san,

I'm new to Japan and each day is filled with surprises. A few weeks ago, I went to Enoshima and there was a long queue of visitors for the entry of the observation tower, and under the scorching heat, people were just smiling and waiting patiently without any complaint or an indecent push. How come Japanese are so polite? It seems like Japanese people are always friendly and have manners. Do Japanese ever show displeasure or anger in public? Everyone I've met here are extremely nice and polite. You don't get that in a lot of countries.

J. M. (Australia)

Dear J,

Since I was here (I am believed to have formed several hundred thousand years ago), I have been watching the Japanese. Out there, there are some rude and unfriendly people, but I'd say most of the Japanese are nice and honest people. They are very polite, especially when they host their guests. Why? Some people say the politeness is one of their native characters, others believe the Japanese are so shy that they do not express what they really feel and say what they are supposed to say. Samurai spirits may have influenced their behavior. I think there are various theories about the politeness of Japanese people. Whatever the reason, they love to welcome foreign guests and want to become friends!

From Fuji-san

COME AND JOIN US AT SHIROYAMA FESTA!

The second annual Shiroyama Festa will be an event that brings the community together with lots of kid-friendly activities and great food.

It will be held around Hamamidaira on August 5 from 10a.m. to 3p.m. Bring your friends and family along to have the time of your life! It is a festival that people of all ages can enjoy.

There are three events in three different venues. First, there is the Learning Festa at Hamamina, where you can enjoy flower design, experience tea ceremony, and so much more! Second, there will be stage performances at Branch 2. Third is the Playing Festa around Shiroyama Park, so there will be lots of fun play activities, like playing in the water.

Please refer to the city website or ask Lifelong Culture Learning Sect. of Chigasaki City for further information.

[TEL: 0467-82-1111]

[<http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/e.ox.hp.transer.com/1011876.html>]



Editor's Note

Here in Chigasaki, as I write this editor's note in Golden Week, I am enjoying a comfortable 15-degree morning, stronger sunshine at noon, and sudden thunderstorms in the afternoon. Smelling the rain, I sense summer is approaching, the most exciting season here. We are featuring can't-miss events of the summer. Enjoy your summer holidays!



Shuhei Miyake

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Back issues are available on the IAC website [www.7jp.com/iac] or the Chigasaki City website.

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