

NEW “REIWA” ERA

BEGAN ON MAY 1, 2019

On April 1, the Cabinet decreed that the new era name after Heisei to be “Reiwa”(「令和」) and that it would begin on May 1.

During the Meiji period, an emperor used several era names, but from the Meiji era it was ruled that an emperor can use only one, and a new era starts after his death. The former emperor Akihito claimed his retirement last year.

In total 247 era names have been used, from the first Taika (645-650) to Heisei, but they were all named after Chinese literature. Reiwa is the first to be named after a collection of Japanese poetry called “Manyoshu.”

The prime minister said the name Reiwa represents the hope that every Japanese person will achieve his or her aspirations, just like a plum flower flourishing after a severe winter. The foreign minister issued an additional comment on it meaning “beautiful harmony” in order not to be misunderstood as “zero sum.”

Also, here is some information about the latest eras and how to convert the era year into the Western calendar year:

Era Name	Abbreviation	Period	Length	Conversion
Reiwa	令 (R)	May 1, 2019 – present	TBD	Year + 2018
Heisei	平 (H)	Jan. 8, 1989 – April 30, 2019	31 years	Year + 1988
Showa	昭 (S)	Dec. 25, 1926 – Jan. 7, 1989	64 years	Year + 1925

CHIGASAKI'S HAMAORI FESTIVAL

Don't forget to add the Hamaori Festival to your summer plans!



The Hamaori Festival will be held on Monday, July 15, on a national holiday called “Sea Day” (Umi no Hi) at Chigasaki's Nishihama Beach.

It's a long-running tradition that marks the height of the summer season for the residents of Chigasaki. More than 70,000 people usually attend and participate in the festival.

At dawn, more than 40 mikoshi (portable shrines) set out from the shrines of Samukawa and Chigasaki bound for Chigasaki's Nishihama Beach, with the carriers shouting “dokkoi, dokkoi.” All the mikoshi arrive at the beach by 7 a.m., after which a ceremony is held and some of the mikoshi are carried into the sea for purification.

Seeing the different ways the mikoshi are carried and listening to the jinku (songs sung when carrying the mikoshi) is fun too. The festival's worth getting up early for, so check it out.

The beginning of Hamaori Festival

It's said the Hamaori Festival started in 1839. In 1838, Samukawa Shrine's mikoshi took part in the Kounomachi Festival in Oiso. On the way back, the mikoshi carriers fought with the local people near the Sagami River and the mikoshi was lost in the water. After several days, the shrine's goshintai (the object of worship that spirits reside in) was found in the sea by a fisherman.

He returned it to Samukawa Shrine and since then, the mikoshi has visited the beach every year to give thanks and purify the goshintai.

The program of the festival

The first mikoshi will begin to arrive at around 4 a.m., with the festivities beginning from 7 a.m. The shrines will start to depart at about 8 a.m., with Hamaori Festival finishing at around 9 a.m.

*Mikoshi often enter the sea between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. when arriving or around 8:00 a.m. when departing.

*Depending on the weather, the mikoshi may not enter the sea.

FIRE DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS OF CHIGASAKI AND SAMUKAWA TO BE COMBINED

At the end of March, an agreement on broadening the firefighting system between the two cities was signed, and preparation began in April 2022. With a decrease in population but an increase of elderly citizens anticipated, and a budget cut for firefighting in place, the broadening of firefighters was chosen in order to maintain the firefighting system and handle a potential increase in ambulance responses. It's expected this new system may give quicker dispatches of the fire engines and ambulances.

REGISTRATION AS HOST TOWN FOR THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES WITH A FRESHLY NAMED COUNTRY -- THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



Flag of the Republic of North Macedonia

On April 26, it was announced Chigasaki City will be a host town to the Republic of North Macedonia.

About the Republic of North Macedonia

In Feb. 2019, the country formerly-known as the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia announced a name change to the Republic of North Macedonia. Although far, far away from Japan, "Macedonia" may sound familiar to you because of Alexander the Great-- the most famous Macedonian of all.

The Republic of North Macedonia is a country in the South-Central Balkans to the north of Greece. It was one of the constituent republics of the

former Yugoslavia until it declared its independence in 1991. The total land area is 25,713 km (approximately 2/3 of Kyushu) and it has a population of 2.1 million. The capital city is Skopje.

About the Host Town Initiative

The Host Town Initiative is a program the Japanese Government made for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The purpose of this program is to make Japan a sports-oriented and globalized country, to promote regional revitalization, and to develop the tourism industry. As a host town, Chigasaki will be engaged in many cultural activities and economic interactions with a long-term goal of strengthening ties between host towns, cities and their guest countries. Let's give all the athletes and staff a fantastic and warm welcome!



Map of the Republic of North Macedonia

NEWS FROM CHIGASAKI CIVIC HALL



The Chigasaki Civic Hall was reopened on Oct. 1, 2018.

In addition to seismic-strengthening and barrier-free countermeasures, all facilities in the hall became more bright and comfortable.

Also, since the opening hours were expanded to until 10 p.m., the hall can be used by citizens after work.

The exhibition room can be divided to three rooms, A, B and C, or can be used as a one big room.

Exercise Room 1 and the mini hall have a capacity of about 100 people, so they can be used for piano recitals using the Yamaha grand piano in the evening. Exercise Rooms 2-4 are most suitable for use of song and dance.

The big meeting room and meeting rooms 1-5 are useful for meetings, seminars and workshops.

For more detailed information on usage fees, please call 0467-85-1123.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN TOWN

JUNE

4 TUES 9 a.m.

MORNING FISH MARKET "Sakana no ichi"

The market will be held at Chigasaki Fishing Port.

JULY

6 SAT 10 a.m.

BEACH OPENING CEREMONY

The ceremony will be held at Southern Beach Chigasaki, with some musical events afterwards.

15 SUN 7-9 a.m.

HAMAORI FESTIVAL

Mikoshi (portable shrines) will gather at Southern Beach until 6 a.m. and the ceremony will begin at around 7 a.m.

15 SUN

HONOLULU WEEK

Many shops in Chigasaki will participate in this week-long event until Aug. 10.

27 SUN 3-8 p.m.

SOUTHERN BEACH FESTA

The festa will be held at Southern Beach, with many entertaining music concerts and hula dance shows.

AUGUST

3 SAT 4-8 p.m.

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.

10 SAT 7:30-8:20 p.m.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Watch a fantastic fireworks show at Southern Beach. In the case of rain, the date will be moved to the 11th instead.

MEET CHIEN CHENG-YU



Chien Cheng-yu was the first place winner in Chigasaki's 22nd annual Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners.

The Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners sponsored by IAC and Chigasaki City was held at the Seishonen-kaikan Hall in Umeda on Sunday, March 10. 15 foreign speakers participated in the contest and made speeches in fluent Japanese. The IAC prize winner was Chien Cheng-Yu (39), who came from Taiwan to Japan last July. Cheng-yu has been working for Ulvac Techno for 14 years, and now works at the head office in Japan. He likes Japan and Japanese history very much, so he decided for his speech to talk about a famous Taiwanese legend about a man who became a god.

The legend is based on a true story which occurred in 1944 during WWII. A young Japanese pilot died in battle after being bombed by the enemy in the Taiwanese sky. But it was too late to eject from the airplane, so he guided his plane to the outskirts of a city so that it wouldn't crash into any homes.

After the war, many people of the village dreamed of the young pilot and so the villagers built a 165 square meter temple to deify the dead.

Cheng-yu said that at the beginning of his speech he was quite nervous, but while making the speech he had calmed down.

Ask Fuji-san

Dear Fuji-san,

I'm a mother of a 1-year-old daughter living in Japan. I want to feed her homemade baby food, but I don't know how to cook with Japanese ingredients. Japanese baby food recipes look complicated. Do you have any advice?

Thanks, a mother from South Africa

It's very brave of you to raise a baby in a foreign country! Most importantly, you share the joy of eating with your baby so there is no need to feel too much pressure from cooking baby food. However, there is a lot of convenient and nutritious Japanese food that helps families to eat healthy. For example, tofu, kuyadofu (freeze-dried tofu) and shirasu are nutritious and easy to cook. If you would like to share your concerns, please contact the "International Marriage & Child-Raising Circle," which is the volunteer support group consisting of women living in Chigasaki. In the group, there are bilingual staff to support you as well as many fun events such as cooking classes with Japanese ingredients.

"International Marriage & Child-Raising Circle"

Facebook: MRCircle

Open on the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Come and go freely. Kids and babies are welcome!) on the fourth floor of 12-12, Shineicho, Chigasaki-shi, Chigasaki Trust Buildings.

Good luck, Fuji

ADVICE ON MAINTAINING RULES AND MANNERS WITH YOUR DOG FROM THE CHIGASAKI HEALTH CENTER



The health center receives many complaints about dog walkers not using leashes properly or cleaning up after their pets. Here are some tips to help not bother other people and properly care for your dog:

Rules

Registration and notification to the health center

If you have a dog, you must register it with the health center. You must also keep the health center informed about your pets, especially if you change your address or if your pets change owners, if your dog hurts someone, and if your pet passes away.

Rabies vaccinations

All mammals can get rabies, and it's a very serious infection to humans as almost all humans that get rabies, die. It's your responsibility by the law as a dog owner to make sure your dog is vaccinated for rabies. Make sure your dog is vaccinated every April or June, and at the same time put the certification tags on your dog's collar.

Chigasaki City gives out rabies vaccinations at parks and other public places every April. Further details will be announced in the city's PR magazine and homepage once finalized.

Manners

Dogs should have a leash and collar in public

In a public place, your dog should be controlled with a leash, or else your dog can jump at people or other dogs and injure them. Also, without one, you may not notice when or where your dog does their business. Using a short leash makes it easier to watch your dog and respond to their behavior quickly. If using an adjustable leash, try to keep it tight.

Clean up your dog's business

The law prohibits leaving dog poop outside. When you walk your dog, please carry some bags and bring your dog's poop back home to dispose of. Also make sure to take care of your dog's urine by sucking it up with a bottle or rinsing it away with water. Please be mindful of other people around you.

Dog training and safety

A good owner understands their dog's habits and personality. Also train your dog to understand commands that could be useful in an emergency, like "wait" and "come."



EXPERIENCE-BASED LEARNING CENTER UMIKAZE TERRACE: A NEW ESTABLISHMENT WITH LOTS OF SOCIAL EVENTS AND FACILITIES



Opened on Jan. 5, Umikaze Terrace is now open to everyone. Located on Takasuna-dori St. close to the baseball field near Chigasaki Beach, Chigasaki City founded this facility as a replacement for the Youth and Welfare Centers which were too old and rundown. The purpose of this establishment is to promote physical and mental health of citizens by providing a place to meet and mingle with people of all ages and also people with disabilities; as well as opportunities for people to learn about and experience diverse fields through social activities. Meaning “sea breeze” in Japanese, it was designed to be a place where users can feel in touch with nature with a large lawn area and gardens outside, and large windows that allow natural light into the rooms and give a comfortable atmosphere.

The terrace has many facilities such as conference rooms, a Japanese-style room with tatami mats, a library, a kitchen, music studios, and a kitchen garden. One of the most distinctive facilities – the recording room – is a soundproof chamber equipped with systems for recording and transcribing braille for the visually impaired.

Another impressive facility is the auditorium. Able to seat over 300 audience members, the space can also be used for sports, exercise and other events when the retractable tiered seating is removed.

A downside is the terrace’s small parking lot, and the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women and injured visitors have priority to use the parking spaces.

A variety of events, classes and workshops about Japanese board games, Japanese calligraphy, painting, city tours, gardening, music instruments, sports, and much more take place at Umikaze Terrace.

However, reservation is required for most facilities and events at Umikaze Terrace. To reserve, or for more information, contact the facility at:

Phone: 0467-85-0942

Website: http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/kyouiku/taikengakushu_center/1031303.html

Umikaze Terrace is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and closed the second Tuesday of each month. When the Tuesday is a holiday, closed on the following Wednesday), and from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE NEW COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

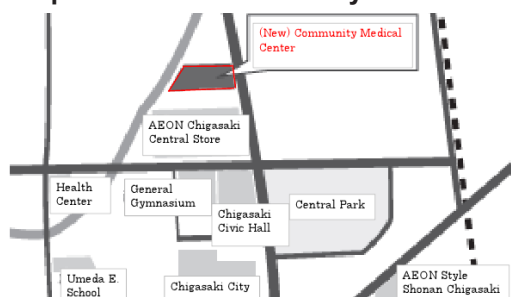
Additional Info on New Community Medical Center

Services have been started with the following conditions:

Address	Chigasaki 3-4-23		
Phone Number	Internal Medicine/Pediatrics/Surgery (1F) Dentistry (2F)	(38) 7532	
	Dispensing Pharmacy (1F)	(38) 5086	
Examination Day and Time	Sundays, Holidays, Year End and New Year's Day (Dec. 29 - Jan. 4 for Dentistry)	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*	Internal Medicine/Pediatrics/Surgery Dentistry/Dispensing Pharmacy
		1 - 5 p.m.	
		5 - 11 p.m.	Internal Medicine/Dispensing Pharmacy
	Weekdays, Saturdays	8 - 11 p.m.	Internal Medicine/Pediatrics/Dispensing Pharmacy

*Reception is allowed up to 30 minutes prior to the examination ending time, whereas for dentistry it is allowed until the examination ending time.

Map of the New Community Medical Center



Emergency Health Care Sites other than the Community Medical Center

Emergency Hospitals:

Chigasaki Municipal Hospital Honson 5-15-1 TEL: (52) 1111 Shonan Eastern General Hospital Nishikubo 500 TEL: (83) 9111 Chigasaki Tokushukai Hospital Saiwai-cho 14-1 TEL: (58) 1311

Emergency Care in Otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions) and Ophthalmology (Eye Conditions): Available Sundays, Holidays, Year End and New Year's Day TEL: (85)0119

Please check the location's hours through the Chigasaki City Fire Station Headquarters' emergency care information guidance system.

Kanagawa Pediatric First Aid Dial: Every day 4 p.m. - 12 a.m. TEL: 045 (722) 8000

If you're worried about your child's condition, this location offers consultations over the phone about how to cope at home or whether you need to get immediate medical care.

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