

Chigasaki Breeze

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

2008 NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HATTORI

In the New Year message, Mayor Nobuaki Hattori expressed that his administration will work hard to make the city so that citizens can take pride in living there as in the following:

“HAPPY NEW YEAR!”

2007 was the 60th anniversary for the municipal organization, and a number of events and businesses commemorated this. Additionally, a cheerful baby was born as the 230,000th citizen. For the city, the population is expected to grow in the next 15 years, but because of the low birthrate and rapid aging taking place, it is expected to decrease thereafter.



The city's finances are anticipated to remain in a severe condition due to a decrease in the duty income and the rise of crude oil prices will put further negative pressure.

In the meantime, the civic concern is high in the enforcement of policies on welfare, the environment, education, etc., and we will make effort to promote the security of financial source by introducing simple and effective organization to revitalize the private sector. Thus, the current situation is severe but we will be steadily working towards a Chigasaki that can correspond to the new era.

This year again we will pursue five important measures under the Forth Enforcement Plan to realize a peaceful and safe city, upbringing of the next generation, creation of industrial vitalization, a healthy environment, and an environmentally-oriented city. Also, we will tackle specific projects such as the development of the area surrounding west exit side of Tsujido Station, and of the Kagawa and Hamamidaira districts. In addition, we will promote safety of public facilities and a program for the basic law of self-governance.

Finally, we will aim at a city where all the citizens can feel proud of living and will be working closely with citizens listening to their broad opinions. We hope to receive the cooperation and understanding of the citizens in Chigasaki.”

HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE IN TOWN?

A Bicycle is a light car if you ride.....

We often take some important things for granted. Riding bicycles is one example, as it can be a lethal weapon depending on how you use it, and in fact the number of accidents is significantly large. Under the circumstances, the Conference of Autonomy points out and suggests the following rules for citizens to observe:

- (1) In pedestrian areas or pedestrian malls, walkers have priority at any time, not bicycle riders.
- (2) Do not use mobile phones while riding a bicycle.
- (3) Pay serious attention to aged persons and young children walking on the street.
- (4) At an intersection (a crossing), be sure to stop for a while to watch or confirm the flow of walkers and cars approaching either from the right or left.
- (5) A two-seater or to ride tandem, is dangerous.
- (6) Many bicycles are found to have no lights on after dark. Be sure to put a light on.
- (7) Do not cross where crossing is prohibited.
- (8) Do not ride bicycles side by side with your friends or family
- (9) At the stairs of an underpass, get off your bicycle and walk as you might slip and fall down.
- (10) When you get closer to walkers, slow down and pay close attention.

In regards to riding bicycles, there are such laws that give a (1) penalty up to 50,000 yen such as for riding with an umbrella or riding using mobile phone, (2) penalty up to 20,000 yen for blocking pedestrians, and (3) penalty up to 50,000 yen for riding without a light in the darkness, but these are not well observed. Yet a few court cases will tell us how serious it is to cause trouble by bicycle ride.

- (A) In August 1996, a decision made at the Osaka Local Court was for the one who caused the damage to other person to compensate about 2.1 million yen. The accident was caused by a rider holding an umbrella and ran into a walker causing injury.
- (B) In July 1996, a decision made at the Tokyo Local Court was for the person concerned to pay compensation of about 17.4 million yen. The person blocked the walker and caused serious injury.
- (C) In October 1996, the Osaka Local Court decision was about 25.8 million yen for the person who rode a mountain-bike and collided with a walker. The walker suffered after the accident.

They say that “the principal” of the traffic rules or to maintain good manners when riding is **YOU** and **I**.