

# Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0020

## NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR NOBUAKI HATTORI

### A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Having a new spring of the year 2009, let me trust that you had the New Year in good health and spirit.

Concerning the municipal administration management, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your support in many areas.

Last year, a number of people who have close relationships with Chigasaki demonstrated very valuable activities in various fields. To show our appreciation, we sent Citizens' badges of honor to those people. They are astronauts *Soichi Noguchi* and *Takao Doi*, a female softball player at the Beijing Olympics *Masumi Mishina*, and *Masa Yamamoto* who achieved 200 victories in the professional baseball field. Moreover, there were many other people who took an active part in the fields of other sports and culture activities in Japan and in the world.

#### The fifth execution plan starts.

This year, the fifth execution plan starts out of the new comprehensive basic plan of Chigasaki for the latter term, and it will become an important year. We will succeed to place emphasis on the measures given and proceed forward

based on the policy. The district-based maintenance business around Kagawa and Hamamidaira districts, and Tsujido Station west exit area will be promoted as a measure of emphasis.

#### Plan-making for the next ten years

Since the present comprehensive plan will come to an end by the end of the fiscal year 2010, we are promoting the decision works for a comprehensive plan for the next term.

Changes in the social environment, the deteriorating financial status due to the economic recession accompanied by the deteriorating world economy, and the countermeasures to a decreasing population will become our subjects to pursue from now on. It has also been required to revitalize and make the management of internal administrative organizations and regions attractive.

We will indicate the direction of town-making so as to be able to correspond to the requirements of a new era and the administrative management of the city, and with the cooperative relationship with citizens, we will promote our idea of plan-making.

We will be looking forward to receiving the understanding and corporation from all of the citizens, and wish all of the citizens in Chigasaki a wonderful year and all the happiness throughout the year 2009.



## THE NEW YEAR

sho gatsu  
正月

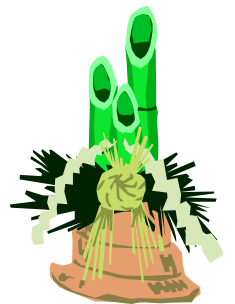
### Akemashite Omedeto-gozaïmasu!

*Shogatsu* means January, but it's more than the first month of a new year for the Japanese as it has a ritualistic background to the extent that millions of people visit shrines in the month to pray for their happiness in the year. Also, it's the most important time for families and relatives to get together and celebrate the coming of the New Year. You will hear the words "*Akemashite Omedeto-gozaïmasu*" in Japanese at homes and on the street especially on the first day of the New Year; *gantan*. The greetings can be heard until January 15.

People celebrate the New Year by giving children a present called *otoshidama* (some amount of money in a bag) while people drink *otoso* (spiced Sake), and eat *ozōni* (vegetable and rice cake soup) for the breakfast plus a side dish called *osechi-ryori*, the special New Year dishes. They are cooked in advance to be preserved for at least three days of the New Year holidays so it allows housewives to take a rest from their duty during the period.

The content of the dishes varies from place to place, but in this area cooked black beans (*kuromame*), herring roe (*kazunoko*), and dried small fish (*gomame*) are always included in the *osechi-ryori* due to their particular significance. The black beans symbolize diligence, because the words bean and diligence are homonyms in Japanese as in *mame*. The herring roe signify the prosperity of the offspring, while the *gomame* fish indicate the harvest. Others included in *osechi-ryori* are sea bream (*Tai*), kombu [tangle] roll (*kobumaki*), etc. Sea bream (*tai*) has a sound of being auspicious, yellowtail (*buri*) symbolizes success because its name changes many times as they grow, and shrimp (*ebi*) reflects longevity because of its shape. Also, there are sweet foods called *datemaki* using egg, *kurikinton* using chestnut, etc., and their golden color is meant to reflect money making.

Thus, *osechi-ryori* is almost a 'must' for the Japanese to have in the *shogatsu* to make lives safe and comfort during the year.



## HAND-MADE JAPANESE KITE

Flying a kite in the high sky is a typical children's game especially during the New Year days. In the city, there is a free class teaching elementary school children how to make a kite by hand.

Why don't you let your children try making and flying a Japanese kite? It's a good opportunity for your children as they could spend a wonderful time together with other participants gathering to make kites. The details of this kite class are as in the following:

**Place:** Nango Kominkan at 86-4355      **Date and Time:** January 17, at 9:30 ~ 12:00

**Accommodation of elementary school boys and girls: up to 20**

**Application: By January 8, 2009**

