

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0021

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HATTORI TO FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CHIGASAKI



Recently, the number of people from overseas is increasing to work in Japan. Especially in Kanagawa prefecture, this number is expected to continue increasing. In Chigasaki, the number of foreigners who have registered is approximately 1600, and it is necessary to consider if they can live their daily lives without any troubles just as Japanese citizens can do.

In the meantime, foreigners might have inconveniences daily because of the language barrier. Especially, I hear that foreigners have some difficulties to get information on how to dispose of garbage, how to find and consult with doctors, how to enter schools, etc. Also, I wonder if foreigners recognize how to cope with disasters, to get information on evacuation sites and so forth.

The city is delivering a guidebook written in four languages for foreigners to be useful in their daily lives. The city's home page is also providing information on the same content as the guidebook including a map showing evacuation sites to be prepared for things such as tsunamis, flooding, etc. The map is written in English, Korean, and Chinese. It's our concern to know if such information has reached all the foreign residents, and I think it may be necessary to send information on daily lives in multiple languages.

I guess foreigners living in unfamiliar places will have anxiety about having no people around to consult. If there are any worries, please consult with the city, though prior reservation is required.

Since last year, the city and the International Association of Chigasaki have been working together to issue every other month an English newspaper named Chigasaki Breeze in which foreigners could find necessary information for daily life, disasters, etc. Also in the newspaper, issues in the guidebook and exchanging cultural information with foreigners are referred to.

The Chigasaki Breeze is available at the information counter of the city hall, at the Chigasaki station lobby, etc., where it can easily be seen.

Considering the increase in the number of foreign people in the future, we will try to tackle potential issues that foreigners will face and we will do our best to listen to foreigners and reflect this in our publications.

Thank you for your attention.

Mayor Nobuaki Hattori

Ohoka-Sai Festival 大岡祭



Ohoka-Sai or *Ohoka Echizen-Sai* Festival is one of the major annual events in Chigasaki performed in memory of a powerful magistrate *Ohoka Echizen-no-kami Tadasuke* historically known not only for his fair judgment in the court but also for his intelligence and great achievement as an administrator in the Edo Period (1603~1867). He passed away in 1751 (Horeki 1) at the age of 75 and his grave has been kept in *Jokenji* temple located in the northern part of the city. The Ohoka family had its territory in Chigasaki at that time.

In 1912 (Taisho 1) he was awarded the Fourth Order of Merit and on that occasion the city started to have the *Ohoka Echizen-Sai* festival to celebrate and recall his achievement.

The festival is taking place on April 18 and 19, this year, and its highlight is a parade led by the city mayor on a horse and the couple of *Ohoka* family members who come from Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture in an open car accompanied by musical bands and a group of foreign men wearing the costumes of Edo government officials and women in beautiful kimonos of those days. Plus a number of local dancing groups of students and general performers are to follow.

The parade starts at 13:00 from the Chigasaki elementary school ground, passes by the south and north side of the station, goes through the street between Ito-Yokado and Yamada Denki and the Emeload street, and it ends at the back street of the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry building. It's so popular in this area, so that you will see some hundreds of thousands of people watching the parade on both sides of the street as they march past.

In addition to this parade, there will be other events at Shimin Bunka Kaikan (Civic Hall), Bunka Shiryokan (Culture Museum), and Chuo Park over two days including the display of the Ohoka's remains, concerts at the pedestrian deck of the Chigasaki station, the industrial fair, etc.



The Doll Festival HINA-MATSURI 雛祭り



Hina-Matsuri or the Doll Festival occurring on March 3 is an occasion for a family to wish for a young girl's good health and happiness. Most families with daughters celebrate the day displaying special dolls together with peach flowers, colored lozenge-shaped rice cakes, special sweetened rice puffs, white *sake* containing rice malt, etc. The origin of *Hina-Matsuri* goes back thousands of years when sin and misfortune were believed to transfer to dolls in the imperial and aristocratic families in the Heian Period (794-1185). When this practice became popular among common people, it developed to girls playing with dolls and turned into *Hina-Matsuri*.

Those dolls are called *Hina-Ningyo* (Special dolls for the Doll Festival). They are relatively small and all the decoration took the current form in the Edo Period (1603~1867). A pair of dolls representing the Emperor and Empress is placed on the highest tier of a five-tiered or seven-tiered altar covered by red carpet. Under them come the three court ladies and on the third tier the five court musicians with other decorations. Recently many people have simpler sets of dolls and sometimes people display just the Emperor and Empress dolls placing them on a shelf. The *Hina-Matsuri* is also called the Feast of Peach Blossoms as the festival takes place when the peach blossoms start to bloom. *Hatsu-Zekku* is the First Feast of Peach Blossoms for a girl to have.