

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.33

The City's Basic Outline for the "Comprehensive Plan"

ちがさきし 総合計画基本構想 海と太陽とみどりの中でひとが輝き まちが輝く 湘南・茅ヶ崎



Shonan · Chigasaki - where people are radiant and the town shines under the Sun in an environment of Ocean and Greenery

After a year of actively pursuing increased open dialogue with the residents of the city, Mayor Hattori has announced the basic outlines of the City's 'Comprehensive Plan' general policy. One background issue however is the difficulty that City has with the responsibility for maintaining stable public services falling solely on local government in a quickly changing social environment.

The intention is to create a society where citizens can flourish, even if there are problems environment-wise, and this plan is aiming at the achievement of a basic ideal and objectives by developing policies for the next 10 years with clear vision with regard to both present and future situations.

The target period for this program is the ten years from April 2011 through March 2020, and the plan is to develop municipal policy by establishing the following five community development aims.

- 1) Empower citizens so they can study different things and grow together as people, and achieve greater overall happiness and contentment.
- 2) Enliven the community so people can live more fulfilling daily lives through closer communication.
- 3) Increase sustainable living so people can enjoy greater peace of mind.
- 4) Develop convenience and comfort in a community where people are in close touch and engage more with nature
- 5) Create an administration to encourage individuals to think in harmony and progress towards a brighter future.

For the new policy to achieve these goals, the following have been identified as important issues: the 'symbiosis society', the environment, collaboration, lifelong education, public safety and general peace of mind. Naturally there has to be a study of possible future financial difficulties the City may face, with a clear forecast to enable these policies to be carried out successfully.

Based on these ideas and goals, a concrete formulation and detailed implementation plan will be created, and 301 different schemes have been devised for the next ten years just within the field of political projects.

Spring is just around the corner ! 春がすぐそこに !

Peach blossoms and the first south wind of the year (haruichiban) signal the arrival of Spring. Families with young daughters celebrate the Doll's Festival on March 3, where they pray for the girls' healthy growth. This day also signifies the turning point of the seasons. Leaves and plants start to grow again, and everything comes back to life.

In late March the cherry-blossom wave starts spreading towards the north, bringing Spring in earnest throughout the Japanese archipelago. In the Shonan area the trees usually start blooming at the end of March, when the average daily temperature reaches 10 °C, but they may bloom slightly earlier this year, according to the forecast. Cherry blossoms are a fundamental part of Japanese culture and have had a major influence on our way of thinking. The full-blown blossoms cheer some people up, the shortness of the flowering season gives some the feeling of the uncertainties of life and the flurry of the falling petals gives others a feeling of grace. At the weekend people take great delight in having get togethers under the blossoms (hanami). This custom peculiar to Japan started in Nara period (710 AD ~) and became popular in the mid-Edo period (~1700 AD ~). Cherry blossoms are also used for cooking and dyeing, and the bark for craft objects. Sakuramochi, a rice cake filled with bean paste and wrapped in a salted cherry leaf, is one of the most popular Japanese-style confections. Weather forecast companies vie with each other to make an accurate prediction about when the blossoms will come out. It is known that cherry trees go into hibernation in late summer and wake up in winter to prepare for blooming in Spring, so these companies come up with various equations, some of which have weather conditions as variables. The following was once used by an observatory in Tokyo.

$$Y=0.087R - 1.22T_1 - 0.86T_2 + 44.6 \quad (Y, \text{Date in March; } R, \text{Precipitation from } 2/20 \text{ to } 3/1; T_1 \text{ and } T_2, \text{Average temperature from } 2/25 \text{ to } 3/6, \text{ and } 3/7 \text{ to } 3/16 \text{ respectively})$$

Here are famous spots for cherry blossoms in Chigasaki and its vicinity: Chuō and Satoyama Kōen in Chigasaki; Chuō Kōen and the approach to Samukawa Shrine in Samukawa; Shonandaira, Chuō Kōen and Kaname River bank in Hiratsuka; Kamakura-yama, Miyouhonji, Genji-yama and the approach to Tsurugaoka-hachimangu in Kamakura; Kinugasa-yama Park in Yokosuka; Castle and Shiro-yama Kōen in Odawara; and Mitsuike and Sankeien Kōen in Yokohama.

Kawazu-zakura has become popular. The trees come into full bloom early in March, about one month ahead of Someiyoshino. The cherry blossom festival is being held from February 5 to March 10 this year, which attracts about two million viewers every year. Kawazu is located in the east of the Izu Peninsula, Shizuoka.



Chigasaki Chuō Kōen



Samukawa Chuō Kōen

The City Service Windows to open on Weekends in late March and early April

3月末と4月の始めの週末、市役所の一部の窓口はあいています。

From the end of March to the beginning of April, the service windows at the City Hall get crowded because a large number of people visit for such matters as registering a transfer of residency or school entrance. Therefore, some sections will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday on March 26 (Sat), 27 (Sun) and April 2 (Sat) and 3, from 8:30 through 17:00. Please make use of these days if necessary.

Kanagawa Medical Information Service

かながわけん いりょうじょうほう
神奈川県医療情報

Kanagawa Prefecture has set up a website to help search for hospitals, clinics, dental clinics, maternity homes and pharmacies. All you have to do is input the department, the area, the nearest station and the consultation day and hours into the Kanagawa Medical Information Search Service, <http://www.iryō-kensaku.jp/kanagawa/> and you can get a list of facilities. The system also provides information on facilities where visitors can use foreign languages, including English, Chinese and Korean. However, as the system is in Japanese, you may need someone who understands Japanese to help you at first.

Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language and Cultural Studies

けんりつこくさいげんごぶんか
県立国際言語文化アカデミア

Kanagawa Prefecture has established an institute called Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language and Cultural Studies aimed at helping residents to brush up foreign language communication competence and better understand foreign cultures. There are more than 170,000 foreign residents in the prefecture and it is becoming important to facilitate intercultural communication. The Institute's activities fall into three categories: support for foreign residents, support for lifelong learning, and seminars for teachers of foreign languages. Support for foreign residents includes Japanese language classes, but the quota for each class is about ten so participants may be determined by drawing lots where the number of applicants exceeds that quota. The Institute is starting in earnest in April and more information will be provided on the webpage below.

Address: 〒247-0007 Kosugaya 1-2-1, Sakae Ward, Yokohama (five minutes' walk from JR Negishi Line Hongōdai Station) <http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/osirase/02/0251/academia1.html>
Phone: 045-896-1091 (only Japanese, Weekday 9:00 - 17:00), Fax: 045-896-0096

Quiz

Correct answers: Q1 (2), Q2 (2), Q3 (1), Q4 (3)

Numbers of Foreigners in Chigasaki and other areas in Shonan District

しょうなんざいじゅうがいこくじん
湘南在住外国人

The authority concerned reports the number of foreigners in the Shonan area as of Dec.31, 2009. The names of top 12 countries and the total numbers of foreigners are shown below:

Country	Chigasaki	Samukawa	Fujisawa	Kamakura	Hiratsuka
China	363	83	1,018	247	670
S.Korea/N.Korea	345	62	913	350	473
Philippines	239	77	443	87	685
Brazil	105	143	885	17	1,105
Peru	33	69	794	8	231
Vietnam	21	83	322	12	179
U.S.A	87	7	208	167	66
Thailand	39	35	193	38	124
India	17	5	6	44	22
UK	54	2	18	100	13
Indonesia	24	38	79	15	49
Cambodia	8	1	51	0	247
Others	213	111	1,175	172	833
Total	1,548	716	6,105	1,257	4,697

Information on the National Health Insurance

こくみんけんこうほけん
国民健康保険について

The national health insurance is a public medical insurance system for self-employed persons, part-time workers, etc. who cannot enter a health insurance plan at their workplaces. Foreign residents are also eligible for this national health insurance, and application and other procedures are performed at the municipal/ward offices of your residence.

***Eligible foreign residents:** Foreign persons who have alien registration certificate and are permitted to stay in Japan for one year or longer. (Even if the permitted period of stay is less than a year, you may be eligible for the insurance when you plan to live here for one year or longer.)

***Insurance benefits:** When you consult a doctor for a disease or injury, 70 to 90% of the expenses for treatment and medication will be covered by the insurance.

***Insurance premiums:** The amount of premiums differs depending on the municipalities/wards. Make sure to pay the insurance fees by the due date. As for the methods of payment and premium calculation, please ask the municipal/ward office where you live.

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Section responsible for the national health insurance of your municipality/ward

Medical Insurance Division, K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-4881 (From Hallo Kanagawa)

History of Chigasaki

Kumano Jinja Shrine in Takata

たかた くまのじんじゃ
高田の熊野神社

Kumano Jinja Shrine is located at 10-44, Takata Chigasaki and the god deified in the shrine is Kuma-Nuno-Ōkami. This area used to be called Sōshu Takata-mura village before the Tokugawa era, and was on a small hill called Sanno-yama. The total area of the shrine's precincts is 195.14 tsubo or about 644 square meters.

Historically, *Sanno-Hiyoshi-Daigongen* (an avatar or an incarnation of Buddha) that had been enshrined at the foot of Mt Hiei in Kyoto was moved to this place to be deified. But afterwards in 1658 (Manji Gannen, the first year of Manji) the ancestor of Tokuemon Mori, who was the head of Takata-mura, invited and deified the soul of the god, Ujigami Kumano-Sansha-Daigongen at the present precincts of Kumano-Jinja. In the precincts, there is also another shrine called Hie-Jinja, which used to be called Sanno-sha. However, at some point the shrine was brought into this place and consecrated.

Later, this Takata-mura village became a fief of Ohoka-Echizen-no-kami, and the Ohoka family had their grave at Jōkenji temple, located in Tsutsumi-mura village, which is very near to Takata-mura. So the lords, from generation to generation, would visit the grave and join hands in prayer, and take their rest at the residence of the village head Mori. At these times they would never miss visiting both Kumano and Hie-Jinja, praying for the long life of their whole families. In June, 1751 (Kan-en 4) these lords, with a feeling of awe from visiting the shrines, dedicated the water basin and the stone wall to Kumano-Jinja.

The person who built the shrine was Ohoka Hayato Tadataka, the father of Echizen-no-Kami Tadasuke who has been very well known for his fair justice as referred to by "*Ohoka Sabaki* (Judgement)".

To get to Jōkenji from Kumano-Jinja, you can take the bus for Bunkyo University at Takata bus stop, get off at Tsutsumi Sakamoto, and then walk west for about 10 minutes. In this neighborhood, there are two folk museums and the Tsutsumi remains. These folk museums are old private houses moved in from other places, and this area has been included in the walking course under the name of Ohoka-no-Sato.

The memorial day of Kumano-Jinja is September 8, but actually the festival is held on the second Sunday of September, and on this day the town becomes crowded with many portable shrines, large and small, moving around the Takata area as part of the festivities.



IAC Mission statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as "earth citizens", respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.

IAC ACTIVITY



Japanese Speech Contest for Non-native Speakers Scheduled for March 27 がいにくじん 外国人による にほんご 日本語スピーチ・コンテスト

As we reported in the previous issue, the 15th Japanese Speech Contest is going to take place at the Community Hall in the City Annex on March 27 (Sun) from 13:30 to 16:00. Participants are not limited to IAC Japanese Language Class students, any non-Japanese people can join.

Applications are accepted until March 6. Please call Kanamori-san at 0467-88-5909.

Ohoka Echizen-Sai Festival おうおかえちぜんさい 大岡越前祭

The IAC will arrange for foreigners, usually students from the Japanese Language Class and Tokai University, join the parade of the Ohoka Echizen-Sai Festival scheduled for May 1 (Sun) from 1pm. This festival is a major annual event in Chigasaki, the Chamber of Commerce of Chigasaki is involved, and there will be several tens of thousands of people on the streets to enjoy watching the big parade, where a number of foreigners participate in the procession wearing the costume of Edo government officials, as well as many school bands, dancing circles, and other groups. If you'd like to participate, why don't you contact the IAC? Tel: 090-1557-7789

This festival is associated with Ohoka Echizen-no-kami Tadasuke, a powerful magistrate in the Tokugawa Shogunate of the Edo era, historically known for his fair judgment in court.

He passed away in 1751 at the age of 75 and his grave was kept in *Jokenji* temple in the northern part of the City. The Ohoka family had its estate in Chigasaki in the Edo period. In 1911 he was awarded the Fourth Order of Merit and that was the first occasion for the City to hold the Ohoka Echizen-Sai festival to commemorate his achievements.



Okazaki Bus Tour on April 10 (Sun)

おかざき 岡崎バス・ツアー

Okazaki in Aichi Prefecture is the sister city of Chigasaki through the shared connection with Ohoka Echizen-no-kami Tadasuke, and every year there is a day bus tour organized by the City called the 'Sister City Visit'. It's on April 10 (Sun) this year and the tour's attraction also includes a cherry-blossoms viewing.

In order to join this bus tour, it is necessary to send an application to Danjo Kyodō Sankaku-ka (Gender Equality Section) with your name, address, age and telephone number, using double postcards (for up to two persons). Applications must be received by March 10th without exception. The address to send to is 253-8686, Danjo Kyodō Sankaku-ka, Chigasaki City. The bus leaves very early in the morning. Should the number of applicants exceed the number of available places, who can join will be decided by the drawing of lots.

People in Town Hur Is Sun (許仁淳) from Korea

I appreciate the kindness of Japanese people so much!

Ms. Hur Is Sun (ホ・インスン) came from Korea to Tsujido with her family two years ago, as her husband is working for a company whose office is located in Samukawa. Their home town in Korea is Pyong-taek, about an hour by car south of Seoul. They have two sons, the elder one going to a local elementary school and the younger one entering the same school in April this year. So though she is busy taking care of her family every day, she is also making time to go to the Thursday Japanese language class at Josei Center. However, she has no accent and speaks Japanese pretty well. Meanwhile, her elder son has already become accustomed to joining in and playing with his Japanese classmates and speaks good Japanese in spite of only two years' experience. She said she learns bits of Japanese from him once in a while, but she is preparing to take the 2nd level Japanese language proficiency test this fall.



She is happy to see her sons enjoying their lives in Japan, but she thinks it's undesirable for young children to see so many game machines or game centers around the place. It is not allowed in Korea. Also, she feels it a little wrong that school teachers seem to be treated with so little respect by many students' parents. She is aware, however, that Japanese people tend to be very reserved and won't express frankly like Korean people do.

Her hobby is quilting, she belongs to a quilting group, and her Hawaiian quilt was displayed in Fujisawa, Tsujido, etc. In so far as food is concerned, she highly values the quality of Japanese rice (*koshihikari*), milk, and bread, and she especially likes *sashimi* (slices of raw fish) and *sushi*. However, she doesn't care much for *natto* (fermented soybeans) or *tonkotsu-ramen* (ramen noodles in soup stock made from pork bones). Her sons, however, like *natto* very much. She believes the export of Japanese rice, milk and bread to Korea would be successful.

What is unique about her family is that her husband works at a Swedish company's branch office in Samukawa. He was employed in Korea, so such cases where a foreigner in Japan is working for a company of another foreign country and living away from his home country are rare. Actually her visa is a family visa.

Given the circumstances, she isn't sure how long she will be staying in this area but she keeps a very positive outlook, having made a number of friends including Japanese and Koreans and she is enjoying her life in Japan.

Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

はぎその 萩園の どよう 土曜ミュージック・サロン

Latin Music Performance on March 19 (Sat)

On March 19 (Sat) at 13:45~14:45, there will be a free Latin music performance held in the lobby of Hagisono Ikoi-no-sato or Relaxation home. The performers are a group called "Los Amigos". They play Latin music with two guitars, one with 'Rekinto' guitar, and a female vocalist.

So many countries, so many customs.

ところ 所 か かわれば しな 品 か 変わる

So many brothers and sisters! きょうだい 兄弟がたくさん! ?

In the conversation of Korean people, whether in town or at school, I often hear them saying 'おにいさん/my brother' or 'おねえさん/my sister'. Since the relationships of families are so close in Korea, I thought they were real brothers or sisters. But when I looked more closely, I noticed someone calling the man sitting beside him 'Brother!', and not long after he called another man sitting in front of him 'Brother!' too. Also, when a man and I pass each other on the street, he says 'Hi Sister, bye bye!' and then says the same thing to the next person as well. When you hear this for the first time, you might feel people must have so many brothers or sisters, but it's not the case.

In Korea, people address older people as 'brother' or 'sister', even if they are close friends. This might come from Confucianism. They pay respect to seniority, and even if the age difference is only a matter of one year, they feel it's important to communicate or give consideration in their relationships.

And yet, to call your friend by his or her name adding 'san' is not appropriate if there is no great difference in age, while it also appears to be taken as impolite to call someone by their name then adding 'kun' or 'chan' like in Japan. But in such cases, it's convenient to use 'Brother!' or 'Sister!' as you can pay respect while showing your friendship. Such customs must have developed from the particular personal relationships of Koreans, who associate with friends in the same way as with their real families.

So, why don't you try using 'Brother!' or 'Sister!' if you happen to see older people. Then the distance between you and that person will definitely become less. I used to call my husband 'おにいさん' before I married him and am still addressing him like this. You have honorifics in Japan and you take care when you talk to older people, but the customs in Japan seem to be different from those in Korea. Such expression seem to tell us how much they appreciate their personal relationships and honor people's age.

Note: This letter is from one of our staff, Ai Ohkubo, who used to teach Japanese at the IAC's Japanese Language class and who married a Korean man last year. She is now living in Gyeonggi-do. We will be publishing her Korean reports from time to time.

Gender Equality Section at Josei Center

じょせい だんじょきょうどうさんかくか
女性センターと男女共同参画課

A Briefing Session on the changes to the Immigration Control Act will be held on March 10 (Thu). 入国管理法改正の説明会

When the City reorganized in April last year, they established new departments and/or changed the names of original departments. One of them was the Lifelong Cultural Study Department and within this department is the Gender Equality Section, established to study the variety of opportunities and encourage direct communication with citizens.

The Gender Equality Section is now operating at the Josei Center or Women's Center facility, located at the fourth floor of the Trust Building, next door to Yamada Denki. Though the facility was so named when the administration became aware of previous gender discrimination issues, as the name of 'Gender Equality' indicates, users are not limited to just women. In fact they have offered the use of conference rooms as well as a cooking room for citizens' group activities, and now four out of six free Japanese language classes are using rooms there every week Wednesday through Saturday. As you may know, the Gender Equality Section is the City's service window for foreigners to receive consultation on various matters.

In other words, the Josei Center is becoming a place where the City can be in a position to communicate with foreigners in any way, and on March 10, a briefing session has been planned by the City, inviting Japanese language class students to begin with, to brief on changes to the Immigration Control Act to come into effect within three years after the promulgation made in July 2009. The details of the changes are unavailable as yet, but at least the City is trying to be able to get foreigners updated on any changes that occur in the field of administration.

“Disused Articles Bank” 不用品バンク

The following is a list of articles being offered/wanted by city residents either for free or at a reasonable price. Anyone interested in any of these articles should contact the section in charge of this at the City Office. They will then put you directly in touch with the people concerned. (As of January 28, 2011)

[Consulting Services for Citizens Section, Consumer Life Center at 82-1111]

Articles being offered ゆずります。

Baby bedding (futon/sheets), baby carriage, infant pushchair, Hagisono aiji-en (kindergarten) uniform, cupboard, Japanese drawers, locker type wardrobe, low table, sofa, CRT for personal computer, tableware (cup/saucer/glasses), pickle weight, ice-cream maker, fan heater, stove guard, set of skis, ski pole/bag, flower vase, electric clipper for child, cardboard box/packing materials, tire chains, ball hanger, electric sewing machine

Articles wanted ゆずってください。

Child safety seat, Tsurumine Junior High School girl uniform/jersey, CD/MD player, microwave, frying pan/pan, a set of electric guitar, sewing machine, Go stone, mah-jongg piece

Quiz Let's learn more about Chigasaki!

Q1 There are big differences between the winter weather of the Hokuriku and Kanto areas, even though they are located less than 300 kilometers apart. What makes these differences?

- 1) Pacific high pressure fronts 2) The central mountains on the main island
3) The Japan Current off the Pacific coast.

Q2 There are about 14,000 pet dogs in Chigasaki. Which species is most popular?

- 1) Labrador Retriever 2) Miniature Dachshund 3) Border Collie
(FYI) Chihuahua 990 Toy Poodle 1,130 Shiba 1,170 “??” 2,370

Q3 The Tokugawa regime once used Chigasaki beach for a certain purpose. What was this?

- 1) Shooting practice 2) Riding practice 3) Hunting and fishing
(hint: there is a street called Teppō Dōri near the beach.)

Q4 Service was opened on the predecessor of the present JR Sagami Line in 1921 connecting Chigasaki and Samukawa. What was mainly transported to the Keihin district?

- 1) Commuters 2) Farm produce 3) Gravel from the Sagami River

Note: Correct answers are shown on the second page.

TIPs Free Reprocessed Furniture

ちゅうこ かく むりょう ていきょう
中古の家具が無料で提供されます。

Large trash, including furniture, is burned at the municipal incineration plant in Hagisono. However, any furniture in relatively good condition is renovated and then displayed in the exhibition room from the 1st to 7th of every month. If someone applies for a piece or two during the exhibition period and wins the draw, they can receive it for free (there is a fund-raising box and you can put your money in). Exhibits are so popular that the odds for some pieces occasionally go up to forty to one. The exhibition room is open from 10am to noon and again from 1pm to 3pm. The house is located in the northwest of Hagisono.



Japanese Proverbs and the English Equivalents

にっぽん せいよう
日本と西洋のことわざ

- 女三人 寄れば 姦しい
ONNA SANNIN YOREBA KASHIMASHII
(If three women gather, they make a noise.)
Three women make a market.
- 精神一到 何事か ならざらん
SEISHIN ITTOH NANIGOTOKA NARAZARAN
(Nothing is impossible if you have a willing heart.)
Where there's a will, there's a way.
- ただより安い物は無い
TADA YORI YASUI MONO WA NAI
(There is nothing cheaper than being free of charge.)
Nothing freer than a gift.
- 馬鹿につける薬はない
BAKA NI TSUKERU KUSURI WA NAI
(There is no medicine to be applied to a fool.)
Fools will still be fools.
- 身を捨ててこそ 浮かぶ瀬もあれ
MI O SUTETEKOSO UKABU SE MO ARE
(When you are ready to sacrifice yourself, you may succeed.)
He that fears death lives not.

WELCOME FUROSHIKI

A community service provided by Oak Associates

Are you a new foreign resident in Japan?
Would you like to know more about a wealth of services available in Japan?

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To arrange a visit for more information call:
(03) 5472-7074 (Tokyo, Yokohama and Shonan areas)

Homepage: <http://www.welcomefuroshiki.org>

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