

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.35

We Need to Save Power This Summer

ことし なつ せつでん ひつよう
今年の夏は節電が必要

To cope with the expected power shortage this summer, the Japanese government has outlined a series of measures aimed at reducing by 15% the peak demand for electricity between 09:00 and 20:00 compared with last year's maximum of 60 million kilowatts. The measure is targeting peak electricity usage rather than total daily consumption because even a temporary excess of demand over supply may lead to a major power failure. The across-the-board 15% reduction will be applied to all power consumers in the Kanto area and its vicinity, except hospitals, water purification and sewage treatment plants, railroad as well as public facilities in devastated regions from July through September.

According to the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, electricity demand peaks at around 14:00 on a summer weekday, and in an average household the demand at this time reaches 1,200 kilowatts, broken down as follows: air conditioners 53%, refrigerator 23%, TV 5%, lighting fixtures 5%, standby consumption 4%, others 10%.

As should be apparent, the most effective way of reducing power consumption is to minimize the use of air conditioners, replacing them with electric fans and sunshades, such as reed screens and blinds. When the room temperature is set at 28°C, power used by air conditioners decreases by 10% compared with 26°C.

As for daily consumption, air conditioners account for about 25% in each household, followed by 16% for a refrigerator, 16% for lighting fixtures and 10% for a TV, respectively, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The Ministry also says standby power consumption accounts for 6% and the peak time comes at around 20:00 in an ordinary household.

Other tips to save consumer electricity: • Wash clothes with 80% of the machine capacity • Keep hot water in a vacuum bottle instead of an electric pot • Stop keeping rice warm in the cooker and use a microwave oven to reheat it • Unplug home appliances when not being used • Turn off lighting diligently • Take less time to have a shower • Empty the vacuum cleaner more often

Information in Foreign Languages

がいこくご じょうほうていきょう
外国語による情報提供

The City publication KOHO shared a fairly large space in its May 1 issue and asked citizens to let foreign residents living nearby know of the City's intent of serving foreign residents through their homepage, the Guidebook, and the Chigasaki Breeze as follows:

◆There were 1,477 foreigners registered as citizens of Chigasaki as of December 31, 2010, and the City's homepage provides information about local activities in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, French, German, and Italian.

◆The 'Guidebook', written in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish, is available to foreign residents, and advises readers how to respond to unexpected disasters (such as fires, emergencies, crimes, and earthquakes); how to apply for registration or handle tax, national health insurance, and pension matters; how to dispose of garbage, etc. These books are available at the information counter of the City hall.

◆One of the City office sections, Danjo Kyodo Sankaku-ka (The Gender Equality Section) at Josei Center, provides a consultancy service to foreign residents concerning daily needs Monday through Friday, from 08:30 to 17:00. They also introduce Japanese language classes.

They suggest, however, to go to the homepage of Kanagawa Prefecture concerning detailed information on labor, medication, etc.

◆The 'Chigasaki Breeze' was introduced as one of the City's publication media. The City expects that foreign residents can get timely information not only on the administration but also on the City's cultural events, environmental issues, and history. The Chigasaki Breeze is issued every other month, and the 1,800 copies printed are made available at public facilities including the City Hall, the JR Chigasaki station, the Citizens' Gallery, and other facilities where foreigners are most likely to visit.



Guidebook for foreign residents.

A Festival at Daybreak on July 18 (Mon) "Hamaori-sai"

はまおりさい
浜降祭



The Hamaori-sai, a festival which takes place at daybreak in Chigasaki on Marine Day, is a procession of *mikoshi* (or portable shrines) each carried by a score of believers from the local shrines of Chigasaki and Samukawa. Within each *mikoshi*, the spirit of a Shinto shrine deity is believed to ride.

This year, thirty seven *mikoshi* will gather at sunrise (around 04:30) at Nishihama beach near Chigasaki fishing port, leaving at 09:00 to return home.

As the many people that are carrying *mikoshi* chant 'Dokkoi Dokkoi' in loud voices, they appear to be dancing, and the vision of all of them crowded together makes for a vivid and splendid spectacle.

This festival has been classified as a cultural asset, and was chosen as one of the top fifty festivals in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1982.

Forthcoming Events

もよお
催しもの

- Tanabata matsuri (Festival of the Weaver) 七夕祭り (Hiratsuka 7/8 Fri ~ 7/10 Sun)
- Morning Market なんでも朝市 (Chuo-koen 8/6 Sat 07:00~10:00)
- Takigi-Noh Play (Torch-lit, open-air Noh performance) 薪能 (Samukawa shrine 8/15 17:30~)

Applications will be accepted for the first 1,000 persons.

*To apply for a seat, please send a two-way postcard (往復ハガキ), filling in your name, address, phone and your age, to Samukawa Jinja, Takigi-Noh, 〒253-0195, 3916 Samukawa-cho, Koza-gun FYI, fireworks on the Southern beach, and Honobono-beach-festival are canceled this year.



Let's Go to a Park!

こうえん い
公園へ行こう!



There are 160 parks in Chigasaki, of which 141 are relatively small parks in town or in your neighborhood. Since the City stretches from the sea to the south to the mountains in the north, there are various types of parks. Here, we would like to introduce some representative parks for you to visit and enjoy with your families.

Satoyama park – The largest park, located in northern district of Chigasaki. Satoyama literally means the boundary area between the mountains and residential areas and it has a diverse ecology characteristic of Japan. You can see many kinds of plants and animals there.

Shimin-no-mori ('the forest of the citizens') – Also situated in the north, this park is surrounded by trees and offers you a good chance to get close to nature. Try climbing up into a tree-house for an unusual but enjoyable experience.

Chuo kōen (Central park) – Located just across from City Hall, this park contains many varieties of tree, such as sakura, ume, and keyaki (zelkova), a waterfall and a pretty garden.

Chigasaki kōen (park) – Situated in Naka-kaigan near the beach, this park is ideal for families walking with young kids. Look behind the baseball ground for a little hilly place where children can play around on the grass.

Shonan-yume-wakuwaku kōen – As the name suggests, here you will feel excited and dreamy. Located near the Koide river and under the Shin-shonan bypass, you can enjoy skateboarding and mountain bike riding. In addition, there are grounds to play baseball, soccer, gate-ball, and so on.

We recommend outings to these places when you have time.

Inquiry: 0467-82-1111 EX 2525 Parks and Greenery Section こうえんりょくち か 公園 緑地課

Chigasaki Aloha Market

チガサキ・アロハマーケット

On May 14 (Sat) and 15 (Sun), there was an event called Chigasaki Aloha Market held at the Panasonic Resort Shonan parking lot located close to the 'Southern Beach' in Chigasaki. According to a local newspaper, approximately 36,000 people gathered there to enjoy watching several hula dance groups and to buy Hawaiian goods, including food, fabrics, jewelry, bags, and ukulele, from forty-six stalls.

This market is organized jointly by the Chamber of Commerce of Chigasaki, Chigasaki Tourism Association, and FM Yokohama, and supported by the O'afu and Hawai'i Tourism Bureau and Aloha-street. The event is becoming more and more popular year by year.

Chigasaki has been known as the city of the 'aloha' shirt since 2004 when the City nominated 'aloha Friday' for their staff to wear 'aloha' shirts on Friday during the hot summer season. Then in 2008, they started to allow aloha shirt on Wednesday also, and this year they decided to make it free for the city staff to wear whenever it is taking into consideration a need of saving power.

You may be interested to know that, many years ago, the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii made 'aloha' shirts by themselves using kimono material.

Why don't you visit this market next year to enjoy the air of Hawaii in Chigasaki!

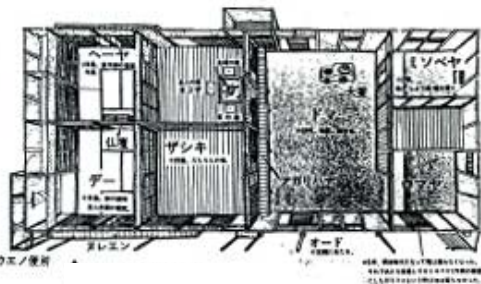
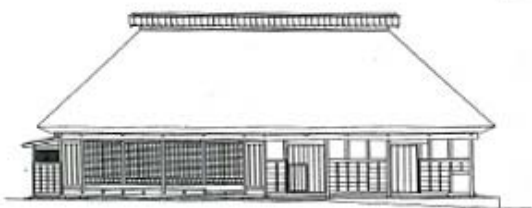


Folk Museum in Chigasaki

みんぞく しりょうかん
民俗資料館

Former Mitsuhashi Family Residence

きゅうみつはし け じゅうきょ
旧三橋家の住居



The *Hehya* can be seen in the top left of the floor plan above, with the *Deh* below it.

On a little hill within the site of Jokenji Temple, the final resting place of the famous Edo-period samurai and magistrate, Ōoka Echizen, is located Folk Museum which used to be a residence of the old Mitsuhashi family. The area is 151 square meters (45.75 tsubo) and farming tools are on display inside and outside the residence. This one-story wooden farmhouse with a thatched roof was built in Kagawa in the northern part of Chigasaki in 1828 (Bunsei 11) and lived in until 1971 (Showa 46) by six generations of the Mitsuhashi family.

After the residence was donated to the City, an investigation was carried out to determine its historical value. As a result of this investigation, the City decided to preserve the farmhouse for the future considering it to be a special and important City asset. Following were the reasons for their decision:

(A) There is a clear written record of when this Mitsuhashi residence was constructed. (B) The structure of the farmhouse is typical of the late Edo era. (C) In spite of its 140-year history, there had been almost no need for repair or modification to the original structure.

Chigasaki City appointed the residence an important cultural asset in 1971 (Showa 46) and moved it from Kagawa to its present location in Tsutsumi. And in 1973 (Showa 48), the City reopened the Mitsuhashi residence and renamed it Folk Museum.

The residence is spacious and about half of it is an earth floor of which a part was for keeping crops. There is also a *miso* room (soybean paste room) and a stable at one corner of the earth floor, so you can tell that people and horses lived together in the houses of those olden days. Above the entrance, there is a sort of henhouse which was used at night. If you step up from the earth floor, there are rooms called *Zashiki* (room) containing a hearth and a family altar which you might call living rooms or bedrooms today. And at the back of the residence, there are two

Hachijoma (eight tatami mat-sized room) called *Hehya* へーや and *Deh* デー. *Hehya* is a bedroom for a husband and wife and *Deh* is a guest room.

A memorandum called "Daiku Kobiki Yorozu Hikae-cho" written by Iemon Mitsuhashi who was the head of the family in those days can still be viewed at the Mitsuhashi residence. It is a record of the progress of the construction activities and shows how long the carpenters took to complete the work. It says that *Kobiki* (or tree-felling) started in July 1827 (Bunsei 10), the carpenters started working on September 13 and the construction was completed on February 29, the following year. During the construction, a ceremony called "*Tatema*" was held to celebrate the completion of the framework of the house. The carpenters and *Kobiki* workers received tips of "kin ichiryō" or a gold coin, and in addition they were rewarded with liquor, fish, sea tangle and bean curd.

Just like other City facilities, this Folk Museum is open to the public every day except Mondays and national holidays.

Why don't you drop in at this old wooden house and stop for a while? It will be a good chance to look back on the good old days.

The IAC URL: <http://www.7jp.com/iac>

The Chigasaki Breeze is a bimonthly publication and back issues can be seen either by using this URL or on the Chigasaki City website.

All the pictures are in color and would impress you more!

Pay attention to business hours!

えいぎょうじかん ちゅうい
営業時間にご注意ください

Did you know that many companies are going to introduce daylight-saving time in July? These include distribution, manufacturing and fast food companies and as well as izakaya (sake restaurant) chains. Some supermarkets in the city will also open/close one hour earlier. So, you had better check the business hours of shops you usually go to. Some will offer special services, including discounts, in the morning or evening.

Let's shop wisely by making the most of the new business hours!

IAC ACTIVITY



Charity Concert on September 9 at The Civic Hall

しみんぶんかかいかん
市民文化会館でチャリティ・コンサート

The IAC plans to hold a charity concert on September 9 (Fri) at the Civic Hall inviting a violinist, Kyoko Sugai, and a pianist, Yoji Nagao. The purpose of this charity is to support children's education in such countries as Cambodia, Nepal, Peru, and Laos - the IAC has been sending money to NGOs in those countries for many years. This time, however, they plan to prepare donation boxes at the hall for the victims of the East Japanese large earthquake disaster.

The entrance fee for the charity concert is ¥1,000. More details will be made available in the next issue of this newspaper.

French University Students to Visit

だいがくせい き
フランスから大学生が来ます

Four university students, currently studying Japanese in France, will be home-staying in Chigasaki for about a month from July 3 through July 31. Whilst here, they will have many opportunities not just to practice and improve their Japanese language skills, but also to experience various aspects of Japanese culture. Needless to say, communication with their host families will be a highlight of the visit for these students.

Originally, there were supposed to be nine of them, but the visit itself had been cancelled once in the aftermath of the 3/11 quake and tsunami in Tohoku. However, we understand that four of them felt strongly about coming and so the visit was able to go ahead.

Whilst in Chigasaki, the students will attend IAC-run Japanese language classes, but they also plan to visit a junior high school and enjoy various cultural activities including kimono fitting, a tea ceremony at Shorai-an, and sampling Japanese cuisine. The IAC has planned their welcome party on July 9 and their speech contest (in Japanese) on July 29.

People in Town

OHASHI Peili 大橋培利

*I hope to be a mediator in business
between Japan and China in the future.....*



OHASHI Peili was born in Shanghai and came to Japan twenty three years ago. After finishing graduate school in Tokyo, he started to work for a Japanese auto company as an engineer. He worked there for eleven years, and then, in 2004, moved to a German company which specializes in auto parts on a global basis. His current job is to work as a mediator between their overseas designing groups and domestic Japanese customers. So, he has visited many countries including Europe and the U.S.

He used to live in Tokyo (and Yokohama before that), but he has been in Kowada, Chigasaki, for the past thirteen years with his wife and their fourteen-year-old son. He met his future wife (a Japanese lady who used to be a colleague of his friend) in Japan by accident since they had left Shanghai at the same time.

While he was at university in Anhui province, he thought about going to America, but thanks to his friends' suggestion, he decided to come to Japan instead. His friends told him that living in Japan might be easier because of the common Kanji culture. This persuaded him to come over to Japan.

He used to play Yōkin (a Chinese zither-koto called a 'YanQing') in his school days and to enjoy performing in public with a friend, a flute player. He still likes music and sometimes plays the keyboard and the piano, but his hobby today is spending time with his car, a Prius; he likes to make small changes to the body, navigation tools, and so forth. Sometimes, though, he goes out drinking with his old colleagues who were working in the former Japanese company.

Actually, he was naturalized in Japan in 2004, and he has been living here so long that he has forgotten his first impression of Japan, yet he remembers that he realized the air and water were cleaner when he arrived in Japan. And at the beginning, he liked watching street performers in Harajuku, which was popular in those days. At the same time, he noticed a sense of wariness among Japanese when he was searching for an apartment. Then, he was always asked to provide references to the owner. That was a bad experience. As for food, he likes raw egg and raw fish very much today, but they were funny food to him when he was new to this country.

Regarding Japanese education, generally, he feels the system is better than that of China because of its flexibility, and he finds the children's education more impressive. He feels it's very good that junior high school students spend time doing club activities after classes. There is no such system in China.

OHASHI Peili likes Chigasaki very much and thinks it the best place to live in Japan as the land is not so hilly, the climate is mild, and there're sea and mountains nearby, and maybe it's even better than Shanghai!?

So many countries, so many customs.

か しな か
ところ変われば品変わる

How Koreans Spend The Hot Summer Season

かんこくじん なつ す かた
韓国人の夏の過ごし方

During the Japanese summer season, people observe or enjoy many special customs, events and activities, such as Obon (a Buddhist festival to recognize ancestral spirits), fireworks, yukata (light cotton kimono for summer), shaved ice, and swimming in the sea or playing on the beach. In Korea, there are no equivalent things in the summer, even though temperatures usually reach 35 and it's very humid. In summer, schools close from June to August while office workers usually take a week's holiday in July/August. They don't have vacations like Japanese people who take days off at the time of Obon, and many families prefer to go to the beach rather than taking trips overseas.

Seoul, though, is not by the sea, so a popular way to spend leisure time during the summer is to meet up with friends and loved ones alongside the Han river, a large river flowing through the center of Seoul city, or go to Cheong gye cheon river and enjoy putting their feet in the river. The Cheong gye cheon river was rebuilt by the current president of Korea when he was Mayor of Seoul. Young people also enjoy going to water amusement parks and sliding down water shuttes (tubes that look like roller coasters), or to hot springs.

Thus, summer in Korea seems to pass by quietly and without any noticeable events like in Japan. One thing that is indispensable for the hot season, however, is soup! Japanese are accustomed to having broiled eel (doyo-unagi) during the hottest period of summer, but Koreans eat hot chicken soup using the meat from a whole chicken and adding things like glutinous rice, and herbal materials such as ginseng, etc. This hot soup is rich in nutrition, and will give you enough energy or power to endure the summer heat. Korean people eat this soup on three particular days, respectively in early summer, the hottest time of the summer, and at the end of the summer. The days vary every year depending on the old lunar calendar.

This is an example of the wisdom of Korean people who have learnt over many thousands of years how to endure even the hottest Korean summers. Why don't you try experiencing the hot summer season in Korea sometime soon!

Note: This letter is from Ai Ohkubo living in Korea. She used to teach Japanese in the IAC's Japanese Language classes before.

Quiz

Let's Find Out More About Chigasaki!

茅ヶ崎をもっとよく知ろう!

Q1 The Japan Kuroshio Current flows to the northeast off Sagami Bay. The earth's revolution and another phenomenon cause the flow. What is the other phenomenon?

- 1) Submarine topography 2) Differences in salt concentrations
3) Prevailing westerlies and trade winds

Q2 Lightning occurs around five times on average in the sky over the city in July and August. Is this larger than, similar to, or smaller than the average among other cities in the central part of Japan?

- 1) Larger 2) Similar 3) Smaller

Q3 There is a milestone on the corner of Route One and Ichirizuka street, opposite side from AEON supermarket. (Milestones stand about 4 kilometers apart in Japan.) How many milestones are there between the starting point in Nihonbashi, Tokyo and this one?

- 1) 10 2) 13 3) 15

Q4 The area of Chigasaki is 35.7 km². Where does the city roughly rank in terms of area among all the 800 cities in Japan?

- 1) 100 2) 300 3) 500 4) 700

Q5 Chigasaki became a city in 1947. What else also occurred that year?

- 1) India became independent 2) The United Nations was inaugurated
3) The Asia-African Conference was held in Bandung

Note: Correct answers are shown at the bottom of the page.

Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

はぎその とうりょう
萩園の土曜ミュージック・サロン

Folk Music on July 16 (Sat) 民族音楽

On July 16 (Sat) from 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 "Elisión". They play South American folk music with various instruments such as charango, zampoña, bombo, **quena** and guitar.

“Disused Article Bank” 不用品バンク

The following is a list of articles being offered/wanted free or at a reasonable cost by citizens. Anyone interested in these articles should contact the section in charge: Consumer Life Center of the City Office. They will then put you in touch with the people concerned directly. (As of June 8, 2011) [Consulting Services for Citizens Section, Consumer Life Center at 82-1111]

Articles being offered ゆずります

Sports gym for children, baby gate, baby walker, baby bed, folding pipe bed, semi-double bed, care bed, air mattress, children's bicycle, open space shelf, dresser, cane chair, cane sofa, refrigerator, private devices related to planned outages, foot vibrator, dish washer, notebook sized personal computer, Japanese and French dolls, electric program walker, 'printo-gokko' or print player, art book, care diaper, teaching materials for land and building management chief, teaching materials for the position of mansion management, teaching materials for English conversation, and water tank.

Articles wanted ゆずってください

Minamoto kindergarten uniform and other garments, Hamami-daira kindergarten uniform and others, child bicycle, 24-inch bicycle, old paulownia drawer, terrestrial digital-responding TV, terrestrial digital-responding deck, shamisen (Japanese three-stringed banjo-like instrument) and koto (Japanese traditional zither), 'beigoma' (Japanese spinning tops), and large Vari-Kennel (a portable kennel for carrying/transporting a dog).

Quiz

Correct answers: Q1 3 Q2 3 Q3 2 Q4 4 Q5 1

Bon Dance in Fujisawa

ふじさわ ぼんおど
藤沢で盆踊り

On July 3 (Sun), Fujisawa Kokusai Koryu Shonan (IES), a volunteer group like IAC plans to have a party of games and Bon dance with sweets and snacks at Fujisawa Shimin-no-Iye (Fujisawa Citizens' Home) from 10:00 to 12:30. They are inviting about thirty people including foreigners, IES members and children. Adults are required to pay ¥300 per head while for children and junior high/high school students, it is ¥200.

They say 'Go straight to the Ginza shopping street from the north exit of JR Fujisawa and turn right before a bag shop, and the house is on your left, 10 minutes walk from the JR Fujisawa station'.

Inquiry: 0466-83-5431, mail: m.take.3@jcom.home.ne.jp

Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

にっぽん せいよう
日本と西洋のことわざ

窮鼠 猫をかむ

KYUSO NEKO WO KAMU

(When a rat is in trouble, the rat would even bite the cat.)

Despair makes cowards courageous.

蓼 食う 虫も 好き好き

TADE KUU MUSHI MO SUKI ZUKI

(Some insects prefer the bitter leaves of knotgrass.)

There is no accounting for taste.

美人は 言わねど 隠れなし

BIJIN WA IWANEDO KAKURE NASHI

(A beautiful woman will say nothing, but she will soon become famous.)

A good name keeps its lustre in the dark.

人は 見かけに よらぬもの

HITO WA MIKAKE NI YORANU MONO

(Appearances are often deceiving.)

All that glitters is not gold.

待てば 海路の 日和あり

MATEBA KAIRO NO HIYORI ARI

(The fine weather for a sea route comes to him who waits.)

All good things come to those who wait.

Classified Ad

Looking for native English teachers who can teach kids (2~3 years old), two to four times a week, from 9 to 11 am. (Any teacher who has young kids can bring them to our play room. Our play room starts in September.) For more information, please send an e-mail to riko.sakuracat@gmail.com

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?

Welcome Furoshiki is a free, nonprofit welcoming service. One of our trained representatives will visit you, providing a wide range of useful information for foreigners new to life in Japan.

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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