

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0008

THE SECOND NEW YEAR FOR CHIGASAKI BREEZE

SHOGATSU HATSU-YUME HATSU-MODE
正月 初夢 初詣

For Chigasaki Breeze, the second *SHOGATSU* is coming in about a month as the first edition was published in October last year. *SHOGATSU* simply refers to the month of January, while the first 3 days are called *SANGA-NICHI* to mean something special related to the New Year holidays. Also, the 15th is observed as a special day, as in a way it's the end of the New Year celebration. Schools are out the first two weeks while businesses are closed until January 3 generally from December 29 or 30.

Now, if you have a dream on the night of *GANJITSU* or January 1, it is called *HATSU-YUME* or first dream. If the dream is auspicious, the coming year is believed to be a good year.

On the day of *GANJITSU* or within the 15 days of the New Year, people visit shrines with many of them wearing beautiful kimonos to pray for the health and happiness of their families in the coming year. The first visit in the year is called *HATSU-MODE*.

There are many shrines in the city as well as in the neighboring towns, but *Tsurumine-Hachimansha Shrine* in Hamanogō, *Dairokuten Jinja Shrine* in Chigasaki, *Yakumo Jinja Shrine* in Nango, *Koshikake Jinja Shrine* in Serizawa district and *Samukawa Jinja Shrine* in Samukawa will be the representative ones. *Samukawa Jinja Shrine* being known as one of the largest shrines in the Kanto district including Tokyo, Yokohama, etc., many people from distant areas will visit because of its history. If you go to Kamakura, of course, you will definitely see millions of people who are visiting the famous *Kamakura-Tsurugaoka Hachimangu* shrine.

This is why, *SHOGATSU* is a special season for Japanese and the New Year holidays are the most important occasion to think of the forthcoming year.

There is a saying in Japan relative to this season; "There is it on New Year's Day of one year in total." Your success in the following year is dependent on the plans you make on this day.



ENVIRONMENT The Policy of the City



The administration and civic groups are jointly working to create a charming city with the city function and nature to be in good balance. Activities as such as cleaning the beach, securing clean and productive rivers in the city that can be enjoyed by future generations safely, as well as the maintenance of greenery in the northern part of Chigasaki, etc. are all a part of it.

The sea of Chigasaki is not only popular among young surfers but also many citizens are enjoying walking or cycling on the 8.4 km road that runs along the coastal line. It also provides a fishing harbor that brings this city seafood as has been done since times of old. In order to make the harbor area flourish, many ideas have been collected to figure out what kinds of plans are most meaningful. Each civic group is devising plans and quite a few have been implemented.

Under the circumstances, the city publicized its basic plan to certify a desirable conservation plan for the environment as follows:

- 1) To secure clean air and water
- 2) To keep nature conservation areas related with beaches, rivers, farmlands, forests, etc.
- 3) To create the amenity of living by developing better traffic systems environmentally
- 4) To make effective use of energy, water resources and promote a recycling-oriented society
- 5) To care for the global environment, the lives of wild animals, etc. through international efforts

In line with the basic plans, the municipal government has decided to give priority to such items as waste, the traffic system and the greenery of Satoyama. This will be done in collaboration with civic groups using measures that suggest follow-ups to the rules of garbage disposal, monitoring the levels of air pollution caused by inefficient traffic systems, controlling bus routes to reduce private car use and encouraging bicycle riding, etc. The office considers Satoyama as the core place where people can feel in tune with nature and enjoy recreational activities and relaxation, and think it necessary to protect surrounding environment including Shimizu-Yato and the two rivers: Sen-no-kawa and Koide-gawa.

The city office is expecting to receive public opinions so they can reflect the public voice in creating an even better environment for citizens.



●2007 National Holidays

Jan. 1 (Mon)	New Year's Day
Jan. 8 (Mon)	Coming-of-Age Day
Feb. 11 (Sun)*	National Foundation Day
Mar. 21 (Wed)	Spring Equinox Day
Apr. 29 (Sun)*	The Day of Showa
May 3 (Thu)	Constitution Day
May 4 (Sat)	Green Day
May 5 (Sat)	Children's Day
Jul. 16 (Mon)	Marine Day
Sep. 17 (Mon)	Respect-for-the Aged Day
Sep. 23 (Sun)*	Autumn Equinox Day
Oct. 8 (Mon)	Sports Day
Nov. 3 (Sat)	Culture Day
Nov. 23 (Fri)	Labor Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 23 (Sun)*	The Emperor's Birthday

Note: The days with asterisks are floating holidays that occur on the following Monday.

PEOPLE'S FUREAI FESTIVAL



One of the major yearly events for citizens of Chigasaki, *Fureai Matsuri* (Festival) as reported earlier, was held at Chuo Park on November 3, Culture Day. It was a fine day and there were reportedly about 80,000 people gathered to enjoy watching performances on the stage, playing games, and shopping at hundreds of flea market stalls.

IAC's Sewing Box group also had a stall decorated by small flags of many countries, to sell their artistic handcrafts, Beignets (French doughnuts) and café au lait

A part of the proceeds from the flea market sales is sent to Chigasaki City Council of Social Welfare through the city every year.