

Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget. No.0009

New Year Greetings from the Mayor

The year 2007 is the 60th year of operation for the Chigasaki municipal organization, and I would like to celebrate it together with 230,000 citizens. Also, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to a number of forerunners who contributed to rediscovering the charms of this city and developed the city to its current prosperous level

Let me refer to a couple of things that we are trying to accomplish.

(1) To correspond to the new era.

To think of a general trend of a decreasing number of youths and increasing number of elderly people, even the situation in Chigasaki is becoming more severe. Under the circumstances, I would like to have the administration deal with two goals that aim at a "Chigasaki that is able to correspond to the new era". One of them is to bring about KAIZEN or improvement in the city's finances. It means the execution of reducing personnel expenditure and the administrative reform while another goal is to get the scale of finance to an appropriate level so we can be prepared for the decreasing population trend and tax revenue that will occur in the near future. In our five-year plan starting in 2006, we will try to create simple and effective organization and introduce private sector vitality.

(2) Community building with a long-term strategic view.

We will complete our master plan under our basic policy of urban development in the future, and will propel priority strategy. Our role is to maintain the virtue of this city and to let our next generations inherit and develop it in the same way. We will be tackling various issues strenuously and continuously so that citizens can feel that it is good to live in this city.

Dialogue between the Mayor and the citizens

Mayor Hattori is having town meetings more than 10 times a year, trying to listen to civic opinion and recognize various issues brought up in the dialogue so that he can reflect its result on the way the city is administered.

A number of subjects are discussed there in their various forms. They include problems related to the environment, finance, public utility, the basic autonomous regulations, staff and even the mayor's leadership.

On the staff issues such as their realignment, their attitude and awareness are touched upon, while on public utility, its effectiveness is reviewed. The introduction of designated organization systems is also in plan.

These town meetings are held at twelve districts as far as *Jichikai* or where neighborhood organizations are concerned, and many local people join the discussion. The Mayor is thus working positively to make the city of Chigasaki better in many ways.



Scenes from the New Year

A number of people were visiting Samukawa Shrine to pray that 2007 is a happy and healthy year.

Before praying, it is polite to rinse your hands with holy water.



Garbage Collection System Changes An Important Message from the City

From April onward, all the recyclable garbage is going to be collected at the same place but in a different way from the present collection system as they have been handled separately depending on the types of recyclable garbage. (It has already been adopted in a limited number of districts, however.)

So far, glass bottles, cans, and pet bottles have been required to be put out at different point from the point for the other types of recyclable garbage such as old paper, cardboard, drink cartons, clothes, etc. That is to say, the collection point has been separated despite both being recyclable.

By changing the system, the number of collection point in Chigasaki goes down from 6,790 to 2,470 points and it is expected to be able to cut down the collection/transportation cost from ¥150 million to approximately ¥100 million a year.

Through the collaboration among citizens, the business proprietors and administration, the city is trying to decrease the amount of garbage and increase recycling resources, but the burden of expenditure is getting larger. The city plans to save personal expenses, the truck operation costs, etc. and make use of the savings more effectively to help overall administration cost.

Citizens, therefore, are strongly requested to dispose garbage in definite separation by the types of garbage of which collection tables/calendars will be made available after April when new fiscal year term starts.

ENVIRONMENT A civic activity of loving and keeping the region, *Shimizu-Yato*, richly endowed with nature.

There are several hectares of hills called "*Shimizu-Yato*" in the northern part of the city, featuring ecological diversity including forests, wetlands, creeks, grass fields, ponds, rice paddies and fields with various kinds of creatures inhabiting them. The members of the civic group, led by Mr. Michio Sasaki, voluntarily work for conserving the precious environment every Tuesday all the year around. They work to secure water catchments from springs to downstream in rice paddies or remove earth and sand from the creeks to keep the streams flowing. They cut the grass in wooded areas and carry away old logs, fallen leaves, etc. They also remove foreign species of plants and tangling vines. They work wearing fatigues and long boots so as to protect against yellow jackets and adders. Their goal is to hand down the benefits which nature has bestowed upon people to future generations.

The *Shimizu-Yato* group will welcome your participation!