

Kamogawa Communicator

Issue 269

December 2017



Illuminations Everywhere!

Winter is illumination season in Japan, so it's a great time to bring out the family or that special someone to enjoy the spectacular light shows!

During the month of December, Kamogawa has two illuminations.

The Oyama Senmaida Terraced Rice fields will continue their illumination each night (16:30~20:00) until January 4th. For more information please call the Kamogawa Tourism Association at 04-7092-0086. Kamogawa's roadside station, Ocean Park, will also have their illumination each night (16:00~21:00) until January 31st. For more information, please call: 04-7096-1911.

Tokyo German Village, located in Chiba's Sodegaura City, will be celebrating illumination season with their brightest event of the year. The park will be lit with 3,000,000 lights each night until April 8th. For more information please call 0438-60-5511 or visit their website at: <http://www.t-doitsumura.co.jp/> The Cost to enter the park is 500 yen per person or 2500 yen per car. There is a shuttle bus to and from Sodegaura Station. The bus runs from 8:05 (9:07 on weekends and holidays) to 16:30 to the stop closest to the village and from 13:55 (13:51 on weekends and holidays) to 20:10 to the station (see website for specific bus times).

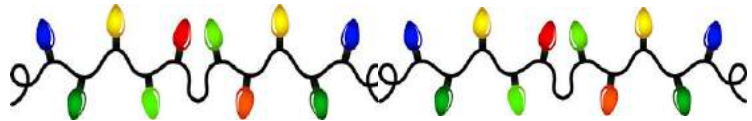


City Hall Holiday Hours

City offices will be on holiday hours from Friday, December 29th to Wednesday, January 3rd. Normal operating hours will return on Thursday, January 4th, but until then most city offices will be closed or have only limited consulting times. Please make an appointment for things like registering your personal seal, obtaining a resident certificate, etc.

All City Hall offices will be closed from Friday 12/29 to Wednesday 1/3. However, Funeral arrangements can still be made. The General Welfare Consultation Center will remain open for emergency consultations at (04-7093-1200) throughout the holiday season.

For a detailed explanation of the Holiday Schedule, please consult the January edition of the Kamogawa Communicator, which can be found on the city's webpage.



End of the year Oversized Garbage

To avoid the seasonal rush, be sure to make early arrangements for disposing of your oversized garbage such as printers, sofas, and desks. Due to the large amounts of garbage brought into the Kamogawa at the end of the year, the facilities may limit the amount that you can dispose of. When bringing items to the waste removal facilities, remember to thoroughly secure items in the back of open truck beds with ropes and tarps to prevent any accidents while in transit. You can also make an appointment to have your oversized refuse taken on the designated pick up day.

For more information please contact the Kamogawa Waste Disposal Center (04-7093-5300).

KIRA Filipino Christmas!



Christmas is widely celebrated in Japan, but have you ever wondered what do they do in other countries during the holidays?

If so, come on out to KIRA's Filipino Christmas! A few of KIRA's Filipina members will explain some of the Christmas traditions in the Philippines, followed by some delicious Filipino food. The event will finish with a Christmas present exchange game! Be sure to come ready to sing some Christmas carols!



Location: Tojo Community Center, first floor lecture hall

Date: Sunday, December 17th

Time: 12:00-14:00

Participation fee: Free (500 yen for non-members)

Don't forget to bring a 500 yen gift for the gift exchange game!

*Application deadline is 12/13 (Wed)

*Participation is limited to 30 people, so call today and sign up!

For more information or to reserve your spot, call KIRA at: 04-7093-7828

Mawarizuka no Ihachi

From Friday, December 15th until Sunday, March 11th, the Kamogawa Folk Museum will be holding an exhibition of many of Mawarizuka no Ihachi's famous carvings. Ihachi was a Kamogawa native whose carvings gained notoriety around Japan, as well as many other parts of the world. While he is probably better known as "Nami no Ihachi," so called because of his famous carvings of "nami" (waves), it was recently discovered in some old records that he was actually called "Mawarizuka no Ihachi," and thus this exhibition will use that name.

There will also be a lecture to discuss the carvings.

Date: 1/21 (Sun) 14:00 ~

Location: Cultural Assets Center, learning room

Lecturer: Curator Takeo Ishikawa

Limited to 40 participants. To apply or for more information please call: 04-7093-3800



Tour Famous Mountains of Boshu

If you love nature, this is the event for you. On four separate occasions over three months, you can hike some of the southern Chiba's famous mountains. The Boshu Region has beautiful landscapes, so don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

Dates: 1/13, 1/20, 2/10, 3/3

Time: 9:00 ~ 15:00 (approximate)

Fee: Insurance costs

Mountains: Mt. Atago, Mt. Hitobone, Mt. Shirahamajo

Anyone who is a 3rd grader and older may participate! The event is limited to 40 people. Sign up & information: 04-7093-2857



Support Network against Domestic Violence

Have you or a loved one been the victim of domestic violence? Domestic violence is often seen as just physical abuse, however psychological, economic, child, and sexual abuse all fall within the parameter of domestic violence. Even in a relationship, abuse against one another is a serious violation of human rights and is seen as a criminal act. If you or a loved one find yourself a victim of domestic violence, know that there are support systems available to help.

Chiba prefecture along with Kamogawa city offer several support centers and hotlines for victims of domestic violence. Taking a leap of faith and talking to someone about your own personal abusive situation takes a lot of bravery, but there is a support network waiting there to catch you. Help yourself by letting others help you.

Kamogawa General Welfare Consultation Center
Fureai Center: 04-7093-1200
Open 24hrs/day all year round

Chiba Prefecture Consultation Window
Women Support Center: 043-206-8002
Open 24hrs/day all year round

Women's Support Hotline: 04-7140-8605
Tues ~ Sun 9:30am ~ 4:00pm

Men's Support Hotline: 043-285-0231
Tues ~ Wed 4:00pm ~ 8:00pm

Awa Health & Welfare: 0470-22-6377
Mon ~ Fri 9:00am ~ 5:00pm

Police Consultation/Support: 043-227-9110
Mon ~ Fri 8:30am ~ 5:15pm

Drive Safe this Season

Even though temperatures are still moderately warm, the Communicator would like to remind its readers to drive safe this holiday season. Whether it's because of the winter wonderland outside or holiday cheer inside, many people forget how dangerous winter driving can be. Winter weather including black ice, snow, and slush can cause adverse driving conditions. When there is low visibility or icy roads, be sure to accelerate and decelerate slowly, as well as leave plenty of space between you and the driver in front of you. Adding a few extra minutes to your transit by driving extra cautiously might seem tough for those of us with busy schedules, but that extra time will make the roads safer for everyone.

Also for those planning to partake in the holiday spirits, be sure to designate a driver. Driving under the influence, providing alcohol to someone who drives under the influence, and riding as a passenger of someone under the influence, could land you with 3-5 years of prison time, up to 1,000,000 yen (about \$10,000) in fines, as well as a suspended or revoked license. For foreign residents, this can lead to not only prison time, fines, and deportation, but also a mark on your passport making it hard to return to Japan. In other words, be safe this holiday season and stay away from the "drinking and driving" naughty list.



Emergency Alert Registration

Like most cities in Japan, Kamogawa broadcasts announcements via loudspeakers throughout the city. However, because Kamogawa is very spread out, and the announcements may be hard to hear, Kamogawa also has the Kamogawa Emergency Alert E-mail System, which sends out any emergency announcements issued by the city. The service is completely free, and you will begin to receive e-mails upon registration.

To register, follow the directions on the Kamogawa English page at:

<http://www.city.kamogawa.lg.jp/English/LivinginKamogawa/DisasterPrevention/1414327386355.html>

What's Happening This Month

Happy Holidays

Until 12/3 (Sun) 11:30 & 13:30

Unshu Mikan Picking

Location: Minnami no Sato

Cost: 650 yen/30 min (includes 1 kg of mikan)

On weekends there are additional time slots at 10:30 and 14:30. Be sure to wear shoes that do not slip easily. Event will be cancelled if it rains.

Information: 04-7099-8055

12/1 (Fri)

First of the Month Market

Location: Amatsu Shinmeigu Shrine

Information: 04-7094-0323

12/3 (Sun) 9:50 ~

72nd Nanbo Long Distance Relay Race

The course begins at Kamogawa's track and field stadium and ends at the Nanso Cultural Hall for a total of 37.6 kilometers over three sections.

Information: 04-7093-5111

12/3 (Sun) 10:00 & 13:00

New Year's Decoration Making Class

Location: Minnami no Sato

Cost: 1,500 yen

Information: 04-7099-8055

12/10 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 15:00

Japan Air Self-Defense Force Mineokayama Base Open to Public

Location: JASDF Mineokayama Base

Come and see helicopters, hear the firing of an unloaded anti-aircraft gun, a taiko performance, and more.

12/10 (Sun) 13:00 ~

Japanese Speech Contest

Location: Chiba Nanso Culture Hall

Come out and watch the 9th Annual International Exchange Festa's Japanese speech contest.

Information: 0470-22-1811

12/16 (Sat) 8:00

Habanori Seaweed Harvest Viewing

Location: Amatsu District

Information: 04-7094-0501

12/16 (Sat) 14:00 ~

Chuo Community Center Presents:

"Journeys Through Music"

Location: Chuo Community Center

Information: 04-7093-1141

12/17 (Sun), 12/24 (Sun) 13:30 ~ 15:00

Mandolin Club Recital

Location: Emi Community Center (17th)

Futomi Community Center (24th)

Information: 04-7096-1111 (Emi)

04-7092-0669 (Futomi)

12/23 (Sat) 13:30 ~ 15:00

Kamogawa Magic Club Showcase

"Christmas Magic Show"

Location: Tojo Community Center

Free entry, but because the parking lot is small, they ask that you either carpool or take public transportation to the show.

Information: 04-7094-0202

At Uchiura Kenmin no Mori!

12/2 (Sat)

Winter Stargazing

12/10 (Sun)

Christmas Wreath Making

Rice Flour Christmas Cookie Making

12/27 (Wed)

New Year's Wreath Making

Information: 04-7095-2821

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