

**“Window on City Administration”****Message from the Mayor of Kawasaki**

( 市政の小窓 )

This message is from the "Window on City Administration" in the "Shisei Dayori", Kawasaki City's Newsletter of the 1st of April.

“ I would like to congratulate and welcome all of you who have newly joined schools or companies this April.

We have also started the "New General Plan" and the “Ordinances of the Local Autonomous Body” of Kawasaki City. These plans are new steps towards town-life improvement that will make citizens think "It's nice to live in Kawasaki " or "I want to keep on living in this city". Even though the times are changing and the financial situation is getting severe, it is important to keep building on initiatives that make citizens want to continue to live with happiness and safety here in Kawasaki and to have pride and affection for the city.

To make Kawasaki this kind of city we have to maintain the importance of services necessary for our daily life such as; not only welfare services but also prevention from disaster and crime to protect our life and property.

The people who know best about the attractions and problems of Kawasaki are you, the people of Kawasaki. "The Community for the Community" is the basic idea of the Kawasaki City. Certain eyes of the people in the region become mainsprings, "Community Power" which is the prime source of power for town-life improvement. To make it easier to allow the people of Kawasaki to exercise this "Community Power", access to ward offices, the main channel to communicating to Kawasaki City Administration is being improved.

We encourage people of the citizens' groups to work lively and actively for raising children, supporting the elderly, dealing with the environment and so on. We support the citizens activity groups and will continue to promote the establishment of citizens' assembly in each ward and to make ward offices the center for community improvement.

In this autumn a Contact Center, which will act as a kind of customer care center for citizens, will be opened. Besides offering consultation and responding to basic questions, the Contact Center will also be able to contact specialists on behalf of citizens to deal with complex issues.

We are also trying to shape new plans for other things such as a Resident's Voting System. We have made an important step of the “Ordinances of the Local Autonomous Body”. We make every effort to make it easier for citizens exercise "Community Power". Together citizens and Kawasaki City Administration will make a hand and hand effort to make it possible that citizens can easily exercise their community power.

188

**Japan Open Air Folk House Museum**

( 川崎市立日本民家園 )

The Japan Open Air Folk House Museum is an outdoor museum with a collection of old Japanese houses in Ikuta Ryokuchi Park in Tama Ward.

It was opened in 1967 in order to preserve traditional housing that has been decreasing in numbers for future posterity.

At the Japan Open Air Folk House Museum you can see 25 buildings including typical private houses from Eastern Japan, a watermill hut, a boatman's hut, a store-house on stilts, a kabuki stage and so on. Of these 25 buildings 18 have actually been designated as important national or provincial cultural assets. These buildings that you can see at the museum were moved and then re-assembled here according to traditional methods to restore them to their original condition. The buildings are mostly from the Eastern area of Japan but there are also examples from a wider area including from the prefectures of Iwate, Yamagata, Gifu, Toyama, Mie and even from as far as Kagoshima. The origins of the buildings range in age from the 17th century to the 20th century.

A fire is always lit in the fireplace of one of the houses everyday. You can come and sit down by the

fireplace if you so wish.

Also within the Japan Open Air Folk House Museum there is an exhibition room where you can learn about things related to the folk houses.

The Japan Open Air Folk House Museum is a 12-minute walk from Mukogaoka-yuen Station on the Odakyu line.

The entrance fee is 500 yen for adults, 300 yen for students and it's free for those aged 65 and over as well as for those of junior high school age and younger.

It is open from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

The Japan Open Air Folk House Museum is closed on Mondays and days following national holidays. When Monday is a national holiday it will be open on the Monday but then closed the following Tuesday. It is also closed during the New Year holiday period.

## 189 Kawasaki Marien & its vicinity

(川崎マリエン)

Kawasaki Marien and the facilities nearby that are located in Higashi-Ougishima in Kawasaki Ward. At Kawasaki Marien there is an observation terrace, 51 meters above ground level from which, on a fine day, you can see across Tokyo Bay to as far as Chiba.

It costs 300 yen to enter the observation terrace for people aged 15 and over while it costs 150 yen for elementary and junior high school students.

Connected to Kawasaki Marien is a barbecue facility. This barbecue area is open for use to anyone as long as the person applying to use it is aged over 20 years old. To apply to use the barbecue area please send your application along with a returnable postcard stating the day you wish to use it, your name, address, phone number and the number of people who will use the barbecue facility. The address to send your request to is "Kawasaki Marien"

38-1, Higashi-Ougishima, Kawasaki ward, and the zip code is 210-0869.

Please send applications between the 1st and 7th of the month one month earlier in which you wish to use the barbecue facility. One barbecue site will be allotted to each application but if there are a lot of applications then the sites will be allotted by a lottery system. When there are sites available after the application due date, you can apply for it by telephone from the 15th in the month before the month you wish to use the BBQ facility.

It is free to use the barbecue area. There are metal plates, grill racks and charcoal pokers that you can borrow for free. However you have to bring your own food, charcoal, picnic mats and so on.

From March to June and from September to November the time you can use the BBQ facility are from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Also nearby to the BBQ area is Higashi-Ougishima's Nishi-Koen Park, where you can enjoy fishing and children can also enjoy playing in the wide area of greenery.

To get to Kawasaki Marien take the bus with the destination "Higashi-Ougishima Junkan" at the bus terminal near the east exit of the JR Kawasaki Station and get off the bus at "Kawasaki Marien Mae".

If you have any questions about Kawasaki Marien please call 044-287-6000.

Kawasaki Marien is closed on Mondays. (Except when a national holiday falls on Monday. In this case, the museum is open on the holiday and is closed the next day, Tuesday)

## Foreign Residents' Counseling Service

The Kawasaki International Association offers free consultation for foreign residents concerning daily living and problems. The service is free and confidential.

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.:

Language: English Tuesday-Friday      Chinese: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Korean: Tuesday, Thursday      Tagalog: Tuesday, Wednesday

Spanish: Tuesday, Thursday      Portuguese: Tuesday, Friday

Issued by The Kawasaki International Association

2-2 Kizuki Gion Cho, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki 211-0033      Kawasaki International Center

Tel044-435-7000 Fax044-435-7010      E-mail:kian@bremen.or.jp HP URL:http://www.bremen.or.jp/kian/