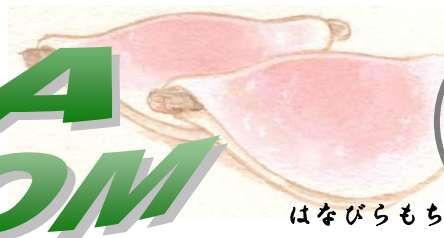


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Edited by: Information Desk for Foreign Residents, Jichi Bunka-ka, Iruma City Office, Tel: 04-2964-1111 ext. 2146



NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

I wish everyone all happiness and prosperity in the New Year

Last year, many regions in Japan faced disasters like typhoons, and earthquakes. While recognizing once again how powerful nature is, I wish a prompt recovery of affected areas. In Iruma, the year 2018 saw lots of achievements made by the citizens which we can be proud of. Let me introduce some examples. In the National Temomi Tea Contest, Tsuyoshi Nakajima won the First Prize and Iruma's group won the Production Area Prize. In November, Yota Kanno, who used to belong to the Iruma Youth Sumo Club, became the national student yokozuna champion. Shugo Imahira, a professional golfer who lives in Iruma, topped the Japan prize money standings. Congratulations!

The city of Iruma is now working on the master plan for redevelopment and reallocation of public facilities, looking toward the future 30 years from now. The City will start the briefing sessions for the citizens on the draft Public Facilities Management Plan and the draft City Office Building Development Plan from the end of this month. I would like to move forward for a sustainable city administration without degrading municipal services.

We will continue making efforts to make Iruma the "Cultural City full of Aromatic Green."

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Tatsuo Tanaka, Mayor of Iruma City

*The above is the abstract of the original in Japanese.



YOU CAN GET CITY CERTIFICATES AT CONVENIENCE STORES WITH YOUR 'MY NUMBER' CARD

From January 15 (Tue) and after, you will be able to obtain your Juminhyo (resident certificate), kazei shomeisho (certificate of taxation), nozei shomeisho (certificate of tax payment) and inkan shomei (certificate of personal seal) at any convenience store in Japan any day from 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. with your 'MY NUMBER' card. As you know, these certificates are required for immigration procedures. Now you don't have to take a day off to visit the city office to get them.



This is a huge convenience for everyone!

However, you need to have an IC-embedded 'My Number Card' with your photo. The paper number notification card will not work for this purpose. To get the IC card, apply using an application form enclosed with the number notification card (free of charge). If you have lost the form, you can download one at

<http://www.city.iruma.saitama.jp/kurashi/todokede/jyuminhyo/1000385.html>. After receiving a notice from the City Office saying the card is ready, come to the City Office to pick it up.

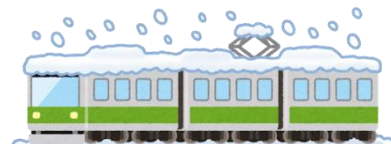
Inquiries: Joho Seisaku-ka (Section for Information Policy)

GET READY FOR HEAVY SNOWFALL

In Kanto, we have snow mainly in January and February. Last year more than 10 centimeters of snow settled in Iruma on January 22, that caused lots of damages including collision accidents and falls of pedestrians due to slippery conditions and injuries while clearing snow.

To avoid snow damage, it is important to get ready before it starts to snow. Change summer tires to winter tires at the beginning of winter. Refrain from going outside on a heavy snow. If you need to walk on a snowy day, wear snow boots or ice grippers on your shoes. Shorten your stride. Look out for snow sliding from roofs. Roads are icy especially on the bridges. Allow enough time because there can be major delay of transportation. Have a safe and happy winter!

Inquiries: Kiki Kanri-ka (Section for Crisis Management)



Shimin-ka Opening on Saturdays: January 12 & 26, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Report of moving-in/moving-out; Issuance of certificate of residence (juminhyo)/ family register (koseki); Registration of seal/issuance of certificate of registered seal; Report of birth, death, marriage, divorce and other family register-related events

This Month's Tax Payment (Due date: Jan. 31)

- ◆City and Prefecture Resident Tax (市県民税 shi ken-min zei)
- ◆National Health Insurance Premium (国民健康保険 kokumin kenko hoken)
- ◆Long-term Care Insurance Premium(介護保険 Kaigo hoken)
- ◆Medical Insurance Premium for Aged 75 + (後期高齢者医療保険 Koki Koreisha Iryo Hoken)

HOLIDAY MEDICAL SERVICES

If you or a family member becomes sick or injured on these days, visit a hospital on the list. Healthcare covered by health insurance is provided from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please make a call before visiting. These services are basically for patients who do not need to be hospitalized

	Name of hospital	Specialized in	Address	Tel.		Name of hospital	Specialized in	Address	Tel.
Jan 6	Kaneko Byoin	Internal medicine	Araku 680	04-2962-2204	Jan 20	Seibu Iruma Byoin	Internal medicine	Noda 3078-13	04-2932-1121
	Toyooka Daiichi Byoin	Surgery	Kurosu 1369-3	04-2964-6311		Toyooka Daiichi Byoin	Surgery	Kurosu 1369-3	04-2964-6311
13	Iruma Heart Byoin	Internal medicine	Koyata 1258-1	04-2934-5050	27	Kaneko Byoin	Internal medicine	Araku 680	04-2962-2204
	Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin	Surgery	Toyooka 1-8-3	04-2962-8256		Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin	Surgery	Toyooka 1-8-3	04-2962-8256
14	Kobayashi Byoin	Internal medicine	Miyadera 2417	04-2934-5121	Kyukyu Denwa Sodan (Emergency consultation hotline) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: Push #7119 or Dial 048-824-4199 . Nurses give advice on whether to seek hospital care for sudden illnesses or injuries.				
	Harada Byoin	Internal & Surg.	Toyooka 1-13-3	04-2962-1251					

INFLUENZA SEASON HAS COME

Infectious Disease Center of Saitama Prefecture announced that there were signs of influenza epidemic early December. To prevent droplet transmission, the authorities advise practicing "good coughing etiquette," which includes wearing a mask to avoid covering your mouth with hands when you cough or sneeze. **Inquiries:** Chiiki Hoken-ka (Section for Community Health)

READY FOR FINAL TAX RETURN FILLING WHICH STARTING NEXT MONTH

All employees in Japan received a 'proof of withholding tax' (源泉徴収票 'gensen choshu hyo') document this month. This thin, post-card sized document includes practically all information about your income and taxes based on the a form for year-end adjustment (年末調整 'nenmatsu chousei') you submitted to your company last month.

However, some workers miss the adjustment, probably because they work part-time, work for a company that does not take care of the adjustment, or they quit their job in the middle of the year. If you think you missed the adjustment, or if you have any other tax deductions such as a large amount of medical expenses and housing loan, you should file your final tax return (確定申告 'kakutei shinkoku'). You can submit your final tax return form at the City Office from the middle of month of February to March 15 (Fri).

Please be advised that as for overseas dependents for tax exemption, you need documents to prove family relationship (e.g. birth certificates) with a Japanese translation and a document to prove remittance with names of the remitter and the receiver and the amount and date of remittance. You also need 'MY NUMBER' to file the tax return. The Information Desk is happy to help your process.



NEW TENANTS BEING ACCEPTED FOR PREFECTURAL APARTMENTS

Application forms will be handed out between January 4 and 21 at the Eizenka in the Iruma City Office. If you apply by January 21, chosen by lottery and successfully verified, you can move into an apartment by the end of March. **Inquiries:** Toshi Keikaku-ka (Section for City Planning)

HOW ABOUT GROWING VEGETABLES FROM YOUR COUNTRY AT A CITIZEN'S FARM?

The City is inviting applications for the use of Citizens' Farms in Nakagami (144 lots) and Seibu (79 lots). You can use a lot for two years starting April 1, 2019, for an annual fee of 6,000 yen. Apply by sending an ofuku hagaki (reply-paid post card) to the Nogyo Shinko-ka in the City Office (postal code: 358-8511, Iruma City Office {this address is sufficient}) between January 4 and 21. Please specify which farm you want (Nakagami or Seibu), your address, name, telephone number and if you are currently using a lot, write the lot number. If the number of applications exceeds the number of lots available, users will be selected by lottery. An application guide is available on and after January 4 at the City Office and on the City's Website.

Inquiries: Nogyo Shiko-ka (Agriculture Promotion Section)

Get the latest news from **FBI**

Information on FM CHAPPY 77.7 MHz
Every Tuesday 7:00-7:30 p.m. in English,
1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:30 to 7:55 in Spanish and
2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:30 to 7:55 in Chinese.

Information Desk for Foreign Residents

Located on the second floor of the City Office.

English: Every Tuesday, Spanish: Every Wednesday
Chinese: January 10 (First Thursday of the month)

All from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Consultations by fax (04-2964-1720) or by e-mail (isociety@m.ictv.ne.jp) are welcome.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

KINOENE MARKET IN TOYOOKA & OGIMACHIYA and ANTIQUE MARKET AT ATAGO SHRINE

Both on January 27 (Sun). Kinoene Market will be held at stores along Apopo shopping street and Machiya shopping street. Participating stores showing a yellow banner will offer products and services for 500 yen. The Antique Market is held in the precincts of the Atago Shrine in the same area on the 27th day of every month, from 7:30 a.m.. **Inquiries:** Kinoe Market: Mr. Nishizawa, Apopo Machiya Machidukuri Club ☎ 090-4958-3375, Antique Market: <http://www.kottouichi.jp/atago-jinja.htm>

LOGGING AND SHIITAKE CULTIVATION

January 27 (Sun) at 10:00 a.m. at the Midori-no-mori Museum. Experience cutting of trees with a saw and cultivating Shiitake mushroom. Participation fee is 300 yen. Register by phone or on website (<http://saitama-midorinomori.jp/form/index.php>). School age children and older can participate. Numbers are limited to the first 20. **Inquiries:** Saitama Midori-no-mori Museum ☎ 04-2934-4396

TRY HAND-ROLLING OF TEA LEAVES

February 2 (Sat) between 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at City Museum



ALIT. 'Temomi' is a technique to dry tea leaves by kneading them on hoiro (a warm plate heated to moderate temperature). You can experience this process with the help of a local professional. Admission is free, and no prior registration is necessary. **Inquiries:** City Museum ALIT ☎ 04-2934-7711

WIND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

February 3 (Sun) at 9:30 a.m. at the Shimin Kaikan Hall. The Iruma Citizens' Orchestra and local elementary, junior high, and high school bands will perform their best. Admission is FREE! **Inquiries:** Shimin Kaikan Hall ☎ 04-2964-2411

'MAMEMAKI' PARTY FOR CHILDREN

February 3 (Sun) at 2:00 p.m. at the Jido (Children) Center. Small children will enjoy this traditional event in which they scatter roasted soybeans to drive demons away! Admission is FREE! Registration is not required. Numbers are limited to the first 70. **Inquiries:** the Jido (Children) Center ☎ 04-2963-9611

JAPANESE MUSIC CONCERT

February 3 (Sun) at 11:30 a.m. at the Sangyo Bunka Center. This is a good chance to listen to the harmony of the koto (Japanese harp), shamisen (guitar) and shakuhachi (bamboo flute). Admission is free. **Inquiries:** Chuo Kominkan ☎ 04-2964-2413

SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT THE CITY MUSEUM Life and Tools in Olden Days

Until February 13 (Wed) at the City Museum. The exhibition features photographs of life in Iruma in the olden days and tools used at that time. A special focus will be placed on tools used during the 1930s and 1960s. Visit the exhibition to learn what life was like in Iruma when your grandparents and parents were children. There is a corner where you can actually use some of the tools and toys and try on a kimono everyday during the exhibition period, and more events on weekends! You can try some old fashioned Japanese activities such as picture-card shows on January 6 and February 9 (at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) and listening to old records on January 19 and February 11 (between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.). Admission is free. **Inquiries:** City Museum 'ALIT' ☎ 04-2934-7711

