



Vol. 290
July
2015

Konnichiwa!

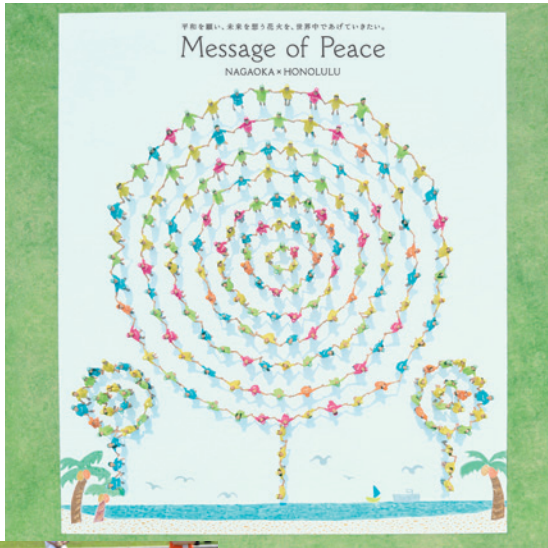
NAGAOKA

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URL: <http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/> (長岡市ウェブサイト) →
English (Nagaoka International Affairs Center) →
地球広場 (International Affairs Center) → **Konnichiwa Nagaoka**

Children's Peace Fireworks with Happy Smiles Let's Present Fireworks Together with Prayers for Peace

We Would Like to Present Nagaoka Fireworks around the World
with Our Prayers for Peace and with the Future in Mind



Nagaoka Fireworks symbolize a Message of Peace. The sister cities of Nagaoka and Honolulu will collaborate in presenting Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu on August 15th and 16th (Japan time) of this year, which marks the 70th year since the end of the Pacific War.


On June 13th, 202 elementary school children and 58 students from the Nagaoka Institute of Design, each wearing a colorful T-shirt, lined up to form a huge circle in the image of fireworks at the Nagaoka Civic Disaster Prevention Park. Joining hands, looking up at the sky, laughing, and shouting, they created shapes of Nagaoka Fireworks that will be displayed at Pearl Harbor.


On June 14th, a group of *origami*-loving people connected nearly 6,000 paper cranes on numerous strings at the Civic Cooperation Center. The cranes were donated by children from Omotemachi Elementary School and many other citizens. These paper cranes, known as *senbazuru* (one thousand cranes) will be displayed during the 70 Years of Peace Commemoration to be held at Pearl Harbor on August 15th and 16th (Japan time).


Major Features:


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Population and Households
As of June 1, 2015
(compared to the previous month)


277,623
(-207)


135,369
(-82)


142,254
(-125)


104,658
(+11)

The 2015 Nagaoka Festival

Saturday, August 1

Zenyasai (the celebration on the first night)

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

(1st Program) 6:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

* *Maebure* (Forerunner)

Harley-Davidson

(2nd Program) 6:10 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Special Program in Memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims, with Prayers for Recovery from Disaster, and for the Pursuit of Peace

* Baton Twirling

* *Taiko* Drumming

(3rd Program) 7:00 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.

* Parade

* Harley-Davidson

(4th Program) 7:25 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

* *Dai Minyô Nagashi* (Grand Folk Dance Parade)

Everyone is welcome to join *dai minyô nagashi*. Just come and join us.

(5th Program) 8:50 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

* *Mikoshi* (portable shrines)

* *Ohayashi* (festival music bands)

* *Taiko* Drumming



Tôrô Nagashi (Floating Paper Lanterns)

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Near Oimawashi Bridge on the Kaki River

Prayer Meeting for the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims

6:00 a.m. – Hiragata Park

7:00 a.m. – Shôfukuji Temple

Fireworks in Memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims

7:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Nagaoka Peace Forum

2:00 p.m. Aôre Nagaoka

Sunday, August 2

Fureai Friendship Plaza

(Daytime Programs)

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Aôre Nagaoka

* Parade 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

* Summer Music Festival 11:45 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

* Many Fun Programs 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m./4:00 p.m.

Ôte Street intersection, in front of Carnation Plaza, and *Nakadoma* (roofed open plaza) in Aôre Nagaoka, City Hall Complex

* Flea Market 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Suzuran Street

Fee: ¥500/3m x 1.8m ¥2,000/vehicle

Registration: By July 30 (Thurs.)

Suzuran Dôri *Shôtengai Jimukyoku* (Suzuran St. Shopping Mall Office)

Phone: 0258-32-2480 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m./weekdays)



Ôhanabi Taikai (Grand Fireworks Show)

7:20 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

On the Shinano Riverbanks between Chôsei Bridge and Ôte Ôhashi Bridge

Monday, August 3

Wampaku Omatsuri Hiroba (Wild Kids' Festival Plaza)

(Daytime Programs)

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, Central Street, and Aôre Nagaoka

* Many Fun Programs 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

* Many shows, fun programs, and food stalls at Ôte Street intersection, in front of Carnation Plaza, and *Nakadoma* (roofed open plaza) in Aôre Nagaoka, City Hall Complex

* Flea Market 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Suzuran Street Area

Fee: ¥500/3m x 1.8m

Registration: By July 30 (Thurs.)

Suzuran Dôri *Shôtengai Jimukyoku* (Suzuran St. Shopping Mall Office)

Phone: 0258-32-2480

(9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m./weekdays)

Ôhanabi Taikai (Grand Fireworks Show)

7:20 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

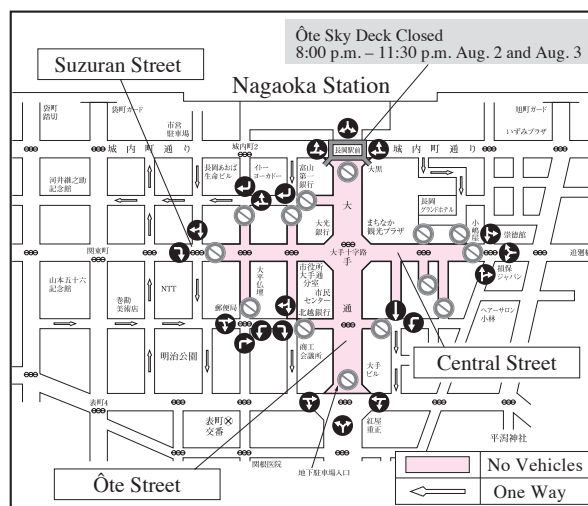
On the Shinano Riverbanks between Chôsei Bridge and Ôte Ôhashi Bridge

Traffic Restriction Hours during the Zenyasai Celebration and Daytime Programs

Aug. 1 (Saturday) 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Aug. 2 (Sunday) 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 3 (Monday) 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



The Origin of the Nagaoka Festival

August 1st, 1945 was a sad and distressing day Nagaokans will never forget. Starting at 10:30 p.m., a total of 125 B-29 bombers flew over Nagaoka and dropped approximately 163,500 firebombs for one hour and 40 minutes. Flames turned the land literally into a deluge of fire. The bombing claimed 1,486 lives and burned down 80% of the city.

After the Pacific War ended, the once-discontinued Nagaoka Fireworks were revived during the Nagaoka City Festival for Restoration from War Devastation, which was held in 1947. The annual Nagaoka Festival has its origin in this festival. In memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid victims and in pursuit of everlasting peace, the Nagaoka Festival (so renamed in 1951) has continued on August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd every year since then. The fireworks display on August 2nd and 3rd has gone on since 1948.

On August 1st, the city holds the Annual Citizens' Rally for Declaring Nagaoka an Anti-Nuclear Peace-Advocated City. Many citizens participate in this rally in order to share with and convey to future generations the misery of war and the significance of peace.

A lantern-floating ceremony is also held annually on the Kaki River to remember and comfort the souls of the air-raid victims. It is said many victims rushed into the water of Kaki River, where some lost their lives during the air raid.

In the Nagaoka War Damage Exhibit Hall, various materials related to the 1945 air raid and the people's daily life during the hardships of the Pacific War are permanently on display.



In Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Municipal Consolidations The Nagaoka Festival Grand Fireworks Show Will Become a Bigger Spectacle with New Features

On August 2nd and 3rd, Japan's largest scale fireworks show is held along the banks of the Shinano River in memory of the people who lost their lives during the 1945 air raid. The spectacular display of 20,000 shots of fireworks draws over 800,000 spectators from home and abroad.

On both days of the 2015 show, three shots of *Shô-Sanjakudama* will be launched in sequence together with the Niagara Falls fireworks at 8:30 p.m. and one shot of *Shô-Sanjakudama* with the Super Grand Star Mine at 9:00 p.m.

Another new kind of fireworks will also be launched to a song entitled "*Furusato Wa Hitotsu* (The Earth, Our Only Hometown)" at 7:50 p.m. on August 2nd and 8:40 p.m. on August 3rd. Furthermore, the Super Grand Wide Star Mine and Super Grand Miracle Star Mine will be further developed with extravagant new arrangements.

Highlights of the Nagaoka Grand Fireworks Show include:
- *Shô-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell fireworks)

When a giant 3-foot-diameter *Shô-Sanjakudama* (300 kilograms) is launched up to an altitude of 600 meters above the ground, a huge 650-meter-diameter flower opens. This fireworks shell contains 80 kilograms of gunpowder. A total of eight shots of *Shô-Sanjakudama*, which are the embodiment of the most sophisticated skills of Nagaoka's pyrotechnicians, will be launched this year during the two fireworks festival nights (four shots for each night).

- Niagara Falls

In the image of Niagara Falls, the 650-meter-long fireworks, which are set up on Chôsei Bridge and Ôte Ôhashi Bridge over the Shinano River, flow down into the river. The

spectacular Niagara Falls are shown a total of four times on August 2nd and 3rd.

- *Kome Hyappyô* (One Hundred Sacks of Rice) Fireworks (100 shots of size-10 fireworks shells)

Kome Hyappyô (One Hundred Sacks of Rice) Fireworks were created in 1986, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the modern municipality of Nagaoka City. Celebrating the centennial of the modern municipality in 2006, 100 shots in sequence were successfully accomplished.

- Vesuvius Grand Star Mine

With technology possessed exclusively by Nagaoka's pyrotechnicians, the sight of 400 – 500 shots launched in the space of two minutes can be said to be a re-creation of the great eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in Italy.

- Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery

Wishing for a safe recovery from the damage caused by the Great Chûtetsu Earthquake on October 23rd, 2004, phoenix-shaped fireworks are displayed over a span of 2.8 kilometers in a line high above the ground.

- *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks

Commemorating the 2009 broadcast of *Ten Chi Jin*, a long-running period TV drama, *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks are shot up from nine locations, filling the summer night sky with a sparkling glow. The highly artistic fireworks in a magnificent scale depict the life of Kanetsugu Naoe, a *samurai* warrior who had a special connection to old Nagaoka.



The Nagaoka Grand Fireworks Show

In order to ensure the safety of fireworks viewing sites, spectators are required to obey the following rules:



Each person's space is limited to approximately 100 centimeters long by 80 centimeters wide. Refrain from reserving a larger space than you actually need. Do not use rocks or concrete blocks to hold down the edges of a sheet.



Smoking is not allowed in fireworks viewing sites.



Do not drink too many beverages (alcoholic or otherwise).



If you use a tripod, make sure that it is at an appropriate height that does not obstruct the view of other spectators.

Decide on a meeting location with the people accompanying you so that no one gets lost.



Pets are not allowed.



High heels are dangerous for walking on the grassy, sandy, and slanting turf of the riverbanks.



Tables and chairs are not allowed because they may obstruct the view of other spectators.



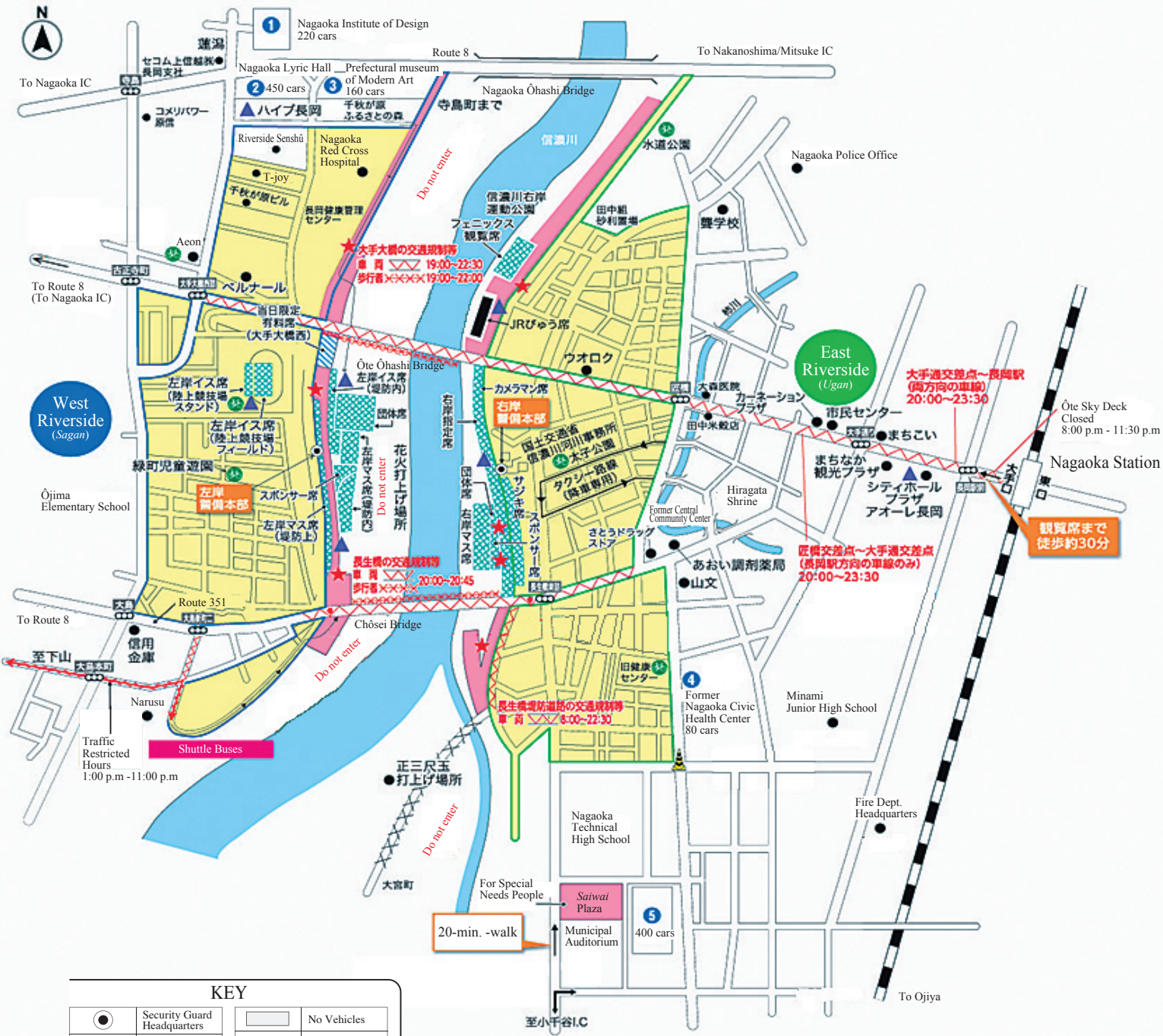
Use public transportation or shuttle bus services. Parking is not allowed near fireworks viewing sites.



Drive carefully and check updated traffic information. Traffic is heavily congested after the fireworks show.

Nagaoka Festival Grand Fireworks Viewing Sites and Traffic Restriction

Restricted Hours:
Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Parking is available at ① - ⑤ (¥2,000/car)(from 10:00 a.m.)



KEY			
	Security Guard Headquarters		No Vehicles
	Security Guards		Shuttle Bus Route
	Prepaid Areas with Reserved Sections		Do Not Enter
	Tickets available at the site on the days		No Vehicles during Restricted Hours
	Free Areas (open tentatively at 2:00 p.m.)		No Pedestrians
	Souvenir Shops		One-Way
	Temporary Parking Lots ①-⑤ (¥2,000/car)		
	Temporary Bicycle Parking Areas (free)		

Traffic Restriction on the Bridges (Aug. 2 and Aug. 3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Chōsei Bridge
 No Pedestrians 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
 No Vehicles 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.</p> | <p>Phoenix Ôhashi Bridge
 No Pedestrians 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 No Bicycles 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Ôte Ôhashi Bridge
 No Pedestrians 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 No Vehicles 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.</p> | |

2015 Fireworks Schedule <http://nagaokamatsuri.com>

7:20 p.m. White Chrysanthemum Fireworks (3 shots)
In Memory of War Victims and For the Pursuit of Peace in the World
Sponsored by the Cities of Nagaoka and Honolulu

Sunday, August 2

1. 7:25 Niagara Falls & Super Grand Star Mine
2. :29 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
3. :31 Size 10 (30 shots)
4. :33 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
5. :35 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
6. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
7. :40 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
8. :43 Size 10 (61 shots)
9. :46 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
10. :50 "Furusato Wa Hitotsu" Fireworks
11. :54 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
12. :56 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
13. :58 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
14. 8:00 Super Grand Wide Star Mine
15. :03 Size 4 – 20 (25 shots)
16. :06 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
17. :09 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
18. :12 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
19. :15 Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for Recovery
20. :20 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
21. :22 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
22. :24 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
23. :27 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
24. :30 Niagara Falls
25. :30 Size 30, *Shô-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell)
3 shots in sequence
26. :34 Size 10 (10 shots)
27. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
28. :40 "Kono Sora no Hana" Fireworks
29. :44 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
30. :47 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
31. :50 Super Grand Miracle Star Mine
32. :54 Star Mine
33. :56 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
34. :58 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
35. 9:00 Size 30, *Shô-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell)
with Super Grand Star Mine
36. :03 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
37. :05 Size 10 (30 shots)
38. :07 *Kome Hyappyô* Fireworks
Size 10 (100 shots in sequence)
39. :10 *Takumi* (Artisan) Fireworks

Monday, August 3

1. 7:25 Niagara Falls & Super Grand Star Mine
2. :29 Size 10 (30 shots)
3. :32 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
4. :35 Grand Star Mine
5. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
6. :40 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
7. :42 Size 10 (95 shots in sequence)
8. :45 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
9. :47 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
10. :50 *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks
11. :54 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
12. :56 Star Mine
13. :58 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
14. 8:00 Super Grand Wide Star Mine
15. :03 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
16. :06 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
17. :09 Twin Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
18. :12 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
19. :15 Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for Recovery
20. :22 Size 10 (15 shots)
21. :24 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
22. :27 Grand Star Mine
23. :30 Niagara Falls
24. :30 Size 30, *Shô-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell)
3 shots in sequence
25. :33 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
26. :35 Size 10 (24 shots)
27. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
28. :40 "Furusato Wa Hitotsu" Fireworks
29. :44 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
30. :47 Size 10 (1 shot) and Size 20 (3 successive shots)
31. :50 Super Grand Miracle Star Mine
32. :54 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
33. :56 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
34. :58 Size 7 (4 shots) and Size 10 (12 shots)
35. 9:00 Size 30, *Shô-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell)
with Super Grand Star Mine
36. :02 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
37. :05 Star Mine
38. :07 Size 10 (100 shots in sequence)
39. :10 *Takumi* (Artisan) Fireworks

Your Cooperation Is Most Appreciated!

- "Park and Ride" is recommended to reduce traffic jams during the Fireworks Show. Park your vehicle at a designated parking lot (e.g. Municipal Auditorium in Saiwai-chô ⑤, Echigo Hillside Park, Koshiji and Mishima Branch Offices, etc.) and use a shuttle bus service or a train to get to a fireworks viewing site.
- Park your bicycle at a designated free bicycle parking area.
● (See p. 4)
- The gates for *muryô seki* (free areas) and for *yûryô seki* (prepaid areas) will open at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively. The gates may open earlier than these designated times depending on congestion.
- Approximately 5,000 volunteers will clean up the fireworks viewing sites in the early mornings following the fireworks shows.

The Nagaoka Civic Center

2-2-6 Ôte Street, Nagaoka City (Phone: 0258-39-2763)

Hours: Every Day Except for the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Nagaoka City International Affairs Center (*Chikyû Hiroba*) (1st Floor)

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Phone: 0258-39-2714 Fax: 0258-39-2715
E-mail: kouryu-c@city.nagaoka.lg.jp



Consultations Offered for International Residents

Various services are provided for international residents. The center is a place where international residents can find help and support. The staff are ready to respond to you either in English or easy Japanese. No appointment is necessary for consultations. Feel free to stop by if you have any difficulties, worries, or questions.

Japanese Learning Programs

Nihongo Kôza

A free trial lesson is being offered. Please call ahead. The 1st term of classes for the 2015 fiscal year is being offered from April 2015 to September 2015.

Morning Classes (Tuesdays & Fridays)

* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

July	3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28	¥1,600
Aug.	4, 7, 11, 18, 21, 25, 28	¥1,400
Sept.	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 25, 29	¥1,600

Sunday Classes

* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (120 minutes)

* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

July	5, 12, 19, 26	¥1,600
Aug.	9, 16, 23, 30	¥1,600
Sept.	6, 13, 20	¥1,200



Nihongo Hiroba

Volunteers help international residents learn Japanese at this free program during the following sessions:

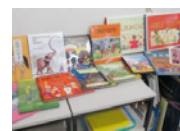
- Sundays 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Collection of Picture Storybooks of the World

It would be interesting to learn about culture, traditions, and ideas unique to various countries around the world. We would like to welcome you to the collection of picture storybooks of the world that has been set up at the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*. The collection includes picture storybooks from 41

countries. These picture storybooks will also help you learn many different languages of the world. You can enjoy reading them at *Chikyû Hiroba* or you can even borrow some. Come and visit *Chikyû Hiroba* and enjoy the collection.



A Guide to Swimming Pools (You can use the Internet to find each location.)

Yûkyûzan Swimming Pool 悠久山プール

Phone: 0258-35-6368

336 Yûkyû-chô, Nagaoka City

July 4 (Sat.) – Sept. 13 (Sun.) Closed: Tuesdays

Children's Outdoor Pool: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Indoor Heated Pool: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fees: From ¥150 to ¥400, depending on age groups

Kibôgaoka Swimming Pool 希望が丘プール

Phone: 0258-28-1775

2156-1 Nishizu, Nagaoka City

July 4 (Sat.) – Sept. 13 (Sun.)

Hours: Mostly 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Fees: From ¥150 to ¥400, depending on age groups

Washima B&G Kaiyô Center Swimming Pool 和島B&G海洋センタープール

Phone: 0258-74-2257

5402 Shimazaki, Nagaoka City

Until Sept. 6 (Sun.) July 27 (Mon.) – Aug. 31 (Mon.): 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Other weekdays, Sat., Sun., and Holiday: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fees: ¥100 for high school students and older

¥50 for elementary and junior high school students

Free for others

Koshiji B&G Kaiyô Center Swimming Pool

越路B&G海洋センタープール

Phone: 0258-92-4594

2281 Fudôsa, Nagaoka City

Until Sept. 6 (Sun.)

Closed on Mondays (except for July 20) and July 21 (Tues.)

July 14 – Aug. 31 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

July and Aug. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(except for Sundays and Holidays)

Fees: From ¥50 to ¥210, depending on hours and age groups

Echigo Kawaguchi Onsen Pool

えちご川口温泉プール

Phone: 0258-89-4511

2514-4 Nakayama, Kawaguchi, Nagaoka City

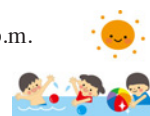
July 18 (Sat.) – Aug. 23 (Sun.) 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed: July 21 (Tues.) – July 24 (Fri.),

Aug. 4 (Tues.), and 18 (Tues.)

Fees: ¥550 – ¥1,300

depending on age groups for using the onsen/pool





Now Accepting Applications for
The 27th Annual Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers
Hosted by *Mutsumi Kai* and the Nagaoka International Exchange Association



Date: Sunday, September 27, 2015 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Venue: Nagaoka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Building, 2nd Floor Hall
 2-1-1 Sakanoue-machi Phone: 0258-32-4500
 (A 7-minute walk from West-Side Exit of Nagaoka Station)
 Prizes: Certificate, Plaque, and Gift Coupons
 (¥10,000, ¥20,000, ¥30,000, or ¥50,000)

Eligibility: International residents living in Niigata Prefecture
 Topic: Free (speech to be no longer than 5 minutes)
 Admission: Free
 Contestants: 10 (on a first-come, first-served basis)
 Application Period: July 1 (Wed.) – Aug. 20 (Thurs.)
 Please send your manuscripts to: Ms. Miwako Kobayashi
 1-10-3 Omote-machi, Nagaoka City 940-0071
 Phone/Fax: 0258-36-0114 E-mail: miwakowe@nct9.ne.jp

The Summer Traffic Accident Prevention Campaign

The summer Traffic Accident Prevention Campaign will be held from Wednesday, July 22nd to Friday, July 31st. Reckless driving at excessive speeds and drunk driving should be strictly avoided.

You are also required to ride a bicycle safely. Some bad and dangerous examples of riding a bicycle are:

- Riding while holding an umbrella.
- Riding while using a cell phone.
- Using earphones or headsets to listen to music while riding.
- Avoid riding a bicycle in these dangerous ways.

Safety Tips for Playing with Sparklers

Playing with sparklers, called *hanabi* in Japanese, is a pleasure for many people in the summer. You are advised to keep in mind the following safety tips when handling sparklers:

- Choose an appropriate location and time that will not annoy other people.
- Children should always be accompanied by adults when handling sparklers.
- Be sure to follow the instructions provided with the packages of sparklers.
- Do not disentangle or unravel sparklers.
- Avoid lighting sparklers when it is windy.
- Do not light many sparklers all at once.
- Put out used sparklers in a bucket of water in order to completely extinguish them.
- Be sure to clean up after playing with sparklers.



Subsidies for Single-Parent Families

In order to support single-parent families, the city provides subsidies for child rearing (*jidō fuyō teatei*/児童扶養手当) and medical expenses (*iryōhi josei*/医療費助成). Detailed information about eligibility and registration is available at the Citizens' Support Division (Phone: 0258-39-2338) and the Social Welfare Division (Phone: 0258-39-2319) respectively. If you need any assistance for applications, please contact the staff of the International Affairs Center, *Chikyū Hiroba* on Ôte Street. (See p.6)

The National Health Insurance System

The National Health Insurance System is a mutually supporting system in which members share their premiums to cover their medical expenses for injuries or illnesses.

Company employees or organization members can use employees' health insurance policies. Those who are not members of these insurance policies are required to apply for National Health Insurance.

Registered foreign nationals whose authorized period of stay is one year or more are required to apply for the National Health Insurance Policy.

The notice regarding your premiums for fiscal 2015 will be sent to the head of your household in the middle of July. If your premium is paid by being deducted from your pension or if your premium is transferred from your bank account, you will not receive a notice. Please be sure to make your payment by the due date.

If you have been unemployed due to bankruptcy or displacement, your premium may be reduced. In this case, you are required to apply for premium reduction. If it is difficult for you to pay your premium due to some specific reasons, please contact *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*, the National Health Insurance and Pension Division.

Your new beige health insurance card, which is to be used from this August, will be sent to you via postal registered mail in the middle of July.

For further information: *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*
 (National Health Insurance and Pension Division)
 Phone: 0258-39-2220

Kawaguchi Festival

July 25 (Sat.) and 26 (Sun.)

- Festival Plaza
 Kawaguchi Branch Office
- Samurai Warrior Parade
 - *Mikoshi* Portable Shrine Parade
 - Grand Fireworks Display
 - Many Fun Programs

For further information: *Sangyō Kensetsu Ka*
 (Industrial Construction Division)
 Kawaguchi Branch Office
 Phone: 0258-89-3113



Beach Volleyball Competition

Aug. 9 (Sun.) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Venue: Teradomari *Chûdô* (Central) Beach
 Teams: 18 teams (4 adults per team)
 (on a first-come, first-served basis)
 Application Period: By July 27 (Mon.)

Fee: ¥3,000 per team
 For further information:
 Regional Promotion Division,
 Teradomari Branch Office
 Phone: 0258-75-3111



Major Emergency Medical Facilities

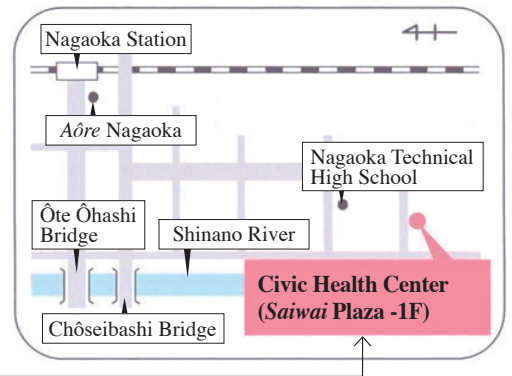
Major General Hospitals

Nagaoka *Chû Sôgô Byôin* (Central General Hospital) 0258-35-3700

Nagaoka *Sekijûji Byôin* (Red Cross Hospital) 0258-28-3600

Tachikawa *Sôgô Byôin* (General Hospital) 0258-33-3111

Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza -1F*)
2-1-1 Saiwai-chô (0258-39-7508)



Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza - 1F*)

Facilities	Departments	Hours
Clinic for Sundays, Holidays, and Nights (0258-37-1199) For obstetrics and gynecology (<i>san fujin ka</i>), the staff at this facility will give information about which clinic is assigned for each Sunday or holiday.	Internal Medicine (<i>Naika</i>)	(Monday – Friday) 6:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
	Pediatrics (<i>Shônika</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
	Surgery (<i>Geka</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dental Clinic for Sundays and Holidays (0258-33-9644)	Dentistry (<i>Shika</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Chûetsu Center for Children's Emergency Treatment (0258-86-5099)	Pediatrics (<i>Shônika</i>)	(Monday – Saturday) 6:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

The Revised Road Traffic Law

New traffic rules for riding bicycles were implemented on June 1st, 2015. Cyclists should always observe and follow traffic lights and signs. Drunk-riding is prohibited. Cyclists' reckless acts should be prohibited to keep our traffic environment safe.

Major Hazardous Acts

- Disregarding traffic lights
- Entering a railroad crossing after the crossing bars have been lowered
- Ignoring stop signs
- Violating riding rules on walkways
- Riding a bicycle that is not equipped with properly-functioning brakes
- Riding while intoxicated



Cyclists who repeatedly commit these hazardous acts two or more times within a span of three years are required to attend a cyclist safety lecture session. Cyclists who refuse to attend the lecture session will be fined up to ¥50,000.

Kome Hyappyô Matsuri (One Hundred Sacks of Rice Festival)

Saturday, October 3

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

How would you like to join the historic procession by playing a role of one of these characters?

- ① Lord Kenshin Uesugi in his childhood and his mother
- ② Yatarô Onikojima (a lancer)
- ③ Lord Tadanari Makino and Lady Makino
- ④ Princess Makino (Tadakuni's Daughter)
- ⑤ Kanetsugu Naoe
- ⑥ Lady Osen (Kanetsugu's wife)

Fees: ¥5,000 for ①
¥3,000 for ②④⑤⑥
¥6,000 for ③

Application: By Aug. 19 (Wed.)

Audition: Aug. 30 (Sun.)

Matsuri Shinkô Ka

(Festival Promotion Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2221



Nagaoka's Shining Stars ~Preserving and Creating Nagaoka's Treasures~

Mr. Kazuo Takahashi of the Tochio District
Representing the Managing Association of the *Todo no Mori Meisui* (Forest Spring) Park.

In 1985, the Environment Agency recognized the *Todo no Mori Meisui* Park in the Tochio District as one of the 100 best spring water locations in Japan. The spring is blessed with cool (about 8 degrees Celsius throughout the year) and clear water, which attracts approximately 30,000 visitors per year. Visitors can enjoy drinking its delicious water and filling containers with the spring water to take home. The forest has been preserved as a sanctuary where the Divine is believed to reside to supply this continuous water source.

Mr. Takahashi: The forest spring has continued to provide precious water indispensable for our lives. The managing association was established in 1985 in order to protect the environment around the spring. We are working hard to vitalize our community by creating *Todo no Mori* brand-name goods and publicizing them in Niigata Prefecture and around Japan. We will continue to preserve our precious spring water and promote its special quality throughout Japan.

