



Vol. 295  
December  
2015

*Konnichiwa!*

# NAGAOKA

International Affairs Division, Nagaoka City Office  
2-2-6 Ôte Street, Nagaoka City Phone: 0258-39-2207 Fax: 0258-39-2280  
E-mail: intlexchange@city.nagaoka.lg.jp

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

## Now, What Are We Going to Do Here?

The Nagaoka Youth Employment Organization



Aiming to ensure that younger generations continue to live in Nagaoka, return to Nagaoka, or move into Nagaoka, the city established the Nagaoka Youth Employment Organization on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The organization will help the younger generations to develop our community into an attractive place to live. In collaboration with the business, academic, and administrative sectors, the younger generations are expected to promote regional rejuvenation in Nagaoka.

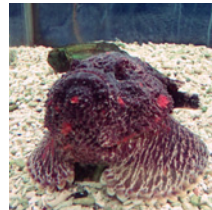
## Enjoy Your Holidays by Exploring the Ocean at the Teradomari Aquarium



Doesn't it look like Santa Claus because of its red body with white socks?



A "marine girl" dressed in a Santa Claus costume feeds hungry fish at 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. until Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.



### Special Exhibit

*Oni Daruma Okoze* for 2016, the Year of Monkey  
Until March 31 (Thurs.)

### *Oni Daruma Okoze*

*Oni Daruma Okoze* (sting fish, stone fish, or scorpion fish) is also called monkey fish in English.

### Teradomari Aquarium

9353-158 Hanatate, Teradomari

Phone: 0258-75-4936

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Every Day

Closed: Dec. 31 (Thurs.) and Jan. 1 (Fri.)

Admission: ¥700 for adults

¥450 – ¥200 for children

### Population and Households

As of November 1, 2015

(compared to the previous month)

277,013 (-56)	135,112 (-22)	141,901 (-34)	104,867 (+85)

### Major Features:

Mayor Tamio Mori's Commitment to His Fifth Term	p. 2
Office Hours during the Year-End and New Year's Holidays	p. 2
The "My Number" System	p. 3
A Guide to School Enrollment	p. 3
Seasonal Events	p. 6
Safety Tips for Snowy Winter Months	p. 7
Major Emergency Medical Facilities	p. 8
Warnings against Drunk Driving	p. 8

## Gathering the Citizens' Strength to Create a Happy Future for Coming Generations



### Mayor Tamio Mori's Commitment to His Fifth Term

Thanks to the immense support of the citizens of Nagaoka, I am honored to serve my fifth mayoral term. Based on my firm resolutions, I am determined to make every possible effort to further promote the city administration.

One of my major challenges is to prevent depopulation. It is my responsibility to develop Nagaoka into a place where every citizen, from infants to the elderly, can lead a safe and happy life here.

My first urgent commitment is to secure various

employment opportunities. Secondly, we should provide a sound and proper educational and child-rearing environment. In order for us to nurture all children, our hopes for the future, we will invest in their future.

I will encourage and support Nagaokans from our 11 districts to form a team to make the best use of regional resources including their products, businesses, manpower, and community strength to step forward.

In order to make Nagaoka the best place to live in Japan, let me play the role of a powerful locomotive leading you all toward further regional revitalization.

Tamio Mori

## Office Hours during the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays



Offices	Closed
General Information Desks 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, East Wing City Hall Plaza – <i>Aôre</i> Nagaoka	Dec. 31 (Thurs.) – Jan. 2 (Sat.)
West Service Center (Riverside Senshû) East Service Center (Across Plaza Nagaoka)	Dec. 31 (Thurs.) – Jan. 2 (Sat.) Dec. 31 (Thurs.) – Jan. 2 (Sat.)
Nagaoka Civic Center	Dec. 29 (Tues.) – Jan. 3 (Sun.)



## Trash Collection Days during the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays

**Trash will not be collected from Dec. 31 (Thurs.) to Jan. 3 (Sun.). Trash cannot be put out during this period.**

Please note that the trash collection schedule during the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays is different from the usual schedule. Trash will be collected until Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Trash collection will start again from Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> according to the Calendar of Collection Days. Copies of the calendar in Chinese, English, Japanese, and Portuguese are available

at the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. Trash can be put out only on the designated days for your neighborhood.

Twigs, leaves, and grass will not be collected in January and February. Used clothing and pieces of cloth will not be collected between January and March.



## The Year-End Income Tax Adjustment for Salaried Workers

### *Kyûyo Shotokusha Shotokuzei Nematsu Chôsei*

(給与所得者所得税年末調整・きゅうよしょとくしゃ しょとくぜい ねんまつ ちょうせい)

If you are employed, your income tax is customarily collected from your monthly wages. However, the total amount of income tax you paid in a year does not always correspond to the exact amount of income tax that should be imposed.

The reason for this inconsistency is that the taxable amount of your income has been calculated, on a pro-forma basis, without deducting tax exemption amounts. Various insurance premiums and the number of dependent family members are deciding factors of tax exemptions.

Therefore, all salaried workers are requested to submit declaration forms for the amount of insurance premiums they paid for the year and the number of their dependent family members for the year. Then

the exact amount of their income tax will be adjusted at the end of the year.

Around the end of each year, your employer will give you two forms of declaration on which you should fill in necessary information about your insurance premiums and dependent family members.

If you have paid an excessive amount of income tax, the refund will be made to your final paycheck of the year. On the contrary, the insufficient amount will be collected from your final paycheck of the year.

For further information, please contact the staff in charge at your workplace or the Nagaoka Tax Office/*Zeimusho*. (1-3-88 Senzai Phone: 0258-35-2070) <http://www.nta.go.jp/taxanswer/gensen/gensen33.htm>

# The “My Number” (Individual Number) ID System (The Social Security and Tax Number System)

According to the Act on the Use of Numbers to Identify a Specific Individual in Administrative Procedures, the Japanese government will start the Social Security and Tax Number System in January, 2016. Its purpose is to increase efficiency in various areas of administration including social security, tax, and disaster relief. Examples of administrative procedures in which your individual number is required to be identified are:

- Enrollment in a nursery school
- Children’s medical treatment subsidies
- National Health Insurance System
- Filing final tax returns
- Child allowance system
- Annual income report


Starting in November 2015, a notice card (*Tsûchi Kâdo*/通知カード) with your 12-digit Social Security and Tax Number (My Number/Individual Number/*Kojin Bangô*/個人番号) is being sent to your residential address via registered mail. Please make sure to keep this notice card with you. Don’t lose it! Your Individual Number (My Number/*Kojin Bangô*/個人番号) will be used throughout your lifetime.

Starting in January 2016, the national government will issue, on request, a photo identification card (*Kojin Bangô Kâdo*/個人番号カード) with your Individual Number (My Number/*Kojin Bangô*/個人番号) printed on it. The application form along with an instruction pamphlet will be included in the piece of registered mail.



## The Individual Number Card

(*Kojin Bangô Kâdo*/個人番号カード) will look like this:

Name:	
Address:	
Date of Birth: Year Month Day Gender	
 Photo	Valid until: Year Month Day

## The Notice Card

(*Tsûchi Kâdo*/通知カード) will look like this:

Your Social Security and Tax Number	
1234 5678 9012	
Name:	
Address:	
Date of Birth: Year Month Day Gender	
Date Issued:	

For further information in English, please dial 0570-20-0291.

If you have not received your notice card (*Tsûchi Kâdo*/通知カード) yet, please contact:  
*Shimin Ka* (Citizens’ Affairs Division)  
Phone: 0258-39-7514

If you need any language assistance, please contact the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*, in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. (see p. 4)  
<http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/english.html>

## A Guide to School Enrollment

Enrollment in elementary school and junior high school is compulsory in the Japanese educational system. While school enrollment for children of foreign nationals is not compulsory in Japan, they are welcome to apply for it.

A guardian whose child was born during the following period can apply for the child’s first-year school enrollment which will start in April, 2016.

### Elementary School

For a child born between April 2, 2009 and April 1, 2010

### Junior High School

For a child born between April 2, 2003 and April 1, 2004

A guardian whose child has enrolled in a Nagaoka City public elementary school will receive a Notice of Admission to a city junior high school in the mid-December.

Enrollment in elementary schools and junior high schools is free of charge. Guardians are responsible for paying for school supplies (except for textbooks), school trips, school lunch, and other necessary things.

The School Attendance Support System provides subsidies for elementary and junior high school students from households whose total income for the previous year is lower than the standardized amount.

For application and further information, please contact:

*Gakumu Ka* (School Affairs Division)  
Phone: 0258-39-2239

If you need any language assistance, please contact the staff at the Nagaoka International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. (see p. 4)

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kosodate/cate03/teate/enjyo.html>





# 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*) (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

**Chikyû Hiroba will be closed from Dec. 29 (Tues.) to Jan. 3 (Sun.)**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> term of classes for the 2015 fiscal year is being offered from October 2015 to March 2016.



### Weekday Classes (Tuesdays & Fridays)

#### \* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

#### \* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

Dec.	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25	¥1,600
Jan.	5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	¥1,600
Feb.	2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26	¥1,600
Mar.	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 25	¥1,400

### Sunday Classes

#### \* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

#### \* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (120 minutes)

Dec.	6, 13, 20, 27	¥1,600
Jan.	10, 24, 31	¥1,200
Feb.	7, 14, 21, 28	¥1,600
Mar.	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.
- Monday 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (intermediate level)
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



### Short-Term Japanese Language Class

**Sundays, Oct. 4 – Dec. 20**

**11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

**Room 2A Nagaoka Civic Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

An intensive short-term Japanese language class is being offered from Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> so that you can brush up your Japanese skills. International residents who have completed the Japanese Language Class II at the Civic Center or who have mastered a basic level of the Japanese language are recommended to join this intensive class.

Dec.	6, 13, 20	¥1,200
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## Upcoming Events Organized by The Cross-Cultural Citizens' Club

International residents and Nagaokans are welcome to enjoy games and food. Come and join us!

### Cross-Cultural Christmas Get-Together

**Wednesday, December 23 (Holiday) 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Machinaka Campus Nagaoka Conference Room 301

Fee: ¥500 (Please pay on the event day.)

¥250 for preschool-aged children

Limited to 70 participants

Registration: Dec. 1 (Tues.) – 18 (Fri.)

Please sign up with your name, phone number, and nationality at *Chikyû Hiroba*.

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate13/chikyuhiroba/file/news32.pdf>



### Cross-Cultural New Year Get-Together

**Sunday, January 17 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*

Admission: Free (Reservations are required.)

Programs:

\* Hands-on Experience of Rice Cake Pounding and Tasting

\* Many Other Fun Programs

Registration: Dec. 9 (Wed.) – Jan. 9 (Sat.)

Please sign up with your name, phone number, and nationality at *Chikyû Hiroba*.

[http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate13/chikyuhiroba/file/news33\\_1.pdf](http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate13/chikyuhiroba/file/news33_1.pdf)



## Kosodate no Eki, Gun Gun

Nagaoka Civic Disaster Prevention Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 1-3-85 Senzai  
Phone: 0258-30-1025 Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Every Day Except for Tuesdays  
(Open on Tuesday if it is a national holiday)  
Closed: Dec. 30 (Wed.) – Jan. 1 (Fri.)



# Child-Rearing Support Facilities

- \* **Fureai time** 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Every Day
- \* **Picture Storybook Reading Time** 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Every Day
- \* **“Spot Time”** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Every Monday
- \* **Mini-Library** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 9 (Wed.)
- \* **Healthy Tea Time** 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 (Thurs.)
- \* **Winter Family Concert** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 12 (Sat.)
- \* **Child-Rearing Salon** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 17 (Thurs.)
- \* **Merry Christmas! Here Comes Santa Claus!** 10:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Dec. 18 (Fri.)
- \* **Christmas Concert** 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Dec. 20 (Sun.)
- \* **Happy Birthday Party** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Dec. 25 (Fri.)
- \* **Mini-Lecture: Making Konnyaku (arum root starch cake)** 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dec. 26 (Sat.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Dec. 16 (Wed.) Nursery School Teacher



## Kid's Plaza (Chibikko Hiroba)

Phoenix Ôte West 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 2-5 Ôte Street  
Phone: 0258-39-2775 Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Every Day  
Closed: Dec. 30 (Wed.) – Jan. 1 (Fri.)

- \* **Story Telling Time** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Every Day
- \* **Kamishibai (Large Picture-Card Story)** Dec. 21 (Mon.)
- \* **Smiley Kids' Day** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Every Friday
- \* **Time for Chibikko Kids and Birthday Party** 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Dec. 9 (Wed.), and 16 (Wed.)
- \* **Safety Tips in Case of an Emergency** 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Dec. 10 (Thurs.)
- \* **It's Fathers' Turn for Talking with Babies** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 12 (Sat.)
- \* **Mothers' Chat Cafe** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 14 (Mon.)
- \* **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 15 (Tues.)
- \* **Birthday Party:** Dec. 16 (Wed.) 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- \* **Picture Storybook Reading Time** 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dec. 16 (Wed.)
- \* **Let's Play to the Rhythms** 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Dec. 17 (Thurs.)
- \* **Let's Play with Blocks** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 19 (Sat.) and Jan. 9 (Sat.)
- \* **Making Your Own Picture Storybook (Ehon no Tane)** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 20 (Sun.)
- \* **Christmas Party** 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Dec. 22 (Tues.)
- \* **A Week for Playing New Year's Games** Jan. 2 (Sat.) – 11 (Mon./Holiday)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Jan. 7 (Thurs.) Child-Rearing Advisor

\* **Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children:** ¥300/hour

## Kosodate no Eki, Senshû (Teku Teku)

1-99-6 Senshû Phone: 0258-21-3860  
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Every Day Except for Wednesdays  
(Open on Wednesday if it is a national holiday)  
Closed: Dec. 30 (Wed.) – Jan. 1 (Fri.)

- \* **Story Telling Time and Mini-Concert** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Every Monday
- \* **Lecture for Parents: Ideal Communication Tips** 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Dec. 10 (Thurs.)
- \* **“Toy Hospital” for Fixing Broken Toys** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Dec. 11 (Fri.)
- \* **Smiley Birthday Party** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Dec. 11 (Fri.) and Jan. 8 (Fri.)
- \* **Enjoy Drawing Picture** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Dec. 14 (Mon.)
- \* **Happy Christmas Party** 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Dec. 18 (Fri.)
- \* **Sunday Toy Box** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 20 (Sun.)
- \* **Let's Play at the Kids' Land** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 22 (Tues.)
- \* **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dec. 24 (Thurs.)
- \* **Nakayoshi Time** 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Dec. 25 (Fri.)
- \* **A Week for Playing New Year's Games** Jan. 3 (Sun.) – 8 (Fri.)
- \* **Mothers' Chat Cafe** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Jan. 7 (Thurs.)



- \* **Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Dec. 15 (Tues.) Child-Rearing Advisor
- \* **Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children:** ¥300/hour



## Kosodate no Eki, Tochio (Suku Suku)

Tochio Sangyô Kôryû Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1765 Miyazawa, Tochio  
Phone: 0258-51-1022 Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
Closed: Dec. 27 (Sun.) – Jan. 4 (Mon.)

- \* **Wampaku Plaza** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 (Wed.)
- \* **Learning about Local Cuisine** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 (Wed.)
- \* **Suku Suku Tea Time** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 (Wed.) and Jan. 8 (Fri.)
- \* **Birthday Party** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dec. 23 (Wed.)
- \* **Fuwa Fuwa Plaza** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6 (Wed.)
- \* **Nakayoshi Plaza** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Jan. 8 (Fri.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Dec. 18 (Fri.) Public Health Nurse  
Jan. 6 (Wed.) Maternity Nurse





## Echigo Kyûryô Kôen (Echigo Hillside Park)

Admission and Parking: Free (December – March)  
 Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 9:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Winter Illumination Days)  
 Closed: Dec. 1 (Tues.) – 3 (Thurs.), 7 (Mon.) – 10 (Thurs.),  
 14 (Mon.), and 28 (Mon.) – 31 (Thurs.)

### \* Winter Illumination

- About 40,000 LED lights illuminate a huge zelkova tree.
- A six-meter high champagne-glass tree
- A PET plastic bottle tree whose colors change along with music

**Dec. 5 (Sat.), 6 (Sun.), 12 (Sat.),  
 13 (Sun.), and 19 (Sat.) – 27 (Sun.)  
 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**



### \* Stage Shows

(concerts, dances, and many other fun programs)  
 Dec. 5 (Sat.), 6 (Sun.), 12 (Sat.), 13 (Sun.), 19 (Sat.),  
 20 (Sun.), 23 (Wed.) – 25 (Fri.) 4:00 p.m. ~

### \* Making Jelly Candles

Dec. 23 (Wed.) – 25 (Fri.) 3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
 Fee: ¥500

### \* Making Wreaths

Dec. 12 (Sat.) and 13 (Sun.) 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
 Fee: ¥500

### \* Candles in Kamakura (tiny snow huts)

Dec. 23 (Wed./Holiday) – 25 (Fri.)  
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Information: Echigo Hillside Park  
 Management Center  
 Phone: 0258-47-8001

<http://echigo-park.jp/event/news/1171.html>



Aôre Nagaoka



Nagaoka Station

## A Spectacular World of Lights

“Aolumination” at City Hall Plaza – Aôre Nagaoka,  
 Ôte Street, and In Front of Nagaoka Station

**Dec. 2 (Wed.) – Feb. 14 (Sun.) 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Except for: Dec. 29 (Tues.) – Jan. 3 (Sun.)

Approximately 40,000 LED lights bring to mind the deep blue sea.

<http://www.ao-re.jp/event/16686>

### Teradomari Port Park

**6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. throughout the year**

About 10,000 LED blue lights in the image of the ocean



Aôre Nagaoka



Ôte Street



Teradomari Port Park

## Temporary Welfare Benefits

### Rinji Fukushi Kyûfukin

りんじふくしきゅうふきん・臨時福祉給付金

In order to alleviate the impact of the increase of the consumption tax rate to 8% enforced in April 2014, the national government has been providing low-income earners with Temporary Welfare Benefits. The amount of this benefit for each eligible person is ¥6,000. Only people who are exempt from residential tax in 2015 are eligible. The city already sent out application forms to households with possible eligible persons. As the application period is extended to Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, please submit your application form to the city office by using the enclosed return envelope if you have not submitted it yet.

For further information: *Fukushi Sômu Ka*

(Social Welfare General Affairs Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2992

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/fukushi/cate04/rinji-kyufu.html>

## Reminder

“Premium Shôhinken” and “Kosodate Ôenken”  
 Will Expire on Thursday, December 31

### ● “Premium Shôhinken” Gift Certificates

The city sold gift certificates known as “Premium Shôhinken,” starting on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each set of certificates has a 10% additional benefit. A set of certificates worth ¥11,000 were sold for ¥10,000. All the certificates were sold out.

Expiration Date of Certificates: December 31 (Thurs.)

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/sangyou/cate02/syohinken/premium.html>

### ● “Kosodate Ôenken” Child-Rearing Support Tickets

Child-Rearing Support Tickets, “Kosodate Ôenken,” were provided for guardians who are receiving child allowances (*Jidô Teate*). An official form was sent out to applicable guardians from July 2<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs.). Each eligible child received a ¥5,000 ticket. Stores that accept these support tickets are the same as those for the Gift Certificates (Premium Shôhinken).

Expiration Date of Support Tickets: December 31 (Thurs.)

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kosodate/cate02/ouenken.html>



# Safety Tips for Snowy Winter Months

## Warning against Traffic Accidents for Drivers



Driving between December and March in Nagaoka requires special precautions because snow-packed roads are 4-5 times as slippery as dry pavement.

- **Replace regular tires with studless snow tires.**  
However, neither chains nor snow tires make it safe for you to drive on icy or snow-covered roadways at normal speeds.
- **Keep a safe distance.**  
The space needed between your car and the cars in front of and behind you is much greater when driving on ice and packed snow than on dry pavement.
- **Drive at an appropriate speed** and start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or before you turn.
- **Be watchful for pedestrians.**  
Drive at an appropriate speed and start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or before you turn.
- **Try not to splash the water** flowing out of the snow-melting devices called “*shōsetsu paipu*” while you are driving.
- **If you keep a shovel in your vehicle**, it will be helpful in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.

## Three Hazards in Snowy Months

すべります  
*Suberimasu*

The pavement is slippery.



### Walking on Snow-Packed Roads

- Do not ride a bicycle when it snows. Icy and snow-packed roads are very slippery.
- Waterproof and skid-proof boots or shoes are recommended because snow in Nagaoka is heavy and wet. In addition, the city’s roads are mostly wet all the time during snowy months because of water from snow-melting pipes.
- Watch out for approaching vehicles especially at street corners or when crossing streets.
- Wear gloves and do not put your hands in your pockets.
- Walk in a flat-footed manner, that is, without rolling from heel to toe in your stride.
- Be careful not to fall into roadside ditches or gutters as they can be very hazardous.



せまくなります  
*Semaku narimasu*

Roads become narrower.



### Preventing Tap Water from Freezing

- Wrap water pipes with thermal insulation and wrap that with plastic tape. It is also helpful to cover pipes with cardboard.
- Drain water out of household water-heaters when it gets extremely cold at night.
- It also helps to keep water dripping from a faucet in a thin flow.
- When water does not run because it is frozen, cover the faucet with a towel and pour warm water slowly over it. Do not use extremely hot or boiling water, which is not safe because you might get burned if it splashes on you or the water pipe may crack.
- If water pipes break, close the stopcock installed near the water gauge box and contact the Nagaoka City Bureau of Waterworks.  
Phone: 0258-35-0017



みえなくなります  
*Mienaku narimasu*

You cannot see well.



### Warnings against Fires

People seem to become busier especially during the Year-End and New Year’s Holiday season and pay less attention to preventing fires. Here are some helpful tips to protect your life and property from fires.



Do not leave flammable materials near space heaters.



Do not leave a cooking stove unattended while it is on.



Do not smoke in bed.

## Major Emergency Medical Facilities

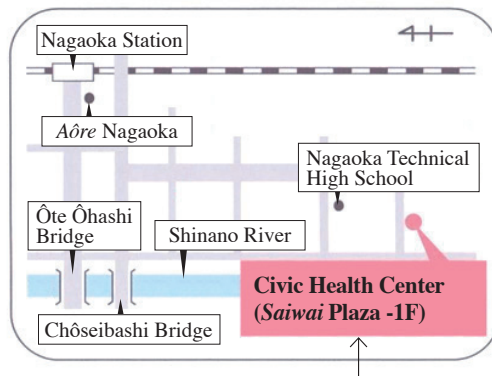
### Major General Hospitals

Nagaoka *Chûô 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.

**Emergency Treatment** from Dec. 31 (Thurs.) to Jan. 3 (Sun.) at the Civic Health Center (Saiwai Plaza – 1F)

Departments	Hours
Internal Medicine Pediatrics & Surgery	Dec. 31 (Thurs.) 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Jan. 1 (Fri./Holiday) – Jan. 3 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Dentistry	Dec. 31 (Thurs.) – Jan. 3 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/fukushi/cate01/isya.html>

## Tips on How to Handle Kerosene Properly

During winter months, there have been an increasing number of cases in which kerosene leaks out of tanks. Kerosene that has flowed into rivers will pollute river water and damage the habitats of fish, frogs, and birds.

- Do not leave a kerosene heater tank unattended while filling it.
- Make sure to shut the cock the main kerosene tank.
- Check thoroughly for any damage to tubes or hoses attached to tanks.
- Immediately wipe off any spilled kerosene with newspapers or towels.
- For large amount of spilled kerosene, immediately contact the Nagaoka Fire Department Headquarters.

Phone: 0258-36-0119



## Warnings against Drunk Driving

Many people are likely to have more opportunities for drinking alcoholic beverages during the Year-End and New Year's Holidays. You are advised to never drive if you have drunk any alcoholic beverages and you should never let anyone who has drunk drive a vehicle. Drunk driving is prohibited by law. Violators are severely punished by law.

If you need to drive after drinking, you are encouraged to use a service called *daikô unten*, which is provided by taxi companies. Two taxi drivers come to pick you up and one of them drives your car to your house while the other one takes you home in a taxi.



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

Mr. Tetsuo Kobayashi of the Nakanoshima District  
The Caretaker of the Ôtake Memorial House

Mr. Kanichi Ôtake (1860 – 1944), a well-known lawmaker, dedicated himself to various river improvement and development projects for the Kariyata River and the Ôkôzu Diversion Channel. His former residence has been preserved and opened to the public as a memorial hall along with its landscape garden that is blessed with beautiful cherry blossoms in spring.

Mr. Kobayashi: In my childhood, the Ôtakes' landscape garden was a playground for neighborhood kids. We were sometimes scolded by the Ôtakes when we made too much noise. In appreciation of Mr. Ôtake's great efforts for our

community, I would like to convey his accomplishments to many people, especially to younger generations, by keeping his memorial house in good condition.

### Ôtake Memorial House

4 Nakanoshima  
Hours: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Phone: 0258-61-2013  
Nakanoshima Branch Office

