

Gotemba Newsletter

Events:

1. December 1st (Sun) is Community Disaster Prevention Day
2. Thank You for Your Corporation in Paying Your Taxes on Time
3. Be Cautious of Internet Ads for Trial Health Products
4. Stomach Cancer Screenings in December (Barium test)
5. Please Take Advantage of the Donation for a Family of Mother/ Father and Child Welfare Fund

★The Gotemba Newsletter can be viewed on the GIA Internet site:
<https://www.gia-gotemba.com>

★Copies of this Newsletter are available at the City Hall, the City Branch Offices, Library, Health Care Center and GIA.

1. December 1st (Sun.) is Community Disaster Prevention Day

----Let's improve our district corporation for disaster----

Kiki Kanri-ka (Disaster Preparedness Dpt.) at (82)4370

In case of a sudden large scale earthquake, Gotemba city practices disaster prevention drills that assume a level 7 earthquake.

To enhance consciousness of the civic self-act, mutual assistance and disaster management, voluntary district communities in the city will conduct disaster prevention activities at schools and each community center.

It is important to be well prepared to save yourself and your family, from an expectable major earthquake. Please participate with your family and neighbors for this drill.

This year Itazuma-ku is chosen as a city for disaster prevention model.

Date: Sunday, November 24th

Please cooperate with disaster prevention organization groups, as they practice Mt.Fuji wide area volcanic evacuation drill.

Double check for disaster:

- Try to prepare 7 days' worth of food and drink. (proper amount of water: 3L per person/ a day)
- Re-consider furniture placement and make sure you have enough space to safely evacuate.
- Be sure to anchor the furniture so it won't fall. (you can get a good deal with a city subsidy.)
- Keep in mind these two fundamental behaviors: saving your own life and mutual assistance.

Necessity of voluntary disaster prevention group.

Q:What is voluntary disaster prevention group?

A: It's an organization which incorporates all local people on a daily basis, not only for disasters.

On Sunday, December 1st we will send a test urgent breaking news email

Around 9:00 am Gotemba City will transmit a test urgent breaking news email to your email device which is cell phone, smart phone and tablet PC. Please try to check if you can receive it or not in this drill

*Depends on your model or setting of your phone, it might make a sound even though you have set the manner mode.

2. Thank You for Your Corporation in Paying Your Taxes on Time

How to make your payment

You can pay at the counter of financial institutions designated by the city which are the tax payment counter in the city hall (either branch), service center in front of Gotemba station, or a convenience store.

Please use a fund transfer

Because fund transfers are paid from a bank account automatically when the delivery date comes, it is a no hassle, convenient, and certain method for tax payers.

Gotemba City has a strict policy toward citizens who do not pay or get guidance in November/ December.

To ensure fairness and equality November and December are months of "Default of payment or adjustment collection months". Between the prefecture, all cities and towns work with corporations. Gotemba reinforces delinquent taxes by means of distraintment such as foreclosure.

We do perform distraintment on savings, insurance and salaries etc. We will start investigating defaulters' home and work address in order to seize their property, such as cars and other belongings.

Inquiry: Tax division at (82)4166.

3. Be Cautious of Internet Ads for Trial Health Products

Recently there are some cases where you don't see any reason to doubt the legitimacy of some products until it's time to pay.

For example:

Some internet ads you see offer a trial price for 500 yen, so you order using the one time deal for this health product. After the first package arrives, you receive yet another package. Then you realize you have to purchase a total of 4 packages paying 500 yen regularly according to the contract. To cancel this contract you have to pay the full amount for each product. The only way you can get the 500 yen deal is if you pay for 4 package payments without cancelation.

*To avoid this kind trouble:

- Confirm that the advertisement doesn't say regular payments in the terms and conditions of the contract.
- Verify the total cost of the application
- Check how you can cancel or receive a refund according to the cancelation policy.

A Cooling-off system doesn't apply for internet sales. If you're in trouble, please get advice at the city consumer affairs center.

Inquiry: Consumer affair center (Kurashi-no anzen-ka) at (83)1629 or Fax (82)4333.

4. Stomach Cancer Screenings in December (Barium test)

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Applicable age: over 30 years- old

Fee: 800 yen (Free of charge for those over age 70 (School year age), Life welfare family and the municipal tax exemption household.

*Please bring a mailed consultation form.

Inquiry: Kenko Suishin-ka at (82)1111

DATE	LOCATION
3 rd (Tue.) 4 th (Wed.) 10 th (Tue.) 11 th (Wed.)	Health center

5. Please take advantage of the Donation for a Family of Mother/ Father and Child Welfare Fund.

We offer student loans for education in order to enroll in high school, university or graduate school for a family of mother/ father and child. This student loan can't be used in conjunction with other scholarships such as Japan Student Services Organization.

How to apply/ Inquiries: Application forms are at Kosodate Shien-Ka at city hall. Submit your completed applications with necessary documents by December 13th (Fri.) to Kosodate Shien-ka, (82)4124.

☆ Translated by KH of GIA volunteers

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