

## 1. 17th Japanese Speech Contest

On Sunday, February 12, from 1:00 p.m., a Japanese speech contest will be held at the Tochigi Iwashita New Ginger Hall and Tochigi Culture Hall.

Foreign residents will present their experiences and impressions of life in Japan in Japanese as an opportunity to show the results of their daily Japanese language studies.

During the judging phase of the speech contest, there will be a Japanese drum performance. Anyone can attend without reservations, so please come and support the students.

## 2. About applying for my-number at post offices

Applications for My Number cards will be accepted at 29 post offices in the city starting from late January. The reception hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding national holidays. The application is available to those who are registered residents in Tochigi City.

To apply, please bring something that shows your ID number and the application form you received in the mail, if any. The post office will take a photo for the application form free of charge and help you fill out the application form.

Please contact the post office of your choice directly in advance to reserve a time, as the counter is expected to be crowded. The deadline to apply for a My Number Card, which is required to receive My Number Points, is the end of February.

Please take this opportunity to consider obtaining a my number card if you do not already have one.

## 3. 16th Asso Bina Festival

March 3 is considered to be the turn of the season and is called "Hinamatsuri," a traditional event in Japan to pray for the healthy growth of girls. Families with girls display dolls called "Hina Dolls" and eat traditional Hinamatsuri dishes such as Chirashizushi and Hina Arare. Hina dolls are also called "Ohinasama."

In Tochigi City, from February 24 to March 5, hina dolls and coloring pictures of hina dolls made by kindergarten and nursery school children in the city will be displayed around the Kuranomachi Main Street, in the historical buildings in Kaemon-cho and around Uzuma River.

Please go out and see them.

## 4. Tochigi City Childbirth and Child-Raising Support Program

Starting in January, Tochigi City will implement a support program which provides consultation and financial support to pregnant women and families raising children so that they can give birth and raise children with peace of mind.

In the program, public health nurses and midwives will interview pregnant and nursing mothers and will visit their families around two months after birth. They will then provide support tailored to the individual circumstances of the expectant and nursing mothers.

A grant will be provided to pregnant women who have notified of their pregnancy and those who are caring for a child born in April 2022 or later.

Pregnant women will receive 50,000 yen as a gift after an interview is conducted at the time of pregnancy notification.

For those who are taking care of a newborn child, 50,000 yen per newborn will also be provided after an interview is conducted at households with infants..

The grant will be paid by bank transfer. Those who are eligible for the grant will be notified in mid-January or later. Please be sure to check the notification when you receive it.