

1. 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Tochigi Prefecture

Tochigi Prefecture was established on June 15th, 1873 through the merger of Tochigi Prefecture and Utsunomiya Prefecture and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Tochigi Prefecture.

The prefectural government was located in Tochigi City for 11 years until 1884, when it was moved to Utsunomiya. The name "Tochigi" was created in Tochigi City, which was the original capital of the prefecture.

The current Tochigi Municipal Museum of Literature and Art, Chuo Elementary School, and Tochigi High School are currently in the area where the prefectural government office was located.

As an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Tochigi Prefecture, there will be an exhibition of the Edo-era doll floats on Saturday, June 10th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the plaza in front of the Tochigi Art Museum.

Also, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., visitors can experience a hot-air balloon flight in the schoolyard of Tochigi Chuo Elementary School. However, advance reservations are required through the city website in order to take a balloon ride.

We hope that foreign residents learn about the rich history of Tochigi City, which is the birthplace of Tochigi Prefecture, and appreciate Tochigi City for what it is today.

2. Request for Proper Separation of Garbage

On April 5, there was an accident that resulted in a fire involving a garbage truck in Iwafune-machi. The accident is believed to have been caused by an unopened spray can or a gas cylinder during the collection and transportation of non-burnable garbage.

In recent years, more than 100 cases of fires have occurred annually at the Tochigi Clean Plaza. The main cause is thought to be small rechargeable batteries and spray cans mixed in with non-burnable garbage.

Such fires cause damage to garbage collection trucks and facilities, making it very difficult to dispose of trash. In addition, workers and others employees are at risk of being injured in a major accident.

Spray cans and gas cylinders should be completely depleted with two holes drilled and clearly marked with a circle around them. They should also be put in bags with the contents visible and separated from other non-burnable trash.

For small household appliances, please remove the batteries and put them out on the collection day for small household appliances.

Please follow the rules and dispose of garbage properly.

3. Tochigi Ajisai Festival

“Tochigi Ajisai Festival” will be held from June 16th to July 2nd at Ajisai-zaka in Ohira-san Prefectural Natural Park.

About 2,500 hydrangeas will be in full bloom on both sides of the approximately 1,000 stone steps leading to the Ohira-san Shrine.

The city flower of Tochigi City is the hydrangea. Most citizens think of the hydrangea at Mt. Ohira, but during the rainy season, they can be seen in schools, parks, and many other places in the city.

Wet hydrangea flowers in the rain are very beautiful. This is a great opportunity to appreciate the flowers of the season and relax your mind.