多言語情報コーナー

（令和８年１１月号）

1. Tochigi Autumn Festival

The Tochigi Autumn Festival, Tochigi City's largest event, is held once every two years. This year, it will take place on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15, mainly along Kuranomachi Odori Street. Why not come and enjoy this traditional festival?

The Children's Float Festival, in which local children take part, will be held along Kuranomachi Odori Street on both November 14 and 15, starting at 1:30 p.m.

During the day, the floats will parade along Kuranomachi Odori Street after the starting signal. The parade will begin at 3:00 p.m. on November 14 and at 2:45 p.m. on November 15.

In the evening, you can see the floats illuminated by lanterns from 5:30 p.m.

One of the highlights of the festival is an event called "Buttsuke," in which several floats face one another and compete by playing traditional festival music. When Buttsuke begins, the people pulling the floats wave lanterns and fans and shout in unison to build excitement as the music is played.

On both festival days, traffic restrictions will be in effect on Tochigi Kuranomachi Odori Street from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and vehicles will not be allowed to pass through. Bicycles cannot be ridden in areas where traffic restrictions are in effect. You must get off your bicycle and walk while pushing it.

Crowds are expected around the festival venue, so please take care to avoid accidents and stay safe.

2. Notice About Changes to Tochigi City Hall Counter Service Hours

To improve services for residents, help city employees work in a way that supports their health, and reduce operating costs, Tochigi City Hall will be trialing shorter counter service hours.

The new counter service hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., starting December 1. The change will apply to all counter services involving face-to-face interactions with residents, including application procedures and various consultations.

The hours during which interpreters dispatched by the Tochigi City International Center are available will also change.

Every Tuesday, Spanish interpretation at the Citizens' Affairs Division counter in the main Tochigi City Hall building will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday, English interpretation at the Regional Development Promotion Division counter at the Ohira General Branch Office will be available from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. On the second Wednesday of each month, extended counter service hours will apply, and interpretation will be available from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The hours during which the entrances to the main City Hall building and each general branch office are open will also change. They will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or until 7:00 p.m. on days when extended counter service is available.

At Kirara no Mori Tochigi Kura-no-Machi Gakushukan, where the Tochigi City International Center office is located, the entrance will also open at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

3. November Is Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Prevention Month

Fires in garbage collection trucks and waste treatment facilities have been occurring frequently because small rechargeable batteries have been thrown away mixed in with burnable or non-burnable garbage. When a fire occurs, all waste disposal services may have to stop, including the acceptance of waste at disposal facilities and garbage collection at designated collection points. This can cause significant problems for the entire community.

Please be especially careful when disposing of products that use small rechargeable batteries. These include portable battery packs, rechargeable toys, electronic cigarettes, and electric toothbrushes. Never throw these products away with burnable or non-burnable garbage.

If batteries are disposed of incorrectly, they can pose a risk of fire or explosion. Small rechargeable batteries must not be put out at designated garbage collection points. Instead, place them in a “Small Rechargeable Battery Recycling Box” available at electronics retailers and other locations. These recycling boxes are also available at the main Tochigi City Hall building, general branch offices, community centers, and Tochigi Clean Plaza. Please make use of them.

Dry-cell batteries and coin batteries can be disposed of at designated garbage collection points as hazardous waste.

Button batteries, however, cannot be put out at designated garbage collection points. Please place them in a “Button Battery Collection Container” at an electronics retailer or another participating location. Before putting a button battery into the collection container, be sure to speak to a store employee.

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Your cooperation can help prevent fires. Please help us sort and dispose of waste correctly.