

## *Gotemba Newsletter*

**Events:**

1. **Make Sure You Pay Your Taxes on Time**
2. **Special Benefits Application for Child -rearing Low Income household Livelihood Support**
3. **December 5th (Sun.) is Community Disaster Prevention Day**
4. **Apply for Gotemba After School Child Day Care (Houkago Jido Club) for Year 2022**
5. **Rule of Negative Option Has Changed**



★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.

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Gotemba mayor, Masami Katsumata Inauguration

19<sup>th</sup> Gotemba city mayor, Masami Katsumata who for the first time, has won the city mayor election (votes counted on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>) last month. Masami has formally come into office and gave an inaugural address.

Secretarial division at (82)4420



### 1. Make Sure You Pay Your Taxes on Time

Taxes are used for the improving education and welfare, road construction, maintenance of waterways and the public buildings. They are utilized for important resources that benefit our own good. Lack of our tax payments will impact our living situation. Please make arrangements for tax payments if you haven't paid. To keep fairness between the citizens who pays their taxes and non-paying citizens we do perform strict disposition for failure to pay taxes based on the rule of the law in the city unless the tax payment is difficult temporarily because of an unavoidable reason.

#### 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

### 2. Special Benefits Application for Child -rearing Low Income household Livelihood Support

The details for benefits can be checked on the city homepage or Koho Gotemba (this publicity paper) issued on May 20<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Apply/ inquiry: Please contact child support division directly by February 28<sup>th</sup> (Mon) in 2022.

City Homepage:



### 3. December 5th (Sun.) is Community Disaster Prevention Day

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

Disaster Preparedness Department at (82)4370

Each voluntary district community in the city, which is made up of voluntary leaders, will conduct disaster prevention activities at schools, community centers and community facilities.

It is important to be well prepared to save yourself and your possession from an expectable major earthquake. Please take part in this drill with your family and neighbors.

- This year Tokinosumika-ku was chosen as a model city for disaster prevention, and they will practice in a Mt. Fuji wide area volcanic evacuation drill along with disaster prevention organization groups on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Assumption: Level 7 major earthquake

Purpose: Enhance consciousness of the self-act and mutual assistance/ damage reduction

- \* Self-act: Actions to take for saving your life
- \* Mutual assistance: Actions that communities can take to reduce damage when disaster occurs.

#### 3 points you should know now

- Evacuation under Covid-19 pandemic  
Evacuation place tends to be the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings) and become a high risk for infection. You need to start considering alternative evacuation locations such as a relative's or acquaintance's home or your home) rather than an evacuation shelter. However, if you happened to be in a disaster, evacuate the closest evacuation shelter without thinking. As infectious disease countermeasure Gotemba city promotes securing a non-contact thermometer, alcohol sanitizer and room partitions.
- Considering staying home and sheltering in place  
If you are in a safe place, you do not need to go to an evacuation shelter. Sheltering at home is ideal if you live in a safe location. Check your home on the disaster prevention map in advance. Home evacuation is an option if it is not in a landslide disaster warning zone or an area that is expected to be flooded.
- Start rolling stock  
You should assume that relief supplies will not be provided and stockpile food and drinking water for 7 days. Rolling stock is a method of purchasing a little more preservable food, drinks and daily supplies such as frozen or canned food which you buy ordinarily along with your emergency preserved food, and once consumed you restock it. That way you can stockpile a certain amount of necessary supplies in the house without worry.

Disaster prevention map



#### Other ideas

- Affixing furniture  
Make sure to have safe spaces in your house by affixing furniture to the walls. You can take advantage of a city subsidy for affixing furniture for a reduced cost.
- Yellow handkerchief  
This shows that your family is safe in the event of a disaster. By tying it to the front door, you can signal your neighbors that there is no need for rescue.



#### Emergency breaking email delivery drill

Around 9:00 am on December 5<sup>th</sup> we will send a test urgent breaking news email. Please try to check if you can receive it. Depending on your model of or setting on your phone, it might make a sound even though you have set manner mode.

Taking advantage of the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, assume what kind of damage will occur in your home or community. Strengthen awareness of self-act and mutual assistance measures, and let's overhaul our disaster prevention.

Various information on disaster prevention is available on the city's homepage.



- \* Regional disaster prevention drills might change, the schedule depends on Covid-19 infection status.

#### 4. Apply for Gotemba After School Child Day Care (Houkago Jido Club) for Year 2022

##### Application submission period:

- 1<sup>st</sup> selection: Starting from December 1<sup>st</sup> (Wed) to 28<sup>th</sup> (Wed), only for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> selection: Starting from January 4<sup>th</sup> (Tue) to 31<sup>st</sup> (Mon) in 2022,
  - \* 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders can apply from December 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> but actual reception will be during the 2<sup>nd</sup> selection.

##### Reception hours: From 8:30am to 5:15pm

- \* Only 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday extends till 6:45pm.

**Object:** Must be a Gotemba resident, child's protector has difficulties taking care of child for reasons such as work after school hours (later than 1:00pm).

##### **Capacity:** 780 children

- \* Because each after school child day care has a limited number of openings, there is a possibility of not being enrolled.

##### **Charge:** 9,000 yen/ month

\*After the 2<sup>nd</sup> sibling you may apply for an exemption. Or if you or others are on welfare, you may get a reduction.

**How to apply/ Inquiries:** Submit your completed applications with necessary documents directly to the Child support center or send them to the office, 412-8601, Tel (82)4124.

- \* The application form and guidelines for applicants are available on the Child support web site.
- \* If your child's sibling has already signed up for child care, you can turn in the application at their after daycare.
- \* If your applications are not completed, we can't proceed your application. (same for mailing in applications)
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> graders who will start school in 2022 will receive their form at their health check-up for enrollment procedure.
- \* Private after school day care clubs in the city are also available so please consider taking advantage of them.

Child Support web site



#### 5. Rule of Negative Option Has Changed

A negative option is a way to mislead someone into believing that they have no choice but to pay for a package once they have received it, even though the package was sent unilaterally without solicitation.

Before, you could not dispose of the product for 14 days (7days after your request for the seller to pick up the product) had passed by law. Now the law has been revised and you can dispose of the product immediately.

(Precaution and approach)

- Even though you didn't order the product, it could be a gift from your family or friend. Before you dispose of it, please check with your family and friends.
- In the case of a negative option, you are not obligated to receive or pay for the package. You do not need to pay even if you have opened it or disposed of it.
- You can ask for a refund if you paid by mistake.

If you have any trouble or concerns, please get advice at the city consumer affairs center.

Inquiry: Consumer affair center at (83)1629 or Fax (82)4333.

☆ Translated by KH of GIA volunteers

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