



# MITAKA CITY NEWS

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MITAKA CITY NEWS providing business and event information of Mitaka city is published on 1st of every month.

## June Is Environment Month

Let's Think about Environmental Issues Together

**Inquiries:** Environmental Policy Section, Ext. 2525

Said to be the cause of natural disasters and abnormal weather conditions, global warming is a serious issue that can even affect the existence of all humankind. We can reduce the burden on the environment significantly by conserving energy and our natural resources. Let's review our everyday lifestyle and habits, and start leading lives that are kind to the Earth.

- Set the thermostat of air conditioners (coolers) at a room temperature of 28°C
- Take your own bags when going shopping
- Avoid letting the water run—or leaving the electricity or gas on—when not in use
- Ride a bicycle or take public transportation such as the bus or train when going out
- Consume locally produced vegetables in season
- Select energy-efficient household appliances
- Sort your garbage carefully and try hard to reduce the amount of garbage

### ◆ Exhibition on Environmental Issues

A panel exhibition will be staged to introduce city programs that address environmental issues.  
**Date and time:** June 6 (Mon.) through 10 (Fri.), 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (until 3:00 p.m. on June 10)

**Location:** Municipal Office 1F, Civic Hall

### ◆ Ecological Musical Concert "Alice in Ecologyland"

This enjoyable musical will also deepen your understanding of environmental issues. This year, elementary school children living in the city—chosen through open recruitment—will participate in this exciting musical for the first time. Ecological events are also planned, including a workshop about ecology, a gift of *goya* (bitter melon) seedlings (up to two seedlings per household, 150 household maximum on a first-come, first-served basis), and more.

**Date and time:** June 26 (Sun.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. (opens at 1:30 p.m.)

**Location:** Mitaka City Public Hall "Hikari"

**Capacity:** 600 persons on a first-come, first-served basis

**Application:** Come to the venue directly on the day of the event

## Beware of Photochemical Smog

Occurs most on days when the temperature is over 20°C and there is little wind

**Inquiries:** Environmental Policy Section, Ext. 2525

Every year in the Tokyo area, there are photochemical smog alerts from around May through September, and there are more smog alerts in the Tama area than in central Tokyo. Smog alerts and warnings are announced through the disaster prevention radio, the City website, safe security e-mails, bulletin boards at public facilities, etc. Please note that as a rule, smog alerts are cancelled after sunset.

### ◇ When There Is a Smog Alert or Warning

- Refrain from stepping outside and from outdoor activities.
- If your eyes and throat start hurting, wash your eyes and gargle immediately.

### Notes:

- The status of current photochemical smog alerts can be confirmed via the website of the Bureau of the Environment of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.  
(URL: <http://www.ox.kankyo.metro.tokyo.jp/>)
- Photochemical smog is reportedly caused by air pollution such as automobile exhaust. To prevent air pollution, it is a good idea to limit the use of cars and ride your bicycle or take public transportation instead, such as a train or a bus.

## Be Prepared for Sudden Torrential Rains

June—which is rainy season in Japan—is a time when there is frequent heavy rain. To prevent flooding above and below floor levels and other damages from torrential rains, it is essential to practice flood countermeasures on a regular basis and learn how to obtain the latest updates.

**Inquiries:** Disaster Preparedness Section, Ext. 2284

### ■ Flood Countermeasures Checklist

#### ◆ Check 1: Clean gutters and drains

Gutters and drains clogged with fallen leaves or trash could stop the flow of rainwater into the sewage pipes, so please clean them frequently.

#### ◆ Check 2: Do not place items on top of gutters

Do not place items such as driveway blocks on top of gutters.

#### ◆ Check 3: Check for high-risk locations in advance

#### ◇ Check the level of flood risk using the Mitaka City Flood Hazard Map (Japanese edition only)

It is a good idea to check the level of flood risk in the community where you live and in places you go to regularly, such as your workplace and the route you use to get to work or school. The city's flood hazard map is available at the Disaster Preparedness Section (Municipal Office 3F) and municipal office branches, and can also be downloaded from the city's website (URL: [http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/c\\_service/034/034182.html](http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/c_service/034/034182.html)).

#### ◆ Check 4: Flood prevention using household objects

If you wrap a plastic ground sheet around planters filled with soil and line them up by the door of your house, they will block up to about ten centimeters of floodwater. If you fill double-layered 40-liter garbage bags halfway with water and close them tightly, they can be used as simple water bags. Placing water bags in a cardboard box makes them easier to carry and set into place. It is a good idea to prepare items that you can use to prevent flooding in your house.

### ■ If There Is Heavy Rainfall

#### ◇ Check the Latest Weather Information

- Tokyo Amesh (bulletin on rain cloud movement and heavy rains in Tokyo and the surrounding areas)  
URL: <http://tokyo-ame.jwa.or.jp/index.html>
- Japan Meteorological Agency High-resolution Precipitation Nowcasts (estimated amount of rainfall for the next hour, in five-minute increments)  
URL: <http://www.jma.go.jp/jp/highresorad/>
- Metropolitan Tokyo Comprehensive Flood Information System (bulletin on precipitation and the river water levels, with the Sengawa and Nogawa rivers as observation points)  
URL: <http://www.kasen-suibo.metro.tokyo.jp/im/tsim0101g.html>

#### ◇ First of All, Protect Yourself

It is dangerous to go out in some cases, such as in the middle of the night or in heavy rain. Take refuge in the safest location within your surroundings, such as by waiting for help on the second floor or higher of a building.

# National Health Insurance Premiums Revised

**Inquiries:** National Health Insurance Section, Ext. 2382

National Health Insurance (NHI) is a mutual assistance medical insurance program funded by the insurance premiums of its members and the portion the national and metropolitan governments pay. However, as the medical expenses per person rise with each year, NHI finances are becoming more problematic. General city funds are used to compensate for the lack of NHI funds—a shortfall that is expected to total about two billion yen in FY2015.

From the viewpoint of fairness of the burden on the city residents—and because it would be difficult to increase the amount of compensation—the insurance premiums were revised on April 1. The recent revisions include an increase in the ceiling amount, income ratio amount and per capita amount, as well as improvements in the premium reduction programs for low-income earning households.

## ◆ Revisions in the Ceiling Amounts, Income Ratio Amounts, and Per Capita Amounts

Before the Revision (FY2015)				After the Revision (As of April 2016)			
Category	Ceiling amount	Income ratio amount	Per capita amount	Category	Ceiling amount	Income ratio amount	Per capita amount
Basic premium amount (medical portion)	¥510,000	4.7%	¥24,400	Basic premium amount (medical portion)	¥520,000	4.7% (No change)	¥25,000
Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age	¥160,000	1.2%	¥7,900	Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age	¥170,000	1.6%	¥8,500
Long-term care premium amount	¥140,000	1.4%	¥12,500	Long-term care premium amount	¥160,000	1.4% (No change)	¥12,500 (No change)

## ◆ Improvements in the Insurance Premium Reduction Programs

### ◇ Per Capita Amount Reduction Program

If the total household income (includes a head of the household who is not a National Health Insurance member) is at or below a designated amount, the per capita amount is reduced.

- (1) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 70%
- (2) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 + (¥265,000 × number of insured family members) or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 50%
- (3) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 + (¥480,000 × number of insured family members) or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 20%

### Notes:

1. Reduction programs are conducted based on the reported income for the previous year.
2. During the screening process, the income of those who have transferred from NHI to the Latter-Term Elderly Medical Insurance Plan will be added to the calculation.

## Insurance Premium Calculation Method FY2016 (after revision)

Annual premium = the sum of (1) through (3) below (ceiling: ¥850,000)

(1) Basic premium amount (medical portion)  
Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 4.7%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥25,000) (ceiling: ¥520,000)

(2) Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age  
Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 1.6%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥8,500) (ceiling: ¥170,000)

(3) Long-term care premium amount (long-term care insurance premium, charged for enrolled members between 40 and 64 years of age)

Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 1.4%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥12,500) (ceiling: ¥160,000)

\*Calculated basic amount: The amount after subtracting the basic exemption (¥330,000) from the income for the previous year.

**Note: FY2016 National Health Insurance premiums notices and invoices are scheduled to be mailed out in mid-July.**

## Mitaka City Yuzo Yamamoto Memorial Museum Special Exhibit: Memories of Yuzo's Literature Collection—Books for Children

**Inquiries:** Yuzo Yamamoto Memorial Museum, Tel: 0422-42-6233

Yuzo Yamamoto lived in Mitaka City with his family from 1936 to 1946, and in addition to his writing he opened the Mitaka Children's Library using his personal collection of books. The facility later served as a post for the Allied Occupation Forces, and then as a metropolitan and city children's library. In 1996, it reopened as Mitaka City Yuzo Yamamoto Memorial Museum. This year marks its twentieth anniversary.

The tiny ray of light of books for children that Yuzo lit, though changing form with time, has been maintained along with the building. To celebrate this milestone of two decades, the exhibit will reflect upon how the museum came to be.

**Dates and times:** 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until September 4 (Sun.)

**Closed:** Mondays, July 19 (Tue.) and 20 (Wed.). (Open on July 18 [Mon.], a national holiday.)

**Location:** Yuzo Yamamoto Memorial Museum (2-12-27 Shimorenjaku)

**Admission:** ¥300 (¥200 for groups of twenty persons or more)

**Note:** Junior high school students and younger, those with a handbook for the disabled, nursing care providers of such, high school students and younger on school field trips and their escorting teachers are admitted free.

## Mitaka Kiwi Wine Is Being Sold at Liquor Shops in the City

About 8,000 bottles of newly bottled Mitaka Kiwi Wine—brewed from kiwi fruit produced by the farmers in the city who join the Mitaka Fruit-grower Association—are on sale at 22 liquor shops in the city and the JA Tokyo Musashi Mitaka Greenification Center.

This year's lineup consists of white, rosé and *nigori*.

In this milestone thirtieth anniversary year since the wine arrived on the market, the quality of kiwi was excellent. The white wine is rich and dry, the rosé is highly fragrant and sweet, and the *nigori* is aromatic and sweet. Please try them!



### ◆ Selling Prices (including tax)

White and rosé wine: ¥1,337 per bottle (720 ml)

*Nigori* wine: ¥1,646 per bottle (720 ml)

### Inquiries:

Musashino Liquor Retailers Association, Tel: 042-384-2111  
City Livelihood and Economy Section, Ext. 2543

### Population and Number of Households As of May 1, 2016

Numbers in brackets are changes from previous month.

**Number of Registered Residents 184,675 persons (+724)**

**Number of Households 91,886 households (+486)**



## Events of Mitaka City Sports and Culture Foundation

**Mitaka City Gallery of Art, Tel: 0422-79-0033**

**Hours:** 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (admission until 5:30 p.m.)

**Closed:** June 13, 20, and 27

**HP** <http://mitaka.jpn.org/gallery/> (Japanese only)

## Exhibition of Osamu Dazai's Works and Belongings from the Tsushima Family Collection, Part II—Master, Friend and "Madame Banquet"

**Dates:** June 11 (Sat.) to July 3 (Sun.)

**Admission:** Free

**Sponsored by:** Mitaka City and Mitaka City Sports and Culture Foundation

**In cooperation with:** Sonoko Tsushima, Kai Tsushima, the Tadahiko Hayashi Photo Research Office, the Museum of Modern Japanese Literature and the Saga University Art Museum



Painting by Osamu Dazai, *Daffodils*, circa 1940  
Created in the atelier of Jun Hirezaki

Osamu Dazai was a famous novelist who lived in Mitaka in the early Showa Era. The upcoming exhibition will be held to coincide with *otoki*—his memorial day, which was also his birthday—and a time when Dazai fans across Japan come to Mitaka City. The exhibition will display about seventy items, focusing mainly on the items that were not on display last year.

From the materials safeguarded by his wife and daughters, we can trace the literary Dazai's exchanges during his days in Mitaka, as well as his art, which was not restricted to literature.

**Inquiries:** Mitaka City Yuzo Yamamoto Memorial Museum, Tel: 0422-42-6233



## Information

Information about Mitaka International Society for HOspitality

### MISHOP Office

**Days:** Monday through Saturday (Closed on Sundays and national holidays)

**Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mitaka City Chuo-Dori Town Plaza 4F, 3-30-12, Shimorenjaku 181-0013

**Tel:** 0422-43-7812 **Fax:** 0422-43-9966

**E-mail:** [mishop@mishop.jp](mailto:mishop@mishop.jp)

**URL:** <http://www.mishop.jp/>

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