



# MITAKA CITY NEWS

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**Edited by:**  
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Mitaka Municipal Office  
1-1-1, Nozaki, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8555  
Corporate Number: 8000020132047  
**Phone:** 0422-45-1151  
**URL:** <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/foreign/english/index.html>  
*Mitaka City News*, providing information on public services, lives and events of Mitaka City, is published on the 1st of every month.

## Fifty Years of Love! Summer Traditions of Mitaka The 50th Mitaka Awa-Odori



Tobi-iri Ren (open participation)

The Mitaka Awa-Odori celebrates its milestone 50th anniversary on the weekend of August 19 and 20, with Mitaka Station's south exit shopping street as the stage. This exciting event will feature a joint performance of dancing and *ohayashi* music by about 30 participating groups from both in and outside of Mitaka City who have been polishing their skills. With the audience arrayed along the streets also enveloped in the fever, the wild finale in which the performers and spectators become one in spirit is a must-see. To commemorate the 50th anniversary, the parking lot on Sakura-dori Avenue will be made into a special area to host live band performances and vendors.

On the day of the event, there will also be a Tobi-iri Ren (open-participation team) performance that anyone can join. If your body begins to move to the beat without thinking, jump into the whirlpool of people dancing their hearts out and enjoy the Mitaka summer!

**Dates and time:** August 19 (Sat.) and 20 (Sun.), 1. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., 2. 2:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 1. Mitaka Station south exit shopping street (along Chuo-dori Avenue; main area), 2. Sakura-dori Avenue parking lot (50th anniversary special area)

### ◆ Enjoy the Mitaka Awa-Odori in Your Home As Well

J:COM channel Musashino-Mitaka (digital terrestrial channel 11) will broadcast the event live.

**Broadcast time:** August 19, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. (subject to change)

**Inquiries:** Mitaka Awa-Odori Promotion Association (inside the Mitaka Commerce and Industry Association), **Tel:** 0422-49-3111,

**URL:** <http://awaodori.mitaka.ne.jp/>, Mitaka City Livelihood and Economy Section, Ext. 2544

## August 15: A Day for Thinking about Peace over the Generations Please Participate in the Mitaka Peace Gathering

**Inquiries:** Planning Management Section, Ext. 2115; Community Welfare Section, Ext. 2614

Mitaka City holds the Mitaka Peace Gathering every year in August, commemorating it as Peace Emphasis Month. It includes many events meant to reconfirm the value of peace. All events are free of charge, and no reservations are required to join in. We hope as many people as possible will attend these events!

### ◆ August 15 (Tue.): Mitaka Peace Gathering

**Location:** Mitaka City Public Hall "Hikari-no Hall"

#### • Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead and Peace Memorial Ceremony (with sign-language interpreter and written summary)

This is a ceremony with hopes for peace, praying for the souls of war victims.

**Time:** 10:15 a.m. to around 12:10 p.m.

**Program:** Offering of flowers, a memorial service and messages for peace, remembrances by war victims, choral singing, and a moment of silence

**Note:** Anyone can dedicate flowers until 3:30 p.m.



Last year's Mitaka Peace Gathering

#### • Animated Peace Film Screening: *The Elephant Train Has Come to Town!* (in Japanese, animation, 80 min.)

Make the most of this opportunity to find out about zoos during World War II, while remembering Hanako the elephant.

**Time:** 1:30 to 2:50 p.m. (The hall will be open from 1:10 p.m.)

#### ◆ Peace Exhibition featuring a photo panel exhibit from the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and an exhibit of peace and education posters for elementary schoolchildren

**Date and time:** August 8 (Tue.) through 15 (Tue.), 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed on Saturday, Sunday and national holidays)

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

## Please Join the Traditional Tanabata Festival



The jazz concert at last year's Tanabata Festival

Tanabata festival is a Japanese traditional summer event for enjoying the starry sky and making a wish. Since stars can rarely be seen on Tanabata Day of the modern calendar (July 7) due to the rainy season, at the Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest, the annual festival is held at a more "traditional" time according to the lunar calendar (August 28 this year).

Tanabata is said to have originated from the Chinese folktale *The Weaver Girl and the Cowherd* and from

traditional Japanese festivals celebrating the art of weaving. It is said that by writing wishes on strips of paper that comes in five colors and hanging them on a small bamboo tree, wishes come true and penmanship improves.

At this event, you can also write your wish on these strips of paper, decorate a bamboo tree with it, and place it in a bonfire so that your wishes reach the skies. During the day, there will be storytelling by international students from the International Christian University. At night, there will be a jazz concert and the opportunity to observe the starlit sky led by a staff member of the National Astronomical Observatory. (In the case of rain, the night program will be canceled.)

Don't miss this opportunity to experience "traditional" Tanabata at this time of year when the Milky Way can be seen beautifully.

**Date and time:** August 27 (Sun.), 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. (regular hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**Location:** The facility (inside the National Astronomical Observatory, 2-21-3 Osawa)

**Application:** Come to the venue directly.

**Inquiries:** Please contact the facility, **Tel:** 0422-39-3401, **URL:** <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/ehon/>

## A Preview of the Taste of Autumn Grape-Picking and Direct Sales of Grapes

**Inquiries:** JA Tokyo Musashi Mitaka Economy Center, **Tel:** 0422-46-2152

Eight Mitaka City farms that are members of the Mitaka Fruit-Growers Association are opening up for visitors to pick their grapes and for direct sales of the fruit. The main varieties of grapes grown in Mitaka are Fujiminori, Takao, Beni-Izu, and Shine Muscat. Depending on the farm, other varieties that are rarely available at market are also on the vine. Taste the grapes that Mitaka growers have poured their hearts into growing!

We recommend that you chill freshly picked grapes slightly before eating them.

**Grape-picking and sales season:** From around August 10 (Thu.)

**Sale price:** from ¥1,700 per 1 kg (depending on type)

**Application:** Please contact the farm you wish to visit beforehand.

#### Notes:

1. For more information, such as the addresses and telephone numbers of



Grapes also make a wonderful gift

the farms, please visit the Mitaka City website. You can also make purchases through the JA Tokyo Musashi Mitaka Greenification Center (within Agriculture Park), **Tel:** 0422-48-7482.

2. The varieties, amount available, sale dates and prices vary depending on the farm.

## “Mitaka City Garbage Services” Brochure (available in four languages)

**Inquiries:** Garbage Management Section, Ext. 2535



Mitaka City has published the brochure “Mitaka City Garbage Services,” describing garbage sorting and disposal procedures in four languages—English, Chinese, Korean and Japanese with *furigana*. Since it is available free at the Garbage Management Section (Mitaka Municipal Office Bldg. #2 2F), Civil Affairs Section (Mitaka Municipal Office 1F), municipal offices branches, Mitaka International Society for HOspitality (MISHOP), and other places, please pick up a copy. A PDF version can be downloaded from the Mitaka City website (URL: [http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/c\\_service/066/066964.html](http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/c_service/066/066964.html)).

## Mitaka Station Elevator Renovation

**Inquiries:** Road and City Traffic Management Section, Ext. 2855

Out of the two elevators at Mitaka Station’s South Exit Plaza, the one on the western side will be undergoing renovations from mid-August (scheduled to be completed in early October). We know that this will be an inconvenience for many, and appreciate your gracious understanding and cooperation in the matter.

## Recruiting Teams for the 26th Mitaka Citizens Ekiden Relay!

We are recruiting participants for the annual ekiden relay, where you can run with family or friends and pass the team sash while being cheered on by the crowd. From this year, the start and finish will be the Mitaka Central Park for Disaster Prevention and Genki Creation Plaza.



Last year’s ekiden relay

◆ **Date, time and course**  
November 26 (Sun.), starts at 7:30 a.m. (will be held even in light rain). The course circles the City (four sections) for a total of 12.5 kilometers (subject to change).

◆ **Eligibility/team members**  
Must live, work, or go to school in the City, and be of junior high school age or older. Each team must have a manager, four athletes, and up to four substitutes.

◆ **Divisions/number of teams**

- Men’s (high school age or older; includes teams with both males and females): 125 teams
- Women’s (high school age or older): 30 teams
- Senior (50 years of age or older as of the day of the event): 10 teams
- Junior high school (boys’ and girls’ divisions): 30 teams

**Fee:** ¥5,000 per team (free of charge for junior high school division)

**Application:** Send a return postcard between August 7 (Mon.) and 25 (Fri.; must be received by this date) with the representative’s name, address, telephone number, names of your team and all members—the manager, athletes, and substitutes—and division category to the Sports Promotion Section 181-8555. If the number of applications exceeds capacity, a lottery will be held.

**Note:** The application guideline is available at the City website, Sports Promotion Section (Mitaka Municipal Office Bldg. #2 3F), SUBARU General Sports Center and Mitaka City Amateur Sports Association.

**Inquiries:** Sports Promotion Section, Ext. 2931

## Swim at a Pool in the Hot Summer!

### ◆ Swim at Community Center pools!

**Eligibility:** City residents and those who work or go to school in the city  
**Fee:** Elementary and junior high school students: ¥50; High school students and older: ¥200

◆ **Shinkawa Nakahara Community Center, Tel: 0422-49-6568** (closed on Mondays and on August 11 [a national holiday])

**Date and time (until September 3 [Sun.]):** Tuesday through Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., 1:10 to 2:50 p.m., 3:20 to 5:00 p.m.; Sundays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., 12:50 to 2:30 p.m., 3:00 to 4:40 p.m.

(Pool users will be replaced for each session; reception is open until forty-five minutes before closing.)

◆ **Iguchi Community Center, Tel: 0422-32-7141** (closed on Thursdays and August 11)

**Date and time (until August 27 [Sun.]):** Monday through Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Two hours’ maximum use per time period; reception is open until one hour before closing.)

◆ **Renjaku Community Center, Tel: 0422-45-5100** (closed on Thursdays and August 11)

**Date and time (until August 30 [Wed.]):** Monday through Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; Sundays: 10:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Two hours’ maximum use per time period; reception is open until thirty minutes before closing.)

◆ **Mure Community Center, Tel: 0422-49-3441** (center is closed on Tuesdays and on August 11; the pool is closed on August 9 [Wed.] and 10 [Thu.])

**Date and time (until August 27):** Weekdays and Sundays: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Two hours’ maximum usage per time period; reception is open until forty-five minutes before closing.)

◆ **Osawa Community Center, Tel: 0422-32-6986** (closed on Tuesdays and on August 11)

**Date and time (until August 28):** Monday through Saturday: noon to 6:00 p.m.; Sundays: noon to 4:30 p.m.

(Two hours’ maximum usage per time period; reception is open until one hour before closing.)

### ◆ Swim at the SUBARU General Sports Center Pool!

**Inquiries:** SUBARU General Sports Center, Tel: 0422-45-1113

**Days and hours:** Every day except for the fourth Monday of the month (or the following day if the fourth Monday is a national holiday), 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Two hours’ maximum usage per time period.)

**Note:** The pool is sometimes unavailable due to special events such as competitions. For more information, please visit the Mitaka Central Park for Disaster Prevention and Genki Creation Plaza website (URL: <https://www.mitakagenki-plaza.jp/sports/>).

#### Fee for individual use:

Residents’ rate (those who live, work or go to school in Mitaka City, as well as Chofu City residents): high school students or older: ¥400; those seventy years of age or older: ¥300; elementary or junior high school students: ¥100  
Non-resident rate: high school students or older: ¥600; elementary or junior high school students: ¥150

**Application for individual use:** Please bring documentation showing that you live, work or go to school in Mitaka City, or that you are a Chofu City resident (copies are not allowed) to the facility. For those seventy years of age or older, an elderly discount card will be issued, so please bring documentation showing your age (copies are not allowed).

## Events of Mitaka City Sports and Culture Foundation

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

**Hours:** 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (admission until 7:30 p.m.)

**HP** <http://mitaka-sportsandculture.or.jp/gallery/> (Japanese only)

### The Unreachable Place: Asuka Takamatsu Exhibition

Born in 1984, Asuka Takamatsu paints both familiar scenes and scenes from movies. If we stand in front of a scene depicted by Takamatsu, each of us will have our own interpretation of the scene. It is a mysterious experience difficult to describe in words. This is the first time for a museum in Tokyo to introduce and exhibit Asuka Takamatsu’s works.

**Note:** Free for junior high school students and younger, and those with a handbook for the disabled.

**In cooperation with:** Gallery Ecru no Mori



Oneself Reflected Many Times (partial), 2017

**Dates:** August 11 (national holiday) through October 22 (Sun.)

**Closed:** Mondays (open on September 18 and October 9), on September 19 (Tue.) and October 10 (Tue.)

**Admission:** Members: ¥480; non-members: ¥600; those who are sixty-five or older, high school students, or university students: ¥300

**Population and Number of Households As of July 1, 2017**  
Numbers in brackets are changes from previous month.

**Number of Registered Residents 186,144 persons (-22)**

**Number of Households 92,867 households (-65)**

## 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/>

**Established:** November 23, 1989