



URAYASU CITY

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City
News

U R A Y A S U
Population and No. of
Households in Urayasu

Population: 170,802
Male: 82,880
Female: 87,922
Households: 85,121
Foreign Residents: 4,619
(As of November 30, 2023)




Happy New Year!

Etsushi Uchida, Mayor of Urayasu City



I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you were able to pleasantly welcome 2024.

Last year, we were finally able to hold a ceremony celebrating the 40th anniversary of Urayasu City's establishment, which had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also appointed Urayasu City Public Relations Ambassadors. These are examples of our efforts to enhance Urayasu's attractiveness and foster love for our hometown.

Since COVID-19 was reclassified to Class 5, many events have been held in the city, including the Fireworks Festival, which was held for the first time in four years. It was a year where we were able to feel the city revitalizing.

This coming year, we will steadily implement projects in our comprehensive plan that address structural issues of the city ten to twenty years in the future. We will also

formulate the second implementation plan for the further advancement of the city, actively develop projects to resolve longstanding concerns and issues, and implement measures and projects that allow residents to feel connected to the community and take pride in the city.

As for the project to introduce a prefectural special support school, we will renovate two adjoining schools—Akemi Minami Elementary School and Akemi Junior High School—to create the first special support school in Chiba Prefecture located within the premises of a municipal school. Preparations are progressing toward the opening of the elementary and junior high school departments, scheduled for 2027.

We have also been devoting efforts to providing diverse learning opportunities, which is the first project of its kind in Chiba Prefecture. We are working to open a school for diversified learning as soon as possible so

that students will not be limited in their career choices due to truancy.

Counseling systems will be enhanced by making use of the Comprehensive Care Support Centers and other facilities for children. Support systems will also be developed for those who have complex issues and concerns, as well as for individuals who often go unnoticed, such as young caregivers.

Development of the waterfront area is also well underway, with work currently being done along the Chidori district seawall to create a space where residents can feel the sea through fishing and other activities. In addition, a criterium will be held at the Hinode and Akemi area seawalls, which were fully opened to the public in 2023.

I would like to close my New Year's greetings by wishing you all a wonderful and fruitful new year.

Major Events in 2023

January



70th Urayasu City Coming-of-Age Ceremony

Although the age of adulthood has changed to 18, the ceremony name was changed to the "Urayasu City Coming-of-Age Ceremony: Gathering of 20" and continues to be for those who turned 20 years of age.

February



Received the Regional Creation Award at the Rakuten Travel Awards 2022

Urayasu City received huge support through the Rakuten Travel Coupon Return Gift program of Japan's hometown tax system, and was honored for its contribution to revitalizing the local economy and promoting tourism.

March



The Urayasu D-Rocks Junior Players Visit the Mayor

At the National Junior Rugby Football Tournament held at the end of 2022, which was full of strong teams that qualified, the Urayasu D-Rocks Junior finished third in Group 2A.

April



Ceremony and Parade for the 40th Anniversary of Urayasu City's Establishment and 150th Anniversary of Chiba Prefecture's Establishment; 25th Urayasu City Citizens' Festival; and 47th Ueki Festival

The joint festival featured dancing and chorus performances, food trucks, photo panel exhibitions, and a commemorative parade featuring Urayasu City Public Relations Ambassadors and performances by various groups.

May



Exchange Event with Junior High School Students from Indonesia

Twenty Indonesian junior high school students visited Takasu Junior High School and interacted with the students. The Takasu Junior High School students introduced Japanese culture in English. The students also enjoyed experiencing tea ceremony and club activities, and deepened their friendship in a social atmosphere using both English and Japanese.

June



Urayasu Marugoto Children's Plaza

The event was held to commemorate Prefectural Citizens' Day. The section where visitors could make a large origami Chiba-kun, Chiba Prefecture's mascot character, and the section where visitors could take pictures with Chiba-kun were very popular among the children.

July



Summer Vacation School Lunch Center Tour and Tasting

After touring a school lunch center, students moved to another center to experience a school lunch cooking simulation. They received explanations about the flow of school lunch preparations and experienced stirring a large pot and loading a container with school lunch onto a truck.

August



Urayasu City Federation of Local Community Associations 60th Anniversary Noryo Bon Odori Festival

Rows of people formed a circle around the yagura to enjoying dancing. The street in front of the Chuo Public Hall was lined with booths, which also attracted many people.

September



Resort Walk: A Stroll with a View of the Sea and the Sunset

More than 40 people walked the 6-kilometer course, which started from Sports Park, passed through Maihama Station, continued along the promenade overlooking the sea, and back to Sports Park. A beautiful sunset, visible from the promenade, drew cheers from the participants.

October



The 41st Urayasu City Fireworks Festival

The fireworks festival was held for the first time in four years. Approximately 6,600 fireworks lit up the autumn sky of Urayasu, filling the venue with the smiles of many visitors.

November



Child-Raising Support Messe

The venue was vibrant with parents and children who participated in the event, which included a crawling race for infants, a firefighting plaza, and a section where children could wear police officer uniforms.

December



Urayasu City Federation of Local Community Associations 60th Anniversary Music Festival

The music festival, held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Urayasu City Federation of Local Community Associations, featured performances by a variety of groups, including brass bands from municipal elementary and junior high schools, the Iruka Chorus, the Urayasu City Firefighters Band, and dance groups from the city. Shin Aoyama, an *enka* singer from Urayasu, also appeared as a special guest to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

Urayasu Information 2024

Conveniently File Tax Returns (Kakutei Shinkoku) Through Your Smartphone

It is convenient to file your tax returns using your My Number Card and smartphone. Blue return financial statements and income/expense statements for business income and real estate income can be created through a smartphone.

At the "Final Tax Return Preparation Corner" on the National Tax Agency website (<https://www.keisan.nta.go.jp>), you can prepare, transmit via e-Tax, and print your income tax return form by simply following the instructions on the screen and entering the amount of income, etc.



Inquiries: Ichikawa Tax Office, Tel: 047-335-4101 (Residential Tax Section)

Reduction of National Health Insurance Premiums Before and After Childbirth

Beginning in January 2024, the income and per capita amount of the National Health Insurance premiums will be reduced for the period before and after childbirth (4 months in the case of a single pregnancy and 6 months in the case of multiple pregnancies). Those eligible for the reduction are NHI members who gave birth or will give birth after November 2023. A notification must be submitted to receive the reduction. For more information on the system and submitting a notification, visit the city website.



Inquiries: National Health Insurance and Pension Section, Tel: 712-6280

Revision of Individual Resident Tax starting from FY2024

Unification of Taxation Methods for Dividend Income and Transfer Income of Listed Stocks, etc.

Until FY2023 (taxes for 2022), taxpayers could choose different taxation methods (separate withholding taxation, comprehensive taxation, or separate declaration taxation) for income tax and municipal and prefectural resident taxes, but from FY2024 (taxes for 2023) onward, municipal and prefectural resident taxes will be levied under the same method as income tax. (FY2022 tax reform)

Forest Environment Tax (national tax)

One thousand yen is levied and collected together with the per capita portion of the municipal and prefectural resident taxes (individual resident tax) annually from individuals with a domicile in Japan.

The annual 1,000 yen that has been added to individual resident tax since FY2014 based on the Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake will be dropped in FY2023.

Revision of Exemption for Dependents Relating to Relatives Residing Abroad

Relatives residing outside Japan who are between 30 and 69 years of age are excluded from the exemption for dependents if they do not fall under any of the following categories.

- Persons who no longer have a domicile or residence in Japan due to studying abroad.
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons who receive 380,000 yen or more in payments to cover living or educational expenses for the year from taxpayers who file for dependent exemptions.

Inquiries: Residential Tax Section, Tel: 712-6212

New Year's Events at the Folk Museum

Exhibition: *Nori* Cultivation Industry of Urayasu

Dates: January 4 (Thu.) to March 3 (Sun.)

Details: An exhibition about the history, folklife, and nature of *nori* (seaweed) cultivation, which was a wintertime tradition and a key industry of Urayasu.

New Year *Shishimai* (Lion Dance)

Date and time: January 7 (Sun.), 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Details: Performance by the Urayasu Hayashi Preservation Association

Enjoy Traditional New Year Games

Date and time: January 8, (Mon.; national holiday), 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Details: Experience traditional New Year games such as *karuta* cards, *fuku-warai* (a blindfold game for kids), *beigoma* tops, and *hagoita* (battledore)

Delicious *Nori* Tasting

Date and time: January 14 (Sun.), 2 to 3 p.m.

Details: Tasting of *nori* cultivated in Chiba

Eligibility: Elementary school third graders and older, 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis

Nori Making Experience

Date and time: February 10 (Sat.), 9 to 11 a.m.

Eligibility: Elementary school third graders and older, 20 people

Fees: 100 yen

Application: Call the Folk Museum starting on January 10 (Wed.)

O-kanke

Date and time: February 11 (Sun.), 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Eligibility: Elementary school students and older, 10 people (parents/guardians may not accompany children)

Details: An experience of a traditional winter event where children go from house to house singing songs and receiving candy

Application: Call the Folk Museum starting on January 11 (Thu.)

Inquiries: Folk Museum, Tel: 305-4300



Yakata-bune Boat Riding

Date and time: February 18 (Sun.), 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (substitute date: February 25 [Sun.]) Please gather under Urayasu Bridge.
Capacity: About 100 people (a lottery may be held; the representative of a group must live in Urayasu)
Details: Enjoy a meal while riding a yakata-bune boat
Fees: 2,000 yen (1,000 yen for elementary school children and younger; free for up to one child who is younger than three years of age)
Application: Send a postcard with the names of all people in the group, address and telephone number of the representative, and the number of children, if any (separately count children under three years of age) to the Commerce Industry and Tourism Section (Urayasu City Hall 279-8501) or apply through the Chiba Electronic Application Service (<https://apply.e-tumo.jp/city-urayasu-chiba-u/>) by Monday, January 15 (postcards must arrive by this date).
Note: One application per group.
Inquiries: Commerce Industry and Tourism Section, **Tel:** 712-6297



Workshops for Using the Sports Park Gymnasium and Chuo Martial Arts Gymnasium Training Rooms (January)

Those wishing to use the training rooms must attend a workshop.
Eligibility: Those aged 15 and older (excluding junior high school students). Bardral Urayasu Arena: 6 people per workshop; Chuo Martial Arts Gymnasium: 5 people per workshop (on a first-come, first-served basis for both)
Note: Walk-ins will be accepted on the day of the workshop if it is not at full capacity. For more information about the schedule, visit the city website.
Inquiries: Bardral Urayasu Arena, **Tel:** 355-1110; Chuo Martial Arts Gymnasium, **Tel:** 380-2100 (Sports Section)



Reduce Food Waste with the 3010 Movement

During the year-end/New Year's period, the number of parties and other dinner gatherings increase. This results in more food waste. The 3010 Movement is a campaign that advises you to focus on enjoying the meal for 30 minutes after the toast and 10 minutes before the end of the gathering to reduce leftover foods. Remind everyone of the 3010 Movement when making a toast so everyone can enjoy the delicious meal, properly appreciate the food, and play a part in reducing food waste.
Inquiries: Garbage-Free Section, **Tel:** 712-6485



Collection Day for Used Kitchen Oil and Used Clothes/Rags

Date and time: January 10 (Wed.), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Urayasu City Hall 1F (Civic Hall)
Note: Please wash all used clothes and rags, and place the dry items in a transparent bag.
Inquiries: Garbage-Free Section, **Tel:** 712-6485



City Hall Visitation Appointment System

After December 18, 2023, you can make an appointment for visiting city facility service windows online through the visitation appointment system. You can access the system through the city website or the Urayasu City Official LINE Account (@urayasu_city) to make an appointment for some city service windows and reserve the use of city facilities. You can efficiently use your time by coming to the office at the appointed time.
Notes:
 1. The top page of the Urayasu City Official LINE Account will change to reflect the introduction of the system.
 2. You must continue to call or come directly to the office for procedures that are not covered by the system.
Inquiries: Communication Network Promotion Section, **Tel:** 712-6142

Urayasu D-Rocks Fan Bus Tour

Date and time: February 3 (Sat.), 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Komazawa Olympic Park (Setagaya City, Tokyo)
Note: Meet up at the rotary in front of the multistory parking garage at the Urayasu City Hall (the bus will return here at the end of the tour).
Eligibility: 80 persons that live in the city, on a first-come, first-served basis
Details: Rugby match between Urayasu D-Rocks and Red Hurricanes Osaka
Note: You will receive a free fan gift.
Fees: 1,000 yen (500 yen for high school students and younger)
Applications: Apply from the city website starting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 4
Inquiries: Sports Section, **Tel:** 712-6819



Recruiting Tenants for Chiba Prefecture Housing

Application: Apply by January 15 (Mon.) (must be postmarked by this date) by sending an application form [available at the Housing Affairs Section (Urayasu City Hall 6F), General Information Desk (Urayasu City Hall 1F), Station City Service Centers, or on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, at the Central Management Office (Urayasu City Hall 1F)] to the Chiba Prefecture Public Housing Corporation (1-16 Sakaecho, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, 260-0016).
Note: For more information, please refer to the Chiba Prefecture Public Housing Corporation website: <https://www.chiba-kousya.or.jp>
Inquiries: Chiba Prefecture Public Housing Corporation Recruiting Section, **Tel:** 043-222-9200



Tops and Beigoma Tournaments

Date and time: January 7 (Sun.), 2 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: Children's Adventure Field
Eligibility: Elementary school children and younger who live in the city (preschool children must be

accompanied by a parent/guardian), 20 people on a first-come, first-served basis (application unnecessary, come directly to the venue)
Inquiries: Children's Adventure Field, **Tel:** 350-1010



New Year's Calligraphy

Date and time: January 8 (Mon.; national holiday), 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. (reception begins 30 minutes before each time slot)
Location: Children's Adventure Field
Eligibility: Elementary school children and younger who live in the city (preschool children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)
Inquiries: Children's Adventure Field, **Tel:** 350-1010



Hawaiian Eurhythmics

Date and time: January 25 (Thu.), 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Location: Ura La Mer
Eligibility: Three-year-old children and younger and their parents/guardians, 10 pairs on a first-come, first-served basis
Details: Rhythm games and expressive play using Hawaiian music (by Misuzu Furukawa [Hawaiian Eurhythmics instructor])
Fees: 500 yen per pair
Application: Call or come directly to Ura La Mer from 1 p.m. on January 8 (Mon.; national holiday)
Inquiries: Ura La Mer, **Tel:** 316-5777 (Youth Section)

FY2024 Applications for Long-term Use of City Bicycle Parking Lots

Applications for long-term use of city bicycle parking lots (for use starting in April) will be accepted from Wednesday, January 10. You must also apply if you are currently using parking lots and wish to continue use in April and beyond. For more information, visit the website operated by the Urayasu Foundation (<https://cyclune.azurewebsites.net/urayasu/>). If you wish to use Shin-Urayasu Station 13th Bicycle Parking Area, visit the Shin-Urayasu IL MARE website (<http://www.shin-urayasu-ilmare.com/floor/floorb1f/#anc-1>).
Inquiries: Urayasu Foundation, **Tel:** 355-8321; Shin-Urayasu IL MARE, **Tel:** 380-2588 (Citizens Safety Measures Section)

Recyclable Waste Disposal Schedule

Collection Area	Bottles/Cans/PET plastic bottles	Newspapers/Magazines
Nekozane, Kitazakae, Todaijima	Every Tue.	Every Mon.
Horie, Higashino, Fujimi, Maihama, Tekkadori 3-chome	Every Wed.	Every Sat.
Kairaku, Mihama, Irifune, Hinode, Akemi	Every Thu.	Every Mon.
Tomioka, Imagawa, Benten, Takasu, Minato, Tekkadori 1- and 2-chome, Chidori	Every Fri.	Every Sat.

* Please put out your garbage between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. It is against the rules to put it out earlier or later than this designated time as it could become a nuisance in your neighborhood.
 * Bulky items will be collected separately on request by phone. Call the Bulky Items Reception Center ☎ 305-4000. For inquiries, contact the Garbage-Free Section ☎ 712-6467.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASSISTANCE DESK

Urayasu City provides consultation services concerning daily life such as medical, educational or job-related matters.
HOURS: 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 1 - 4 p.m. weekdays
LANGUAGES: English, French, Chinese, Polish, Russian and Japanese
PHONE NUMBER & LOCATION: 712-6910
 Urayasu City Hall Local Activities Promotion Section

Foreign Residents Advisory Corner

Hours: Every Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., every Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Languages: English and Japanese
Phone Number & Location: 306-5181, International Center