

Life Information News

KOMAKI

3 March
2010 issue



Mt. Komaki Cherry Blossom Festival (See P.2 for details)

Contents

- Mt. Komaki Cherry Blossom Festival
- Sightseeing in Komaki
- Helpful information for residents
- March dishes
- Hiring temporary worker (KIA)
- Consumer Support Service: Security deposit issues
- Emergency employment support measures (Hiring temporary worker)
- Deadline information
- Medical checkup information

Foreign residents in Komaki / 8,621 residents

Population of Komaki / 153,637 residents

As of February 1, 2009

Mt. Komaki Cherry Blossom Festival

Mt. Komaki provides a pleasant getaway for Komaki residents in all seasons. Oda Nobunaga built a castle on the mountain, where Ieyasu positioned his troops during the Battle of Komaki and Nagakute. Last November, 500 cherry trees were planted here in the hopes that the area would continue to offer relaxation to the community as a well-known spot for cherry blossoms. A Cherry Blossom Festival will be held in early April to show off the beautiful blossoms that bloom during this period.

Date April 1 (Thu), 2010 through April 11 (Sun) (11 days)

Venue Mt. Komaki

- Cherry blossoms lit up at night with paper lanterns
- Special evening hours at the Komaki History Museum at Komaki Castle
- Events held in Shiseki Park
 - Stage events...April 3 (Sat) Taiko drum performances
April 4 (Sun) Traditional Japanese instrument performances
 - Merchant booths
 - Outdoor tea service (Cancelled in case of rain)
 - Sketch contest (Cancelled in case of rain)
 - Photo contest
 - Tanka poetry display

Inquiries Komaki Tourist Association
(Commerce and Industry Division) TEL: 76-1134



Helpful information for residents

Annual festival at Tagata Shrine (Harvest Festival) March 15 every year

Tagata Shrine is home to the Mitoshinokami, the deity of harvests and cultivation and Tamahimenomikoto, deity of fertility and safe childbirth.

The annual Bumper Festival (Hounensai) at Tagata Shrine is celebrated on March 15 each year, and is famous both in Japan and abroad. Each year, a giant sacred phallus (50 cm in diameter and over two meters long) is carved from hinoki cypress every year. Men at climacteric ages (42) carry a portable shrine housing the sacred phallus and parade from its origin, Otabisho to Tagata Shrine, where they offer it along with prayers for an abundant harvest, world peace, and widespread growth and fertility.

On the day of the festival, Tagata Shrine is packed with visitors from all over the world who come to wish for romance, healthy children, a safe birth of a child, or a happy marriage.

How to get there Five minute walk from the "Tagatajinja-mae" stop on the Meitetsu Komaki Line.

Address 152, Tagata-cho, Komaki-shi



Helpful information for residents

● What to do when you have an interview

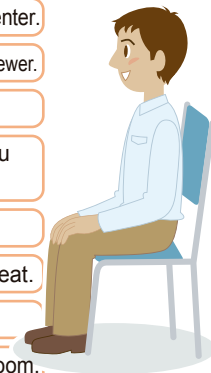
An interview is your chance to sell yourself to your prospective employer. Learning Japanese interview customs before you go will help you show your abilities and motivation in the best possible light.

Preparing for the interview

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid flashy clothing. | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrive at the interview ten minute beforehand. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wear jewelry. | <input type="checkbox"/> Be polite and friendly when greeting and speaking to others. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not smoke. | <input type="checkbox"/> Present yourself in an outgoing, straightforward manner. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not chew gum. | <input type="checkbox"/> Be prepared to discuss your career history and reasons for wanting the job. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off your cell phone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Come prepared with a list of questions to ask during the interview. |

The interview process

- ① Knock gently before entering.
- ② When you hear dōzo, you may open the door. Say shitsurei shimasu to excuse yourself as you enter.
- ③ Turn and face the door and close it gently. Do not simply slam it shut behind you. Bow slightly to the interviewer.
- ④ Stand by the interview chair and introduce yourself. End by bow.
- ⑤ Take your seat only when it is offered to you (osuwari-kudasai). Say shitsurei shimasu as you sit down. (Sit straight up in your seat. Do not lean back in your seat.)
- ⑥ Look directly at the interviewer when speaking.
- ⑦ When the interviewer says that the interview is over (owarimasu), stand next to your seat.
- ⑧ Bow slightly and say arigatō gozaimasu before turning to leave.
- ⑨ Stand at the door, bow slightly and excuse yourself (shitsurei shimasu) before exiting the room.



March dishes

Sushi bowl (Chirashi-zushi)

During the Doll Festival (Girls' Day), people put out hina dolls and make offerings of white sake and hishimochi sweets. The bright colors of chirashi-zushi a festive, spring-like touch to this festival, where people wish for the health and happiness of girls.



■ Ingredients (serves 4)

■ Vinegared rice

- Rice.....450g
- Vinegar.....60cc
- Sugar.....2 and 1/2 tbsp
- Salt.....1 tsp

■ Ingredients added to rice

- Lotus root50g
- Carrot100g
- Dried shiitake mushrooms...3
- <Seasoning set A>
 - Shiitake mushroom broth.....1 cup (200ml)
 - Sugar2 tbsp
 - Soy sauce2 tbsp
 - Japanese sweet rice wine for cooking (Mirin).....1 tbsp
 - Salt1 tsp

■ Toppings

- Lotus root50g
- Shrimp.....8
- Snow peas30g
- Egg2
- SaltDash
- Salmon roeAs needed
- Shredded nori seaweed...As needed
- <Seasoning set B>
 - Water.....3 tbsp
 - Sugar.....1 tbsp
 - Vinegar1 and 1/2 tbsp
 - Salt1/4 tsp

■ Directions

Recipe provided by: School Lunch Nutrition Group

- ① Wash and cook the rice. Combine the vinegar, sugar, and salt.
- ② Prepare the ingredients to add to the rice. Julienne the carrots. Peel the lotus root and slice thin, cutting each slice into fourths. Soak in vinegared water to remove harshness.
- ③ Soak the dried shiitake mushrooms in lukewarm water until soft, then julienne. Boil the cut ingredients in seasoning set A.
- ④ Prepare the toppings. Peel the lotus root and slice. Soak in vinegared water, then boil in seasoning set B.
- ⑤ Cut the snow peas into thin diagonal strips and boil along with the shrimp.
- ⑥ Cook crepe-style eggs (usu-yaki tamago) and slice thin.
- ⑦ Sprinkle the vinegar mixture prepared in ① over the cooked rice. Stir in the rice ingredients and arrange the toppings.

■ Tips

Use a cutting motion with a rice paddle to stir the rice so that it doesn't clump together. Fanning the rice while stirring it will give it a nice shine.

International Association hiring temporary workers

- **Details** / Clerk works at the Association offices.
- **No of positions open** / 1 person
- **Qualifications** / Familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel. Interest in international activities Ability to work in Japanese and English.
- **Work schedule** / Starting from April 1, 5 days/week (Tue through Sat: 09:00–17:00), starting from Jan 5. *Overtime and weekend work may be required.
- **Hourly wage** / 1,080 yen/hour
- **Application** / Submit CVs to Komaki International Association (KIA). Entries must arrive between Mar 2 (Tue) and Mar 13 (Sat). (May send by post.)



Inquiries

Komaki International Association (KIA) Administration Office
(Komaki Kominkan 4F)
Business hour: weekdays 9:00–17:00 (except 12:00–13:00)
TEL: 76-0905 FAX: 71-8396 Email: kia@ma.ccnw.ne.jp

Consumer Support Service

Helpful moving tips!

Getting your security deposit back when moving out



The Consumer Support Service has put together some tips for handling security deposit issues that may arise when moving out of a rented apartment, including responsibility for repairs and cleaning and deposit refunds.

- 1 The first step is to consult with your landlord well before you plan to move out. Be aware that your rental agreement may require that you pay a fee if you do not provide sufficient advance notice of your move. This is important if you must move suddenly.
- 2 There are no strict rules regarding responsibility for repairs and cleaning after you move. However, MLIT has published guidelines on dealing issues related to cleaning and repairing rental properties, which provide a rationale in case of disputes. The guidelines state that the renter is responsible for any damages or dirtying caused intentionally or through neglect. However, they also state that damage, wear, and discoloration resulting from everyday use are the responsibility of the property owner. Further, the responsibility for repairs only extend to the minimum required to fix the defect, and does not include general refurbishing.
- 3 If you cannot accept the amount billed to you for repairs, write a letter stating the amount you think is appropriate and discuss it with your landlord. If you still cannot resolve the issue and the amount of the refund is less than 600,000 yen, consider filing a small claims case in Summary Court. If you have any questions or would like further details, please contact the Consumer Support Service.

Inquiries

Consumer Support Service Center (Life Exchange Section) TEL: 76-1119
(Monday through Friday) 10:00–12:00, 13:00–16:30

Emergency employment support measures (Hiring temporary worker)

Job information No. of position open, and other information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job information...Daily workers ● No. of positions open...Twenty persons ● Hourly wage...840 yen/hour ● Duties...Patrol for illegal dumping, park cleanup, childcare assistance
Qualifications	<p>Applicants must have a valid alien registration card and reside within Komaki City. Applicants must also have residency status in Japan and lost their jobs in November 2008 or later due to poor business conditions. Note that those currently not working in temporary positions as part of emergency employment support measures are given priority.</p>
Work schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working conditions.....○5 days/week (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays off) ○7 working hours or less between 9:00 and 17:00 ● Hiring period.....April 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010
Interview, interview location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interview date.....Mar 18, 2010 (Thu) ● Interview location.....Komaki City Hall
Examination Application procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application.....Commerce and Industry Division (South Government Office Bldg) ● Acceptance period.....Between Mar 8, 2010 (Mon) and Mar 12, 2010 (Fri) 8:30-17:15 ● Required documents...○Application form and CV form designated by Komaki City (Commercially-available CVs also accepted) ○Proof of unemployment (Notice of Dismissal, Certificate of Unemployment, etc.) ● Examination tickets ... Examination tickets will be delivered once all the necessary documentation has been received



Application/Inquiries Commerce and Industry Division TEL: 76-1134
1, Horinouchi 1-chome, Komaki, 485-8650

Next tax payment deadline: Mar 31, 2010 (Wed)



● Late-Term Medical Insurance for the Elderly (10th term)

Submit your payments promptly! Smooth functioning of the system requires that everyone make timely payments. Avoid missed payments by setting up direct debit payments from your bank account.
If you have already set up direct debit payments for your taxes, be sure that your account has sufficient funds available by the day before payment is due.

☆ Did you remember to pay your taxes?

Tax payment slips for the new fiscal year will be sent out in April. If you have not yet paid your taxes, please make your payment as soon as possible. You may have a sound reason for your delayed payment, but the City Hall Income Tax Office will not know this if you do not consult with or contact us. Please notify us of any special circumstances.

◎ The City Hall Tax Office will be open on Sundays to answer tax-related questions and accept payments.

- Dates Mar 14 (Sun) — 8:30-17:15
- Mar 28 (Sun) — 8:30-17:15

◎ Tax payments will be accepted at the Komaki Station branch office weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

Please stop by at your convenience.

- Business hours from 8:30-17:15.
- The Komaki Station branch office is closed during the New Year holidays.

Inquiries Tax Office TEL: 72-2101 (operator) Ext: 276-279 TEL: 76-1117・76-1118 (direct call)


 Medical Checkup Information

Inquiry Health Center TEL: 75-6471



Mother/child Health Examination Calendar

*Make sure to bring your Maternal and Child Health Handbook.



Checkups available	Schedule	Time	Checkups for
Health examinations and BCG vaccinations for 4-month-old infants, dental examinations for mothers	Mar 2 (Tue) Mar 9 (Tue)	Admissions 13:05-13:55	Children born in Oct 2009
	Mar 16 (Tue) Mar 23 (Tue) Mar 30 (Tue)		Children born in Nov 2009
	Health examinations for 18-month-old infants		Mar 5 (Fri) Mar 12 (Fri) Mar 19 (Fri)
Dental examinations for children aged 2 years, 3 months	Mar 4 (Thu) Mar 18 (Thu)	Admissions 9:00-10:10	Children born in Dec 2007
Health examinations for 3-year-old children	Mar 3 (Wed) Mar 10 (Wed) Mar 24 (Wed)	Admissions 13:05-14:15	Children born in Mar 2007

*Health examination admission times differ depending on date of birth. Please refer to the health examination schedule that will be sent in the mail.



Group Cancer/osteoporosis Screening

Examinations	For	Mar 2010
Screening test for stomach cancer Abdominal X-ray 930 yen	Registered Komaki residents aged 40 years and over	11 th (Thu) 21 st (Sun)
Screening test for colorectal cancer Testing of the stool for occult blood 520 yen	Registered Komaki residents aged 40 years and over	Screening tests for stomach cancer will also be conducted.
Screening for uterus cancer Uterine cervix only 750 yen	Registered Komaki residents over 20 years born in an even year and those that did or will turn 20 years in 2009. (Examinations will also be given to those born in odd years who did not receive an examination in 2008.)	4 th (Thu)
Screening test for breast cancer Mammography screening 1,200 yen	Registered Komaki residents over 40 years born in an even year and those that did or will turn 40 years in 2009. (Examinations will also be given to those born in odd years who did not receive an examination in 2008.)	⊙17 th (Wed)
Screen test for osteoporosis 830 yen	Registered Komaki residents aged 30 years and over	⊙25 th (Thu)

*Screening tests for stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, and osteoporosis will each be held once in a period of May through March of the following year.

*Screening tests for uterine cancer and breast cancer (chest X-rays) can now be done once every two years.

(According to the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry's Vital Cancer Prevention Education and Cancer Screening Test Guidelines.)

*Screening tests for stomach cancer and osteoporosis are provided Held at the Tobu Civic Center on days marked with ⊙ and at the Health Center on other (unmarked) days.

To apply for group cancer screening

*Information on available screening tests will be provided in each monthly newsletter.
Apply at the Health Center (Monday through Friday, 8:30-17:15)

Fee exemption system

The following persons may undergo cancer screening tests (excludes osteoporosis screening) free of charge. Please submit designated document at the time of screening.)

- ① Persons aged 70 or older, ② Persons 65 and older who are bedridden,
③ Persons in households exempt from municipal tax, ④ Persons in the household on Social Assistance

Edited and Published

Komaki City Hall Department of Civil Industry Life Division

1-1 Horinouchi, Komaki-shi, Aichi-ken 485-8650

TEL: 0568-76-1119 FAX: 0568-72-2340

<http://www.city.komaki.aichi.jp/contents/90000011.html>

*Please see the relevant service counter for more details regarding any of the items contained herein.