

## Snow Season in Yonezawa

The snow season in Yonezawa has begun. Let's be prepared so that we can overcome the snow and live comfortably during the winter months.



Follow these steps to prevent accidents and disasters caused by snow:

- Prevent explosions by putting a snow fence around gas canisters and hoses.
- Prevent kerosene leakage by putting a snow fence around outdoor kerosene storage tanks.
- Be careful around snow removal channels so you won't fall into one.
- Prevent overflowing by following the right manners for dumping snow into the snow removal channels.
- Prevent falling by securing ladders.
- Prevent buildings from collapsing by removing snow from roofs as soon as possible.
- Don't dump snow from the roofs on to school routes and sidewalks.
- Secure an emergency exit route in case of a fire.

### Check Your Water Pipes!

Water pipes can freeze easily between late December and February when the temperature drops below minus 4~5 degrees Centigrade. You will especially need to be careful if you will be away from home for a long period of time or if you have a room that you are not using. Please check your pipes as soon as possible.



### Snow Removal Work

This winter, 713 roads and 62 side walking routes will be cleared in the city. Snow removal work is expected to finish by 7am each morning, but depending on the condition of the snow, it may not be possible to finish on time. To make snow removal work proceed smoothly, please cooperate by following the following:



- Don't park your car on the street or leave your bicycle or motorcycle on the street.
- Don't dump snow from your roof or from your home onto the street.
- Make sure branches from trees in your garden or snow fences are not sticking out into the streets.
- Mark items that might be broken outside your house with a marker such as a long pole.

### Promote Winter Traffic Safety

Driving and walking outside during the winter can be quite dangerous due to snow and icy roads and low visibility due to bad weather.



There is also the worry about drunk driving accidents as there are many opportunities to drink at various year-end parties. Please practice traffic safety with your family and in your community in order to prevent traffic accidents and save precious lives.

#### 5 Rules for Driving in Winter

1. Drive 10km/hr less than your usual speed.
2. Double the usual distance between the car in front of you and your vehicle.
3. Don't suddenly speed, stop, or turn your vehicle.
4. When visibility is low, look carefully ahead and slow down as soon as possible.
5. Don't try to pass any vehicles.

## Did You Know ? ?

### Traditional Sweets

Yonezawa has many famous traditional sweets. They are made using rice, wheat and beans that are grown using the fertile land of the area and the fresh water that flows from Mt. Azuma and combined with the traditional skills that have been passed through the generations. Many of the sweets have names that are related to Yonezawa's history as a former castle town. Because Yonezawa had a close connection with Kyoto during the Uesugi period, many sweets in Yonezawa are also similar to those made in Kyoto.



Of the various traditional sweets in Yonezawa, the one with the oldest history is called Shigure No Matsu. It is made by kneading together toasted soybean flour (kinako) and sugar. Its simple yet endearing taste has been cherished by many people, and it has many fans outside of Yamagata as well. Please try it!



Is this your first time spending the winter in snow country? If you have further questions or you are worried, please feel free to contact City Hall any time. **TEL 22-5111**

## Yonezawa Tenchijin Exhibition 2009 Only 40 More Days Left!

The Yonezawa Tenchijin Exhibition 2009 which began on January 24<sup>th</sup> will soon be closing on January 11<sup>th</sup> of next year. Have you gone to see it yet?

Held at the Denkokoku No Mori Uesugi Museum, the Yonezawa Tenchijin Exhibition 2009 allows guests to learn about and experience the world of the television drama Tenchijin through different exhibits. Various artifacts related to Naoe Kanetsugu, the protagonist of Tenchijin, and the Uesugi Family during the Warring States period are also on display.

As a result of the Tenchijin drama, many many guests have come from all over the country to visit this exhibit. The number of total visitors has greatly surpassed initial expectations. It has almost reached 500,000 people!

The Tenchijin Exhibition 2009 will be open everyday throughout the year's end and New Years period. Please don't miss this chance if you haven't visited yet!



Inquiries: City General Affairs Division Tenchijin Promotion Room TEL 22-5111

## Other Events & Information

### ○Machi No Hiroba Winter Illumination

Date: Early Dec. ~ End of Feb. 2010 Time: 17:00~24:00  
Place: Machi No Hiroba  
What: Over 20,000 lights will illuminate the trees in Machi No Hiroba.  
Inquiries: City Commerce & Tourist Division TEL 21-5111

### ○Yamagata Univ. Engineering Campus Illumination

Period: Early Dec ~ End of Feb 2010 Time: 16:00~24:00  
Place: Yamagata University Engineering Dept. Campus  
What: Over 29,000 orange, blue, and white lights will illuminate the buildings and trees of the University campus in Yonezawa.

### ○Yamagata Gospel Concert

When: 12/6 (Sun) 14:00~  
Where: Denkokoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Center  
Cost: 1,000 yen, Elem. School Children and younger free  
Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

### ○Kyogen (Japanese Traditional Comedy)

When: 12/19 (Sat) 14:00~  
Where: Denkokoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Center  
Cost: Reserved Seating: 5,000 yen, Free Seating 3,500 yen, Student Ticket 2,500 yen (500 yen more for all tickets bought at the day of the performance.)  
\* Children from age 4 can enter with a student ticket.  
\* Children age 3 and under may not attend.  
Tickets: Available at Onuma Yonezawa, Yonezawa Saty, Denkokoku No Mori  
Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

### ○Yonezawa Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Concert

When: 12/27 (Sun) 14:00~  
Where: Denkokoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Center  
Cost: General 1,000 yen, Jr./Sr. High School Students 500 yen, Elementary School Students and Younger free  
Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information



### YIRA Café

If you are interested in international exchange or want to chat with people in different languages including Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean, bring your friends along and join us for a cup of tea!

When: 12/4 (Fri) & 12/21 (Mon) 14:30~16:00  
Where: City Hall 7F Meeting Room 701  
Cost: Free

### International Understanding Talk : Zambia

Our speaker will be talking about the culture and social problems of the African country of Zambia along with his experiences in the country through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Program. There will also be samples of traditional Zambian food!

When: 12/15 (Tue) 19:00~21:00  
Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center  
Speaker: Mr. Sei Suzuki  
(Kunori High School teacher)  
Cost: 500 yen (YIRA Members 300 yen)



Sign Ups/Inquiries: YIRA Office  
TEL 22-5111 Email: yira@omn.ne.jp  
Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

**If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:**

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