

## Regional Groups (neighborhood council)

### ■ What is Neighborhood Council *Jichikai (Chounaikai)*?

A community association is a group of people who work together to make their area a better place to live. They help each other in times of need, such as disasters, look after their children and organize events and activities to revitalize and also support the community. The cost of the activities is a ward fee that they collect from the local community. The amount is decided by each neighborhood council.

### ■ Community Activities

#### Keeping community safe

- ◆ Patrols to prevent crime and accidents, and to help road safety.
- ◆ If there is a natural disaster, members confirm residents' safety, serve emergency food, and organize evacuation shelters.

#### Protecting the community's environment

- ◆ Manage trash stations, cleaning roads or parks  
Collecting cans, glass bottles / jars, or newspaper for recycling

Note: There are rules governing collection; sorting out and placing trash (place and date), so please check and follow the rule. Neighborhoods cooperate to clean the station, so please make sure to keep it clean. Your help in this is also appreciated.

#### Looking after residents in the community

- ◆ Oversee children when they travel to and from school
- ◆ Take care of elderly and or disabled residents in the community

#### Helping to hold integrative activities in the community

- ◆ Hold friendship activities such as festivals, events

Note: Activities like these help communication and prevent crimes.

#### Collaboration with municipal projects

- ◆ Notify information from the city via circular bulletin *Kairanban* and others

※ Circular bulletin *Kairanban*, file for information leaflets, is circulated by among residents in turns. The group with the same circular bulletin is called Neighborhood Association, *Tonarigumi*. Neighborhood Associations are smaller group than Neighborhood councils and the head is called the Neighborhood Association Head, *Tonarigumicho*.

## ■ How to Join the Neighborhood Councils

The representatives of the Neighborhood Councils are called the Ward Heads *Kucho* in Ota City. The person who helps the Ward Head is called the Deputy Ward Head *Kucho Dairi*. If you want to join the Neighborhood Council, please consult with your Head or Deputy Ward Head and pay the specified ward fees. If you do not know whose are the Head or Deputy Ward Head are, please ask your neighbors or your Neighborhood Association Head, or the contact at the bottom of this page.

The Neighborhood Councils' activities help everyone's lives in ways that you may not notice. Residents also need to support each other among themselves in case of a natural disaster. Please consider joining the Neighborhood Association to make friends and to communicate well with your neighbors.

## Contact Information:

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