

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

ウエーブ
茅ヶ崎 波 倶楽部

Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.

Pioneering Spirit Driven Metalworking Company

The company name, *Qulead*, was coined from the combination of *Quality*, *Quick* and *Lead*, which indicates its principle to differentiate itself from competitors with excellent quality and short lead times. The metalworking company manufactures various sized and shaped parts for final products, including implants, vacuum pumps, spacecraft, racing motorcycles as well as parts for semi-conductor manufacturing lines. The parts range in size from a few to thousands of millimeters, and the maximum lot size is around 500, which indicates the company manufactures large numbers of items with small quantities, placing importance on quality over quantity.

[A brand-new plant in Hagisono](#) is shielded from the sunlight, and is air conditioned all the time. High performance, automated machines, including machining centers, lathes, milling and grinding machines, and electric discharge machines, are lined up with the sole purpose of streamlining the flow of materials and workers.

SYNC EDGE is its brand name for racing motorcycle parts. You Yamashita, the senior managing director, is the manager of a racing team called SYNCEDGE 4413 Racing. Furthermore, he was the first champion of the GP-mono class, in 2006. Qulead also supplies stationery which is marketed under the name of Factionery. (See the pictures below.)

Like Yuki Precision (See CW 9 & 10) Qulead belongs to *CmonoC*, a group of manufacturers in the city. They collectively set up booths at trade fairs, both domestic and international,



having set their sights on advancement into foreign markets, such as those in France and other developed countries. URL: <https://www.qulead.co.jp>



Chigasaki City Health Center Established.

Chigasaki has become the sixth city in Kanagawa to have its own health center. Most work conducted by the prefecture's office was transferred to the newly-inaugurated Chigasaki City Health Center, which started its services on April 1 in the building of the former Prefecture's Chigasaki Health and Welfare Office.

As the City starts to deliver health services based on its own policies, it is expected that these services will match the needs of citizens more closely. Other services, which require a more centralized approach, such as those dealing with drug issues, will continue to be handled at the prefectural level.

Yokohama, Kawasaki, Sagami-hara, Yokosuka and Fujisawa were allowed to have their own centers prior to Chigasaki.



Single parents become eligible for exemption for widowers or widows

The City have decided to apply the exemption for widowers or widows to the heads of single-parent households even if they do not have marital history. As they were not considered widowers or widows so far, they were ineligible for the tax deduction. The new policy is aimed at redressing the unfair treatment of them. It became effective in April 2017.

Volunteer groups in and around the city

Toys hospital Nikoniko



The hospital for toys, Nikoniko, or smiling in English, was established by three toy doctors and their wives in 2012. They have since fixed broken toys basically free of charge. Their hospital opens at Satoyama Park and Hamamina Community Plaza once a month. Nikoniko has also visited six City-run nursery schools since April this year. The leader, Mitsugu Segawa, says they fix about 95 percent of the carried-in toys, which include various types from mini trains and radio-controlled toys to stuffed toys and music boxes, among others. They feel happy to see the children's smiles and to hear their thank-you when their favorite toys, some of which they grew up with, are repaired to regain original movements. It is a real pleasure for which there is almost no substitute. He hopes children will foster a mind to treat things carefully and keep playing with the toys they repaired.

When toys need only simple repairs, he fixes them in front of children, but he spends a week on those which need complex repairs. His grandson was filled with joy when Segawa fixed his mini car, which motivated him to start this activity. He also says recently an increasing number of toys have built-in IC chips, especially those which make sounds or speak languages. He is regretful when he is unable to accept their requests for repairs when IC chips have been broken. As foreign-made toys use bolts whose standard is different from that of Japan's, the more toys are imported, the more often the doctors' tools are not fit for their purposes. The Japan Toy Hospital Association, in which he took lessons to become a toy doctor after retiring from a food company, has backed the group by providing them with special types of tools.

The day and time the hospital opens:

Hamamina Community Plaza: the second Tuesday from 15:00 to 16:30

Satoyama Park: the fourth Sunday from 12:30 to 14:00

Through Another's Eyes

Yesterday was Play Day at my daughter's elementary school, to welcome the new first graders and their parents. Lots of games, lots of food, lots of smiles. So many smiles and so much laughing in fact that I got to wondering whether the parents were having more fun than the students! And, why not? Just for one morning, we could forget about our busy lives, our schedules and appointments, our inboxes and deadlines, our mortgages and bills, and enjoy being children again, carefree and innocent, playful and competitive, noisy and dirty.



One thing that was noticeable to me was the care and consideration taken by the teachers when setting up each new game. Every effort was made to explain the rules and objective, to demonstrate how to play the game, to avoid confusion lest someone be disappointed or teammates troubled. Which took time, a lot of time, but the games ran smoothly and everyone had fun, even the losers like me – 2 jankens lost, 1 balloon race lost, 2 tug-of-wars lost!

And yet, in other situations, it seems that Japanese people will go out of their way to be opaque. There have been occasions in the past when I have suggested an idea and received what I thought was agreement only to discover later that I was mistaken. Rather than disappoint me by openly rejecting my idea, my Japanese colleague preferred to be ambiguous and allow me to get the wrong end of the stick, then my idea could be gently forgotten about. Of course, I can understand and appreciate my colleague not wanting to hurt my feelings at that moment, but how about the disenchantment and frustration I felt several weeks later when all my preparations had come to nothing, something which could have been avoided if my colleague had just been honest with me in the first place.

How did that experience affect me? I am a simple person. If someone cannot be honest with me, then that must mean they don't respect me. And, if they don't respect me, then how can I trust and respect them? I must admit that it took me a long time to realise that my Japanese colleague was not intentionally deceiving me, but at that time, I could not *read the air* – I was *kuuki yomenai*.

So, nine years on, Japanese culture continues to confuse and challenge me. If I have learned one thing, though, it is not to assume anything! Rather wait, be patient, and the truth will appear.

Adrian Wilson

History of Chigasaki

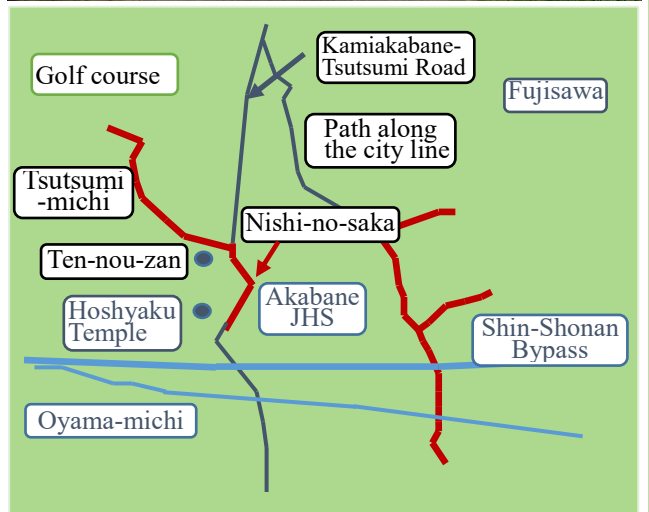
Pathways in Akabane (2) Tsutsumi-michi (Akabane-michi)

An uphill slope of Kamiakabane-Tsutsumi Road just east of Inarisan Hoshiyaku Temple is called Nishi-no-saka, or Western slope in English. The name is derived from the facts that the slope is located to the west of the Kamiakabane settlement, or, the Ozawa family, whose successive heads served as the leader of Akabane village, was located to the west of the slope and also called the Onishis, or Big West, by villagers in the Edo Era. Tanka Poet Motoko Murano was a family member of the Ozawas.

To the west of the top of Nishi-no-saka, there is a place called Ten-nou-zan. Until the early Meiji Era Gozu-tennou, a village shrine of the Kamiakabane settlement, was enshrined there, but the deity was later renamed to Yakumo-Ookami, and was moved to Shinmei Daijin in Shimoakabane. Now only the mikoshi house of the former village shrine is at the foot of the slope.

A pathway that branches off to the west at Ten-nou-zan and goes to Tsutsumi and Serizawa is called Tsutsumi-michi, while residents of Tsutsumi called it Akabane-michi. In front of Hoshiyaku Temple's main gate there is a koshin-tower, which seemed to be a guidepost. 'Right Serizawa-michi Left ? Village michi' is carved on its side. '?' is assumed to be Tsutsumi, indicating the tower was originally placed on the roadside of Tsutsumi-michi.

Around 1960 a golf course was constructed and the pathway running through the place was closed. A new road which replaced the closed one is Kamiakabane-Tsutsumi Road. As the area lies in the southernmost part of Koza Hill, there are a lot of ups and downs. When the road was opened to traffic, it had many slopes and curves, but was improved later and today's road is easier to drive along. Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Art booklet 1



In Quest of a fulfilling Senior Life (1)

The increase in average life expectancy has made it more important than ever for retirees to consider carefully how they can live senior life to the full. When Kazuhiro Matsui, who has lived in Chigasaki for nearly fifty years, retired at age 65, he made a resolution to live another 30 years, and thought about what he should do during this long period. He came to the conclusion that he should engage in educational activities in foreign countries for two reasons: first, he had traveled on business to more than twenty countries, and was still curious about foreign countries; and second, he believes it worthwhile for senior people to hand down their experiences, and moral and ethical values to younger generations. So, he obtained membership of the International Internship Programs.

In September 2004, Matsui arrived at Vanderhoof, a small town with a population of 5,000 in British Columbia, Canada to work as a guest teacher. The city, about 350 miles north of Vancouver, is located at a latitude of 54 degrees north. For your reference, Wakkanai, the northernmost city in Japan, is at 45 degrees. Temperatures sometimes drop to 40 degrees below zero on winter nights around the Canadian city.

He started teaching at a five-grade junior high school of about 650 students, the largest school in the city. He spent

265 days there, staying at the house of an elementary school teacher for \$10 a day. His lessons attracted students, and later caught the attention of other schools, too.

He has since visited the city five times, once every few years, and spent about 430 days in total. Four out of the five visits were with Mrs. Matsui.



Unusually late cherry blossoms

Quite a few citizens may have felt that cherry trees bloomed unusually late this year. Actually, most festivals scheduled for late March and early April were held without blossoms, though buds of cherry trees in Ueno Park in Tokyo had mostly opened. But why do cherry trees bloom earlier in Tokyo than in Chigasaki? Doesn't it feel strange? Some say perhaps an urban heat island phenomenon has something to do with it.

Fortunately, we had no heavy winds or rain until mid-April, so we enjoyed an unusually long cherry season. Blossoms at several

spots in Chigasaki and Samukawa are in the *Pictures of the Month*.



On April 7 (Fri), the day before the festival at [Yume Waku Waku Park](#)

Pear blossoms

When the ground is carpeted with cherry blossom petals, pear blossoms start blooming in northern Samukawa. In early May, growers will nip excess flowers, pollinate artificially and thin out superfluous fruits. About ten varieties of pear are harvested from late July to the end of September.

(About Shonan Pears, see CW4.)



Kashiwa-mochi

Have you ever had *mochi*, or rice cake? It stretches well. *Kashiwa-mochi* looks like ordinary mochi that is made from *mochigome*, or specific glutinous rice, but is not stretchy because the ingredients and way of making are different. Mochi is made by pounding steamed *mochigome* into paste like proofed dough. On the other hand, *kashiwa-mochi* is made by kneading cooking rice powder with some water and steaming divided pieces filled with sweet bean jam. And at last, they are wrapped in *kashiwa* oak leaves, which were used as plates in ancient times. The leaves are said to have germicidal power and, in any case, keep mochi from sticking to your fingers.

On May 5, Children's Day, people pray for the health and happiness of children, but before, it was celebrated for boys only. *Kashiwa* leaves do not fall until buds come out. And so, people, especially samurai in the olden days, used the leaves hoping their family lines would never end and would flourish. Around the day, you can see *kashiwa-mochi* in various places such as Japanese confectionery shops and supermarkets, or you may be served homemade pieces by your friend.

Also, in Chigasaki, almost all Japanese sweet shops sell *kashiwa-mochi*. Why not enjoy the seasonal rice cake for your luck? By the way, please be careful not to eat *kashiwa* leaves. They are not poisonous but will probably make you frown.



The 5th Shosai Ten

An exhibition of oil paintings, the 5th Shosai-ten, took place at the Citizen Gallery from April 11 to 16. Forty oils in total, mostly landscapes, were painted by nine members of the Kawasaki Atorie in Higashi-kaigan. Members attend lessons at the atorie three times a month, and annually hold the exhibition.

Paintings entered in the exhibition have been uploaded to the website below.

URL: <http://www.art-info.info/atorie/exhibition.html>

*Exhibitions are held almost every week at the gallery. See the [event article](#).



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 後の祭り

(ATO NO MATSURI)

ATO means after, MATSURI festivals.

It's too late to visit the site of a festival after it is over. The month-long Gion Festival at Yasaka Shrine in Kyoto starts on July 1, and its highlight, which is called mae-no-matsuri, or the first festival, comes on July 17. On the day, many floats are towed through the streets. But in festivals held in the following days, which are called ato-no-matsuri, or later festivals, there are no events worth watching. This proverb appeared in Kefukigusa, a set of haiku in seven volumes published in 1645, and has come to indicate that it's too late for something. Its English equivalents are:

- Ⓜ You come a day after the fair.
- Ⓜ The bird has flown.
- Ⓜ (There is no point) closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

(2) 有るは無いに勝る

(ARU HA NAI NI MASARU)

ARU means to have, HA to be, NAI not to have, and MASARU to be better.

Even if you fail to obtain what you wanted most and have to be patient with the second best, it is still better than nothing. Some say this is an example of positive thinking, and some say the proverb tells us to be content with oneself fully. People often say, 'Ma, Iika.' When they say this short phrase, their hearts are probably close to what the proverb indicates. Perhaps even the luckiest man has such experiences. The everyday world is filled with obstacles, isn't it?

Its English equivalents are:

- Ⓜ Something is better than nothing.
- Ⓜ Better half an egg than an empty shell.
- Ⓜ A crust is better than nothing.

The 62nd Oka Echizen Festival on April 22 and 23



Events in May and early June

Chigasaki City Museum of Art ☎ 0467-88-1177,

URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>

● **The Century of Bicycles:** the history of the bicycle, an exhibition of original bicycles and more, from April 9 (Sun) to Jun 4 (Sun), Admission fee (¥): Adult 700, University student 500, HS student or younger, and citizens aged 65 or older free.

● **The 35th Exhibition of the Chigasaki Artist Association:** works of the association members and those invited from the public will be exhibited from June 13 (Tue) to July 8 (Sat).



Civic Hall (☎ 0467-85-1123)

URL: <http://www.chigasaki-arts.jp/>

Civic Hall will be closed for a year and a half starting in March for repair work.

The Chigasaki People's Museum

Special exhibition of Saburo Shiroyama's work and life will be held from Apr 15 (Sat) to Sept 30 (Sat).

Admission Fee: 200 yen. Free for those under 18. Visitors are also allowed to look round Kaiko Memorial Museum with another 100 yen.

Citizen Gallery (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of Nespa Chigasaki



Admission free

- The 16th Serie-ten, exhibition of oil, watercolor and India-ink paintings (Group Serie): May 3 (Wed) to May 7 (Sun)
- Photo Shonan Exhibition (Photo Shonan): May 9 (Tue) to 14 (Sun)
- The 21st Exhibition of the Chigasaki City Calligraphy Association (Calligraphy section of the Chigasaki city culture groups' association): May 18 (Thu) to 21 (Sun)
- The 23rd Portrait Exhibition (Chigasaki Art Society): May 23 (Tue) to 28 (Sun)
- The 10th Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings (Shonan Saiyu Kai): May 30 (Tue) to June 4 (Sun)

The Chigasaki City Library (☎ 0467-87-1001) Film screening at the 1st conference room on the second floor.

Gaslight (with Japanese subtitles, 114 min): May 13 (Sat) at 09:30

Cimarron (with Japanese subtitles, 124 min): June 10 (Sat) at 09:30

Chigasaki Aloha Market

Enjoy hula dancing and shopping for Hawaiian goods at the former Nishihama parking lot on May 13 (Sat) and 14 (Sun). About 70 stalls will sell various goods from aloha shirts and trinkets to food, sweets and drinks, among others.

Contact the office: mail:aloha@chigasaki-cci.or.jp

FAX 0467-86-6601 ☎ 0467-58-1111



The 2017 City's publicity poster
Feel Chigasaki

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon! Drive carefully on your way and from home in the golden week