

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.

Kitamura Fisheries in Chigasaki

Along with agriculture, fishery is one of the city's oldest industries. Fishing villages once spread from Kowada to Yanagishima, or from the east to the west of the city, but as Chigasaki became larger, the number of fishermen grew smaller and smaller. Today, only a few households, in Yanagishima and Nango, are engaged in fishery. However, they have expanded their business so that it becomes more attractive to people in the urbanizing city. Some of fishing companies also run fresh seafood restaurants, using fresh fish and other marine products they catch.

Kitamura Fisheries started its fishing business in 1924, carrying on fixed netting for about 70 years until the 1990s. But then the fisheries switched to surface trawl fishing targeting young sardines, or *shirasu* in Japanese, partly due to labor shortages. Kaku Kitamura, the fourth-generation president, his family and relatives operate the company today.

After a 70-day closed season, *shirasu* fishing starts on March 11, and continues to the end of December. Currently, his company and three other fishing households engage in *shirasu* fishing, which accounts for about 70% of the city's total haul. During the season, Kaihi-maru, the trawler of Kitamura Fisheries (See the photo below), goes fishing almost every day if wind conditions are not bad. When the Kuroshio Current, or the Japan Current, flows near the Chigasaki coast, its fishing nets are filled with *shirasu*. Several years ago, the trawler caught a great amount of them almost every day. One day so many *shirasu* came in the net that the pole to lift the net

broke. On the other hand, when the current flows far off the coast, Kaihi-maru sometimes goes more than halfway to Ohshima Island. Last year, catches were good until September, but quite poor during the following three months. Some of the fresh *shirasu* are served at its two popular restaurants named Kattobi, and the remainder is dried under the sun to be sold over the counter at its shop.

The company participates in an educational program planned by the local Nakajima Junior High School. (Yanagishima Kite Flying Club have also done this. See CW19.) It has held "the Shirasu School" for twenty years. Second graders learn about how to catch fish for five days every year.

URL <http://www.kitamurasuisan.com/flash/shirasuryou.html>



Traffic accidents in Chigasaki slightly increased in 2017

Kanagawa prefectural police has announced 149 citizens of the prefecture were killed in traffic accidents last year, the second lowest since records started being collected in 1948. The number of accidents, however, increased for the first time in 17 years by 1445 compared to that of the previous year to 28,536.

In Chigasaki, no fatalities were reported, but 546 accidents resulting in injury happened in 2017, a 6% increase compared to the previous year, according to the Chigasaki police station. The three most common accidents were, as before, rear-end collisions, intersection collisions and right-turn collisions in this order. Accidents involving bicycles accounted for 33.9%.

This high percentage is a characteristic of accidents in the city, as Chigasaki is a bicycle city. [Hagisono](#), [Honson](#), [Nango](#) and [Akabane](#) were accident black spots two years in a row. Many of the accidents happened during the rush hours; from 08:00 to 10:00 and from 16:00 to 20:00, indicating haste is really hazardous.



Ambulances were dispatched every 49 min last year

Ambulances rushed to scenes 10,868 times last year, about 30 a day, a 1.6% increase from the previous year. It took 29 min and 24 sec on average from the moment the fire department received a 119 call till the ambulance reached a hospital, about 10 minutes shorter than the nation's average of 39 min and 18 sec in 2016. About 42% of the conveyed were the slightly injured.



Tadashi Hosoya, a stringer supporting Kei Nishikori and other major tennis players

Tadashi Hosoya, the owner of the tennis shop On Court Racquet, in Saiwai-cho, Chigasaki, is one of only a few Japanese stringers who have qualified as a Master Racquet Technician from the United States Racquet Stringers Association (USRSA). Some know he takes care of the racquets of Kei Nishikori and other top-ranked pro tennis players.

It was in 2001 that Hosoya began his career as a stringer. In those days he worked for a tennis shop in Fujisawa and came across an article about stringers in a tennis magazine. He promptly sent a mail to the author, and he invited Hosoya to the Miami Masters in Florida to provide him with an opportunity to work among tournament stringers. He has since joined the US Open, Australian Open and many other tournaments.

During a tournament, he and his colleagues spend hectic weeks. A Grand Slam tournament is joined by hundreds of players. A group of around 15 stringers take care of all the rackets used in the tournament. Most players want their rackets to be strung the night before they play, and some want them done on the morning of the day, which forces them to start work at 3 or 4 am. One player usually brings five or six rackets to them before each game. Therefore, a stringer is expected to string 35 to 40 rackets on a busy day. If a player wins through, his or her rackets are strung over and over again. One of the skills required by racquet technicians is to string a racket in a limited time satisfying the tension and other specifications required by a player. The USRSA certified stringer says rackets are just like uncooked food, which has to be prepared to the specific tastes of each individual player. The tension, for example, gradually changes as time passes.

He strung Nishikori's racquet for the first time in the 2007 China Open. The then 17-year-old novice won the preliminary stage and was to play against a high ranked player. He brought only one racket to Hosoya, while his opponent did four. He told Nishikori that his opponent prepared four for the match versus an unknown player. Ranking players always prepare five or six for one game because they know the conditions of their strings will change even during the game. His support of Nishikori began at that time.



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

Workshop *Rakuan* (2)

Rakuan is also one of the city-commissioned ambulatory rehabilitation centers for people with higher brain dysfunction. Under the current national standard, patients who need functional recovery training are allowed to stay in hospital up to six months, so workshops like *Rakuan* are necessary for them to continue the training thereafter. Ms. Kondo, who used to work at several hospitals as a speech-language-hearing therapist, says it is quite hard for such people to complete social reintegration. They have various troubles: some have a poor memory and forget what they listened to just before, some have lost abilities to maintain their concentration, some tend to become angry about trifling matters, some are unable to speak, and some are unable to write or read.

However, many of them have excellent skills in certain areas depending on their former occupations. A person, who used to be a professional cameraman, takes beautiful pictures of flowers and scenery. Another has sophisticated computing skills. Some others are good at cultivating vegetables and flowers. They harvest fresh vegetables throughout the year, some of which are consumed with pleasure by staff members and the neighbors of the facility. Others are delivered, while they are still fresh, to a church on Route One in Honson every third Wednesday. The next day a volunteer group opens Kids' Cafeteria there. (About the volunteer group Salon-dote, see CWs 14 and 15.)



Ms. Kondo says group training has various beneficial effects on participants. To spend time in a group raises their consciousness of other members and their wishes to participate in the group. They gain insight into their own impairment through other members' speech and behaviors. In addition, more encounters give them more opportunities to control themselves. She and her staff members aim to help them reintegrate into society, by joining hands with surrounding people and working together with relevant parties.

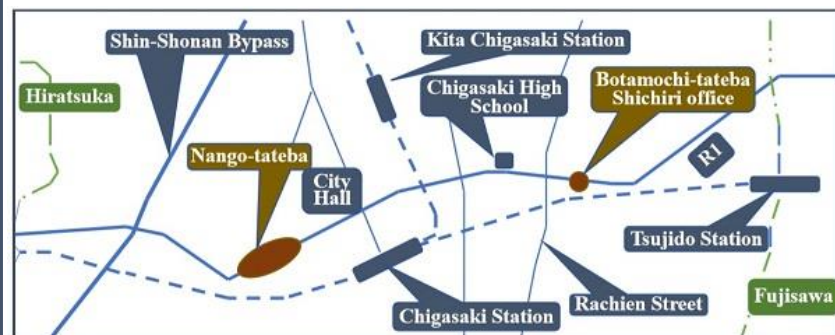
In the Edo Period, Fujisawa and Hiratsuka were two post towns (shukuba in Japanese) among the 53 of the Tokaido, and there were four resting sections (tateba): Yotsuya, Botamochi, Nango and Yawata, along the 13.7-km stretch from Fujisawa to Hiratsuka.

The resting section was placed between post towns, so it was also called Ai-no-shuku (a small town between the post towns), where teahouses stood in a row, in which packhorse drivers and travelers took a rest. Yotsuya-tateba was in today's Fujisawa, and Yawata-tateba in Hiratsuka. Botamochi-tateba extended over Kowada and Hishinuma villages, and Nango-tateba was in Chigasaki village. Botamochi-tateba was 5.9 km away from Fujisawa, and its location is thought to have been near the Hishinuma bus stop.

In addition to the teahouses along this stretch of the Tokaido, there was also another kind of resting place, called a shichiri office, this one belongs to the domain of Kii, today's Wakayama prefecture. Shichiri offices were resting places for shichiri bikyaku (express messengers), each of whom carried his domain's official documents from one office to the next. The name shichiri derived from the fact that each shichiri office was set every 27.5 km along the major roads in the Edo Era. Low-ranked warriors worked there as officials.

There were three kinds of express messengers (hikyaku) in those days. One group were Tokugawa Shogunate messengers called Tsugi bikyaku, another group were feudal lord messengers called Daimyo bikyaku, who played an important role in keeping close contact between their Edo offices and domains, and the other group were private business group messengers called Machi bikyaku, city messengers in English. Shichiri bikyaku, a kind of Daimyo bikyaku, was used by feudal domains owned by a Tokugawa family branch, such as Fukui, Tsuyama, Himeji, Takamatsu and Matsuyama. Those of the Kii and Owari domains, today's Aichi prefecture, were especially famous.

Kii Domain had its Edo office at Yotsuya. Its first shichiri office was located in Kanagawa post town, and its second was at Botamochi-tateba. (Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage booklet 1)



People related Chigasaki (2) Doppo Kunikida

(A bimonthly serial)

Doppo Kunikida, a Japanese novelist and romantic poet in the Meiji Period (1868-1912), is noted as one of the founders of Japanese naturalism, which was based on the theory established by French novelist Émile François Zola in the end of the 19th century. He advocated observing nature and describing the truth. Kunikida's notable works are, for example, "Musashino (the Musashi Plain)" and "Haru-no-Tori (Spring Birds)". He contracted tuberculosis in 1907, moved to a sanatorium (Nanko-in) near Chigasaki beach, and passed away on June 23, 1908 at the age of 36.

His friend, Seika Mayama, also a Japanese novelist, stayed at Chigasaki-kan (See CWs 5 & 6) and contributed articles reporting Doppo's condition to Yomiuri. The articles were read by people across the nation, which made Chigasaki famous.

In the south of Chigasaki Baseball Park, you can see a stone monument on which his poem "渚", or Beach in English, is inscribed. The original poem and its literal English translation are as follows:

渚
永劫の海に落ちてゆく 世世代代の流れが 僕の前に横たわっている

Beach

For centuries people flow toward the eternal ocean in front of me.

The poem may give you a hint as to what he was thinking about while he was fighting against his illness in Nanko-in. If you would like to know more about him, don't miss an exhibition regarding his life and works which will be held from April 14 to September 30 at the Chigasaki Yukari-no-Jimbustu-kan (the Chigasaki People's Museum).

For more information about him, go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doppo_Kunikida



Nature in Chigasaki Common Coot

The coot floating on the water and smoothly swimming looks like a relative of the duck, but it is a bird of the water rail family. Their bodies are covered with black feathers and only the beak and forehead are white. They often form flocks from autumn to winter. They live on lakes, rivers and inner bays nationwide all year around, so you can see coots flocking down the stream of the Koide River, Sen-no River and Sagami River. The body length is about 35 centimeters, a little bit smaller than ducks. They dive below water to collect waterweeds and to catch water creatures. It is said that until 40 years ago, breeding ground for coots only existed in Kanto and southern parts of Tohoku, but now resident populations can be found nationwide.

It is interesting there are many clichés and idioms involving the coot. *Crazy as a coot* means to go senile, and *bald as a coot* means completely bald as coots' heads have the appearance of baldness. *Old coot* means old men who are senile and queer, and *as stupid as a coot* a complete idiot. There seems even to be a video game called "*He was mad as a coot*". Traditionally, coots seemed to be compared to stupid people. The abundant expressions, however, may suggest the bird is quite familiar to people.



In order to live the way you want in the last stage of life by Chizuko Ueno

A lecture meeting of Chizuko Ueno, a sociologist and Tokyo University Professor Emeritus, was held on January 14 at the City Hall's assembly room under the sponsorship of Chigasaki and Samukawa health-care centers. Chizuko Ueno is well-known for her coining the word "ohitorisama", or people who live alone in Japanese. She is one of ohitorisama herself and has been telling people across the nation to prepare for the single life they may have to lead in the last stage of life.

She said Japan's population has been aging faster than any other country in the world. In 2025 baby boomers will have turned 75 or older and more than half of elderly people are expected to live alone. The number of elderly people who die in hospital has been increasing since 1976 as their daughters-in-law, who had exclusively taken care of them, were less able, or willing, to take care of elderly parents due to the changing role of women in society. Now, of those in their final days of life, 76.6 percent spend their remaining time in hospital, 12.7 percent at home and 8.6 percent at other facilities.

However, many people prefer to finish their lives in their dear old homes. Ms. Ueno emphasized support systems were seriously needed to fulfill their wishes, citing delivery services provided by a special elderly nursing home in Nagaoka, Niigata Prefecture, as a good example. They deliver three meals a day all year round to "ohitorisama", and help them with bathing and toilet also in their houses. In addition, an insurance company has launched services, including regular visits, emergency response and nurse visits. These advanced services are now available only in limited areas, but towards 2030 when the nation's mortality rate will peak, we should make the most of these delivery services to care for elderly people living alone. The government is planning to reduce social welfare costs specifically for elderly people, and it has been promoting at-home care called a total health plan by integrating nursing care and livelihood support into medical care.



She enumerated things which are important to lead a single life: to decide things for themselves by refusing to allow others to offer their opinions, to have a trustworthy friend whom they can ask to take care of them when the day comes, and to find a service team consisting of various kinds of specialists, including doctors, nurses and care workers. If people developed dementia, to live alone at home would legally become difficult, but still they can.

One of the organizers of the meeting said more than 400 citizens applied versus a seating capacity of about 300. The lecture was supported by a sign language interpreter and Ueno's handwritten speech was successively projected onto the screen.

Snow in January

The Yokohama Local Meteorological Office issued heavy snowfall warnings to residents in Kanagawa on the afternoon of January 22 (Mon) for the first time in four years. The rain started to change to snow around noon on the day. The snow lay more than 10 cm deep by the evening, but no major delays were reported on the Tokaido and Sagami Lines. This unusual snow in January was brought about by a low pressure system which went up south of Japan. Next morning remaining snow on the roadside annoyed some pedestrians and cyclists but did not disrupt train and bus services.



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 悪銭身に付かず

(AKUSEN MI NI TSUKAZU)

AKUSEN means ill-gotten money, MI your body, NI to and TSUKAZU not to remain

Money obtained by unlawful means does not remain with people long. As they do not realize the value of such money, they tend to use it for something worthless. On the other hand, people feel grateful to the money they earned through hard work. But, not a few people gamble away even their hard-earned money on the horses, bicycles, boats or other publicly-managed gambling.

This proverb was in Chinese classic writings of Confucianism issued in the 5th century BC.

Its English equivalents are:

- Soon gotten, soon spent.
- Ill gotten, ill spent.
- Evil-gotten goods never prove well.

(2) 売り言葉に買い言葉

(URIKOTOBA NI KAIKOTOBA)

URIKOTOBA means impolite words, NI to, and KAIKOTOBA impolite words in return

If you speak harshly, another person will talk back in a similar tone. Everyone has an experience that a discussion about trivial things often culminates in a quarrel. This saying was in Irumagawa, a kyogen which had started being played by the middle of the 15th century. But remember the reverse is also true! If you speak calmly, another person will also speak in a gentle manner.

Its English equivalents are:

- One ill word asks another.
- Bad words find bad acceptance.
- One ill word meets another and it were at the Bridge of London.

The New Year's display by firefighters

Most of the regular and volunteer fire brigades in the city gathered on TOTO's ground on the morning of January 7 (Sun). After senior members were awarded for their long years of services, and mayor Hattori and other guests addressed them with their speeches, the members of the Chigasaki city ancient firefighting method preservation group, consisting of about 20 members, performed traditional acrobatics on the ladder, about 7 meters high. And rescue operations by municipal firefighters were demonstrated. Keiko Kusaka, a member of the prefectural assembly, said in her speech that, compared to other cities in Kanagawa, a higher percentage of households in the city have installed circuit breakers which work when earthquakes occur. (The City's urban policy section quotes figures of about 3.5% as of March last year.) According to City Hall, the number of fires last year increased by 30% from the year earlier to 47. One citizen was killed, and eight others were injured.

Events in January



The 80th Konan Ekiden

Konan Ekiden, the oldest ekiden in Kanagawa, and the second oldest even in the nation following Hakone Ekiden, according to the record, was held on January 8 (Mon, Coming of Age Day). The ekiden consisted of five races: two for men, two for women and one for school children (boys and girls). Each runner ran a circular course; men 5.7 km, women and children 2.7 km. Each team was composed of five runners. Women's and children's races started at 8:15 am, and Men's race around 9 am. This year, 56 male teams, 22 female teams and 23 children teams, 101 teams in total, the largest number ever, joined in the race.

(The results) the winner of each race was:

Men (inter-region): Shorin A

Men (inter-organization):

Tsurumine HS

Women (inter-region): Shorin A

Women (inter-organization):

Tsurumine HS (A)

Children: Nishihama A



Brass band performances at AEON on Sunday afternoon

The brass band club of Tsurugadai Junior High School performed two 30-minute concerts at the entrance hall of AEON Central Chigasaki on January 21 (Sun) from 13:00 and 15:00. As third grade members had left the activity, first and second graders, 16 in total, played, conducted by Ms. Kanazawa.

They performed various songs, including *Kiki's delivery service*. Shoppers enjoyed popular melodies for a while in a relaxed manner.

Events in February and early March

Setsubun Festival

A bean-throwing ceremony will take place on February 3 (Sat), at temples and shrines. For example, [Enzoji, Dairokuten](#) and [Hachioji Shrines](#) in Chigasaki, and [Samukawa Shrine](#) in Samukawa.

Raw Wakame Festival

One of the winter festivals, Eboshi wakame festival, will be held on Feb 3 (Sat) at 9 am at [the fish handling area](#) of Chigasaki Fishing Port. A plastic bag with 800-gram wakame inside will sell for 500 yen. Farmed near Eboshi rock, Eboshi wakame is soft and rich in flavor, and so popular that all bags are sold out in less than 30 minutes every year. In addition, a *shabushabu* set for three people containing yellowtail and wakame will be sold at 1,580 yen. (One hundred sets will be prepared)



The 34th Ume Festival at Takasuna Ryokuchi



Plum buds will begin to swell in early February. The traditional spring event, Ume Festival, will be held on Feb 11 (Sun, National Foundation Day) in Takasuna Ryokuchi, or Takasuna greenery area, in Higashi-kaigan. Sweet sake will be served for around 2,000 visitors for free, as usual. Stalls will sell grilled chicken, chow mein and other foods. Local children will perform Ohayashi. See the picture on the left.

In a tea room in [Shyorai-an](#), visitors will be able to participate in a tea ceremony. A charge will be a few hundred yen.

Shonan Flower Exhibition



Shonan Flower Exhibition will take place at the event square community hall on the second floor of Shonan Mall Fill on February 16 (Fri) from 10:00 to 21:00, and on 17 (Sat) from 10:00 to 12:00. Flower growers in Chigasaki, Samukawa and Fujisawa will exhibit their products. The best flower in Shonan will be decided by public vote. The growers will offer free one-hour lessons in cultivation on 16 (Fri) at 11:00 and 14:00. Besides, a free transplant workshop will start on 17 (Sat) at 10:00. The first 15 people will be accepted.

Koide River Cherry Festival

The opening ceremony of the 12th Koide River Cherry Festival will be held on Feb 24 (Sat). A singer will sing enka on Feb 25 (Sun). Musical accompaniment will be performed on the Saturdays and Sundays during the festival. On March 3 (Sat) the Yanagishima Kite Flying Club (See CW 19) will fly their kites on the bank.

Kawazu Zakura blooms about one month earlier than Someiyoshino. Last year most of the blossoms along the river were damaged by strong winds before the festival.



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

Painting exhibition by the Dessin Group Amigo

Jan 30 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, Jan 31 (Wed) to Feb 4 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition by Chigasaki Friendly Photo Association

Feb 6 (Tue) 12:00 ~ 18:00, 7 (Wed) to 10 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 11 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 14th photo exhibition "Sajjiki" by the Kanagawa branch of the Japan Nature Scenery Photograph Association

Feb 16 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 17:00, 17 (Sat) to 20 (Tues) 10:00 ~ 17:00, 21 (Wed) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Photo exhibition by Chigasaki Silver Photo Club

Feb 22 (Thurs) 12:30 ~ 17:00, 23 (Fri) to 25 (Sun) 09:00 ~ 17:00, 26 (Mon) 09:00 ~ 12:30

The 11th exhibition by the Koide India-ink Drawing Association

Feb 27 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, 28 (Wed) to March 3 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, 4 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!