

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.

Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Public Health (2)

The institute routinely watches out for any emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, so that it is able to detect contagious disease outbreaks at an early phase. It keeps in sight almost all the pathogenic microorganisms, including legionella bacteria, Escherichia coli O157, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and drug-resistant bacteria. Once a disease breaks out, the institute identifies causative germs, detects their characters, sources and routes of infection. In 2016 they analyzed Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli O157 isolated from patients in Fujisawa and other areas in Kanagawa, who had been poisoned by frozen fried cakes of minced meat, and found all the 61 strains had the same gene pattern. As a preventive measure, genes of Asian tiger mosquitoes, which are known to carry dengue, Zika and Chikungunya viruses, trapped in Chigasaki and its neighboring cities, were investigated to determine whether they had these viruses – fortunately all of them were negative. Their research objectives also include the development of new testing methods as well as the speeding-up of infectious disease diagnoses.

The institute checks for poisonous materials in shellfish, foodstuffs and drinking water, among others, to protect food safety. As a member of an investigating committee hosted by the National Institution of Health Sciences, it conducts the elution test of generic medicines. And it even studies about environmental issues affecting daily living, for example, the microbial contamination of bath-water at hospitals and public baths.



The institute has developed a new testing method called the *in vitro* Bhas 42 Cell Transformation Assay to predict the carcinogenicities of chemicals. The method was certified as an international standard testing method by the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development in 2016.

As a regional infectious disease information center, it collects and analyzes epidemic information and transmits the current status of ongoing epidemics to related organizations as well as displaying them on its website. It holds seminars for municipal and prefectural officials in charge of public health administration and sanitation inspection, and invites citizens to its open lectures (See the photo from its HP). Why don't you join them? URL <http://www.eiken.pref.kanagawa.jp/>

Get a feel for Chigasaki!

The city's 2018 tourism poster (the photo on the right) has been released by Chigasaki City Tourism Association. It features an aloha shirt, Eboshi-rock, a surf board, the Southern C monument and a few other things related to Chigasaki. With the completion of Ken-O-highway and the planned michi-no-eki in Yanagishima, the city's tourism infrastructure has been improving. We hope the new poster may help attract a lot of visitors.



Outdoor museum

Large photos and paintings on the eastern fence of the Civic Hall construction site attract the views of pedestrians and people at the bus stop. The 16 photos, selected from those submitted by citizens, will be on the wall until October 30. (Photo on the left)



Two A-bombed pianos came to Chigasaki

Two upright pianos which had been in the possession of Hiroshima residents were exhibited at the City Hall annex on March 10. The pianos were in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped on the city, and they are among so-called A-bombed pianos. Pianist Chihiro Nakamaru, who was born and raised in Chigasaki, played *Red Dragonfly (Aka Tonbo)*, *Seven Little Babies (Nanatsu no Ko)*, *Amazing Grace* and three other tunes on one of the two. An audience of over 200 people was fascinated by her performance. She said when she was at junior high, she wrote an essay about peace and represented her school at a peace memorial ceremony in Hiroshima. She also told listeners that she had worried if she could adequately express her prayer for peace through her performance.



The other piano, in the photo on the left, is the one that was played at the Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo, Norway in December last year. The Hiroshima-based owner and tuner of the two pianos, Mitsunori Yagawa, explained why this piano was selected for the event in Oslo. Pianos produced in the 1930s have keyboards whose surfaces are covered by thin plates of celluloid or ivory. As the ivory trade was prohibited in 1990, he worried those using ivory would have caused trouble when they were conveyed to or from Oslo. So he sent the one which does not contain ivory. He also explained this type of piano cost 630 yen, not 63,000 nor 630,000 yen in the latter half of the 1920s. Do you believe this? The movie *Sadako's paper cranes* was screened before the concert. These events were hosted by the Group of Peace-loving Chigasaki Citizens.

Mixed Chorus gave relaxed time to visitors in City Hall

Amateur chorus group Cole Chante's short concert took place on the 1st floor of City Hall on March 20. For about half an hour at lunch break, they sang seven songs, including *Shima Uta*, *Blue Light Yokohama*, *Flowers Will Bloom* and *The World Belongs to You*. About 80 listeners took a delight in listening to the songs sung in harmony with clear voices. Commenting on the *Flowers Will Bloom*, the song to support Tohoku's post-earthquake rehabilitation, conductor Mr. Shimizu told the audience that they hope their songs cheer up people who hear them.



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

Amateur Radio Club JQ1ZQQ

Chigasaki Safety Community Amateur Radio Club, with 21 members now, started in August 2015 with 6 licensed ham radio operators. The group made an agreement with the city office in October 2017 to provide help for the city's anti-disaster headquarters, complying with the city's request at the time of disaster. According to the group's plan, the city's 32 evacuation sites are divided into four blocks, leaders and some members are dispatched to each block, and they communicate with the headquarters in the city hall as well as other leaders. A group member, Jun Watanabe, said batteries of wireless apparatus can be charged with generators, portable solar chargers, or car batteries so their communications equipment is able to work even during a power blackout.

Since the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake, the need to possess several means of disaster prevention communication has been strongly recognized. In addition to having instructed local governments to set up more loud speakers or temporary disaster broadcasting stations, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



recommended each municipality to make an agreement with local amateur radio clubs, as the ministry had been deeply impressed by these groups' work in rescue operations.

The group members conduct emergency drills on their own at each evacuation site to investigate whether their apparatus works well. They also take part in regional drills organized by residents' associations and local disaster prevention groups in order to learn how to cooperate with these people and to teach them how to use and how to maintain wireless apparatus.

When people want to enjoy amateur radio, they have to obtain a radio operator license and a radio station license, and the latter one needs to be renewed every five years based on the Radio Act. Citizens who want to join the group will be welcome. URL <http://www.jarl.com/csc/>

Interesting in Japanese Proverbs?

(1) 精神一到何事かならざらん

(SEISHIN ITTOH NANIGOTO KA NARAZARAN)
SEISHIN means the spirit, ITTOH to concentrate, NANIGOTO anything, KA to be and NARAZARAN to be possible.

Perhaps many people reiterate this proverb in their heads to cheer themselves up when they face tough assignments. They need this saying to concentrate their spirits, but some people do not like this saying because such people perceive excessive spiritualism in it. What happened in society before and during the war tells us we should never lose eyes which can view things objectively. This proverb was in *Shyusi-gorui*, an ideological book in China completed in 1270.

Its English equivalents are:

- Where there is a will, there is a way.
- Nothing is impossible to a willing heart.
- It is dogged that does it.

(2) 急いで事は仕損じる

(SEITE WA KOTO WO SHISON JURU)

SEITE means to hurry, WA if, KOTO WO purpose, and SHISON JURU to fail to achieve

The proverb says when we try to do something in a hurry, we are likely to fail. Therefore, we should take enough time for the task. Few will dispute this, but it is not always possible because sometimes we have no choice but to hurry. So, some people make it a practice to perform a ritual before starting their work: to have a cup of coffee or to take a deep breath. Or how about striking a special pose like baseball player Ichiro? This proverb was in *Shusse Kagekiyo*, a *yoruri* by Monzaemon Chikamatsu, its first performance was in 1685. Its English equivalents are:

- Haste makes waste.
- The more haste, the less speed.
- Haste comes not alone.

History of Chigasaki

Koshikake Shrine

Go along the wide street heading northward from the Chigasaki Satoyama Park Ent traffic signal on Prefectural Road 47, and then go north down the hill in front of the park office for about one kilometer, you will arrive at Koshikake Shrine. A few houses are scattered along the paved road, either side of which stand tall trees. There is a Koshin tower, built in 1857, and a 23-night tower of 1857 in thickets. The valley spreading to the west of the road is called Yanagi-yato, part of the prefectural park.

Koshikake Shrine was designated as the village shrine of Serizawa in 1873. The shrine's name 'Koshikake' stems from a legend that Yamato Takeru-no-Mikoto, a legendary hero, took a rest on a stone there, watching Mt. Oyama, on his journey to conquer eastern Japan.

The Kosikake Stone (88 cm long and 76 cm wide), which is believed to be the one he sat on, is enshrined in a fence on the left side of the front shrine. (See the photo below.) Surrounded by large cedars, zelkovas, chinquapins, ginkgos and other trees, the main and front shrines, and the bell tower with a thatched roof, stand still, creating a tranquil atmosphere. The bell tower in the shrine looks strange, but this was built during the time of syncretism of Shintoism and Buddhism. At the entrance of the shrine there is a Koshin tower, built in 1740. The sacred forest was designated as the city's natural treasure in 1986.

- How to get there: Take a bus bound for Bunkyo University at Chigasaki St. north entrance, get off at Koide Primary School, and then walk for 20 min.
- A 23rd night tower: a tower showing a religious ceremony on 23rd night of a lunar month was held there. Members of a group gathered to have dinner and then pray to drive away evil spirits.



Himuro Camellia Garden

After enjoying plum blossoms, how about appreciating the blossoms of camellias? [Himuro Camellia Garden](#), in Higashi-kaigan-minami, will make visitors comfortable. The garden was donated by the late Mr. and Mrs. Himuro to the city. About 1,300 trees in the 2800 m² garden, most of which are camellias, bloom from February to March. Many of the more than 200 varieties of camellias were in full bloom in the middle of March.

The photo on the left is a variety called *Himuro Setsu Gets Ka*, or *Himuro Snow, Moon and Flower* in English, planted near the western wall. The variety is one of the 20 original varieties that Mr. Himuro developed himself.

Another tree which blooms this season is on page four.

Nature in Chigasaki

Macrobrachium Japonicum

Macrobrachium Japonicum, a species of freshwater prawn, has a pair of long and heavy forceps legs. Its habitats are in clear water rivers in warm regions from Chiba Prefecture in Japan to Taiwan. It has enough power to go upstream. The nocturnal prawn hides under stones, tetrapods or in the holes of other shore protection materials during the day but the creature can be seen in the daytime on cloudy days. The prawn with about a nine-centimeter body length has five pairs of legs which come out of its chest. The chest has thin vertical stripes on its side. The big flat forceps legs are upgrowths from their second to front legs, which differentiates this prawn from crawfishes and crabs whose forceps legs are the upgrowths of their foremost legs.

Macrobrachium Japonicum is a carnivorous crustacean. It eats small aquatic creatures and dead fish, but it also eats algae sticking to stones by slickly using another pair of small forceps. The freshwater prawn is turf-conscious and fights off intruders from its territory.

The prawn spawns from May to September and nurses eggs under its belly until they hatch. The prawn larvae move into a current to go to brackish-water regions of the sea. About a month later, the larvae grow into small five-millimeter-long prawns and they track back on swiftly flowing streams. They live in rapid-flowing streams and strangely enough, have even been found in a factory's pond in the city.



People in Chigasaki (3) Otojiro Kawakami

(A bimonthly serial)

Otojiro Kawakami was a pioneer of the Japanese drama and also known as the first man to have promoted Shakespeare dramas. He organized a touring company to travel around countries in Europe and America in the Meiji Period (1868-1911). He was born in 1864, at a turning point of the time, a great transition toward modernization in Japan. Influenced by democratic movements, he made the original song of “Oppekepe-bushi” satirizing social conditions in 1889, which raised him to fame.

He visited France to learn about the theatrical world in 1893. After he married Sadayakko (see the photo below), a popular geisha, they went to America in 1899. He continued to get involved with theatrical activities in Europe and America. The originality in his dramas, including elements of Kabuki and Japanese dancing, was highly

appreciated. At the 1900 Paris World Exposition, Sadayakko drew huge attention from Europeans. She also did modeling for Picasso.

After they returned to Japan in 1902, he built a mansion called “Bansho-en” at [Takasuna Ryokuchi](#) in Chigasaki, where currently the Chigasaki City Museum of Art stands. He produced “Othello” played by a civilian theatrical company in 1903. Sadayakko also played a role in it, although theatrical dramas were only played by actors at that time. He built a temporary stage for children’s dramas in front of Chigasaki Station. He placed Chigasaki as a cradle of the Japanese modern drama. Thanks to his efforts, the drama culture successfully established roots in Japan.

For more information: go to

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otojiro%20Kawakami>



Cherry Spot along the JR Sagami Line

Perhaps many passengers have already noticed, there are cherry trees which bloom after Kawazu Zakura and before Somei Yohino along the JR Sagami Line. When trains bound for Chigasaki pass under the Shin-Shonan-Bypass, about 500 m south of Kagawa Station, the cherry trees appear on the right side of the trains. About 20 Harumekizakura, or Bring-spring cherry trees in English, were in full bloom in the middle of March. Local people say these trees were planted 12 years ago, and since then a resident group and city officials have taken care of them.

The variety was raised by a flower farmer at Minami Ashigara in Kanagawa. For parents, teachers and students Harumekizakura is the cherry that sees off graduates and Somei Yoshino is the cherry that welcomes new students.



The 12th Koide River Cherry Festival

On March 3, the final day of the festival, the Yanagishima Kite Club displayed their kites and flew three kite chains, each of which consisted of over 100 kites, on the Koide River bank. There was almost no wind early in the morning, but around 10:30 a strong wind began blowing. The members let spectators, including children and women, hold the string. They felt the wind force and enjoyed manipulating more than 100 kites.

Blossoms of nearly 60 Kawazu Cherry trees were at about 70% full bloom on the day. Blessed with fine weather, a lot of visitors took a walk along the river bank.

Southern Marche

The 5th Southern Marche, a kind of flea market, took place at Chuo Koen on March 4. There were 13 stalls selling local food and vegetables, and 23 craft shops selling trinkets, clothes and many more items. Families with small children made a line in front of a city community bus, *Eboshi*.

A pony ride and ukulele performance also attracted children and mothers.

Chigasaki Youth Festival 2018



The 2nd Youth's Festival took place at Youth Hall in Jitsukenzaka on March 10 (Sat). Various activities took place in the three-story building. In the auditorium on the 2nd floor, students of

Chigasaki and Chigasaki Nishihama HSs performed cheer dancing and calligraphy dancing, a local children group sang familiar songs in chorus, and an adult brass band group played several melodies. On the third floor, children ran model trains assisted by the Chigasaki O Gauge Railway Club.

In the corner next to the model train room, many valuable old photos were exhibited, including those of Chigasaki Station in the 1900s, the collapsed bridge over the Sagami River just after the Great Kanto Earthquake, and a black market in front of the station. The last one is quite valuable, as it depicts a scene of postwar Chigasaki. This was a copy of an original photo taken by a US soldier. Decades later, a group studying the city's history became aware of this photo and borrowed it from him who was by then back in the US. An egg dropping contest, craft workshops, cooking and many other activities were also held.



Opening ceremony of Yanagishima sports park

The opening ceremony of the sports park was held on March 25 (Sun) from 9:30. Mayor Hattori said he hopes the park will be used by various people, from children to elderly people regardless of whether they like sports or not. After speeches by other guests, the portable shrine of Yanagishima Hachiman Shrine was carried by the shrine's parishioners; the brass band club of Nakajima JHS performed several melodies, including *Pomp and Circumstance* by Sir Edward Elgar and the song of the All-Japan High School Baseball Tournament, *Glory shines for you* by Yuji Koseki; young riders belonging to the Chigasaki unicycle association exhibited skillful performances; and lastly,

Lancers, the Chigasaki HS cheerleading club, enchanted the spectators with their excellent dancing. Outside the stadium several tents of local associations sold food and beverages. The whole park was filled with a festive mood.

Yurui Chara Party

The 6th Yurui Chara Party in Shonan Chigasaki was held at Lusca Chigasaki on March 25 and 26 from 10:00 to 17:00. On the roof garden of the station building, there were stalls selling local specialties. On the stage, Eboshimaro, Sanomaru and other yuruchara danced and communicated with over 200 spectators, many of whom were young families with children. The manager of Takata-no-Yumechan appreciated the support Chigasaki gave to Rikuzen Takata, Iwate, after the devastating earthquake, and told the people that about 500 citizens still live in temporary houses in her city. A sales corner of the northern city's specialties in front of the ticket gate on the third floor attracted a lot of Chigasaki residents.



Events in April and early May

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

Admission free!

- The 24th portrait exhibition by the Chigasaki Painting Association:
Mar 27 (Tues) 14:00 ~ 18:00, 28 (Wed) to 31 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, Apr 1 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00
- Painting exhibition – works by Yasutake Oshima and his family by Oshima gallery:
Apr 4 (Wed) to 7 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, Apr 8 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- The 9th exhibition of scenic pictures by Nature Photo Chigasaki:
Apr 10 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, 11 (Wed) to 14 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, 15 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- Watercolor painting exhibition by Shonan Sketch Club:
Apr 17 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 18 (Wed) to 21 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 22 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- The 6th ‘あ’ painting exhibition by ‘あ’:
Apr 25 (Wed) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 26 (Thurs) to 28 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 29 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00
- The 17th Serie Exhibition (oil, watercolor and India-ink paintings) by Group Serie:
May 1 (Tues) to 5 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The opening of the season when everything shines in the city

The 63rd Oka Festival

One of the city's four major festivals, Oka Festival, will be held on April 21 (Sat) and 22 (Sun).

April 21 (Sat)

- Concert at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station at 10:00
- Chigasaki brand bazaar from 10:00 to 17:00 on the sidewalk north of Yamada Denki.
- Joken Temple Festival from 10:00 to 14:30

The festival is promoted by local residents near the temple. On the stage, a Japanese drum performance by Bunkyo Univ. students and dancing by local kid groups are planned. See the photo on the right.



April 22 (Sun)

- Chigasaki brand bazaar from 10:00 to 16:00 on the sidewalk north of Yamada Denki.
- Mikoshi parade, from 12:30 to 14:00, starts near Twin-wave, passes by the station's north entrance, and reaches the shopping area.
- Big parade, from 13:00 to 15:00, starts at Chigasaki ES, passes by south and north entrances of the station and finishes at Emeroad.

Chigasaki Industry Fair

The industry fair will take place in front of the comprehensive gymnasium on April 21 (Sat)

and 22 (Sun) from 10:00. About 70 companies will join in.



Spring Citizen Festival

The 34th Spring Citizen Festival will be held at Chuo Park on April 22 (Sun) from 10:00 to 16:00. There will be a flea market and stall corners. On the stage, citizen groups will dance, play musical instruments and show other performances.

Shonan Festival 2018

Another major festival, Shonan Festival 2018, will be held on April 28 (Sat) and 29 (Sun). There will be everything, from hula to hip-hop dancing, from succor to flip-flop throwing, from beverages to fried noodles. Let's go to the beach and feel the pleasure of living by the sea!



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!