

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.

Beach Houses – one of the city's oldest businesses

Southern Beach Chigasaki was opened to swimmers on July 6 (Sat). About nine beach houses of the Chigasaki beach house association are ready to provide rest spots, drink and food. These houses are going to do business until the end of August. More than 100 years ago, Chigasaki became a summer resort. Beach houses have since been a characteristic feature of the Chigasaki beach.

Yoshio Okubo, chairman of the association, and the owner of the beach house Natsu Club, Summer Club in English, for 30 years, was worrying about the weather, when we interviewed him two days after the opening ceremony. Unfortunately, cloudy and rainy days continued till the end of July, as the rainy season was eight days longer than usual, and 30 days longer than last year. However, temperatures higher than 35 degrees Celsius also exert negative effects, he says.

In the summer of 1985, 38 million people came to beaches nationwide, compared to 7.6 million in the same period in 2015. Diversifying pleasure activities, people's dislike of high temperatures and some other reasons are ascribed to the declining trend. The number of sea bathers at most beaches in Kanagawa also grew smaller and smaller from 2010 to 2017, according to the prefecture's statistics*. For instance, a total of 4.3 million people visited beaches in Fujisawa in 2010, while only 1.5 million did so in 2017, and the beaches of Kamakura had one million in 2010, falling to 0.6 million in 2017. However, a relatively constant number of visitors came to Chigasaki, Miura and Hayama: 140,000 to Chigasaki, 100,000 to Hayama and 540,000 to Miura.

Mr Okubo says one of their policies is to preserve the rural and Showa-style atmosphere of the beach, and not impose strict regulations, which seems to be contrary to Fujisawa and Kamakura, so that visitors can spend their time in their own way. He thinks many visitors are regular customers. (The city mayor said at the opening ceremony that he hoped ten thousand people would come to Chigasaki 100 times rather than one million people come once.)

The Ken-O-Express way has contributed to bringing more visitors from Yamanashi, Saitama and Gunma. The chairman has planned to integrate the beach houses into one big house so that the association will be able to offer better services. We hope good summer weather comes in August, and the abundant rustic charm impresses visitors.

*<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/uploaded/attachment/897987.pdf>
<http://southernbeachchigasaki.com/about-association/>



Space lessons at Civic Hall

Special lessons in space will be held at the large hall of the Civic Hall on August 11 (Sun) from 13:30 to 16:00. The first session starting at 13:30 will be a lecture on his new mission by Chigasaki-born astronaut Soichi Noguchi, who is going to stay at the ISS and to do experiments and maintenance work, and to manipulate the robot arm. In the second session starting at 14:20, Hayabusa2 mission manager Makoto Yoshikawa will give interesting talks about the space probe's achievements. Panel discussion will be held during the third session from 14:20. The lucky audience, around 1300 people, will be chosen by lottery.



From JAXA website

New Chigasaki Police Station

The new Chigasaki police station opened its doors to citizens on July 8 (Mon). The four-story building, a workplace for 280 police officers, facing route 45 (Chigasaki Chuo Dori), is located on the north of the Community Medical Center, which is on the north of AEON Central Chigasaki Store. There are 14 parking spaces for visitors. Going through the entrance, visitors will see a spacious room, and the counters for renewing driver's licenses with sofas in front of them. The license corner is less crowded than the former station, as the building has about 1.5 times the floor size of the former fifty-six-year-old building on route one in Jitukenzaka.



A characteristic crime of the city, according to the station's deputy chief Takeshi Itagaki, used to be bank transfer swindles or "It's me" swindles. A few years ago, the number of swindles in Chigasaki and Samukawa was listed high among cities and towns in the prefecture. However, with serious countermeasures the number has substantially dropped. Last year the station's territory was placed almost the lowest among 54 areas, and its achievement was commended by the chief of the prefectural police. The deputy chief says if a caller asks you about money, a cash card and its identification number, you must hang up immediately and tell your family members, police or someone you can consult with. Bank clerks, employees of other finance companies and municipal officials never do such requests. Mr Itagaki recommends answerphones or receivers with functions to get rid of swindlers.

Meija Makule Chigasaki – a softball club in the city

Meija Makule Chigasaki (MMC), a softball club consisting of about 70 people whose ages range from 63 to 83, has enjoyed slow-pitch softball since its establishment in 2007, aiming to promote health management and communication with fellows. They practice twice a week; at the Chigasaki ballpark on Wednesdays, and Tsutsumi or Enzo ground on Fridays. Each member is on one of three teams according to his age. All teams have participated in several leagues, including the East Japan League and the Hinohara Cup, which capped the late Shigeaki Hinohara known as the longevity doctor at St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo. Their plays are so good that the 68 and older, and the 75 and older teams won the tournament of their age categories, and the 60 and older team finished second last season.



On the second Wednesday of July, a rare fine day amid the rainy season, regular matches of the Shonan Chigasaki League were held at the city ballpark with seven teams: the MMC's four mixed-age teams (consisting of the northern, southern, eastern and western residents of the city), the other Chigasaki team Big Bears, whose members are old boys of Waseda University, Meija Makule Ota from Tokyo and Balloon Elderly from Yokohama, which had deep ties with the late Hinohara, who dubbed the team the funny name. All the players with shaped bodies vividly swung a bat, ran, chased a ball and threw it. Even a new member smashed a home run.



The slow-pitch softball has special rules so that elderly people can enjoy plays without injuries: the catcher is allowed to stand. The pitcher has to throw a Leephus ball which goes between 1.7 and 3.4 meters above ground, and the ball must fall down on the home base. Each base has two plates, one for a runner and the other for a fielder, to prevent the two from running into each other. One game is up to seven innings and no longer than an hour. The home run line is 50 meters from the home base, and the balls are larger than official softballs, with a diameter of 14 inches. (See picture, left)

Team members enjoy not only softball but also outfield events such as fishing, short trips, and cooking instructed by a former member who used to be a teacher at a cooking school. They have contributed used sports gear such as bats, gloves, balls for baseball, tennis balls and rackets, basketballs, and spike shoes to children in Southeast Asia, and Central and South America through the Japan International Cooperation Agency. They need men aged 60 or over and women aged 30 or older.

Advertisement

People whose birthday is from April 1, 1943 to March 31, 1944! How about gathering? Toshiaki Sugihara wants to have a meeting (social gathering?) with the same aged people around the world, making use of the opportunity to spectate at the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games. Could you call the number 090-9842-3292 or send email to the address: sajikan_nomisugi@yahoo.co.jp if you are interested.

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 蓼食う虫も好き好き

TADE KUU MUSHI MO SUKIZUKI

TADE means knotweed, **KUU** to eat, **MUSHI** a worm, **MO** to be and **SUKIZUKI** a matter of taste.

Leaves and stems of knotweed taste bitter, but some worms like the plant because it is bitter. Likewise, some people like weird foods. Every man has his own taste. Even pockmarks on a woman's face look like dimples to a man who likes her. How wonderful is the power of love! Or does the power of love fail his visual power?

By the way, it seems not to be clear which species of worm eats the bitter plant. On the other hand, people eat it with sashimi or make a sauce with the leaves and vinegar for broiled fish. Humans may be more omnivorous than worms.

This saying is in *Kefuki-gusa Sugawara-Denju-Tenarai-Kagami*, a Kabuki play in the Edo period. Its English equivalents are:

- There is no accounting for taste.
- Every man has his delight.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

(2) 灯台下暗し

TODAI MOTO KURASHI

TODAI means a candlestick, **MOTO** at the foot of, and **KURASHI** to be dark.

A candle brightens the room, but it cannot shed light on the foot of the candlestick. The saying figuratively means people are well aware of other people's weak points, but they often miss those of themselves. For everybody, it is hard to know thyself.

Today also means a lighthouse. The meaning of this saying does not change even if a candlestick is replaced with a lighthouse, but there was no lighthouse in Japan in the 17th century. Nevertheless, more and more young Japanese may associate the saying with a lighthouse.

The proverb is in a novel for townspeople, *Kefuki-gusa Seken-munazanyo Natsumatsuri Naniwa-kagami*, published in 1692. Its English equivalents are:

- The darkest place is under the candlestick.
- You must go into the country to hear what news at London.
- The good man is the last to know what's amiss at home.

History of Chigasaki

A milestone at Motomachi 5890

There is a small mound with pine trees and hackberries on the southern corner of the Ichiri-zuka traffic signal, the one next to the Chigasaki-Station-mae crossing on eastbound route one. In 1604, the Tokugawa shogunate built mounds like this, called ichiri-zuka, every four kilometers on either side of the five major roads* for travelers' convenience. The ichiri-zuka on the crossing was the 14th from the starting point, Nihonbashi in Edo, today's Tokyo. The counterpart on the other side of route one was removed when the road was expanded in the Showa era. This ichiri-zuka, at Motomachi 5890, is one of a few remaining mounds all along the ancient Tokaido, today's route one. The ichiri-zuka has been preserved since it was designated as one of the city's historic remains on August 15, 1961. In 2011 a pocket park with a panel explaining the historic spot was built at the site of the disappeared mound.



In the Edo era, many daimyo's processions passed by the ichiri-zuka. A record says they could view Ubajima (Eboshi rock) off the beach.

When Chigasaki Station started its business in 1898, the area was pond-and-farmland-scattered barren land covered with thatch. However, the Ichirizuka crossing is now in the heart of the city, and no vestige of the barren land remains.

How to get there: walk five minutes along Ichiri-zuka-dori (street) from the north entrance of Chigasaki Station.

*five major road: Tokaido, Nakasendo, Nikkokaido, Oshukaido and Koshukaido. These highways all started at Nihonbashi, Tokyo. The construction of Tokaido finished in 1624, the earliest of the five.

The way to (and from) the Museum

A strange exhibition started at Chigasaki City Museum of Art on July 14 (Sun). Meandering paths around the museum sometimes make visitors lose their way. A person with weak eyes once said she enjoyed walking through the pathways to the museum, as she felt she had been in a hedge maze. Her experience hinted sensory impairment may enable her to appreciate things differently from ordinary people, which was why library staff planned the event one and a half years ago.

Each work prompts visitors to hone their senses. The work of Mathrax, the photo, produces comfortable sounds, and perfumes the area when visitors touch a wooden object. In the next dark room, countless wind-bells plunging from the ceiling twinkle with each breath. It looks as if lightning bugs are flying. The concept of this exhibition is hard to understand, nevertheless, other senses as well as eyesight seem to become active. The exhibition will continue until September 1 (Sun).



People in Chigasaki (11) Ken Uehara

(A bimonthly serial)



From Wikipedia

Ken Uehara (11/7/1909~11/23/1991) was one of the greatest movie stars who had contributed to developing the entertainment world in Japan during the 1930s and '40s. Soon after joining the Shochiku Co. Ltd, a movie company, in 1935, he became one of the big three actors representing the company. 'Aizen katsura', a romantic love story movie produced in 1938 propelled him and a co-star, Kinuyo Tanaka to stardom.

In 1936 he married the actress, Kyoko Kozakura, a great-grandchild of Tomomi Iwakura, one of the central leaders who had promoted the Meiji Restoration in 1868. They had their first son, Naoaki, in Yokohama City in 1937, and two years later, decided to move to Chigasaki, because Ken knew Chigasaki was a good place to help Naoaki grow healthier. Swimming and sailing off Chigasaki beach built up Naoaki's body, and nurtured love for the ocean in his mind.

Articles and photo-gravures of their mansion had made Chigasaki famous nationwide as the town where the couple were living. One of the streets connecting Chigasaki Station with Route 134 came to be called 'The Uehara Ken Street'. In 1960, Naoaki made his debut with the stage name, Yuzo Kayama. The 'Waka-daisho' (young commander) series produced from 1961 to 1971 spread his fame throughout the country. Songs expressing his love for the ocean composed by him were also widely popular among citizens.

Now, he is 82 years old, and he still continues to work actively as a musician as well as an actor, giving the young dreams and hopes.

The legacy of the Uehara family still remains in Chigasaki. 'The Uehara Ken Street' has come to be called 'Yuzo Street', the Pacific Hotel run by them, which stood at the east coast of Chigasaki in 1965, was reconstructed as a resort condominium in 1999, and the school song of Chigasaki Higashi-kaigan Elementary School composed by Yuzo (with his penname, Kosaku Dan) has remained popular among the school children and is still sung by them.



Once Uehara Ken Street, now Yuzo Street

Nature in Chigasaki

Nagayato

An area sandwiched between two golf courses in the eastern part of the city is called Nagayato. The green zone spreading to the east of the Koide prefectural road has unparalleled, unusual environments with dry grass fields surrounded by broad leaf forests and oligotrophic soil. The area was mostly the campus of Joshibi University of Art and Design, a women's art college.

A 2017 survey confirmed many grassland indexes, including *Gastrimargus marmoratus*, *Canthophorus niveimarginatus*, *Meloidomorpha japonicus*, *Xenogryllus marmoratus* and *Oecanthus longicauda* (insects) together with forest indexes such as *Micadina phluetaenoides* (an insect), and *Calanthe discolor* and *Lilium auratum* (plants).

However, since the university moved, dead leaves have gradually piled up on the Kanto loam layer to cause eutrophication, and the change in the soil's quality enabled black pine trees and kudzu vines to grow. *Conocephalus exemptus* (an insect), *Picus awokera* (a bird), and *Artopoetes pryeri* (a butterfly, see pictures on the right), were found during the former survey twelve years ago, but were not observed in the latest survey.



The municipal office in charge has made efforts to remove the intruders of a dozen black pines, and to transfer precious plants to a safe place before construction work started*. This land is owned by a

school corporation which is planning to build a college for rehabilitation study so people fear this unique environment in the city will soon vanish.

*Construction has already started. Construction machinery was working in the area surrounded by the fence. The site is at the north of two high-rise condominiums at the top of the hill in Akabane.



Honolulu week

The 6th Honolulu week started on July 15, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the Honolulu-Chigasaki sister city relationship. During the period you can get discounts and/or giveaways such as a bottled drink at 116 shops, restaurants, supermarkets and the like. Special events related to Hawaii are being held at the city library, public halls and Umikaze terrace. Citizens will feel the air of Honolulu and Hawaii more closely than usual. The event will be continued until August 10 (Sat).



Marine season came to Southern Beach

The opening ceremony of Southern Beach took place on July 7 (Sat) from 10:00 under an overcast sky. After the Shinto ritual and speeches of the city mayor, municipal assembly members and beach related people, a rescue operation drill was performed by life savers. The planned stage plays commemorating the 20th birthday of *Southern Beach Chigasaki* were cancelled as the rain was about to fall. The ceremony was ended, as usual, with the earthquake evacuation drill, wishing the beach provides visitors with a world of pleasure and time for relaxation. The event, however, was only the beginning. The following two events in June were also affected by bad weather. Beach house business, which is one of the oldest businesses of the city and also suffered bad weather in July, is featured in the first article of this issue.

Events in July



The Hamaori Festival

The traditional mid-summer festival was held on the morning of July 15 (Marine Day) in the drizzly weather. Despite the uncomfortable weather, Nishihama Beach was filled, as usual, with 39 mikoshi, their bearers, Shinto priests, spectators, invited guests and food stalls. The site was filled with festive mood.

A big screen was set up near the water's edge for the first time. Quite a few people gazed at it to watch the Shinto ritual, which was to pray for the peace and security of the nation, a bumper crop and a rich haul, carried out in the circle surrounded by a throng of spectators. Most of the spectators probably hoped to see mikoshi going into the sea before they left for their shrines, but only few of them did as the temperature was low for sea bathing. A drone was flying slightly off the beach. People are probably interested how the festival looks from the sky. Even the traditional festival is gradually modernized.



Southern Beach Festa 2019

Southern Beach Festa 2019 was held on July 27 (Sat) from 15:00. Compared to other July events, fewer spectators gathered on Southern Beach. Heavy rain and wind from approaching typhoon No.6 on the day before probably made citizens assume the fair would be suspended. Musicians, dancers and a comedy duo (see the left photo, Igo-Shogi from Yoshimoto Kogyo, which is now on TV almost every day) and more attracted their fans. On the beach, 2,000 candles were lit in the evening.



Events in August and early September

Chigasaki City Museum of Art ☎ 0467-88-1177, URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>

●An exhibition, “The Way to (and from) the Museum”; until Sep 1 (Sun), admission fee (yen); Adult 600, Univ. student 500, and high school student and younger as well as handicapped person and their caretakers free. The visitors will have strange experiences.



Citizen Gallery ☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of N’EST-CE PAS Chigasaki
Admission free!

- The 37th Exhibition of Shonan Indian-ink Drawing Association:
August 17 (Sat) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 18th (Sun) to the 20th (Tue) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 21st (Wed) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- The 11th Exhibition of pictures by the Tansai Chigasaki:
Aug 27 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 28th to 31st (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, Sep. 1 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00



The 32nd Nandemo Yoichi

The traditional evening festival will be held at Chuo Koen on August 3 (Sat) from 16:00 to 20:00. One of the largest flea markets in the city will appear. Food and beverage tents will await visitors. Outdoor filming for children will start around 18:45. Bon-odori will be held for 2 hours from 17:40, and Japanese drum performances will start around 16:00. Crickets will be provided to children for free from 16:30. Lanterns by Yanagishima Ryuto-kai will fill the park with a fantastic atmosphere. If the weather is fine, it will be hot even in the evening. Be careful of heat stroke.

The 45th Southern Beach Fireworks Display

The 45th Southern Beach Fireworks Display will take place off Southern Beach on August 10 (Sat) from 19:30 to 20:20. About 3,000 fireworks will be set off in 50 minutes. The good thing about the fireworks display in Chigasaki is that it is not so crowded. In addition, the sound of waves and sea breezes are pleasant. You can take a shuttle bus from the south entrance of Chigasaki Station to the beach and the other way around. The events in July were less active than usual because of the prolonged rainy weather, but the rainy season finally came to an end while this article was being written. We will have a more summerlike evening on the day.



Bread & Butter concert

A city-based brother duo Bread & Butter will join in a music event, *Shonan Rock’n’roll Center Again 2019 the 50th Summer*, at Yanagishima sports park on August 25 (Sun). Senior people probably know the duo, who started their activity 50 years ago and have since produced many hit songs, including *Marie* and *Hotel Pacific*.

The 23rd Chigasaki Mayor’s Cup Amateur Surfing Contest

The 23rd amateur surfing contest will be held near the headland on September 1 (Sun) from 7:00. About 160 amateur surfers from in and around the city will join in. There are 11 categories based on age, gender and surfboard size: junior high schoolers, high schoolers, over 35, 45 or 55; men or women; and short board or long board. Entrants will be judged based on global standard criteria. The contest aims to foster young surfers, to improve the beach environment and to activate local communities. Some participants in the past contest went on to become pro surfers.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!