

Chigasaki Wave

Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎^{ウエーブ}波倶楽部

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

Shonan Pears

Driving along prefectural road 46 at this time of year, you will see yellow flags of 湘南梨 (Shonan Pears) standing at the roadside in [northern Samukawa](#). Some of the pears are sold to customers who have ordered in advance, and others are sold at growers' huts next to their farms. About ten varieties of pear are harvested from late July to the middle of September. Pear growers pick the fruits in the morning and they are sold out by the evening, so they are extremely fresh compared to those you see at grocery stores.



Pear blossoms start blooming in early April. Growers nip excess flowers, pollinate artificially and thin out superfluous fruits in early May, then in July and August they cover growing fruits with paper bags to protect them from insects and birds. Sunlight makes pears sweeter, and rain makes them bigger. However, too much rain reduces sweetness.

Each variety has a slightly different harvest time, and picking work starts with Akemizu and Kourei in late July, followed by Aikansui, [Kosui](#), Shugyoku and Hosui. Pear cultivation in the town started in 1956 on the riverbed of Sagami River, and now more than ten farmers are engaged in cultivating the fruit.



September - Disaster Prevention Month

The Great Kanto Earthquake occurred on September 1 in 1923, killing some 105,000 people in and around Kanto. In Chigasaki, [the train system](#), Banyu Bridge and many buildings were badly damaged. As more than 2,000 active faults have been detected across the nation, earthquakes as big as the Kumamoto Earthquake, in April this year, could occur anytime and anywhere. Be prepared for natural disasters.

Storing food and water is one of the top priorities among anti-disaster preparations. [Experts](#) recommend that you should buy a little more than enough food, and add the same amount you have consumed to replenish stocks. No less important in the preparations is: you should be aware of what kinds of information is available, where the closest evacuation site is and how to get there. [The City's Website](#) provides various information, including tsunami and flood hazard maps, evacuation sites and tsunami temporary evacuation places. The City has started delivering news about disaster prevention through its own Twitter account, 'Chigasaki_city'.

Kanagawa Prefecture is carrying out a Shakeout drill (Drop, Cover and Hold on) on September 1. Shakeout motions are quite simple, and you can do it yourself anytime.



119

Interpreting service for 119 calls

When foreign citizens call 119, interpreters with expertise will help callers and the fire station understand each other by translating each language. The 24-hour/365-day service for Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish will go on trial from October 1 for six months before being formally implemented on April 1 next year. The Chigasaki Fire Station received 18 emergency calls from foreign citizens in 2014, and 24 in 2015. The number is expected to increase in the future. The telephone interpreting service will also be available at accident scenes.



Volunteer groups in the city

The Group of Shimizu-Yato lovers

A volunteer group named 'The group of Shimizu-Yato lovers' has been dedicating itself to conserving Shimizu-Yato, several hectares of a valley with abundant nature. The valley, located in the northeast of the city, close to Citizens' Forest, is rich in biodiversity: groves of trees, wetlands, creeks, grass fields, ponds and a rice paddy as well as various creatures. In the early 1990s, the valley almost became a waste disposal place, like many other valleys in the city, so the group launched a campaign to stop dumping and protect the lush valley. Its tenacious efforts moved the city officials so that the City designated the valley as a special green conservation area in 2012 to persuade the landowners to keep the status quo.

Some members of the group, led by Mr. Michio Sasaki, work on the valley every Tuesday rain or shine throughout the year. They say their goal is to hand down the blessings of nature to future generations. They also say they strongly hope young people will join their activities, because



most of them are in their 60s and 70s. Their motivations for starting the volunteer work may have been different from each other, but they all feel happy when they find subtle changes in nature during their preservation activities. Such experiences make them realize the intrinsic sensibility of humans.

They hold public nature observation meetings on the first Sunday every month, trying to inform as many people as possible of the valley's valuable nature. If you are lucky, you will be able to see rare species of plants, insects, small animals and birds you can rarely see in any other area in the city. However, you could be attacked unexpectedly especially by hornets so you should wear a hat, a long-sleeved shirt, long trousers and long boots, and avoid black clothes.



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 藪をつついて蛇を出す

(YABU WO TSUTSUITE HEBI WO DASU)

YABU means a bush, TSUTSUKU to poke at, HEBI a snake and DASU to drive out.

This saying is more popular in a simpler form, YABU HEBI. The following allegory explains what the proverb means. It is difficult to see the inside of a bush. A man poked at the bush on an impulse trying to find out what was in it, which resulted in a snake being driven out, which then bit him. If he had passed by the bush without doing anything unnecessary, he would not have had bad luck. This proverb is often used when people advise someone who has done unnecessary things and caused trouble.

Its English equivalents are:

- It's not good to wake a sleeping lion.
- Take heed you find not that which you do not seek
- Let sleeping dogs lie.

(2) 良薬口に苦し 忠言耳に逆らう

(RYOYAKU KUCHI NI NIGASHI, CHUGEN MIMI NI SAKARAU)

RYOYAKU means good medicine, KUCHI the mouth, NIGASHI bitter, CHUGEN good advice, MIMI ear and SAKARAU difficult to take or listen to.

Good medicine tastes bitter, likewise, good advice is hard to take. The proverb was found in the record of dialogues between Chinese philosopher [Confucius](#) (551-479 BC) and his followers.

The English equivalents of this proverb are:

- Good medicine is bitter in the mouth.
- Bitter pills may have blessed effects.
- Men take bitter potions for sweet health.

Nobody would disagree with this maxim, but it is not easy to follow such advice, is it?





Through Another's Eyes

Another Olympics has come and gone, and as usual, I was frustrated at not being able to watch my favourite sports on Japanese TV. Thankfully, NHK's online coverage was far more considerate, and it was doubly satisfying that not only did Team GB's women's hockey team win gold, but also that, for once, a British team actually held its nerve in a penalty shoot-out.

Amongst the many memories of these Games, though, the one that stands out above all others is the superb performance of Japan's men's four by 100m relay team. How was it possible that these four sprinters, none of whom had qualified for their individual event finals and none with a personal best for the 100m below 10 seconds, could vanquish the Americans and give the Jamaicans a run for their money? Their success has been attributed to their seamless baton passing, but it's more than that, I feel. What propelled these Japanese athletes into the silver medal position was a deeply-ingrained sense of team spirit.

One of the things that most surprised me when I started working in Japanese schools was Sports Day. There were no events where students competed as individuals. All events were contested by an entire class, and there were only two teams, the green team and the orange team. Of course, there were opportunities for individuals to make their mark, but none of these individual contributions were acknowledged, only the team result mattered. And even at this young age, you can see the results of this relentless focus on teamwork: the synchronized footwork of the 12-strong *mukade* (centipede) teams racing around the track, the timing of the 30-strong long-skipping teams jumping in unison, and the speed of the short-skipping teams snaking their way almost shoulder-to-shoulder under the rapidly turning rope.

On the one hand, I cannot help but be impressed by the commitment and loyalty of Japanese students (and athletes) to their group and at what they are able to achieve working together. On the other hand, I wonder, where is the motivation for individuals to truly excel when their individual efforts are apparently neither recognized nor rewarded.

Adrian Wilson

History of Chigasaki

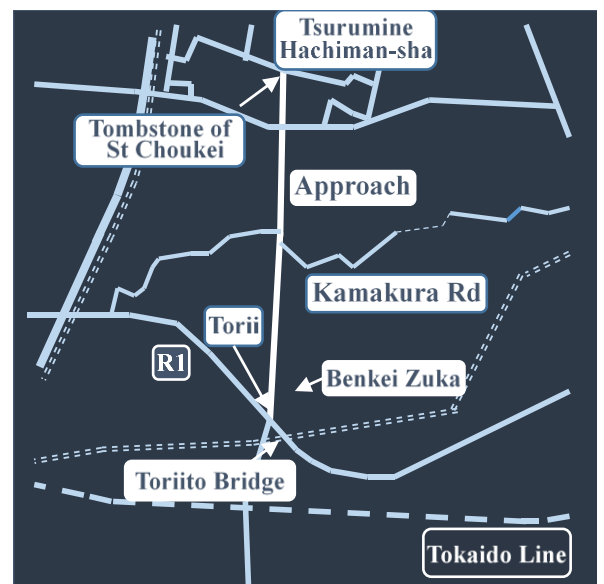
Approach to Tsurumine Hachiman-sha Shrine

At the foot of Toriito Bridge along Route 1, stands a big red torii, the first torii of Tsurumine Hachiman-sha Shrine, and the street stretching north with rows of pine trees is an approach to the shrine. In 1969, the approach, about ten meters wide and 800 meters long, was designated a historic site of the city, and the pine trees were also designated a natural monument of the city.

It is thought the shrine was established in the late Heian Period (from 794 to 1185). In the garden of a private house near the torii, there is a Benkei-zuka (a mound dedicated to Benkei). In 1198, [Yoritomo Minamoto](#) attended the completion ceremony of a bridge over Sagami River, and on his way back to Kamakura he fell off his horse. He died the following year of injuries sustained then. It is said he fell off because he saw the spirit of his younger brother [Yoshitsune](#), who he had had his army kill. Trying to assuage the spirits of Yoshitsune and Benkei, his right-hand follower, Yoritomo built a shrine for his brother, and Benkei-zuka for the subordinate.

A pass crossing the approach from east to west midway between the torii and the shrine is an ancient Kamakura Road. There is a stone-made Horse-headed Kannon (the protector of animals) near the base of a big Persea planted at the crossroads. The Kannon was carved in 1795, the oldest of the city's 57 Horse-head Kannon.

The approach goes over a stone arched bridge, and at its north end, meets another approach stretching east and west. On the corner a tombstone of Saint Choukei, who restored the shrine and planted the pine trees in the early Edo Period, and a stone monument praising the green pine trees stand. The placement of the entrance, the arched bridge, ponds and the worshippers' hall is quite similar to that of [Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gu Shrine](#) in Kamakura. Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage Booklet 1)



How about Making Herb Cordial and Salt?

Outside the building of [Chigasaki City Museum of Art](#), there is a small garden. Some staff members are growing herbs this year. They are preparing a workshop in making cordial with lemon verbena, ginger and peppermint, as well as salt with thyme, oregano and cone peppers. Why not refresh yourself by taking addictive-free herbs?

The museum has a bright sunlit café, Le chemin, on the second floor. Focusing on local products, they serve coffee, tea, matcha (powdered green tea), sweets, Japanese-style sweets, handmade bread, and light meals. And, of course, beer, wine, etc.

Please have a nice day, walking through Takasuna Green Area, enjoying herbs, appreciating works of art, and spending time in the café.

Day & Time: Sep. 30 (Fri) 14:00-16:00

Place: Atelier in Chigasaki City Museum of Art

Entry Fee: 800 yen

Application: By phone or at the counter (from Sep. 13, [Tue])

Note: Please bring an apron, towel and writing tools.



Two Rio Olympic Athletes from Chigasaki Congratulations on winning the bronze medal, Omata-san!



● **Kano Omata**, aged 20, was one of the eight swimmers of the Japanese synchronized swimming team. They won the bronze medal, following Russian and Chinese teams. She is a graduate of Yanagishima Elementary School and Nakajima Junior High School, and lives in the city. She started learning synchronized swimming at the age of 9 at a Fujisawa swimming club. Since she was a high school student, she has participated in many international competitions and has achieved distinguished results. It was the first time since the Athens Olympics that a Japanese team has won a medal.



A banner stretched at JR Chigasaki Station North Entrance

● The pair of **Kenji Takahashi** and Yukio Makino participated in 49er Sailing and ended in 18th. Takahashi, aged 34, studied from elementary to high school in Chigasaki. The Rio Olympics was the second Olympics the pair has participated in, and they were the only pair from Asia. He lives in Higashikaigan.

Events in September and early October

2016 Chigasaki Makana Hula Festival

The hula festival consisting of competitions and workshops will be held from September 17 (Sat) to 19 (Mon) at the Civic Hall and the Comprehensive Gymnasium. "Chigasaki" was added to the name of the festival in 2015, commemorating the establishment of the sister-city relationships with Honolulu City and County.

Sept 17 (Saturday): Hula competitions at the Civic Hall

13:00 ~ 16:30 KEIKI (children), KUPUNA (seniors)

18:00 ~ 21:00 WAHINE (women), KANE (men)

Entrance fee: 3,500 yen for adults, 2,000 yen for junior high school students or younger

Inquiry: Chigasaki MAKANA planning committee on 03 (5297) 6518 from 10:00 to 18:00

The winner of each category will qualify for the festival in Honolulu to be held in late January next year.

Sept 18 (Sunday): Workshop at the Comprehensive Gymnasium, next to the Civic Hall

10:00 ~ 12:00, 13:00 ~ 15:00 The origin of Hula songs, and learning Hawaiian culture from HIMENI (songs and hymns).

Lecturer: Shigeru Jinbo (Hawaiian culture researcher)

Application: until Sept 8 (Thurs), Inquiry: Gender equality section on 0467 (57) 1414

Sept 19 (Monday, Respect-for-the-Aged Day): Chigasaki hula festival closing events

17:00 ~ Attractions, awarding ceremony Admission free.

Chigasaki Mayor's Cup Amateur Surfing Contest

The 20th Amateur Surfing Contest will be held near the headland on September 4 (Sun) from 07:00. The contest is considered to be a gateway to professional surfing. The executive committee is in the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 0467-58-1111.



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

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

- Modern art exhibition by Mathrax from July 17 (Sun) to September 4 (Sun)
- The Hokusai Manga exhibition from September 11 (Sun) to November 6 (Sun)

2016 Chigasaki Jamboree

Around twenty country music bands of local and the Kanto area gather at Chigasaki Satoyama Park on September 22 (Thurs and Autumnal Equinox Day). The 7th Chigasaki Jamboree will take place from 10:00 to 17:00, rain or shine. Enjoy the open air concert on a fine autumnal day surrounded by green. Stalls will sell American foods and beverages, cowboy and cowgirl goods, CDs and DVDs of country music as well as local products.

How to get there: take a bus bound for Bunkyo University (number 50 bus) at the Chigasaki Station north entrance, get off at *Serizawa Iriguchi*, and walk for five minutes.

Inquiry: Chigasaki City Tourism Association on 0467-84-0377

For more information, go to www.chigasaki-kankou.org/jamboree/



The 9th Koide River Higanbana Festival



(Photo: Keiichi Kojima)

On September 22 (Thurs, Autumnal Equinox Day) from 10:00 to 15:00, the 9th Koide River Higanbana

(cluster amaryllis) Festival will take place near Shindo Bridge in Serizawa. It is said the best time to see the blooms this year is from late September to early October. At Ozo in Samukawa, white, yellow and pink Higanbana will welcome visitors.

It is said the root of Higanbana has toxic materials, so farmers planted the flower around rice paddies and graves to prevent moles from damaging them.

How to get there: take a bus bound for Bunkyo Univ. at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station, and get off at Serizawa Iriguchi, then walk for 15 minutes.

Civic Hall ☎ 0467-85-1123, URL: <http://www.chigasaki-arts.jp/>)

- Chigasaki Symphony Orchestra periodic concert on September 11 (Sun) from 14:00 Admission fee: 1,000 yen
Inquiry: Chigasaki Symphony Orchestra on 0467-75-7714
- Sugiyama Kiyotaka Acoustic Solo Tour 2016 on September 24 (Sat) from 15:30
Admission fee: 6,000 yen Inquiry: KM music on 045-201-9999
- Charity Concert commemorating the 70th anniversary of Sadayakko Kawakami's death, and the 130th anniversary of Kosaku Yamada's birth on October 1 (Sat) on 14:00 Admission fee (¥): Adults 2,500, Kids 1,000 Inquiry: Shonan Liebe Miwa on 090-5515-4448
- The 56th Chigasaki Citizen Cultural Festival from October 2 (Sun) to December 20 (Sun) at the Civic Hall
Japanese Dance - Oct 2 (Sun) 10:30 ~ 17:00 at the large hall
Noh chant - Oct 2 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00 at the small hall

For other performances, go to URL: <http://www.chigasaki-bdk.sakura.ne.jp>

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!