

# 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.*

## AUTECH JAPAN, INC. – conversion manufacturer of quality vehicles

AUTECH JAPAN, INC. was established in 1986 as a conversion vehicle manufacturer of the Nissan group. The first president of the automaker, located in the city's north-western corner, was Shinichiro Sakurai, who served as the leader of Nissan Skyline development team, and is a legendary engineer among car enthusiasts. Of its nearly 600 employees, staff engaged in R&D, planning and marketing activities make up the major part, and many of the plant workers have got sheet metal working and other technical qualifications.

The development- and quality-oriented automaker has three different product categories: specialty vehicles, life care vehicles and work-use vehicles. They are manufactured based on Nissan's mass-produced cars, and sold through Nissan distribution channels.

Specialty vehicles – AUTECH/NISMO-branded NOTE, SERENA, Nissan LEAF and X-TRAIL - have higher performance and finer quality than their

Nissan counterparts to attract customers with sophisticated tastes. Upgraded driving performance as well as luxurious upholstery and refined designs are among their features. These vehicles have the "AUTECH" emblem on the right of NISSAN's (see the photo on the left). Customers are given the option of choosing a body color. One is "AUTECH Blue", which conjures up images of the blue ocean and sky of Chigasaki (the photo on the left).



Life care vehicles are equipped with lifting devices, revolving and/or sliding seats and other auxiliary apparatus to help wheelchair users and those having difficulty getting in and out. In the tidy, quiet assembly plant, each of the worker groups was assembling the allocated car to them, which was in contrast to the conveyor-belt system.

Work-use vehicles, which are produced on customer request, consist of light dump trucks, light trucks with a tailgate lifter, refrigerator cars, broadcasting vans and other commercial work vehicles.

Did you know such a unique automaker is in Chigasaki? If you see deep blue-colored NISSAN compact cars and sporty cars (NISMO), life care vehicles and light trucks with special equipment as well as patrol cars on the road, they may be manufactured by AUTECH JAPAN, INC. in the city.



## Do you take care of your health?

On November 3 (Sun), an anti-lifestyle-disease event took place on the first floor of City Hall. Some visitors had their vascular age and/or blood-sugar level checked for free. Some took the advice of a dentist on periodontal disease. Visitors also looked at enlightening posters which explain how to prevent diabetes, high blood pressure and other lifestyle diseases. Many of the visitors were the middle-aged and older, and quite a few of them had probably been suffering from one or two of such diseases. However, it is often said people with a slight ailment will live longer than those who are never ill, as such people are more careful than the healthy. Paying attention to one's condition is necessary to live long. Several life expectancy calculations indicate that most Japanese people will live to be over 100 in the near future. Health consciousness is a key to extending healthy life expectancy, too.





A Hagisono-based specified non-profit organization named Mottainai Japan has collected anything and everything from food to clothing to commodities, and sent them to people who need them. The things piled up on shelves in the office building would otherwise have been disposed of as waste. According to the head of the NPO, Kodai Yamamoto, he started to gather used books by posting leaflets in his residential area in 2007. His activity became popular and word spread far and wide, so much so that he started receiving many used books from across the nation. In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, he sent some of the books to the victims living in temporary housing. Meanwhile some people requested him

to accept things besides books. Thus, he started handling food, clothing, toys and tableware as well, and today he accepts almost everything except furniture, futon, tube televisions and hina dolls.

The big quake which hit Kumamoto three years ago brought about a watershed in his mind. He learned that some people's trash is what sufferers truly need, and it is important to match supply with need. He set up the NPO in 2016, after the Kumamoto Quake, to utilize *mottainai* materials in Japan for people around the world. Brand-new T-shirts donated by a company were sent to a Christian founding hospital in Uganda; Japanese used school bags have helped school children in Thailand and Cambodia; pencils or ballpoint pens have supported children from abroad living in poverty in Japan; and casual accessories are to help Filipino women living in local areas. Fresh food from neighboring farmers are gifted to kids' cafeterias in Chigasaki, and preserved food stocks nearing their expiration dates are delivered to a food bank in Hiratsuka or the livelihood support section in the City office. The NPO has also held bazaars for charity and donated proceeds to regional welfare. *Mottainai* means 'what a waste' in English. The word became widely known thanks to the first African female Nobel laureate, Wangari Maathai. [Mottainai Japan http://mottainai-japan.com/](http://mottainai-japan.com/)



**Volunteer Festival**

The 39th Volunteer Festival was held at Civic Hall on November 23 (Sat, Labor Thanksgiving Day). Sixteen welfare volunteer groups jointly held a charity bazaar at the exhibition room. Clothes, household goods, pottery, seedlings, toys and much more was for sale. Women thronged to tables trying to discover things they like.

In addition, several other events also took place. A group played handbell music and chorused songs. A magician club put on a show, and a sign language group held a workshop for sign dance. Braille transcribing groups held a workshop for making name cards in braille. The festival is held on Labor Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23) every year.

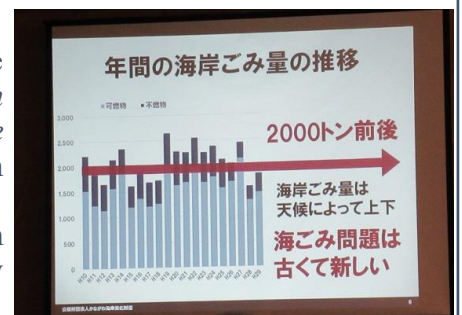
**About 70% of marine debris comes from cities and towns**

Three groups reported their cleaning activities on Shonan Beach and in the Sagami River at City Hall on the afternoon of November 10 (Sat). The 25th *Katsura/Sagami Basin Symposium*, whose subtitle was *Let's learn about marine pollution and plastic debris*, was hosted by the Katsura/Sagami basin association.

According to the Kanagawa Beach Clean-up Foundation, in the whole stretch of the Shonan coastline, from Yokosuka to Yugawara, four places are particularly polluted by waste material. The four places are all estuaries: those of the Sakai, Sagami, Kaname, and Sakawa Rivers. This and other facts suggest most marine debris, around 70%, comes from cities and towns in the upper reaches of the river, and visitors dropping litter on the beaches makes up only 30%. And the major part of marine debris is composed of plastic, about half of which is PET bottles. Thus, to keep the beach clean, we have to reduce the amount of plastic waste, and we have to keep our cities clean.

Two groups of children from two elementary schools in Yokohama reported their cleaning experiences on the Chigasaki beach. They said the number of plastic bottles and straws were more than expected, and appealed to the listeners to have their own bottles, bags, chopsticks and straws.

Comedian and garbage collector Shuichi Takizawa told the audience about his experiences. Clean districts produce only a small amount of garbage. He is known as the writer of a comic book entitled "The garbage cannot be received,".



## Scheme to reduce garbage disposal

The City office is planning to charge for garbage collection starting in April 2022 in an attempt to reduce waste. The total amount of refuse in 2017 stood at 70,030 tons, of which burnable materials from homes accounted for 58 percent, or 40,788 tons. Of that, about 43 percent was kitchen garbage which is said to be a mixture of fluid (70%) and recyclable waste (25%). They have suggested that citizens should make efforts to drain food scraps, to check food stock before going shopping and to reduce leftovers. The amount of waste has been decreasing year after year, but the disposal cost has been increasing. The city has spent more than 3 billion yen recently. In addition, municipal officials said the lease contract of the current final disposal site, in Tsutsumi-juniten, would expire in 2033, after that the City had to find a new site outside the City to dump burned ash.

By 2033, the City aims to reduce household garbage by 25% and that from business operators by 50% from the amount in 2017. Officials have stressed that precedents in other municipalities show to impose a fee is an effective measure. They intend to charge 2 yen a liter for household garbage and 7.5 yen a liter for that from enterprises. The city plans to prepare 5L, 10L, 20L and 40L plastic bags. Each bag will be sold as a set of ten.

In addition, when trash is directly brought into the processing facility in Hagisono from homes or from business operators, 14 yen (two yen up) or 28 yen (4 yen up) per kilogram will be charged, respectively. The city will also increase the price of the bulk trash ticket to 700 yen from the current 500 yen.

However, the city has denied the introduction of door-to-door collection, citing too much cost and many narrow streets as reasons. (Source: the City's basic policy to reduce waste material)

## Bluegrass concert by J-Project Band

A joyful short concert of American folk songs took place at [Hagisono-Ikoi-no-Sato](#), a city-run care center for elderly people, on the stormy afternoon of November 23 (Sat). A group of three men and two women, called *J-Project Band*, performed about fifteen songs. Most of them were oldies, including *Red River Valley*, *Tennessee Waltz*, *Turkey in the Straw* and *Take Me Home Country Roads*. For a change, they also sang Japanese songs, for example, one of the Heisei era's greatest hits, *Chibi Maruko Chan*.

Koji Kimura, leader of the band, amused a near-capacity audience with his witty and considerate talks. When he noticed some people becoming sleepy, he asked the audience to sing together popular Japanese songs such as *Children Who Don't Know War*. Nearly 60 listeners looked like they were spending a comfortable hour. A piano and shamisen concert is scheduled for January 18 (Sat).



## History of Chigasaki

## Rinkoji Temple and its neighborhood

Going eastward about 200 meters from Shinmei Shrine through a residential area, you will reach a temple of the Shingon sect, called Tenkei-zan [Rinkoji-Temple](#), constructed in the early Muromachi Period (1336 to 1573).

In the south-eastern corner of the precinct, there is a stone tablet built in 1967, which is inscribed with a haiku of Kuichi Ida (1892 to 1970), “Utakata wo kawa no Sudama ni usomatsuri”, which means an angler eats quietly, relishing fish he caught, expressing his appreciation of the blessings of nature. On the other side of the tablet, the story about Kappa dokuri\*, or a sake bottle of a hard-drinking water sprite, is inscribed. Near the tablet, nine stone columns form a line from east to west. The second from the west end is a koshin tower designated as one of the city's cultural assets. The inscription

“1640” on it indicates the tower is the oldest of the city's over 90 towers. It has the engraving of three monkeys, called “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” (photo below), and among towers with a similar carving across the nation, it is considered to be older than many of them.

To the north of the temple, in the garden of Ryokaku-an, there are gravestones of the Ota family's. In the temple's graveyard, located to the north of the temple, at the eastern corner of a T-junction, there are tombstones of Yokoyama family's. The two families produced the leaders of Enzo village in the Edo Period.

\*Kappa dokuri: a folklore of Nishikubo, the north-western district of the city.

**How to get there:** Take a bus bound for the southern entrance of JR Samukawa Station (茅 25) or Bunkyo University by way of JR Samukawa Station (茅 26) at the northern entrance of Chigasaki Station, and get off at Enzo. Walk along the pathway which goes north-east from the Enzo-kita crossing on R45, or Chigasaki chuo dori. It will take about ten minutes to get to the temple. As the pathway goes through residential areas with no landmarks, you had better take a map or a smartphone with you.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### 1) 毒食わば皿まで

(DOKU KUWABA SARA MADE)

**DOKU** means poison, **KUWABA** once you eat, **SARA** a dish and **MADE** to eat even the dish.

If one eats poison, it is no wonder that his life is in danger. But sometimes there is no other way for him than to do so. And once he has had such substances, he tends to become desperate and bold enough to lick even the plate. Likewise, if one happens to do a wrong thing, one frequently turns aggressive and keeps doing that kind of things thoroughly, without considering the consequences. The proverb is in *Karukaya-doshin-tsukushi-no-iezuto*, a joruri (a Kabuki) played in Osaka in 1735. Its English equivalents are:

- In for a penny, in for a pound.
- As well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb.
- Steal the horse, and carry home the bridle.

### 2) 腹に一物

(HARA NI ICHIMOTSU)

**HARA** normally means the stomach, but one's mind in this proverb, **NI** in, and **ICHIMOTSU** an ulterior motive.

There are people who pretend they have nothing in mind, but have a scheme. We get ample warnings for such people. For example, if someone praises you without reason, or if a woman who kept giving you the cold shoulder suddenly becomes amicable, you should be cautious. And if your husband, wife or children suddenly become tender, you have to prepare for the thing that will follow.

Its English equivalents are:

- I say little, but I think more.
- It was never for nothing the geld whistled.
- His heart is on his half penny.

## People in Chigasaki (13) Hachidai Nakamura & Rokusuke Ei (A bimonthly serial)

People hum their favorite tunes when they feel depressed. 'Ue wo Muite Aruko (English title, SUKIYAKI)' released in 1961 in Japan, may be one of such songs. Its melody was composed by Hachidai Nakamura (1931-1992), its lyrics were written by Rokusuke Ei (1933-2016), and the song was sung by Kyu Sakamoto (1941-1985).

The song was also released in the US in 1963. Amazingly, it rose to the top of the US Billboard Hot 100, stayed there for three weeks in a row, became a million selling song, and received the 1963 Golden Disc from the US Record Association. It was the first time that a Japanese song became NO. 1 in the US. No artist, except Kyu Sakamoto, has made such a landmark achievement in the music history of Japan. In the wake of the big hit in the US, the boom immediately swept across European countries.

Hachidai Nakamura was well-known as a gifted jazz pianist in the 1950s, while Rokusuke Ei was a popular broadcast writer, as well as an essayist and a songwriter. A chance meeting at Ginza had led them to form a great pair, which would create numerous hit songs.

Before "Ue wo Muite Aruko" was born, Japan had been shaking over the issue of the 1960 revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Despite fierce opposition against the revision by citizens, Japan voted it through and allowed the US army to enjoy preferential treatment. Feeling depressed, the pair accepted the reality and determined to live through it, believing that Japan had a bright future.

The two men had relationships with Chigasaki City. Nakamura once lived in his parents' home in the city and composed the city song of Chigasaki to commemorate its 20th anniversary in 1967. Meanwhile Ei had often visited his second house in Chigasaki, which used to be his mother's home. He joined a baseball team in the city, and enjoyed exercising early in the morning on a bank of the Banyu River (the Sagami River).

"Popular songs change with the times and the times change the popular songs", they said. Unprecedented natural disasters have hit Japan this year, the song may brace up the spirits of citizens nationwide.

JR Kawasaki Station introduced "Ue wo Muite Aruko" as the departure melody on December 10, 2016, because Kawasaki City is Sakamoto's hometown, and the date is his birthday.

### Lyrics

*Look up the sky when you walk,  
so that tears won't overflow your eyes.  
You remember a spring day, the lonely night.*

*Look up the sky when you walk.  
Counting stars soaked with your brimming  
tears, you remember a summer day, the lonely  
night.*

*Happiness may be beyond the clouds or  
happiness may be beyond the sky.*

*Look up the sky when you walk,  
so that tears won't overflow your eyes.  
You walk down the street alone in tears,  
on the lonely night.*

*whistling*

*You remember an autumn day,  
the lonely night.*

*Sadness may be in the shadow of stars or  
sadness may be in the shadow of the moon.*

*Look up the sky when you walk,  
so that tears won't overflow your eyes.  
You walk down the street alone in tears,  
on the lonely night.*

Photo from Mainichi Shimbun: from left Rokusuke Ei, Kyu Sakamoto and Hachidai Nakamura

Would you like to listen to the great song? Click below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C35DrtPIUbc>



## Godou-ten

Cloisonné ware, woodcuts, photos edited by Photoshop, and mobiles, about 80 works altogether, were exhibited at a room on the fourth floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki from Oct. 31 (Thurs) to Nov. 3 (Sun). These four groups are among citizen learning courses supported by the city's culture & lifelong learning section. Members of each group gather once or twice a month for practice. The joint exhibition has been taking place for several years. The members of cloisonné group also enter their works in an exhibition in Tokyo



association offered a free health check. The middle-aged and elderly formed a line.

## Chigasaki Velo Festival, or Chigasaki Bicycle Festival

The festival took place on the roof of AEON Central Chigasaki Shop on November 9 (Sat) and 10 (Sun). The site was crowded with children, parents and staff members. Visitors watched elementary school children's races, the world's best unicycle performances by Uchida brothers and a sister, time trial races and other programs. Young fathers and mothers cheered for their children who participated in a race. Perhaps, the festival was fun for participants rather than for spectators.

## Persimmon Fair

A persimmon fair took place at the lobby of the JA Sagami Chigasaki building on November 15 (Fri). Six farmers in the city displayed their produce, Fuyu, Taishu and Wase, in the exhibition. On account of salt damage, hail and long rains last year and typhoons this year, the number of participating farmers is smaller than usual, according to the leader of the city's fruit section. A set of six persimmons were evaluated based on size equality among the six, good coloration, no color



unevenness, bruises and some other features as well as sugar content for reference.

## Chigasaki City Museum of Art

Works by the students of 16 junior high schools in Chigasaki and Samukawa have been displayed. The city's art teacher association has held the exhibition, at this time of year, for more than 40 years. Several classes of different schools tackle the same theme, and the association evaluates the results to check their guiding principles. The works are beautiful and precise, indicating students' keen sense of beauty.

## Citizen Cultural Festival

### Chrysanthemum Exhibition

The exhibition of chrysanthemums took place in front of the Comprehensive Gymnasium from Nov. 1 (Fri) to the 13th (Wed). The plants with large blossoms, tubular-blossoms and other types of blossoms as well as tall and small species were displayed. Visitors may have learned there were many kinds of chrysanthemums, and this knowledge may raise their interest in the plant. A virtuous cycle between knowledge and interest will hopefully start.



### The 23rd chanson and canzone concert

The concert was held at the Civic Hall on the afternoon of Nov. 16 (Sat). Seventeen singers, men and women, of the Chigasaki chanson and canzone club sang over 30 well-known popular songs, including *My heart will go on*, *Satokibi batake (a sugarcane field)*, and *On the sunny side of the street*.

### Classical vocal concert

Chigasaki-based music club, Bel Canto Chigasaki, held a classical vocal concert also at the Civic Hall on Nov. 17 (Sun). Seven singers sang 25 songs, from popular nursery songs to Western classical songs.

Each of the two concerts had an audience of over one hundred. Many of them seemed to be classical music fans. But classical music seems to have something worthwhile for people who like enka, rock and other forms of music.

## Events in November



## Events in December and early January

**Citizen Gallery** (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the fourth floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki  
**Admission free!**

The 49th Woodblock print exhibition by the woodblock print group Ai :

Dec. 5th (Thurs) 12:00 ~ 17:00, the 6th (Fri) and 7th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 8th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 13th photo exhibition by the Shonan photo group :

Dec. 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 15th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Koichi Sato Paint Exhibition by Koichi Sato :

Dec. 17 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 18th (Wed) to the 21st (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 22nd (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Ritsu Yamashina landscapes exhibition by Ritsu Yamashina : Dec. 24 (Tue) to the 28th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00

## The 14th Shonan International Marathon

The 14th Shonan International Marathon is to be held on Dec. 1 (Sun). Around 20,500 runners will participate in one of the four races (full marathon, 10 km run, 2 km junior run, and family run and run & walk for handicapped people). Full marathon runners are to start at Oiso at 9:00, run eastward to Enoshima, and then to return to Oiso.



## Chigasaki City Museum of Art

Art works by the students of junior high schools in Chigasaki and Samukawa will be exhibited till Dec. 8 (Sun) from 10:00 to 17:00 (enter by 16:30). The exhibition of Keisuke Shirota's paintings and photos will take place from Dec. 14 (Sat) to Feb. 11 (Tues), 2020.

## Piano and Marimba Concert at Satoyama Koen

A free piano and marimba Christmas concert will take place at Satoyama Koen on Dec. 7 (Sat) from 13:00 and from 15:30. Seat tickets, 150 for each performance, have been offered at the Civic Hall and Satoyama Koen since Nov. 20. But, it will be possible for people without a ticket to listen to the performances as standees.

## The 30th presentation of studies of remains in the city

The annual year-end presentation will take place at the Civic Hall on Dec. 8 (Sun) from 10:00 to 16:20. In addition to research results on Maenota and Nishikata Remains, excavation results of Futokorojima, and sandbars and sand dunes will be reported. Excavated items will be exhibited at the the Civic Hall from Dec. 5 (Thurs) to the 10th (Tue).



## Daruma markets

A year-end Daruma market will be held at [Dairokuten Shrine](#) in Jitsukenzaka on Dec 27 (Fri). Daruma shops will be ready to sell their daruma around 15:00 and will close around 21:00. The next day the market will open in Samukawa, along the street stretching south from the south entrance of JR Samukawa Station via [Nansenji Temple](#) to the Japanese confectionery shop, Hogetsu-do.

## The 96th Hakone Ekiden Race

The nation's oldest and greatest ekiden race is to take place on Jan 2 (Thurs, from Tokyo to Hakone) and the 3rd (Fri, from Hakone to Tokyo). Twenty universities in Kanto and one mixed team of the other Kanto universities will participate. On the two days many events will be held on the beach by local groups, including the Yanagishima kite club.



## Konan Ekiden Race

The oldest long-distance road relay in Kanagawa is usually held on Coming-of-Age Day. Runners will run circular courses around Yanagishima athletic park.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!