

# 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.*

## Aita manufacturing company in Enzo – wisdom, innovation and action

In the compact plant of Aita manufacturing company in the Enzo industrial park, machine-tools and industrial robots were working incessantly, but workers were seen only occasionally. More than ten computer numerical control (CNC) turning machines, most of which were equipped with workpiece handling robots, were automatically producing finished parts from workpieces. Unmanned 5-axis multiple CNC machine tools were also creating parts with complicated shapes. These automation systems were established by company staff members. According to Akira Seto, 4th president, to make these machines applicable to a wide variety of ordered parts regardless of their shapes, size or materials, they always try to program their machines, robots and other automatic systems themselves, instead of using already-made instruction codes.



The predecessor of the company was established in Tsutsumi in Koide, the north of the city, in 1957, and moved to the present location in 1983. Higher efficiency and labor saving have been the company's first priority since it was a startup. Today, nearly 10 workers, in total, manufacture parts for trucks, hybrid passenger cars, construction machines, ship engines, fire extinguishers and many more.

A CNC coordinate measuring machine (photo on the lower right) was introduced when they received an order for special gears for hybrid engines, and is used for various products today. The company made its own automatic cutting chip treatment equipment (see the picture on the lower left), which enabled machine tools' unmanned all-night operation. A plate attached to the shaft rotates and makes cutting chips compact. The chips are one of the obstacles which prevent unattended operation at many metalworking plants. They also invented a cutting tool



quick change system. The two inventions have contributed to labor saving and machines' higher operating rates. Furthermore, tackling the government's encouraging *Work style reform*, they have gradually got rid of long hour working. As its slogan says, the company is filled with wisdom, innovation and actions to fulfill their missions.

<http://www.aita-s.jp/aboutus/index.html>



## Eastern Entrance of City Hall open to public

The eastern entrance of the City Hall and the southern entrance of the City Hall Annex opened to the public on January 20 (Mon) with the completion of a path connecting the underpass under Route 1 to the buildings. The new path will provide convenience for those who come from the southern part of the city on foot. Pushing a bicycle on the path is not allowed. The stretch of the sidewalk along the construction site had been congested with pedestrians and cyclists, but the area has become wider than before the construction, and thus become safer. The pedestrian bridge, Fureai Bridge, was also opened to the public on this day.



Near the new entrances of City Hall and City Hall Annex



The new path to City Hall

## Traffic accidents in 2019 decreased by 16% from the previous year

Statistics of the Chigasaki police station show that traffic accidents causing injury or death in 2019 numbered 459, 16% down from the previous year. At many of the 2018 black spots, including Honson, Nango, Enzo, Yanagishima and Imajuku, fewer accidents were recorded. In addition, the figures on R1, R134 and two major prefectural roads (P45 and P46) also decreased by 25%, 43% and around 35%. Of 459, about 29% occurred on these busy roads, and 60% on city streets. The accident-time curve showed a plateau between 8:00 and 18:00. The three most common collisions between two vehicles were rear-end at 92, right-turn at 84 and head-on at 68. Forty-five pedestrians were involved in the accidents while they were crossing the street.



The number of casualties last year was 536, 17% down from a year earlier. About 96.8% of them were the slightly injured. Of 536 casualties, elderly people accounted for 179, also smaller by 11.

According to the police, since an 88-year-old man caused an accident at Ikebukuro, Tokyo in April 2019, the number of residents who return their driver's license has substantially increased. It is assumed that drivers have become cautious due to the accident as well as the one at Ichirizuka crossing in the city in May 2018.

## Ambulances were mobilized 11,543 times last year.



In 2019, ambulances were mobilized 11,543 times, up 310 times from a year earlier. The annual figure corresponds to 962 times a month and 31.6 times a day.

About 63% of 10,890 people, who were conveyed to hospital in 2019, were elderly people, and 44% were the slightly injured. Fire engines took 29 min and 36 sec on average to reach the sites from receiving 119 calls, about 9 min and 42 sec shorter than the national average. The fire station will continue to ask citizens to think whether they really need ambulances before calling 119. There were 40 fires, claiming two lives last year.

## Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

## Fulfilled life after retirement with international education activities

Japan is getting into the age of 100-year life expectancy, and it has become a matter of concern to senior citizens how to lead a satisfying life after retirement.

Kazuhiro Matsui, who retired from a big pharmaceutical company at the age of 65, was also anxious to concentrate his energy on something worthwhile, and joined the International Internship Program. Under the program, participants work in overseas countries, and can learn foreign culture and introduce their own culture to foreigners.

However, there was a high barrier which prevented elderly people from getting working visas because of a concern about their health conditions. So, he had his health certified by his doctors, and finally fulfilled his cherished dream by becoming a teacher at public junior high schools in Vanderhoof, Canada in September 2004.

He spent 9 months there that time. Two years later he paid a second visit to the Canadian city.

One day, he was talked to by the head of a post office in Vanderhoof, and learned that Alisa, a daughter of the postmaster, was working in Hamamatsu, Japan. Mr. Matsui was surprised because her working place was his hometown, and she was a graduate of the school he was working for. The encounter with the postmaster expanded his circle of acquaintances, which encouraged him to establish the Matsui scholarship. In the years that followed, he invited a student from Vanderhoof to his house in Japan for a month every year. He and his wife accepted five female and four male students altogether. They took these students to junior-high or high schools in Chigasaki or Hamamatsu for ten days. He also guided them to various places they wanted to go: Hiroshima, Mt. Fuji and Hakone, Tokyo, Kamakura and so on.

In addition, he had fantastic experiences beyond his wildest dreams, including a 19-day drive in the Arctic Circle, a sightseeing flight in a private plane and horse riding. Since 2004 he had visited the city six times and spent 435 days in total there until he recently completed the program. During the period, he stayed with families of a primary school teacher's and two other friend's. Mrs Matsui sometimes joined him. He taught Japanese culture in primary, junior-high and juvenile delinquency schools in Vanderhoof. The lessons were introduced in the former issues No 12 and 13.



## Piano and Sanshin Concert

A short concert of the piano and sanshin took place at the Hagisono care center on the afternoon of Jan. 18 (Sat). An audience of about 100 people were delighted with Okinawa songs by sanshin player and singer Aya Kojima and piano player Kiichi Futamura, as most of the songs were very popular.

Next day the film directed by Ozu, Tokyo Story, was screened there. The conversation between a husband (Ryu Chisyu) and wife (Chieko Higashiyama) was wonderful. They were like a willow and the breeze.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### 1) 叩けば埃がでる

(TATAKEBA HOKORI GA DERU)

**TATAKEBA** means if you hit, **HOKORI** dust **GA** to be and **DERU** to come out.

No matter how flawless one looks, one always has at least one or two flaws. There are no absolutely perfect people. The police are finding out wrongdoings of politicians who are connected with the integrated resort development, illegal election campaigns, unethical behaviors and many more acts of disloyalty one after another. Thomas Fuller (1608 to '61), an English churchman and historian, said, "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterwards." This once seemed to be a cliché at wedding ceremonies.

Its English equivalents are:

- Every man has his weak side.
- Many without punishment, none without fault.
- Cavil will enter in at any hole, and if it find none it will make one.

### 2) 泣き面に蜂

(NAKI TSURA NI HACHI)

**NAKI** means to be weeping, **TSURA** a face, **NI** on and **HACHI** a wasp.

While one is crying because he is unhappy or sad, a wasp stings him on the face. Sometimes people suffer two or more misfortunes in a row. When violent typhoons hit the Kanto area last fall, many people evacuated to schools or other facilities. But when some, in a certain city, reached a public evacuation site, they found it was completely locked, and were unable to enter the building. In my neighborhood, an elderly man seemed to injure his leg during evacuation.

This saying is in Japanese playing cards called "Irohakaruta" in the Edo period. Its English equivalents are:

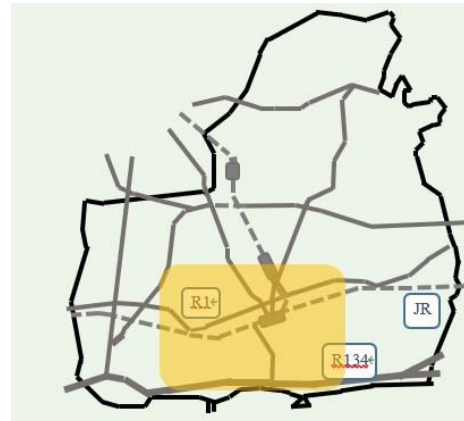
- Misfortunes seldom come singly.
- Men use him ill that has ill luck.
- It is a good ill that comes alone.

## History of Chigasaki

## Chigasaki Village (1) - around Honson

Chigasaki Village of the Edo era spread over today's central part of the city: Chigasaki, Chigasaki 1 to 3 chome, Honson 1 to 5 chome, Motomachi, Wakamatsucho, Saiwaicho, Jukkenzaka 1 to 3 chome, Tomoe 1 and 2 chome, Nango 1 to 7 chome, Nakakaigan 1 to 4 chome, Higashikaigan-kita 1 to 5 chome, and Higashikaigan-minami 1 to 6 chome. The village stretched about 3 kilometers east to west and 2.4 kilometers north to south, covering about 20% of 36 square kilometers, the current city's area. Of 23 neighboring villages, it was the largest, and most villagers lived in settlements in Honson, Jukkenzaka, and Nango (including Chayamachi and Toriito).

It was in the 14 century that the name of Chigasaki first appeared in a book. Chikasaki (not Chigasaki) Sakosiro and Gorojiro are contained as adherents in Sagami-no-kuni, today's western Kanagawa, in the document of Kumano Shrine in Wakayama, which was compiled about 530 years ago. The shrine is famous for Nachi Falls.



Yellow: Chigasaki Village



The Hojo family in Odawara ruled the Chigasaki area during the age of civil wars (1467 to 1590). After Hideyoshi Toyotomi conquered the Hojo family, the Tokugawa family ruled the area. The then family head, Ieyasu, applied new village rules over the Kanto area, and Chigasaki, as well as 22 other communities, became a village.

Chigasaki Village was bordered to the east by Kowada Village. The two villages were divided by the straight path starting at the bus stop on Route One, *Entrance to Shyorin Junior High School*, and extended to the beach. This path was once called the village borderline, and since German trader Rudolf Ratjen lived near the path in 1932, it has been called Ratjen Street. **\*The straight path was along the line connecting a mound near Chofukuji Temple and Eboshi Rock off the beach.**

## Morning Market by the Sea

A special morning market named *Attaka-Fureai Day*, or a friendship market of fresh vegetables, flowers and hot soups, took place near the entrance of the city ballpark on January 25 (Sat) from 8:00. About 20 farmers, a few flower growers as well as four hot soup producers and one bakery opened their shops on their light trucks or tables. Visitors formed long lines before some trucks and tables. After having bought vegetables and/or flowers, many relished clam chowder or other hot soups in the cold morning. The market attracts citizens of all generations living not only in the southern area but also the north of Chigasaki Station. The vegetable and flower market opens this site every Saturday from 8:00 to 9:00.



## Nature in Chigasaki

## Chigasaki Red List 2017

The city office has periodically surveyed biodiversity in specified areas, which is indispensable for preserving rich ecosystems there. The latest results were summarized in the report entitled “Chigasaki Red List 2017”, which is the updated edition of “Chigasaki Red Data List” issued in 2006.

The list consists of three categories: extinct species, which have not been found for about the past ten years, endangered species, which are on the verge of extinction and expected to vanish in the near future (within ten to twenty years), and near-threatened species, which are under threat of extinction.

Japanese red foxes and a kind of raptor, long-eared owls, were designated as extinct species this time. Daruma pond frogs (the picture below) have drastically decreased in number and are very rarely seen today.

The list contains species which were confirmed in



Chigasaki, but are classified into extinct, endangered or near-threatened species on the national and prefectural red-data lists. The number of extinct plants has increased by 10 to 58 during the past 11 years. As for other types of creatures, little changes were observed.

Thriving introduced species are a big concern for natural ecosystems. Especially, bluegills and largemouth bass in rivers, red-eared sliders and crayfish in ponds or rice paddies, water speedwells in mainly river sides and Taiwan squirrels everywhere around us are threatening native species. Citizen groups tackling the preservation and restoration of ecosystems are making utmost efforts to remove these harmful species. It is important to make people learn that abandoned pet animals will have considerable adverse effects on ecosystems. So,

municipal officials have increased the number of nature-observation tours to impress on people the importance of maintaining the green environment. The species on the red list were surveyed, with the help of volunteer groups, mainly in seven core regions designated as natural environment preservation areas (Yanagi-yato, Namegaya, Shimizu-yato, Nagayato, Akabane-jyusanzu, Heidayu-shinden, and Yanagi-yato).

(Source: Chigasaki Red List 2017)

Chigasaki Red List 2017		n: number of species		
categories	total	extinct	endangered	near-threatened
plants	207	58	85	64
mammals	4	1	3	-
birds	65	1	37	27
amphibians	4	-	1	3
reptiles	6	-	2	4
fish	13	6	5	2
insects	113	31	49	33
crustaceans	3	-	2	1
shells	7	3	3	1

## People in Chigasaki (14) Unosuke Sasaki

(A bimonthly serial)

Do you know the origin of the name of the Teppo Michi (gun street) in Chigasaki? The shonan beach was a cannon training ground run by the Edo Shogunate for 140 years from 1728 to 1868. The ground stretched from Katasemura Village in today's Fujisawa to Yanagishima Village in Chigasaki. (picture on the lower right: used to be part of the training ground) The street from Rokudo-no-Tsuji (Six-road junction) in Nango to Heiwa Gakuen in Fujimi-cho is called Teppo Michi, as it runs along the training ground, which is the most plausible theory among some.

Unosuke Sasaki was born to a warrior family in 1795. The Sasaki family had served as Japanese gunnery instructors since his grandfather. And he was assigned as the government cannon training official in charge of commanding the government cannon brigade in 1824.

The Sasaki family had also been responsible for managing and developing the gun training ground. Unosuke allowed farmers in Nango to widen their farmland in the ground, and collected land tax to spend on costs for the maintenance of the training place, without informing the government of the farmland or its expansion.



However, his conduct was found out in 1832, and as punishment he was sent to [Aogashima Island](#) in 1835 with his son, who volunteered to follow him. His sentence was eventually overturned in the Meiji Period (1868-1912), but the father and son never returned to Chigasaki again. Unosuke passed away on the island at the age of 83 in 1876.

Despite his punishment, his behavior was highly appreciated by farmers, because they faced a severe famine at that time. After his death, the Chigasaki village master, Satonosuke Ito, built a stone monument to his compassion in Nango's Yagumo Shrine in 1898. But the monument was moved several times, and today stands at the point where the old Teppo Michi branches off from the new one in Higashikaigan-kita 5 chome.



**The 6th Kite-flying Event**

A lot of kites flew above Southern Beach on Jan. 2 (Thu). Children and their parents had fun flying their kites, and a kite-making workshop was filled with young families. The Yanagishima kite clubs flew long kite chains, and displayed their big kites on the beach. Yanagishima and other communities provided free amazake (white, sweet hot drink) and mochi (rice cake). On the stage, children from the community nearby played the flutes and drums. The event was also held on the 3rd (Fri).



**The 96th Hakone Ekiden**

On Jan. 2 (Thu), the first runner, Yegon Vincent Kibet of Tokyo Kokusai Univ., passed by Nishihama Beach at 10:49 on his way to the Hiratsuka relay point. On the 3rd (Fri), Shyuya Iwami of Aoyama Gakuin Univ., the first runner, passed by the beach around 10:20 on his way to Totsuka. Aoyama Gakuin Univ, whose campus is in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa, won its 5th victory and Tokai Univ. also in Kanagawa, came in 2nd. Tokyo Kokusai Univ. finished in fifth.

**Auspicious tobi performances**

Members of the Chigasaki high-rise construction worker's association showed acrobatic performances on a ladder in front of shops, restaurants and offices in the neighborhood of Chigasaki Station on the afternoon of Jan. 6 (Mon). The origin of the traditional performances dates back to the early Edo Period. As there were many fires in the ancient Edo, the shogunate established three fire-fighting organizations, which consisted of ordinary people's groups, those of feudal lords' servants and the shogunate samurai group. The samurai group held a new year ritual on Jan. 4, 1659, which is said to be the origin, according to a theory. Some shopkeepers like the ladder top performances as they believe the custom will bring good luck to them.



**The 82nd Konan Ekiden**

Male, female and mixed teams, 98 in total, participated in the 82nd Konan Ekiden, the oldest ekiden in Kanagawa, on Jan. 13 (Mon, Coming-of-Age Day). They ran along circular courses, about 3.3 km for men, and 2.9 km for women and schoolchildren, in the Yanagishima district. The start and finish lines as well as the relay zone were set in the Yanagishima sports park, which was in cheerful mood with runners, their families, officials and supporters, together with community tents providing free hot green tea and soup. The winner of the men's inter-regional race was Shorin team, and that for women was also Shorin. The City Hall team won men's corporate and high school race, and Tsurumine High School won women's.



**Dondo Yaki at Satoyama Koen**

An annual ceremony marking the end of new year, Dondo yaki, is held at many places in the city on Jan. 14. The picture is that held in Satoyama Koen. Despite being a weekday (Tues), more than 200 people, mostly children, their mothers and grandparents, gathered, and 100 sets of three dumplings prepared by park officials were sold out. An official said the event has become more widely-known, and the number of visitors has gradually been increasing.

**Exhibition of spring flowers**

A flower exhibition took place at the entrance of AEON Central Chigasaki shop on Jan. 17 and 18 (Fri and Sat). The exhibition was conducted by city flower growers and City Hall. The corner was filled with colorful spring flowers such as pansies, polyanthus primroses, violas and cyclamens - all were grown by flower growers in the city. On the 17th, award-winning flowers were displayed. They were put on sale the next day. People who finished shopping dropped in at the corner. They looked at the flowers and posters, and some of them asked growers how to take care of those plants. On Feb. 14 and 15 (Fri and Sat), an annual flower exhibition by growers in Chigasaki, Fujisawa and Samukawa will be held at the mall in Tsujido.





## Events in February and early March

### A film screening by a volunteer group, Cinematech Chigasaki

The 50th Shonan film screening will take place, for free, at the city library on Feb. 2 (Sun). A US movie entitled "Swing Time" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers will be shown at 13:30. The composers of the songs in the movie won the award for Best Music at the 1937 Academy Awards. Film critic Takehito Deguchi will comment on the movie after the screening. The first 70 people will be accepted.



### Raw Wakame Festival

A traditional fresh wakame market will be held at Chigasaki fishing port on Feb 8 (Sat) rain or shine. The sale starts at 9:00 am at the port's fish-handling area. As warm weather has retarded the growth of wakame, the festival was delayed for a week.

### Setsubun

On the afternoon or evening of Feb 3 (Mon), a bean-throwing ceremony will take place at Enzoji, Dairokuten and Hachioji Shrines in Chigasaki, and Samukawa Shrine and Samukawa Ichinomiya Hachiman Okami Shrine in Samukawa. At Samukawa Shrine, the ceremony will be held at 11:00 and 14:00.



### Ume Festival

The traditional Ume festival will take place at Shorai-an on Feb 11 (Tue, National Foundation Day) at 10:00. The local community will set up tents for food and beverages. Children will perform *ohayashi* with Japanese drums and flutes. *Amasake*, a hot sweet white low alcohol drink, will be offered to visitors for free.

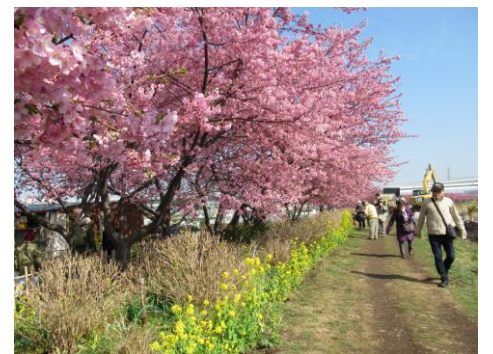


### Shonan Flower Exhibition 2020

Flower growers in Chigasaki, Fujisawa and Samukawa will jointly hold a flower exhibition at the event square and community hall on the 2nd floor of Shonan Mall Fill, on Feb. 14 (Fri) from 10:00 to 21:00, and the 15th (Sat) from 10:00 to 15:30. On the 14th from 14:00 to 16:00, farmers will answer visitors' questions about gardening. On the 15th from 10:00, a gardening class for 10 pairs of a child and a parent will take place.

### The 14th Koide River Cherry Festival

The 14th Koide River Cherry Festival will take place from Feb. 23 (Sun) to Mar. 8 (Sun). A local group will perform *ohayashi* on weekends. The opening ceremony will be held on Feb. 29 (Sat) with municipal officials and the Chigasaki tourism association as well as the Group to Live with Flowers. The Yanagishima kite club will fly their kite chains. On March 1 (Sun), an enka singer will have a recital, and a karaoke event will be held on Mar. 7 (Sat). Every weekend during the festival, stalls will sell food, plants, vegetables, beverages and other goods.



### Let's paint pictures on stones to make paperweights

Koichi Sato will hold a workshop to make paperweights using pebbles at Umikazeterasu on Feb. 2 (Sun) and the 15th (Sat) from 10:00 to 15:00. The first 30 applicants for each lesson will be accepted. Preschoolers should be accompanied by their mother or father. (Umikazeterasu phone: 0467-85-0942)

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

Exhibition of Indian-ink drawings by the Koide sumie no kai:

Feb. 28 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 17:00, Feb. 29 (Sat) to Mar. 2 (Mon) 10:00 ~ 17:00, Mar. 3 (Tues) 10:00 ~ 15:00

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!