

# 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.*

## Quiet New Year in the midst of the third wave of COVID-19

The total number of coronavirus cases in the area controlled by the Chigasaki Health Center (Chigasaki and Samukawa) reached 537 as of January 2. The cumulative curve has grown steeper and steeper as the days go by since the first of December. Late in December, a two-digit number of new cases were found almost every day. The high increase rate is apparently related to the recent explosion of infections in Tokyo and Yokohama.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and prefectural governors, including Kanagawa Governor Yuji Kuroiwa, are repeatedly saying “Stay home”.

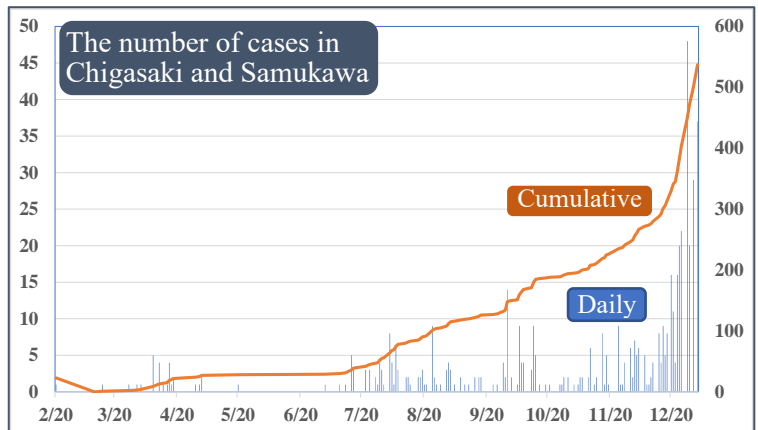
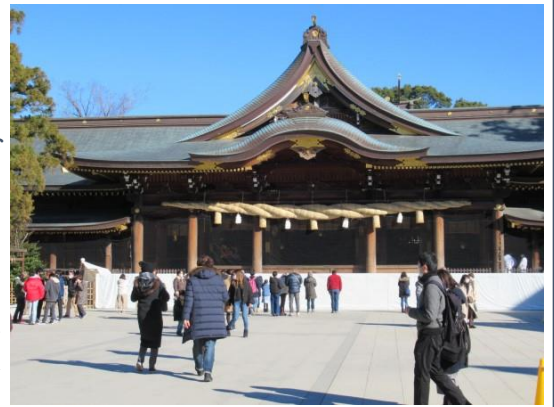
But they do not have to remind us. Most of the busy spots were less crowded during the New Year holidays. For example, there were few people at the northern entrance of Chigasaki Station on one afternoon in late December. (See the photo at the lower left.) Even at Samukawa Shrine, perhaps the most crowded spot in Chigasaki and Samukawa on New Year’s Day, the number of visitors on the



morning of January 1 was only a little larger than usual. (See the photo on the right.) There was neither a long line along the approach nor jams in front of the offertory box.

Nevertheless, we have made light of the virus unnoticed. In addition, we are tired of self-restraint. But the

sharp rise in the number of patients makes us realize again that we cannot relax our guard toward coronavirus. We cannot live with it, like a certain governor. The government is planning to start vaccination in February.



## Declaration of a State of Emergency

The government finally declared a state of emergency on January 7 for Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba. The measure is effective from the next day to February 7. During the period, restaurants, (karaoke) bars, and other shops that serve foods and drinks will have to finish their business by 20:00. Theaters, cinemas and pachinko parlors were requested to follow suit. Companies should decrease the number of employees working at offices by 70%. People should refrain from going out especially after 20:00. Train companies should run their last trains earlier than today. And the Go To Travel campaign was suspended.

In Chigasaki, most shops in Lusca will close at 20:00, and the restaurants and tenants of AEON will also close at 20:00, with the other areas carrying on business as usual. Public facilities, including the Civic Hall, Kinro Shimin Kaikan, library and museum, will open as usual.

Suga said he would take every measure to stop the spread of infection within a month. But experts say it will take longer. Whatever they say, now is the time for us to endure.

## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1)山椒はこつぶでもピリリと辛い

**SANSHOU WA KOTSUBU DEMO PIRIRI TO KARAI**

**SANSHOU** means a Japanese pepper, **WA** to be, **KOTSUBU** a tiny grain, **DEMO** even, **PIRIRI TO** tang, and **KARAI** spicy.

A tiny grain of Japanese pepper is very spicy. A small amount of Sanshou makes food taste better. Some small people have great sensibility, sharp judgement and excellent ability. You should never look down on a small person just because they are small.

Even though you keep this in mind, you still tend to judge others by their appearance. Being tall is certainly an advantage. However, if small people keep cultivating their skills, learning, speech, writing or other specialties, they will develop into Sanshou. Did you know how tall the Sir Winston Churchill was? Just 167 centimeters. This proverb is in *Kefukigusa*, a collection of haiku and funny stories, published in 1645. Its English equivalents are:

- Little head, great wit.
- An inch of a nag is worth a span of an old horse.
- There is steel in my needle's eye though there be little of it.

2)高きに登るには卑きよりす

**TAKAKI NI NOBORUNIWA HIKUKIYORI SU**

**TAKAKI** means a high place, **NI** to, **NOBORU** to climb, **NIWA** when you do, **HIKUKI** a low place, **YORI** to start from and **SU** to do.

The saying literally means that to climb a high mountain, he or she has to start from a low place. Namely, climbing up a ladder, you should go up one rung, not several rungs, at a time. Put another way, there is always a proper order for doing things. We should begin with what we can do without difficulty.

Former Yokozuna Asashoryu said he kept looking at pebbles in front of him, instead of viewing distant high mountains. When major leaguer Ichiro exceeded George Sisler's MLB record, 257 hits a season, in 2004, he said he worked steadily, and this was the only way for him to make the achievement.

This proverb is in China's oldest book on political history, called *Shangshu*, or The Book of Documents. Its English equivalents are:

- Learn to say before you sing.
- First creep, then go.
- Children learn to creep before they go.

## History of Chigasaki 1

### Nishikubo Village (1)

Nishikubo Village was bordered by five villages: to the north by Omagari (today's Samukawa Town) and Kagawa; to the west by Hagisono; and to the south by Enzo and Hamanogo. The northern border is defined by the Oyama highway, and the western border by the Koide River.

In the Edo period, the settlement was along the pathway which went south near Myounji Temple (left) and the village shrine of Hiyoshi Shrine (right). Houses were built on a natural levee, about 5 m above sea level.

The west of the settlement was lower than the levee, and a rice paddy spread along the Koide River (the picture below).



The east of the settlement was farm land, and the east of the farm land was a paddy field. The northern part of the village stretched from west to east along the Oyama highway, and its east end was part of the Tsurugadai housing complex.

Nishikubo Village branched off from Enzo, and was formerly called Honjya Village, says *Shinpen Sagaminokuni fudokiko (fudokiko)*, or the New Edition of Records of the Culture and Geography of Sagami Province. *Fudokiko* also says the description of Honjya Village are observed in some other historical records written in around 1646. These records indicate Nishikubo Village certainly separated from Enzo, though it is not clear when it happened. It is thought that villagers of Enzo reclaimed wasteland, inhabited the reclaimed land, and later renamed part of the land Nishikubo Village. This is why a small enclave of Enzo remains near the Chigasaki Chuo Exit of the Shin-Shonan Bypass.

The description, "Nishikubo Village was formerly called Honjya Village" needs further research. The shrine of Yabata, adjacent to Nishikubo, is called Honjya Gu, or Honjya Shrine. There is a mound called the site of Honjya Gu in Yabata, and there is a small section called Honjya in Hamanogo. Accordingly, it is thought that today's Yabata, Hamanogo and Enzo as well as Nishikubo were collectively called Honjya before the Edo era.

While the Hojo Family of Odawara ruled Kanto, a lord called Tsunehide Kondo ruled this area, from 1532 to '55. Hosoizan Myounji Temple was established by his mother. She embraced the Nichiren sect of Buddhism, and called herself Myoun-ni. She used her house in Nishikubo as the temple, or she built a hall in her house. The temple's name came from her Buddhist name, according to *fudokiko*, and the unfinished topography edited by the Meiji government.

About Kaitozan Hoshyoji Temple of the Shingon sect, these topographies say it burned down in around 1840, and thus the details of the temple in earlier days are not known. Hoshyoji Temple is dedicated to the statue of Dainichi Nyorai, or Mahavairocana, which was allegedly made in the mid-Edo period. In addition, the Amida triad standing statue designated as a national important cultural property is enshrined in another building\* (photo at the lower right). The gilt bronze statue of the Kamakura era is the oldest in the city.



\* The building called "Amida-do" is opened on April 29 every year.

Since the Tokugawa family became the lord of Kanto, its five direct retainers (Ishii, Hosoi, branched Hosoi, Hori, and Maruyama) and the shogunate had ruled the Nishikubo area. The topography by the Meiji government says the land was quite suitable for farm produce, but water tended to be insufficient, and the rice fields along the Koide River often suffered flooding.



There was once a sluice near the Omagari Bridge to introduce water into rice fields (the site: the photo on the left). On the monument near the site, "This was completed at a cost of 3.3 million yen in July 1954." was carved.



Nishikubo village is the birthplace of the famous old tale of **Kappa Dokkuri**\*, a sake bottle presented by a water sprite. It has been passed down that the tombstone of Gorobe, the man who saved the life of the kappa, stands there, but nobody knows where it is.

\*Kappa Dokkuri: a story about Gorobe, his horse Ao and a kappa

### Thank you and Goodbye to a water tower

The water tower of the Hamamidaira housing complex was lit up from mid-December to January 6. The demolition work of the tower will start in mid-January. As the weather was fair and settled from the end of last year to the beginning of this year, the blue, yellow and red water tower, as well as the silhouettes of Mt. Fuji and the mountains of Hakone, stood out against the red sky at sunset, and then the tower alone in the night sky. There were people taking pictures almost every evening. (The photo on the right: the water tower and new buildings.)



The demolition company planned and carried out the illumination, hoping the beloved tower would continue to remain in residents' memories.

The first large housing complex in the city was completed in 1964, and 3,400 families (12,000 people) once lived there. However, 50 years later the population had shrunk to 3,400, and half of them were 65 years and older.

As the buildings had also become old, the Urban Renaissance Agency, the former Japan Housing Corporation, embarked on the reconstruction of the whole of the complex in 2004, and by the end of 2015, a lot of new buildings had made their appearance.



These new buildings have water pumps of their own, and the water tower, which had played an important part for 56 years, is scheduled to be demolished by early

summer. About the reconstruction of the Hamamidaira housing complex, see CW18.

## Some year-end night scenes



## Events in December and early January

### Daruma market at Dairokuten Shrine

The year-end traditional event Daruma market was held at Dairokuten Shrine on the evening of December 27. As usual, three daruma makers in Hiratsuka put up their tents. They have made Sosyu daruma (today's Kanagawa prefecture) for more than a century. Middle and elderly men and women with or without grandchildren and families bought the good-luck token at times. The red and round doll originated in Indian Buddhism, Bodhidharma, brings you happiness.



### Hakone Ekiden

The winner of the 97th Hakone Ekiden was Komazawa University. Its anchor overtook the last runner of SOKA Univ. two kilometers before the finish line. However, the first runner who ran through Nishihama Beach, Chigasaki, on his way to the Hiratsuka relay



point on January 2 was Shotaro Ishihara of Tokai Univ. in Hiratsuka. (See the photo on the left.) He reached the beach around 10:54, 5 minutes later than Yegon Vincent of Tokyo Kokusai Univ. last year (CW45).



### Chigasaki Wind Symphony Concert

Its Winter Concert 2020 was held at the large hall of the Civic Hall on December 27 at 2:00. The audience sat in every other seat, and filled about 70% of the capacity. All the members of the 2001-established orchestra are high school and university students, and salaried workers of Chigasaki and its neighborhood. They played formal music in the first part, and a lot of popular music, including Yuzo Kayama's, in the second part. Its next concert is scheduled for June 6.



Usually the kite-flying event is held on Southern Beach on January 2. The Yanagishima kite club flies long kite chains, and displays big kites. Children and parents also take delight in flying their hand-made kites. But this year, only a small number of kites were in the sky.

## Events in January and February

### **Civic Hall** (☎ 0467-85-1123) **Admission free!**

(Small Hall) The 3rd concert of Noden Wind Ensemble: Jan. 17 (Sun) 14:00 ~

(Small Hall) The 29th Family duo concert: Jan. 24 (Sun) 13:30 ~

(Large Hall) The 15th regular concert of Kranich Winds: Jan. 30 (Sat) 14:00 ~

(Exhibition Room) Art exhibition by Sho-no-kai: Jan. 21 (Thu) to the 26th (Tue) 10:00 ~ 16:00 (closed on Jan. 25 (Mon)), the 27th (Wed) 10:00 ~ 14:00

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

#### January: no exhibition

The Wind of Shonan (picture exhibition) by Sketch-no-kai: Feb. 9 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 10th (Wed) to the 14th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Picture exhibition by New Wave: Feb. 16 (Tues) 12:00 ~ 21:00, the 17th (Wed) to the 20th (Sat) 9:00 ~ 21:00, the 21th (Sun) 9:00 ~ 17:00

### **Chigasaki City Museum of Art** (☎ 0467-88-1177)

Paint exhibition named, "A Calendar for Painters without Time Sense. 12/12 by Toru Kuwakubo" is now underway. Admission fee (yen): Adult 600, Univ. Student 400, HS Student and younger free, 65 and older 300  
The exhibition will be held until Feb. 7 (Sun).

### **The New Year's display by fire fighters**

The city will deliver the video of the 2021 fire fighters display on January 10 (Sun).

### **Cancelled events**

Dondo Yaki at Satoyama Park, Konan Ekiden and (finally) Shonan Marathon were cancelled.



Fire fighters display at Central Park



Dondoyaki at Satoyama Park



Konan Ekiden



Shonan Marathon

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!