

# Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 <sup>ウエーブ</sup> 波 倶楽部

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

## COVID-19 and Vaccination

The government lifted the state of emergency for Tokyo and three surrounding prefectures on March 21 (Sun), though the numbers of daily new cases in the metropolitan area had not dropped enough. Four governors agreed to remain vigilant until March 31 (Wed). For the ten days, the business hours of restaurants and bars were not returned to normal, but extended only by one hour to 9 pm. Prior to the lifting, medical experts warned that the fourth wave would come soon, and as expected the number of new cases in Tokyo began to increase in mid-March, and reached 414 on March 31 (Wed). Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said the number may reach 1,000 in two weeks' time.

The figure in Chigasaki and Samukawa all together has been low since the end of February, having people think that the corona pandemic may be over in the city. However, unless the infection rate in Tokyo plummets, COVID-19 will never disappear from the city.

It is natural that more people have come to consider vaccination to be a last resort to liberate themselves from coronavirus. The government's tentative plan said: all medical staff would be inoculated by the end of March; 65 and older people in April; and then people with chronic diseases, and nursery home workers would follow. People younger than 65 would be after summer.

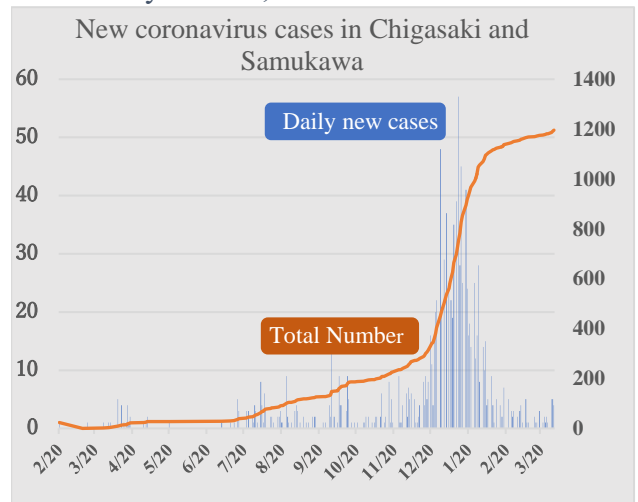


Civic Hall

At first the city planned to send cards

which prove its holders to be eligible for vaccination to citizens ages 65 and older in late March, but it was postponed to mid-April as the supply of vaccine is delayed. The vaccination is to be carried out at hospitals, four public facilities\*, and homes for the aged.

\* the Civic Hall, Matsunami community center, and Shorin and Nango public halls.



## Historical and Cultural Museum

A metallic roof reflected the light of the sun in a March afternoon. The Chigasaki City Historical and Cultural Museum (a tentative name) is now under construction at [Tsutsumi 3786](#). The construction work will be finished by November 30, 2021, and then, materials in the City Museum of Heritage, in Naka-kaigan, will be moved here. The new museum is to be opened to the public within fiscal 2022.

The two-story building will have several exhibition rooms, a library branch, and an area for citizens' activities. Its total floor space will be 2,057 m<sup>2</sup>, about four times larger than the current museum. The parking lot has a planned capacity of 21 cars, 4 buses, 6 motorcycles and 36 bicycles.





## Spring National Traffic Safety Campaign

The safety campaign will be carried out from April 6 (Tues) until the 15th (Thurs). April 10 (Sat) is the day to aim for no accidental deaths. This year's themes are: to protect pedestrians; to ride safely; and to drive carefully. **Let's observe traffic rules, and achieve no accidents.**

### To protect pedestrians, especially children and older people

Children on their way to and from school are often involved in traffic accidents. Let's reaffirm the safety of their school-commuting routes. Pedestrians should also observe traffic rules. As elderly people need a longer time to cross pedestrian crossings, they should start walking only after confirming no vehicle are close to them.

### To ride bicycles safely

Bicycles are classed as vehicles. Bicycles should stay on the left-side of roadways. On sidewalks, go to the right-side and yield to pedestrians, who have the right of way. Children should wear helmets. No drunk riding.

### To drive carefully

Many walkers are hit by cars on pedestrian crossings. Pedestrians have the right of way on the zone. If walkers are waiting to cross at crossings, vehicles must stop in front of the zone.



## Cherry Blossoms in Chigasaki

It was a perennial choice for older generations to take commemorative photos at an entrance ceremony under cherries in full bloom. Weather reporters said cherry blossoms would come out earlier this year, and that *Somei-yoshino* would bloom on March 17 in Tokyo. *Somei-yoshino* is the iconic cherry among more than 300 different varieties. The hybrid of *Edohigan* and *Ohshima-zakura* was produced in the middle of the 19th century in Edo, today's Tokyo, and was propagated by clonal breeding such as grafting and cutting. The large whitish blossoms have austere beauty, distinguishing *Somei-yoshino* from the other varieties. In addition, its blooming period is particularly short. Petals start dropping as soon as the tree comes into full bloom, matching traditional Japanese aesthetic sensibility.

Unfortunately, there are no well-known sites in Chigasaki attracting many people from other cities, but residents can enjoy several rows of cherry trees and those standing alone in the city. For example, the tunnel of *Somei-yoshino* blossoms next to Chuo-park may be the most familiar to citizens. Full-blown trees lining the



[Path around Bunkyo Univ.](#)



[In front of Jokenji Temple](#)

streets near elementary and junior high schools in each district are worth seeing.



[Path on the north of Chuo Koen](#)

Only a few people may know the tunnel in and around the campus of Bunkyo University in northern Chigasaki. In addition, a few big cherry trees in the neighboring area of Jokenji Temple are excellent. Moreover, there is a spectacular weeping cherry tree near JR Kagawa Station. Meanwhile, in Satoyama Park, there are many kinds of cherry trees other than *Somei-yoshino* so you can enjoy cherry-blossom viewing from mid-March until early May.

Why don't you take a little longer walk than usual to find beautiful cherry trees?

Other viewing spots are: Yume



[Yume-wakuwaku koen](#)

wakuwaku koen on the right bank of the Koide River in Yanagishima; Mukoda ryokuchi koen in Hagisono; on the left bank of the Sagami River, a little way above the Banyu Bridge; Chuo Koen and Ichinomiya Koen in Samukawa. Some photos are on the last page.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 情けに向かう刃なし

**NASAKE NI MUKAU YAIBA NASHI**

**NASAKE** means benevolence, **NI MUKAU** to oppose, **YAIBA** a blade, and **NASHI** do not exist.

If you treat others with benevolence, they will not be hostile to you. The lesson of this saying is similar to that of “The North Wind and the Sun”, an Aesop’s Fable. Actually, benevolence plays an important role in social life. Benevolent people are loved by others. In a way a benevolent mind and a benevolent smile may be valuable traits to lead a normal and satisfied life.

This saying is in Hiragana Seisuiki (1739), a Kabuki play about the battles between the two powerful warrior groups, the Heike and Genji. Its original story is Genpei Seisuiki. Hiragana Seisuiki was rewritten so that ordinary people could understand it easily. It was first presented in May 1739.

Its English equivalents are:

- Kindness is the noblest weapon to conquer.
- Soft words win hard hearts.
- Virtue commands respect.

2) 下手な鉄砲も数打てば当たる

**HETANA TEPPU MO KAZU UTEBA ATARU**

**HETANA** means poor, **TEPPU** a gunner, **MO** also, **KAZU** many times, **UTEBA** to shoot, and **ATARU** to hit.

A poor gunner cannot hit the mark easily. But if he shoots many times, he may succeed accidentally. In a brainstorming meeting, participants should think of as many ideas as possible. Students apply to as many companies or universities as possible. Likewise, if people keep trying to achieve their targets patiently, and if they are determined not to let failures get the better of them, they will finally succeed. This saying encourages people, but not straightforwardly. Therefore, you should never use it to your seniors.

The saying is in Wakan Taisei Kotowaza Gusa, a collection of sayings in Japan, China and Europe.

Its English equivalents are:

- A blind pigeon may sometimes find corn.
- He who says much will be right sometimes.
- Throw dirt enough and some will stick.

## Lecture on Eboshi-iwa and surrounding sea

A volunteer group named “The Committee for hands-on learning of Eboshi-iwa and the sea” has observed the ecosystem of Eboshi-iwa and its neighboring sea with primary school children for 24 years. Unfortunately, they had to cancel all their activities last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year, they had a lecture on March 28 (Sun), introducing the audience to abundant sea creatures living there.

A reef system composed of more than 50 individual reefs 1.6 kilometers off the Chigasaki beach is named Ubajima, or Uba island, and the largest reef of them is commonly called Eboshi-iwa, or Eboshi rock, as the rock above the surface of the sea looks like *eboshi*, a hat worn by men in premodern Japan. Ubajima stretches for about 600 meters from east to west and 400 from north to south, and Eboshi-iwa is 14.6 meters high. The reefs and surrounding shallow water attract various kinds of creatures. Seaweed, coral, shells, crustaceans and many kinds of fish, including colorful fish, gather and form an ecosystem with abundant marine life. In addition, dragonflies and butterflies as well as various kinds of birds are inhabitants of Ubajima.

As fossils of Radiolaria were found in Eboshi-iwa, the rock is thought to have been formed from the second oldest stratum in Chigasaki, following Hirashima off the fishing port. The stratum, made of alternately accumulated black rugged layers and white sleeky volcanic ash layers, was formed on the ocean floor from 2,000 to 3,000 meters deep at around 400 kilometers south of the Japanese archipelago about 12 million years ago. When the Philippine Sea Plate moved northward, the stratum on the plate reached the Shonan coast and rose to form Ubajima. Then, sequences of onlap and offlap eroded the reef system. Eboshi-iwa has had its current appearance for about 7,000 years.

Volunteer group leader Koji Katsumata said they annually invite about 20 children by putting an advertisement in a city bulletin, and lecture them about seaweeds and sea creatures in a classroom. The group also teach them how to use a snorkel in a pool, and then take them to Eboshi-iwa. The observation study is usually conducted in September with support from several groups, including SARF 90, lifesavers and Shonan rescue team.



Ubajima



Inhabitants of Ubajima



Golf balls found near the reefs

In the March 28 lecture, speakers also reported contamination by plastic waste and fishing lines. They said the amount of micro plastics is increasing in the reef system, and that many golf balls were collected there. Plastics never disappear easily from the natural world.

## People in Chigasaki (21) Yoshio Kimura

(A bimonthly serial)

In the world of shogi, (or Japanese chess), Sota Fujii has made headlines since 2016 when he rose to the 4th grade at the age of 14, the youngest ever. Looking back at the history of the shogi world, however, you can find other genius junior high school shogi players. One of them was Yoshio Kimura. He was born in Koto Ward in Tokyo in 1905, and entered a shogi school at the age of 11. He learned shogi under the instruction of Kinjiro Sekine, and rose to the 4th grade when he was 15 years old, and reached the highest rank at the age of 22.



The shogi master used to be chosen by the process of heredity, but in 1935, it changed to a merit-based system decided through a 2-year championship tournament for the shogi master. Kimura was the first winner of the tournament, and kept the championship for 10 years. He was called the ‘Invincible Master’.



However, he declared his retirement when he was defeated by Yasuharu Oyama in 1952, leaving these words, “I’ve got a good successor.” Then, he moved to Chigasaki City to



A picture taken at his house in Chigasaki

spend his golden years with his wife, and continued to educate young shogi players in the 1960s. In addition, he worked as the chairman of the Japan Shogi Association to develop shogi culture and improve the status of shogi players. Also, he served on the Chigasaki Municipal Board of Education.

He received the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon as the first winner by a shogi player in 1960. He passed away on November 17th in 1986 at the age of 81. Coincidentally, the date was the ‘Shogi Day’ decided by the association.

Around 70 years has passed since his retirement, and now Sota Fujii draws attention from around the world, but he has just started his career as a professional shogi player, and will take some time until he becomes a new master shogi player, and is able to lead the next generation. People hope he will make efforts to gain several titles, including Meijin, Oshou, and Ryuo, as Yoshio Kimura, Hifumi Kato, Kouji Tanigawa and Yoshiharu Habu achieved when they were senior and junior high school students.

## History of Chigasaki

### Hagisono Village (1)

As [Hagisono Village](#) spread near the Sagami River, it was on the land made of sand and pebbles the Sagami River conveyed when it flooded. The village borders on Nishikubo and Hamanogo in the east, on the Sagami River, Heidayu-shinden and Suka of Hiratsuka in the west, on Imajuku in the south, and on Tabata and Omagari of Samukawa in the north. As the Sagami River meandered, it repeatedly caused floods, and the river often changed its course. Villages along the river had to do restoration work each time with a lot of labor. Records of river-improvement works and quarrels over river water are kept by the association of Hagisono.



Current Hagisono Bridge

Hagisono Village was originally called Hagisone. It was in the middle of the Kamakura era when the village first appeared in history. A 1271 document on the village border written by the Futokorojima lord, the Nikaido family, has a description of the village name, and it is thought that the name turned to Hagisono after 1700. The “sone” of Hagisone means pebbly barren land, and the “sono” of the new name Hagisono means farmland, which made residents imagine a decent place to live. The wisdom of the residents in those days wishing for a comfortable life is laudable. There remains a section called Hagiwara, or a field of bush clover, probably because the area was overgrown with the plant.



Bridge stones

The road going from Hagisono to Nishikubo passes over the Hagisono Bridge that spans the Koide River. The bridge connecting the east and west of the area has been quite important since it was built. The stone bridge remained in service until it collapsed in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. A stone used for the bridge is placed in Mishima Shrine. The stone is 180 cm long and 54 cm wide. (See the lower photo)



## Diamond Fuji

This picture was taken on March 23 (Tues) around 5:30 pm. It was the first clear evening after cloudy evenings had continued for several days. The photo spot was on the left bank of the Sagami River, about 100m north of the Kamikawa Bridge.

As it is the Middle East which has a six-hour time difference from Japan, the sun sinking beyond Mt. Fuji is supposedly above Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf countries. The scene would make viewers think about global maps, and tempt them to take an overseas trip. It is nice that residents of Shonan are able to see this mysterious scene in spring and autumn if the western sky is clear in the evening.



## Events in March



### Kakekko Challenge 2020

On March 14 (Sun), 50m and 100m time trials were held at Yanagishima Sports Park. Participants were from five-year-old school children to adults. This was part of the nationwide Kakekko Challenge 2020. The runners' times were compared with times at other cities.

The sports park was in a festive mood because, in addition to the fine weather after stormy days, this was almost the first public sport event in the city during the corona pandemic.

A 30-year-old man won the 50m trial with 6.41 sec., and the time was the third among all participants across the nation. He also won the 100m trial with 11.57 sec., which was the fourth in the nation.

### Fireworks for new school finishers

At around 7:00 pm on March 20 (Sat), fireworks lit up the sky above Samukawa. Skyrockets were launched for about 10 minutes from the northern and eastern parts of the town by the Samukawa Residents Firework Association. The association conducted the short-time firework display for those who had finished junior high and elementary schools as most of the school events in their final year were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The association hopes that they keep the fireworks in their minds as a memory of the last days of their school lives.



### Chigasaki Bread Festival

Four bakeries in Chigasaki opened their shops on the 3rd floor of LUSCA Chigasaki on March 21 (Sun).

They were SEALS BAKERY, Bäckerei Takayama, B-grotto and Chambord. Many of the people going from the ticket gate of JR Chigasaki Station to LUSCA stopped at their favorite bakery shops.



## Events in April and early May

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

The 43rd art exhibition by the Chigasaki Citizen Art Circle: April 6 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 7th (Wed) to 10th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 11th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Sketch exhibition by Yasutake Oshima Gallery: April 23 (Fri) to the 26th (Mon) 10:00 ~ 17:00

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

Small hall

Piano recital by Mezzo forte: April 10 (Sat) 11:00 ~

The 28th Japanese dancing performance by Kinsenkai: April 24 (Sat) 10:30 ~ 15:30

Circolo Musica concert: April 29 (Thurs) 11:00 ~

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

“Tie on the premise of untying” by Fujita Michiko: April 3 (Sat) to June 6 (Sun),

Admission fee (yen): adult 700, HS student and younger 500, 65 or older 350, and disabled person and their care-giver free

## Other cherry viewing spots



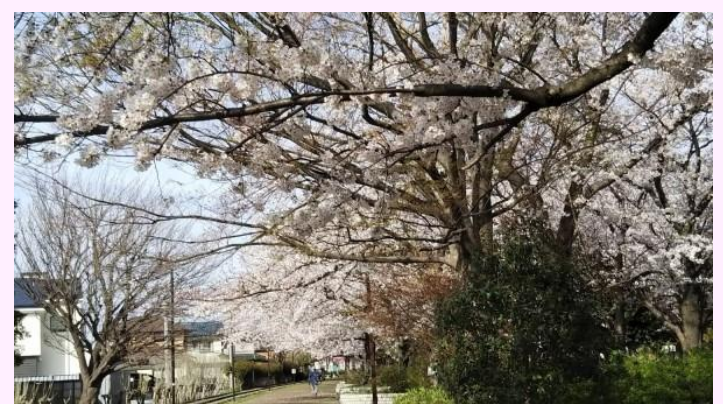
[Bridge pier site](#)



[Mukoda Ryokuchi Koen](#)



[Samukawa Chuo Koen](#)



[Samukawa Ichinomiya Koen](#)

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!