

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 波 倶楽部
ウエーブ

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

Is the coronavirus pandemic over?

The number of daily new cases in Chigasaki and Samukawa has decreased to single digits since late September. In the whole prefecture, daily new cases have also been around 20 in the last few weeks. As of November 7, about 74% of Kanagawa residents have gotten vaccinated. No one will dispute that the progress in vaccinating people has contributed to reducing the spread of infection.

In the month or so since the state of emergency was lifted at the end of September, public and private activities have almost returned to normal. More people are seen at Chigasaki Station than before. The Citizen Cultural Festival is now under way. Various exhibitions and performances are being held for the first

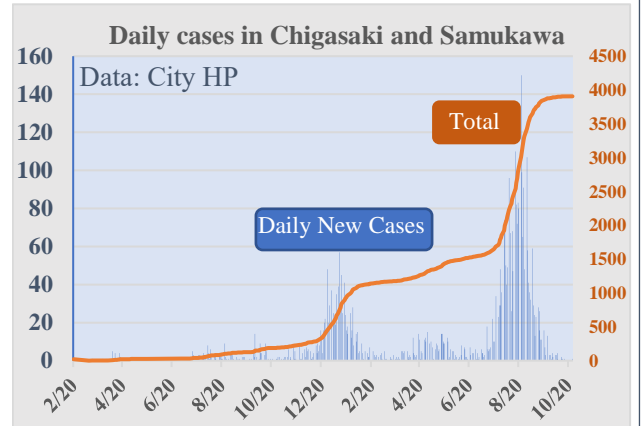


Chigasaki Station on Nov. 8

time in two years at the Civic Hall, Citizen Gallery, City Hall and the city library. How about immersing yourself in the cultural atmosphere?

We hope another wave will not come, but European countries show that it is unlikely. Basic precautions, including wearing a mask, avoiding the 3Cs, and washing hands, is critical for the time being.

The government has decided to start the third shot, the so-called booster inoculation, about six months after the second shot for all people ages 18 and older. More details will be announced in mid-November.



The Sagami Line, 100th anniversary

One hundred years have passed since the JR Sagami Line started its business between Chigasaki and Samukawa in 1921. The railroad was constructed to link the area along the Sagami River to Chigasaki on the Tokaido Line, and Hashimoto on today's Yokohama Line, and to convey gravel on the dry riverbed to Tokyo and Yokohama. For a while, the line virtually carried only gravel: the ratio of the earnings of gravel and people was 20 to 1 in 1926. The line was extended to Hashimoto in 1931, but it was only 30 years ago that electric cars replaced diesel railcars.

Population along the line having increased, the number of passengers has reached about 30,000 a day. In the early 1970s, many of the passengers were women and children, but the numbers of salaried workers and students gradually increased, and they have become major passengers.

Commemorating the anniversary, when a train leaves platform 1 or 2 of Chigasaki Station, the melody of "Umi Sono-Ai" composed by Yuzo Kayama is being played from late September. This was realized by the effort of the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the support of citizens. In addition, a new type of electric car (E131k) will be introduced in mid-November. The inside of the E131k is slightly wider than the current 205 type.

The library of Samukawa has posted the line's history on the Internet. Click below.

<https://www.lib-arc.samukawa.kanagawa.jp/bunsho/contents/gallery/tenji32/index.html#sec00>



Flowers of the season Green leopard plant

Yellow flowers of the green leopard plant, or 'Tsuwabuki' in Japanese, lighten the season in which autumnal leaves are falling. The evergreen perennial plant which can grow even in salty wind is often seen on clifftops or on the rocks along coasts. In addition, it thrives in shade so it is planted under trees or by rocks as ornaments in Japanese gardens.

The stem grows to 30-75 centimeters tall, and the tip diverges to form compound inflorescence having several yellow chrysanthemum-like flowers. The thick leaves are the shape of round kidneys, sizing four to fifteen centimeters long and 6.5 to 29 centimeters wide. The sunny side of its surface is slightly shiny, and the other side has dense trichome.

Its petioles are used for food mainly in Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures, and are an essential material for a New Year's delicacy specifically on Amami-oshima island. The residents simmer them with salt-preserved bony pork chops. The herbaceous plant has the effect of detoxication and drainage of pus, but it contains toxic pyrrolizidine alkaloid. If it is eaten, scums must be removed thoroughly by boiling the plant and skimming off the scums.

The productive plant is distributed in the western part of the Japanese archipelago: Fukushima Prefecture and further west along the Pacific coast, Ishikawa Prefecture and further west along the Japan Sea as well as Shikoku and Kyusyu. They also grow naturally on the Korean Peninsula, and in southeastern China and Taiwan.



Yuzo Kayam as a Person of Cultural Merit

Yuzo Kayama and twenty others who have contributed to the field of culture have been selected as this year's Persons of Cultural Merit. Singer and songwriter Kayama at 84 lived in Chigasaki in his younger days for about 30 years. In the interview after the ceremony on November 4 (Thu), he said he received the prize representing all his supporters, and he would like to continue activities for another ten years. Kayama is one of the nine people who received the Citizens' Honor Award of Chigasaki.



Photo: From ORICON NEWS



The city changed the name of the intersection of Yuzo dori and Teppo michi from *Higashi-kaigan Kaikan* (the East Coast Center) to *Yuzo-dori Chuo* in late October, as the Higashi-kaigan Kaikan was destroyed more than ten years ago. The change of the name had been requested by the local shopping association and citizen groups. When they invited suggestions for a new name, residents proposed the *Yuzo-dori Chuo*. The people involved hope that the crossing will become a new landmark.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the JR Sagami Line, "Umi Sono-Ai" composed by him was adopted as the departure melody of platforms 1 and 2 of Chigasaki Station, and has been played since late September. This was planned by the youth division of Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They had promoted the project until summer of 2021, and succeeded in obtaining approval from many citizens. [You can listen to the melody in the article in the responsive version.](#)

Flowers raised by local groups

The left photo is of winter sunflowers raised by Samukawa Town Tourism Association. The flowers have become one of the specialties of the town in winter. Once in a while, TV stations broadcast images of them this time of year.

The right photo is of Zaru-giku in Hagisono, Chigasaki. The group living with flowers is taking care of them. The group also maintains Kawazu cherry trees on the Koide River bank.



Winter sunflowers in Samukawa



Zaru-giku in No.1 farm in Hagisono, Chigasaki

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 得意に帆を上げ

ETE NI HO WO AGU

ETE means a following wind, **NI** to, **HO** a sail, **WO** a postposition, and **AGU** to hoist

When a favorable wind begins to blow while you are sailing, hoist the sail to catch the wind. When you have an opportunity, you should take the most of it and display your real ability. To have the opportunity, however, you have to improve your ability all the time. Olympic athletes make efforts tremendously. They know chance favors the prepared mind. Mizuki Noguchi, the gold medalist of the women's marathon at the 2004 Athens Olympics, said at an interview after the race that the distance you have run will never betray you. She trained herself by running 1300km at an altitude of 2400m two months before the Olympics.

The proverb is in “当世花街談義”, or Tosei-hanamachi-dangi, a kind of comical novel about ordinary people published in the middle of the Edo era.

Its English equivalents are:

- Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.
- Fortune knocks once at every man's door.
- Strike while the iron is hot.

2) 親の光は七光り

OYA NO HIKARI WA NANA HIKARI

OYA means one's parents, **NO** of, **HIKARI** light, **WA** to be, **NANA** seven, and **HIKARI** light

The great reputation of parents does their children a favor. Children of VIPs and celebrities are often treated specially by people around them. They have a lot of advantages from the very beginning of their lives. For example, many politicians are from political families. But a few people know that they are under a lot of pressure to surpass the achievements of their parents.

Seven lights mean blessings from east, west, north, south, northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest except one direction. Good fortune comes from all the directions except the one at which they stand.

The proverb is in “諸道聴耳世間猿”, or Shyodokikimimi-sekenzaru, a collection of enjoyable stories depicting everyday lives of people of all ranks written by Akinari Ueda in the late Edo era.

Its English equivalents are:

- Father's virtue is the best heritage for his child.
- Parental influence persists forever.
- Happy is he whose friends were born before him.

History of Chigasaki

Enzo Village (2)

When Hideyoshi Toyotomi's force attacked the Hojo Family of Odawara in 1590, he gave a prohibition instruction to three villages in Futokorojima. The three villages were Enzo, Yabata and Hamano-go, and they became independent in the early Tokugawa era. This independence suggests that by the instruction these three villages had already been organized well so that each local authority could administer their village by themselves.

Ieyasu Tokugawa granted Enzo Village to his retainers, the Yokoyama and Ota Families, in 1591, and also to the Tsuji Family in 1625. The three retainers ruled their land until the Meiji Restoration.

The JR Sagami Line started its business between Chigasaki and Samukawa Stations in 1921. The railroad runs through the center of the village from north to south, dividing the village into the east and west areas. Chigasaki and Kagawa Stations were constructed at first, and as the number of passengers increased, Enzo Station, Nito Station (today's Kita-Chigasaki Station), and Kagawadai Station were constructed in 1932, 1938 and 1941 respectively. (Enzo and Kagawadai Stations were closed in 1944, when the line was nationalized.)



The main street in the map reaches Rinkoji Temple. Entering the main gate, visitors will see a Koshin tower on their left. The tower is designated as one of the city's important cultural assets. Its shape is unique in that three monkeys are carved in relief. The year 1640 is engraved on the tower.

There is the village shrine, Shinmei Shrine, about 250 meters west of the temple. It is said that the shrine was built so that Kageyoshi Futokorojima's residence did not face the demon's gate*. The statues of Enzo bayashi, or Enzo festival music, and Enzo-shimmei-daijingu stand at the left of the inner area (the photo on the left). The statue of Enzo bayashi says it started from the rhythm of drums performed at the parties Kageyoshi held to cheer his vassals, and is the city's first intangible cultural asset.



* The demon's gate is thought to be located to the northeast of a house.

The site of the Futokorojima palace was in the north of the shrine. →

Invitation to Kamakura (25) *Hojoki* (Bimonthly serial)

Hojoki (a Ten-Foot-Square Hut) was written by Chomei Kamono in 1212 during the Kamakura era. It is one of the three great essays in the medieval period of Japan, along with the *Tsurezuregusa* and *Makuranosoushi*. Now the essay is gaining popularity because we can see certain parallels between today and 800 years ago.

Chomei Kamono (1155-1216) was a *waka* poet and essayist. His father was the highest ranked priest at *Kamonomiya* shrine, the most prominent shrine at that time in Kyoto. He was a son of a noble family and had a brilliant future ahead of him. However, his father died when he was eighteen. He was forced to give up succeeding his father by relatives and was tossed out of the world of fame and success. He decided to engage himself in *waka* poems and essays. His talent bloomed and shined enough to catch Emperor Gotoba's attention. He was honorably chosen as one of the editors for compiling "*Shinkokin Wakashu*" (New Collection of Poems Ancient and Modern) by the emperor. The emperor admired Chomei's excellent job and offered him the high position at *Kawai* shrine. However, with his relatives again plotting to get rid of him, the emperor withdrew the offer.



Chomei despairingly left his shrine priesthood and became a Buddhist priest. He retreated to a ten-foot-square hut in a mountain and wrote *Hojoki* there (the picture on the left). It was a great work of literary witness of horrible scenes of Kyoto falling into ruin. Kyoto was covered with a devastating fire in 1177, and hit by storms and plagues subsequent to a great earthquake in 1185. Chomei elaborately described a series of calamities, mixed with the grief of personal testimony and uncertainty of life.

*The master writer Soseki Natsume was the first person who translated the essay into English. His great novel "*Kusamakura*" took a cue from it.

Events in October

The 93th exhibition of the Shonan chapter of the Japan Watercolor Association from Oct. 5 (Tues) to the 10th (Sun) at Chigasaki Citizen Gallery Admission Free

On display were 51 watercolor paintings by 36 members. In viewing landscapes, some visitors may get a taste of distant places, and some of the pictures may have reminded them of the places they once visited. And some visitors may be attracted more by fantastic portraits and still lifes. The room was like an oasis, and provided visitors with a comfortable atmosphere.

The association was established in 1913. The Shonan chapter, one of the 54 chapters across the nation, has about 40 members, who live in Yokohama, Ayase, Kamakura, Chigasaki and other cities in Shonan area. They gather at Citizen Gallery twice a month for drawing.



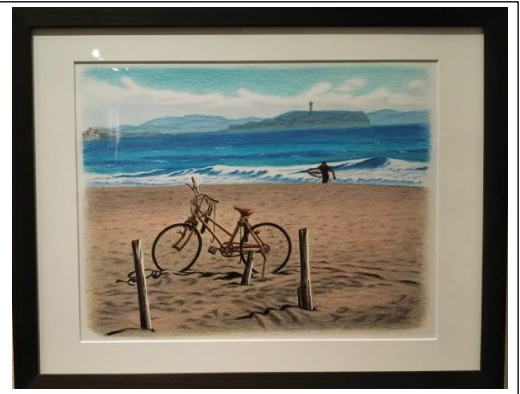
The 51st woodcut exhibition by Group Ai at Citizen Gallery from Oct. 21 (Thurs) to the 24th (Sun) Admission Free



Twenty-three woodcuts by seven members were exhibited in the 51st exhibition of the woodcut Group Ai. Each member exhibited three works, whose theme were the four seasons, the Olympic Games, and free choice. Every work was simple and clear, but it seems to take a lot of time to complete one woodcut. The origin of the Group Ai goes back to a woodcut class at Tsurumine public hall in 1982. The participants of the class established the Group Sato, which was renamed Ai in 1986. The group has held the exhibition annually since then. They have a monthly meeting at Citizen Gallery.

The Exhibition by Colored Pencil Drawing Club Admission free

Unless visitors came close to the works, it would be difficult to notice that most of the 52 pictures were drawn with colored pencils. Pictures with gentle, delicate and heart-warming colors fascinated visitors. The drawing club, with 16 members, was established 17 years ago. They practice at JA



Sagami Chigasaki branch in Shin-ei-cho on the first and third Wednesday mornings every month. Most of the members are older than 60. A member said they erase and redraw drawings again and again until they become satisfied with them. Thus, it may be easier for people to begin pencil drawing compared to watercolor or oil paintings. The exhibition was held at the Citizen Gallery from Oct. 28 (Thurs) to the 31st (Sun).

Citizen Cultural Festival 2021 Admission free

Flower arrangements display by the Chigasaki flower arrangement association at Citizen Gallery on Oct. 16 (Sat) and 17 (Sun)

More than twenty flower arrangements from 14 schools were displayed. The room was dim and quiet, and was filled with a tense atmosphere. Some arrangements were tidy, and some were gorgeous. Flowers' intrinsic beauty and artists' senses combined to create their presence and dignity.



The 19th Chigasaki musical accompaniment festival at Civic Hall on Oct. 17 (Sun)

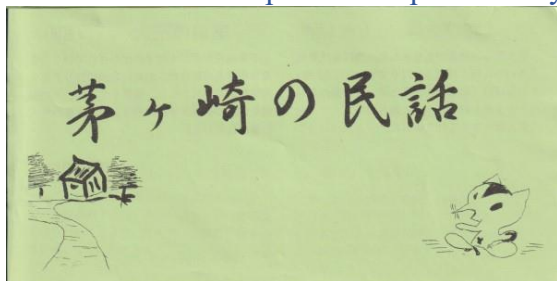
Festival music preservation groups of Nishikubo, Enzo, Shimoterao, and Hishinuma performed their music. The photo shows Enzo group performing Enzo musical accompaniment, the city's first cultural asset. (See "Enzo village 2" of this edition)

Powerful sounds with a simple rhythm of Japanese drums and a lilting tune of a flute, which sounded as if they came from deep under the ground, provided listeners with a comfortable and peace time.



Recitation and Kamishibai

At a smaller room of the Civic Hall on the same day, six citizen groups recited folklores of Chigasaki and Macedonia, children's stories by Kenji Miyazawa, and the groups' originals. Some of them also told stories with pictures. Readers' voices with good intonation and accent were easy on the ear. These voices told listeners that it is important to speak clearly with a friendly tone.



A booklet made by Chigasaki Folklore Group

Instrumental Trio concert

The concert was held at the small hall of the Civic Hall on Oct. 24 (Sun). The three instruments were a shamisen, shakuhachi and koto. There are not many opportunities for citizens to listen to Japan's classical music. Ninety groups performed, and there were quite a few young listeners.

Chorus Festival

The 54th chorus festival was held at the large hall of the Civic Hall on October 31 (Sun). Twenty-one groups sang various songs – from popular songs of Japan and foreign countries to Stephen Foster's songs to folk songs of England, Scotland, Italy and more.

The audience were captivated by combinations of beautiful high, clear voices of women and low, deep voices of men. In fact, they were moved by songs with only a piano accompaniment. It was a good opportunity for chorus fans to enjoy their favorite music. These songs may have given a tranquil time to listeners, reminded them of their younger days, and encouraged them.



Events in November

Why don't you become a Santa Clause?

Would you give a book to a child living apart from their parents in the season of giving? Forty-six such children live in 白十字林間学校, or the White Cross Open School, in Chigasaki.

At a book shop below,

- 1) Look at Christmas cards on each of which is written a child's gender and age.
- 2) Select one child and buy a book, a picture book, etc. (costing 800~1500 yen) you think would be good for them.
- 3) Take the book and the card to the counter, and the book will go to the child with your message as a present from an anonymous person.

Book Shops: ●Hasegawa book shop in N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki, and near the South Entrance of the Station
●Kawakami book shop in Lusca ●Toida book shop

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

Culture II Shonan photo exhibition by Culture II Shonan: Nov. 2 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 3rd (Wed) to the 6th 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 7th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Photo exhibition (Citizen cultural festival): Nov. 12 (Fri) and 13th (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00, the 14th (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00

Seisai group's picture and print exhibition by Citizen gallery woodcut section: Nov.17 (Wed) 12:00 ~ 16:00, the 18th (Thurs) and the 19th (Fri) 10:00 ~ 16:00, the 20th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 15:00

Painting exhibition, Shosaiten, by Kawasaki studio: Nov. 21 (Sun) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 22nd (Mon) to the 24th (Wed) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The 38th Indian-ink drawing exhibition by Shonan Indian-ink drawing club: Nov. 25 (Thurs) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 26th (Fri) ~ the 28th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 29th (Mon) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Citizen Cultural Festival 2021 Admission free

Performance	place
Ginkenshibudo (Japanese dancing with a sword while reciting Chinese poems) – Nov. 3 (Wed, holiday) 9:40 ~ 16:00	Civic Hall (Small Hall)
Chanson & Canzone – Nov. 6 (Sat) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Civic Hall (Small Hall)
Japanese Dance – Nov. 7 (Sun) 10:30 ~ 15:00	Civic Hall (Small Hall)
Western-style Dance – Nov. 14 (Sun) 12:00 ~ 18:30	Civic Hall (Large Hall)
Classical Vocal Concert – Nov. 14 (Sun) 14:00 ~ 16:30	Civic Hall (Small Hall)
Chrysanthemums – Nov. 1 (Mon) to the 13th (Sat) 9:00 ~ 16:00	In front of the Comprehensive Gym
Photography – Nov.12 (Fri) to 14th (Sun) 9:00 ~ 17:00, the 14th (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00	Citizen Gallery

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!