

# Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 <sup>ウエーブ</sup> 波 倶楽部

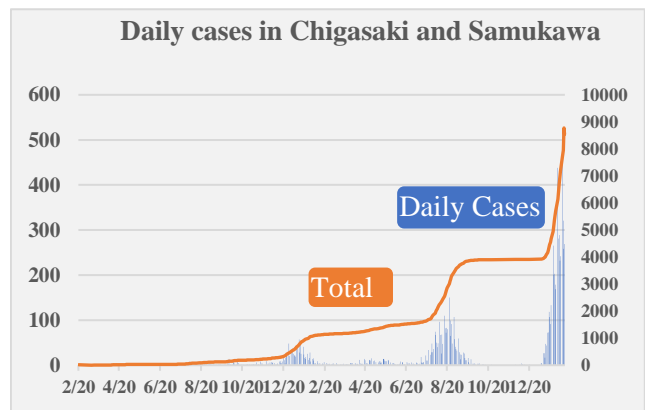
*Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.*

## The Omicron variant is causing the 6th Wave with its lightning-fast spread

The coronavirus disease has been spreading at lightning speed in the city since late January. On January 24 (Mon), new cases numbered 289. More than 150 citizens were infected a day for the first time in five months, and all the following days except a few marked over 200 cases. Strict COVID-19 measures were applied in Kanagawa from January 21(Fri) to February 13 (Sun), and then extended until March 6 (Sun).

As reported, the latest wave has been caused by the Omicron variant. Medical experts say Omicron spreads at lightning speed, but causes less severe diseases than Delta, and the wave may subside faster than previous ones. Some of the countries which experienced an explosion of infection at the end of 2021 seem to have entered the post-peak stage, said a report of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. In Okinawa, the number of daily cases has shown a downward trend since the middle of January. However, the institute takes a cautious attitude, saying basic preventive measures, including wearing non-woven masks, frequent handwashing, mouthwash, and ventilation, and avoiding close contact, are necessary for the time being. Shigeru Omi, top COVID-19 adviser, recently suggested that to dine silently in a small group is quite important.

Breakthrough infections with Omicron have been reported often. Nevertheless, a booster dose is expected to restore immunity levels of those vaccinated. Chigasaki started administering the third shot on February 1 (Wed) at the mass inoculation site (the Community Hall on the 6th floor of City Hall annex) and hospitals\*. Citizens aged 18 and older who received their second doses eight months ago can make the reservation, and an interval of seven months is enough for citizens aged 65 or more as of April 1.

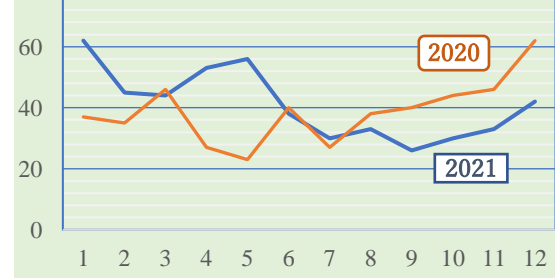


\* <https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/kenko/yobotaisaku/1046020.html>

## Last year, 492 traffic accidents in the city, 5.8% up from a year earlier.

In 2021, 492 traffic accidents occurred. Two people were killed, and 555 were injured. The numbers of accidents, fatalities and the injured increased by 27, 2 and 30, respectively, from the previous year. Of 555 injured people, about 97% sustained slight injuries. Of the 492 accidents, 153 cases (31%) involved elderly people, the lowest level in the last decade. On the other hand, bicycle accidents accounted for 39%, the highest level during the same period. The high percentage of bicycle accidents has been a problem of the city.

Rear-end, and right-turn collisions, and collisions at intersections were the top-3 accidents, and the total of these collisions comprises about 47% of all the accidents. Imajuku, Honson, Nango and Hagisono were accident black spots as usual.



The number of accidents was lower in the second half of last year than its first half. This may be ascribed to online and banner campaigns at the station and shops on Route One as well as the surge of coronavirus infections. It was impossible for the police to promote in-face traffic safety campaigns, which may be a reason for increased accidents last year.

For actual data, go to [https://www.police.pref.kanagawa.jp/ps/67ps/67pic/67000\\_tra3.pdf](https://www.police.pref.kanagawa.jp/ps/67ps/67pic/67000_tra3.pdf)

## Flowers of the season Japanese apricot (Ume)

The blossoms of Japanese apricot (hereafter “apricot” for short) trees, or Ume in Japanese, come out from the middle of January to the middle of March. As its blossoms emit a tender fragrance, you may notice the location of the tree, for example, on your way to the station. The blossoms are mostly white or red, but they have a wide variety of colors and shapes.

Today, many people assume that the cherry blossom symbolizes Japanese flowers. But when it came to talking about flowers back in the 8th century, people referred to apricot blossom as the most popular flower. In the oldest anthology of waka poems, ‘Man-yo-shu\*’, as a subject or feature of poems, apricot was second in number only to bush clover, or Hagi in Japanese. In addition, artists of the Edo era made many woodblock prints depicting the scene in which people looked up at apricot blossoms.

Ume festivals take place here and there nationwide. In Chigasaki, the festival is held at Takasuna-Ryokuchi Park in the middle of February, but it was cancelled for two years in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The apricot is a native of China, and it is said that the trees were introduced into Japan for medicinal use in the year 3 B.C. Japanese people have since made use of the trees in various ways, including pickled apricots, liquors, many kinds of essence, and so on, and the fruits have been a necessary food in our everyday life.

Unripe apricots, however, contain toxic hydrocyanic acid so caution is needed. The time apricots mature and are harvested is the early-summer rainy season so this season is named *Tsuyu*, which consists of two kanji characters of ‘apricot’ and ‘rain’, namely 梅雨, that shows the trees have been very close to us and an important food for us. \* **Man-yo-shu: the anthology was completed in the late 8th century. It contains 4,500 poems which were made between the early 7th century and the middle of the 8th century.**



## Eboshi Wakame, a winter delicacy

The sale of Eboshi Wakame, a winter specialty of Chigasaki, has started. The sales event, the Raw Wakame Festival, was cancelled for two years in a row due to the spread of the coronavirus. However, you can buy the delicacy at Okiemon-Maru and other fishing boat agencies near Chigasaki Port.

The cultivation of the brown seaweed starts in early December around Eboshi Rock, located 1.4 kilometers off the beach (the photo lower right), and its harvest continues from early February to March. One day after local fishermen take in the weed, fresh wakame in plastic bags appear on the table at the agencies. As well as fresh, they are soft and tasty. As brown wakame in a bag does not keep long, you should immerse it in hot (or boiling) water

for a short time until the brown turns into green, and keep it in a refrigerator. (How to eat): for example, eat it with sliced

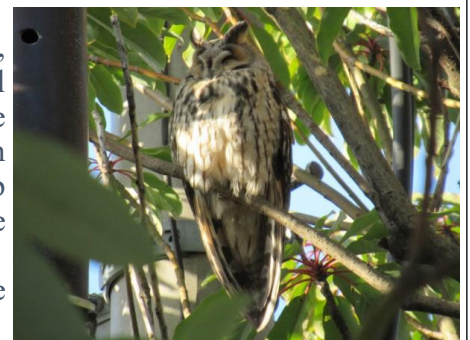
raw fish, or in miso soup. When the sea is rough, fishermen cannot risk sailing to collect wakame, so you should call to check whether places have the weed before going there.



## Owls have come to their winter habitat.

Long-eared owls have come. Every winter, they appear at the end of October, and stay until late February in the neighboring spot of Chigasaki. Many local people feel relieved to see them perched on the trees. The birds have become regular winter visitors. The owls are said to come from and return to northern Honshu, but nobody knows their whereabouts in other seasons. The birds sleep through daytime even though kids are running, shouting and laughing below the trees.

Owls were symbols of wisdom and vigilance in Ancient Greece. In India, the night bird is considered a symbol of wealth, prosperity, wisdom, good luck and fortune. The birds may give happiness to the children playing below them, residents looking up at them once a day, photographers, and all other people who come to see them. As for photographers, only a few are seen these days, and the place has been returning to an ordinary playground for children.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1)三十六計逃げるにしかず	2)人事を尽くして天命を待つ
<b>SANJUOKKEI NIGERU NI SHIKAZU</b>	<b>JINJI WO TSUKUSHITE TENMEI WO MATSU</b>
<b>SANJUOKKEI</b> means 36 strategic plans of ancient China, <b>NIGERU</b> to run away, <b>NI</b> to be, and <b>SHIKAZU</b> to be no better than.	<b>JINJI WO TSUKUSHITE</b> mean to do one's best, <b>TENMEI</b> Heaven's will, <b>WO</b> a postposition for an object, and <b>MATSU</b> to wait
When your unit is attacked severely by the enemy on the battleground, and you judge it impossible to resist, your unit should retreat right away rather than fighting on in the face of defeat. The most important thing for you is to leave the place alive so that you can fight against the enemy another day.	You should make efforts as much as you can, and entrust the result to God. It is important to try as hard as you can in order not to regret later, even if your effort does not bring about success. When you make difficult attempts such as taking the entrance examinations of prestigious schools, trying to let somebody know your love, and hoping to achieve many other things, you should always do your best.
Likewise, if you feel that you will be involved in some trouble, you should wash your hands of it immediately.	The saying encourages everyone who keeps trying to realize their goals.
The saying is in Book of Southern Qi, one of the 24 Chinese historical book series. It describes the history from the year 479 to 520.	This proverb is in 読史管見 meaning "what I thought about after reading historical books," written by 胡寅, or Hu Yin (1098~1156). Its English equivalents are:
<p>Its English equivalents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A good runner is never caught.</li> <li>● Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm.</li> <li>● Discretion is the better part of valor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do the likeliest and God will do the best.</li> <li>● Heaven helps those who help themselves.</li> <li>● Do your best and abide by the event.</li> </ul>

### History of Chigasaki

### Shimomachiya Village (1)

Shimomachiya Village is located just west of the Toriido Bridge on Route One. The village was bordered east by Chigasaki, west by Imajuku, south by Matso, and north by Hamanogo Villages. The Tokaido ran through the center of the village from east to west, and the Koide River passed through the west side of the village from north to south. Resident houses lined either side of the Tokaido, and paddy fields spread to the south of the settlement. The north of Tokaido was farmland. And further north was again paddy fields, which extended to the Koide River. The main business of the village was agriculture.

新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) describes that both San-no-sha Shrine and Shinmei-Gu are village shrines, and the two shrines are taken care of by Zempukuji Temple in Yanagishima. Shinmei-Gu was renamed Shinmei Shrine, and still exists on Route One. San-no-sha was once located at the eastern part of the village, but its god is enshrined at Shinmei Shrine now. There was a well on the side of Shinmei Shrine. The well was allegedly dug by the diviner of the Heian era, Abe-no-Seimei. But it disappeared while the oldest national road was extended.

Walking westward along Route One, turning right this side of the Koide



Shinmei Shrine



Baiunji Temple



Shrine housing the Sanboukojin

River, and going straight, you will reach Machiya-zan Daikouin Baiunji Temple. The temple was reportedly founded in 1599 by Kouyo, a priest of Kaihouji Temple in Suka, Hiratsuka. There is a small shrine dedicated to Sanboukojin, a deity protecting the teachings of Buddha, and religious groups, in Baiunji Temple. 新編相模風土記稿

calls the shrine Nanyoke kojim, which was made by Tendai sect priest Jikaku Daishi in the Heian period. On his way from the Tang dynasty of China, Daishi was involved in the storm, and prayed to Sanboukojin for the safe travel. He erected the statue in reward for the help, says the topography. A record in the Meiji era says the Sanboukojin is a statue 28cm high, and it was once enshrined in a temple in Shimo-terao Village. But it had been missing due to a battle until a man called Yoshino in Enzo Village found it while he was cultivating a thicket. He took it to Baiunji Temple. Now the statue is hidden in the small shrine. It was taken to Edo, today's Tokyo, three times to be displayed to the public.

## People in Chigasaki-26 Minamoto no Yoritomo

(Bimonthly serial)

'The 13 Lords of the Shogun', the 61st TV drama of the NHK Japanese historical drama series, sheds light on the 12th and 13th centuries when samurai warriors had control all over Japan. Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147-1199) defeated the Heike clan, and became the first samurai warrior to conquer the whole country in 1185. He established the Kamakura Shogunate in 1192. After his death, the parliamentary system with the 13 lords, including his father-in-law Hojo Tokimasa, and brother-in-law, Hojo Yoshitoki, was established in 1225. Also, his legitimate wife, Hojo Masako, wielded her power as the "nun-shogun".

There are several legends and stone monuments regarding Minamoto no Yoritomo in Chigasaki. Inage Shigenari, a samurai warrior who controlled the Musashi areas and supported Yoritomo in the 12th century. Inage built a bridge over the Sagami River in 1198 to hold a memorial service for his wife, Masako's younger sister. When Yoritomo crossed the bridge on his horse at the opening ceremony, a ghost of his younger brother, Yoshitsune, who was fiercely opposed to him, appeared. His horse was so upset it fell into the river. He was thought to have died from the injuries by the accident in 1199 at the age of 53. Since then,

the downstream section of the river was called the

River of Banyu (horse diving in the river). After the Kanto Earthquake in 1923, bridge piers were found (the picture on the left), and preserved as the national ruin and natural monument in 1926.

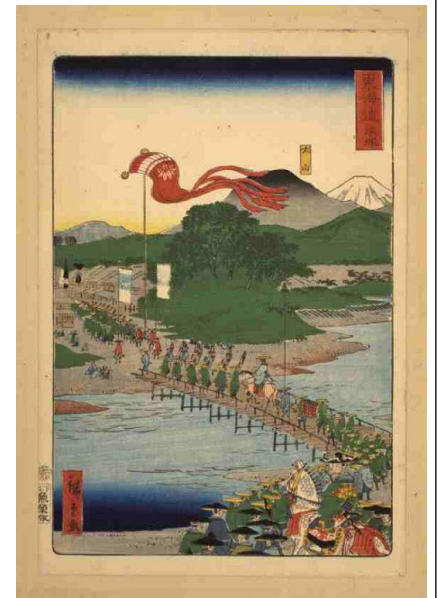
A samurai warrior, Oba Kageyoshi\*, who lived in Chigasaki,



joined the Battle of Ishibashiyama to support Yoritomo in 1180. He gained trust and support from Yoritomo, and was able to reconstruct and maintain the Tsurumine Hachimangu Shrine in Chigasaki in 1191. At the entrance of the shrine, the stone monument, 'Benkei-zuka' stands for the repose of Yoshitsune's supporter, Buddhist monk Benkei (the photo on the right).



\*Oba Kageyoshi: aka Futokorojima Kageyoshi. As for his palace in Chigasaki, See CW62 "History of Chigasaki"



## Monument in Kaitozan

Below the junction of Ken-O-Expressway and Shin-Shonan Bypass, a monument stands against the background of farmland, the distant western mountain range and Mt. Fuji. The area was once called Futokorojima-go, ruled by one of Minamoto Yoritomo's lords, Kageyoshi Oba, aka Kageyoshi Futokorojima, in the Middle Ages. The historical fact that the area had close connections to the Kamakura shogunate is recorded in Azuma Kagami\* and the new edition of Sagami province topography.

The place is called Enazuka. "Ena" means the placenta, zuka an earth mound in English. Folklore says a concubine of Yoritomo, the Lady Tango, gave birth to a baby boy at the nearby Kageyoshi Oba's mansion, and his placenta was buried there. As her pregnancy had been noticed by the jealous wife of Yoritomo's, Masako Hojo, Tango had fled to Kageyoshi's house in today's Enzo. The Oba clan based in today's Fujisawa was anti-Yoritomo, but Kageyoshi supported Yoritomo, and obtained his trust. The boy, named Saburo, went on to found the Shimadzu Family of Satsuma, today's Kagoshima in Kyushu.

Who was the lady Tango? She was a daughter of an adopted son of Hiki-no-Ama, a nanny of Yoritomo. Saburo was renamed Koremune-no-Tadahisa, and was dispatched to the Shimadzu province in Kyushu as a manor administrator, and then got promoted to an estate steward. Later he called himself Shimadzu, after the name of the largest manor.

\*Azuma Kagami: a historical book completed around 1300. It describes the achievements of Kamakura shogunate from 1184 to 1266.



## Events in January and early February

### The 32nd exhibition of unearthed articles

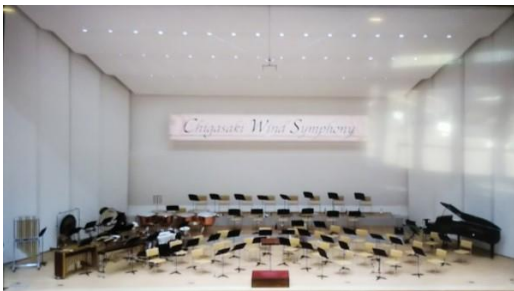
The exhibition was held by the city board of education social education section at the Citizen Gallery from Jan. 14 (Fri) to the 19th (Wed). Unearthed articles from 26 housing construction sites were exhibited. These sites are located in the areas where excavation is required prior to construction work. The excavated items were unglazed pottery - reddish brown (Haji ware), and white-blue (Sue pottery), ancient coins, porcelain, a tea mill, axe stones, horse teeth, stone weights, and suchlike. As for ages they were produced from the Jomon period (BC3000 ~ BC1000) to modern times. In addition, remains such as pits, ditches, and dug-standing pillar buildings were also excavated.



### Chigasaki Wind Symphony New Year Concert

New Year Concert of Chigasaki Wind Symphony was conducted at the large hall of the Civic Hall on the afternoon of January 22 (Sat). The orchestra was established in April 2001, and consists of people from in their 10s to 60s. Nearly 45 members participated in the concert.

In the 1st part, Procession to Peace, Gifts from the Forest, and Romeo and Juliet, and in the 2nd part, Back to the Future, Japanese Graffiti XVII, Hibari Misora songs, and the Phantom of the Opera were performed. Audience was larger than before. Treasure Island, the Best Friend and one more were performed as encore. The audience spent about two hours relaxing and enjoying.



(Taking photos was prohibited in the hall.)

### Setsubun Festival at Samukawa Shrine

On February 4, the day before the first day of spring, the Setsubun Festival was held. At 11am and 2pm, men and women born in the year of the Tiger by Chinese zodiac handed out visitors two small bags containing beans and a lottery ticket. Then visitors obtained giveaways corresponding to the number written on the lottery ticket. The reporter obtained three pieces of good-quality toilet soap and a roll of aluminum foil. The drawing, instead of soybean scattering, was conducted two years in a row. It seemed more visitors came than usual.



## Events in February

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

Photo exhibition by Eboshi Photo Association: Feb. 8 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 9th (Wed) to the 12th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 13th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

### Chigasaki City Museum of Art

#### The Wonder World from February 12 (Sat) to March 21 (Mon)

Pictures held in the collection of the city museum will be displayed. Those exhibited will be unrealistic and make visitors feel something strange.  
Entrance fee (yen): Adult 200, Uni. student 100, Citizen aged 65 and older 100, High school student and younger as well as handicapped person and attendant Free.

#### Art Spirit from Feb.12 (Sat) to the 27th (Sun) Admission free

Works by students of Chigasaki and Samukawa high schools are going to be exhibited.



**Shonan Marathon scheduled for Feb. has been cancelled.**

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!