

# 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 sixth wave has started subsiding

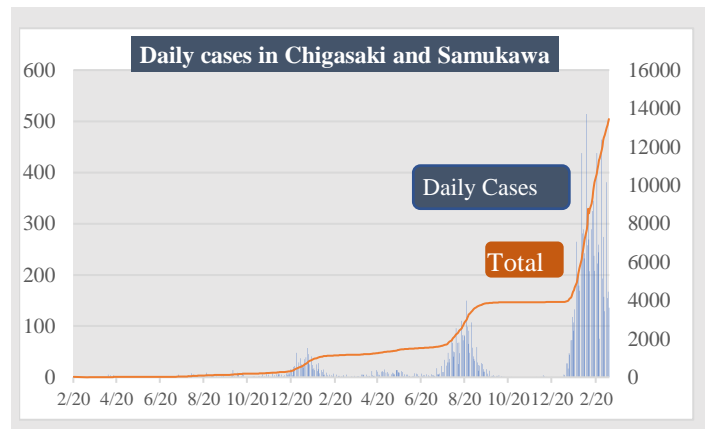
The graph at the lower right indicates the 6th wave of coronavirus infections seems to have passed its peak in Chigasaki. Over the last two years, about 13,500 citizens, 4.6% of people taken care of by the Chigasaki health center, have been infected with the coronavirus, including 9,500, or 70.4% of patients, who have been infected since late January. The data shows how the Omicron variant is infectious. In the monitoring meeting of Tokyo held on March 10 (Thurs), it was reported that new Omicron variant BA.2 was rapidly replacing BA.1, which has been the major virus of the 6th wave. As BA.2 is more infectious than BA.1, specialists warned that the seventh wave could come, and recommended that people keep taking preventive measures.

As of March 13 (Sun), the percentages of residents who have received the third shot reached 70% of those of ages 65 and older, and 27.5% of all the population. (For reference: Fujisawa is at 73.3 and 28.4, Hiratsuka is at 68.6 and 32.5, and Samukawa is at 69.2 and 28.0) <https://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/docs/ga4/covid19/vaccines/results.html>

The government is going to lift Strict COVID-19 measures from Kanagawa and 17 other prefectures on March 21 (Mon, Vernal Equinox Day), and is preparing for the fourth shot now.



Mass inoculation site, 6th floor of city hall annex



## Chigasaki disposes of about 70,000 tons of waste materials annually.

The city disposed of 70,573 tons of waste materials in 2019. The amount had been gradually decreasing over the previous 7 years, but rose again in 2019. Of this, waste from households accounted for 65.1%, that from plants and shops 15.5%, and recyclable waste 19.4%. Household waste materials, 65.1% or 45,942 tons, contained 4,977 tons of incombustible waste.

As for the recycle ratio (the percentage of recyclable waste in total waste), the city's ratio was 21.8% in 2019. <https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/kankyo/gomigenryo/1003310.html>

According to other data in 2018, the highest ratio in Kanagawa was 52.5% in Kamakura. Those of neighboring municipalities were Fujisawa at 29.7%, Samukawa at 28.8%, and Hiratsuka at 25.4%. <https://graphtochart.com/japan/chigasaki-shi-rate-of-recycled-.php>

(Source: Statistics dashboard by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.)

To raise the recycle ratio, we should decrease the amount of non-recyclable waste, and/or separate recyclable materials from non-recyclable waste more earnestly.

Citizens have to pay for waste disposal from April, and are allowed to use only yellow plastic bags designated by the city.



## The 11th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Eleven years have passed since the devastating earthquake hit eastern Japan on March 11, 2011. As many as 2,519 people are still missing. The sea off Chigasaki is normally calm, but not always so. The sea sometimes gets rough. Typhoon No.19 in October 2019 leveled the cycling road in the Hishinuma district. Tsunami can come anytime.

The site below includes the tsunami hazard map and tsunami temporary evacuation sites. They are worth reading as such information will help you and your family make evacuation plans.

<https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp.e.ox.hp.transer.com/bosai/1001318/index.html>



The sea is not always calm.

## Flowers of the season

### Peach Tree

There are broadly two types of peach trees; one comes into beautiful blossoms, and the other bears juicy fruits. Peach trees were introduced into Japan from China in the Yayoi Era (the 10th century B.C. ~ 3rd century B.C.).

Fruitless peach trees produce blossoms of various colors from white to thick pink and mixtures of those colors. The branches of these peach trees with soft damask-colored blossoms about four centimeters in diameter on them are indispensable for the *Hina* festival on March 3, which is to pray for girls' growing up in good health. The day in the lunar calendar falls on April 3 in the modern solar calendar, so peach trees have not usually bloomed yet because their blooming season is from late March to the mid-April. Thus, floriculturists cultivate the type of peach in greenhouses so that the trees bloom just before the festival.



Hanamomo at Satoyama Park

We see the other kind of peach tree in fruit growers' yards, mainly in Fukushima and Yamanashi prefectures. They are in full bloom in April and offer us various kinds of delicious peaches in summer. Blossoms are used to produce liquor, and seeds are known as a kind of Chinese herbal medicine. A variety called *Hanamomo* also bears small fruits, but they are inedible. These peach trees grow up to seven meters, and produce big double white and thick pink flowers. Those flowers are so beautiful that they attract passers-by. The photo shows *Hanamomo* at Satoyama Park.

The kanji character of peach, 桃, has a meaning of 'an ample number' so it has come to symbolize prolificacy and prosperity. Peaches have been used as a motif in paintings, decorative arts, fairy tales, and many other creations. The word 桃源郷 means an imaginary place surrounded by peach blossoms.

## Kawazu cherry trees and Ume blossoms along the Koide River

Kawazu cherry trees finally came into full bloom in mid-March, about two weeks later than usual. Blessed with fine weather, many viewers walked under the cherry tree line on the western bank of the Koide River in Hagisono on the afternoon of March 14 (Mon).

About 70 trees are taken care of by the local volunteer group "Association to live with flowers". They host the Sakura Festival for two weeks from late February to early March every year, but the festival was cancelled for three years in a row.

### Ume blossoms

Ume trees were in full bloom in early March along the eastern bank of the Koide River, about one kilometer downstream from the Kawazu cherry trees (the photo at the lower left). Pink and



white blossoms stretched for about 300m. The sunny path on the bank is a walking course of residents nearby, as cars are not allowed to drive on the path.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### 1) 提灯に釣鐘

#### CHOCHIN NI TSURIGANE

**CHOCHIN** means a lantern, **NI** against, and **TSURIGANE** a temple bell.

A lantern is small and light, while a temple bell is big and heavy. The lantern and temple bell are similar in shape, but quite different in weight and size. The saying is often used to imply a couple do not match each other in any respect. For example, one is wealthy and educated, and the other is poor and uneducated. But the proverb does not imply one is better than the other. In short, the two persons are so different that it is hard to compare them. In a Kabuki play of the Edo era, a proposal to marry a man and woman who were born and bred in entirely different environments was called **CHOCHIN NI TSURIGANE**. This story is one of the origins of the proverb.

This saying is in Saikaku Oridome, a story for ordinary people in the Edo era written by Saikaku Ihara and published in 1694.

Its English equivalents are:

- Marry your match.
- Can a mouse fall in love with a cat?
- Opposites attract.

### 2) 遠くて近きは男女の仲

#### TOKUTE CHIKAKI WA DANJO NO NAKA

**TOKUTE** means far, **CHIKAKI** near, **WA** to be, **DANJO** a man and woman, **NO** of, and **NAKA** relationships.

Even though a man and woman look as if they are not in a relationship, they may get to know each other by accident, and become united in marriage before people around them notice. For example, while a young man shops at a convenience store in his neighborhood frequently, he gets interested in a kind young woman who looks after the shop, and the other way around. Then they may like each other. Other examples are: a man and woman get on the same bus to the station every morning, or they take the same lesson at college. Such encounters are quite common to young people as the beginning of **DANJO NO NAKA**. The saying is in Makuranososhi, essays written by a female writer and poet of the mid-Heian era, Seishonagon, completed by around 1001. Its English equivalents are:

- Love laughs at locksmiths.
- Man is fire, and woman tow; the devil comes and sets them in a blaze.
- Love is blind.

## History of Chigasaki

## Shimomachiya Village (2)

Bridge piers, one of the city's national assets, are preserved near the Shimomachiya Bridge on Route One over the Koide River (photo on the right). They were part of the piers of the bridge over the Sagami River. It is thought that Shigenari Inage, a vassal of Yoritomo Minamoto, constructed the bridge in 1198 as a memorial service for his diseased wife.

The word "Shimomachiya" first appeared in a document of Kumano Shrine in Wakayama written in 1470. In the document, there is the place name, "Futokoroshima Shimo-no-Machiya". According to an elderly resident, the name of the village stemmed from the local geography. He said the village was located to the east of the Sagami River, and there were houses and two teahouses, called Shimizuya and Hashimotoya, along the Tokaido until the 1920s. However, the origin of the village name still remains unclear.

A document written around 1900 says the Shojinba, Akachi and Senno Rivers run through the village. But the Shojinba River has been out of sight for years. It probably flows subterranean culverts. The Akachi River, today's Koide River, runs through west of Shimomachiya Village from north to south, and at a little downstream point from the Shimomachiya Bridge it merges with the Senno River, which comes from east, and the bigger river flows into the estuary of the Sagami River (photo on the left). Until the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred in 1923, the Koide River had run southeast from the bridge, and it merged with the Senno River under the Toriido Bridge. The floor of the estuary rose during the earthquake, which changed the flow route of the river.

The village contained about 40 houses in the 19th century. The population started increasing from around 1955, and the appearance of the village has also changed.



The remains of bridge piers



The confluence of the Koide (from left) and Senno (from above) Rivers

## Invitation to Kamakura (26) *Ogura Hyakunin Isshu*

(Bimonthly serial)



*Ogura Hyakunin Isshu* is a classic anthology of one hundred Japanese *waka* (5-7-5-7-7 syllabic units) composed by one hundred poets. They were compiled by Fujiwara no Sadaie in the Kamakura era.

Fujiwara no Sadaie, also known as Fujiwara no Teika (1162-1241), was a court noble, anthologist, calligrapher, novelist and poet. He had a keen sense of beauty and delicate sensibility, and injected freshness into the stagnant poetry circle. In the poetry contest in 1179, his poems drew attention of the retired emperor Go-Toba. Go-Toba and Teika had had a close relationship since then. However, Teika had respiratory illness and was extremely sensitive and hot-tempered, and when he got exasperated by the mockery of Masayuki Minamoto, he hit Masayuki with a candlestick.

He was almost expelled from the court but Go-Toba saved him. Go-Toba appointed Teika as one of six compilers for the “New Collection of Japanese Poetry” (*Shin Kokin Wakashu*).

Teika was opinionated when he had disagreement with Go-Toba in the task of the compilation, only to be suspended from the court. However, after the Jyokyu Rebellion between Go-Toba and the Hojo clan, Go-Toba was defeated and banished to the Oki islands. Teika could return to the court and resumed the creation and compilation of poems under emperor Go-Horikawa.

When he was 74, Utsunomiya Yoritsuna, his son’s father-in-law, was furnishing a residence with the sliding doors near Mount Ogura. He asked Teika to choose *waka* poets for the *shoji* paper in his room. Teika chose one hundred poems on his own so freely for the first time in his life. He selected 79 male and 21 female poets.

### Poem No.1

*akino ta no kariho no io no toma o arami waga koromode wa tsuyu ni nuretsutsu*

by Emperor Tenchi

(In autumn paddies under the temporary dwelling made of rushes, my sleeves are wet with the dew)



## The remnants of Kagetoki Kajiwara’s mansion

The Kajiwara family branched off from a Kamakura-based clan of warrior families. Kagetoki Kajiwara and his lord, Kagechika Oba, defeated Yoritomo Minamoto at the battle of Ishibashi Yama in today’s Odawara in 1180, which was the first battle for Yoritomo as a leader. While he and a few followers were running away, Kagetoki found the party in a cave, but he turned a blind eye to them. Yoritomo never forgot the favor. When he obtained great power later, Kagetoki became a follower of Yoritomo, and he went on to be one of the thirteen lords of the Kamakura shogunate.



Kagetoki, owned by Magome Manpukuji



Shidou Nakamura from NHK

(In NHK’s historical drama “The 13 Lords of the Shogun”, Kagetoki is played by Kabuki actor Shidou Nakamura.)

Kagetoki’s Samukawa residence was located in Ichinomiya Samukawa on the former Oyama highway, about 0.65 km as the crow flies from the south entrance of JR Samukawa Station. Most of the buildings of the residence have disappeared. It is supposed that Tenman Gu (the photo at the lower right) was built at the site of a watchtower later. The residence had inner and outer moats, walls made of mud, a riding ground and a small shrine housing the Healing Buddha. The ground was several times wider than the remnants.

Kagetoki was a good *tanka* poet as well as a warrior of foresight. His poems were selected for *Buke Hyakunin Isshu*. He did not get along with Yoshitsune Minamoto, a younger brother of Yoritomo and a genius tactician, and he caused a rift between the brothers. After Yoritomo died, he aroused other vassals’ envy, and

was forced to retreat from Kamakura to Samukawa.

In February 1200, he was killed with his family in Shizuoka on his way to Kyoto.



The ruins of Kagetoki’s residence



Tenman Gu

## Events in February

### Exhibition at Chigasaki City Museum of Art

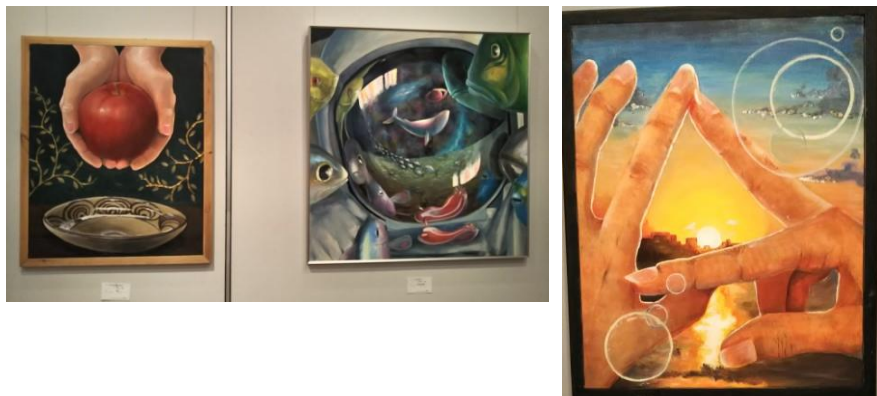
#### ●The Wonder World

Twenty-four strange pictures in the collection of the museum are now on display. These were drawn by 12 artists. The explanation for each picture helps visitors feel how these pictures are strange. But it was not easy for the reporter to accept these comments. It will be good to spend time thinking until you get a clue to understand them. The exhibition will continue to Mar. 21 (Mon).

Entrance fee (yen) : Adult 200, Uni. Student 100, Citizen aged 65 and older 100, High school student and younger Free, and handicapped person and attendant also Free.



#### ●Art Spirit



Pictures drawn by the students of six high schools in Chigasaki and Samukawa were exhibited from Feb. 12 (Sat) to the 27th (Sun). Most of the pictures were bright, and objects were drawn clearly, especially when visitors compared them with the strange pictures by accomplished artists described above.

Some of them were like pastel drawings, and relaxed visitors a lot.

## Events in March

### Citizen Gallery Admission Free

The 27th Portrait exhibition by Chigasaki Art Association: March 22 (Tues) 14:00 ~17:00, the 23rd (Wed) to the 26th (Sat) 10:00~ 18:00, the 27th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

### Civic Hall exhibition room on the 1st Floor Admission free

The 17th Sansaiten by Group Sansai: March 16 (Wed) 13:00 ~17:00, the 17th (Thu) to the 19th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 20th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 5th Shonan Calligraphy Group exhibition: March 24 (Thu) 14:00 ~ 17:00, the 25th (Fri) and 26th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 27th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!