

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

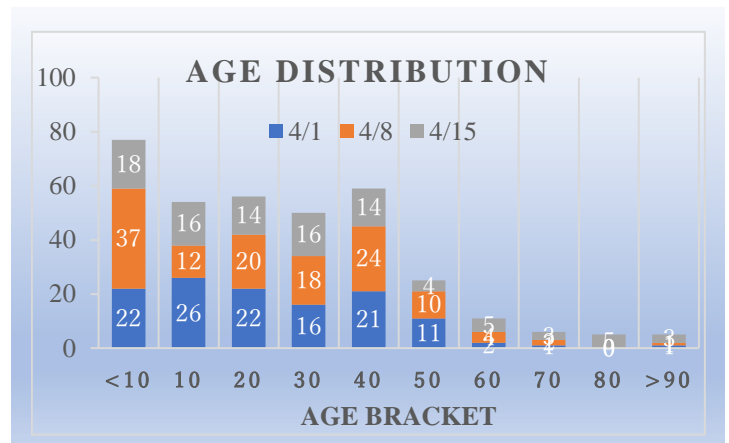
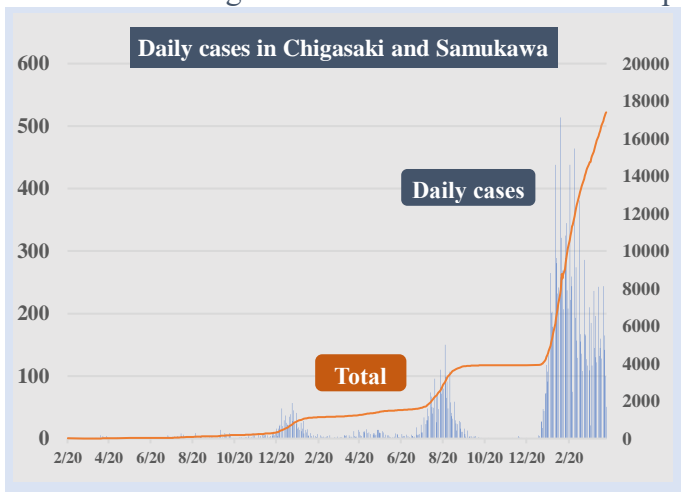
茅ヶ崎 ^{ウェーブ} 波 倶楽部

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

Is the onset of a 7th wave nearing?

The government lifted Strict COVID-19 measures from Kanagawa and other prefectures on March 21 (Mon). However, the graph on the lower left shows that before the 6th wave had subsided sufficiently, daily cases had already started increasing in number from mid-March. This suggests that the shoulder may have something to do with the new more infectious variant, Omicron BA.2, which has been replacing BA.1 swiftly.

The graph on the lower right shows the age distribution of new cases on three Fridays in April. As can be seen, most patients were 40 years of age and younger. This is attributable to their active life styles. Another reason may be lower inoculation rates of these generations. According to the city website, the third shot had been administered to about 81.2% of citizens of 65 and older by April 3. The rate is equivalent to 41.6% of the total population. Based on these figures, the inoculation rate of the citizens younger than 64 is assumed to be lower than 30%, which coincides with the government data on the third shot percentages: people in their 30s at 26%, and those in their 20s at 24%. (Source: City HP)



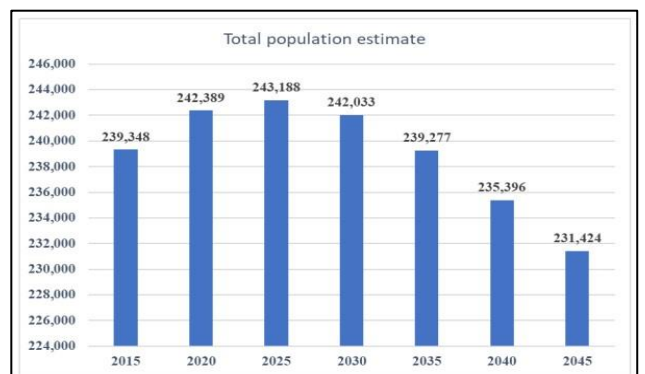
Future population of the city

In the last 40 years, the number of households has increased from 52,000 to 102,532, while the average number of people per household has decreased from 3.3 to 2.4. This phenomenon is consistent with the trend observed around the world. That is, the number of large households has been decreasing, and those of small and single households have been constituting large percentages.

According to the future population estimates based on the reference year of 2020, the city's total population is expected to reach about 243,000 in 2025, and then it will begin to drop. The populations of three age groups in 2045 will be:

- * The working-age population (15 to 64) is expected to decrease to about 114,600 by 2045, from 145,700 in 2020. The age bracket will account for 49.5% of the total population by 2045, a 11% drop from 60.1% in 2020.
- * The aging population (older than 64) will increase to 90,800 (36.8%) from 65,400 (27.0%) in 2020.
- * The child population (younger than 15) will slightly decrease to 26,080 (11.3%) from 31,320 (12.9%) in 2020.

Source: City HP



Flowers of the season Chinese milk vetch

After the cherry blossom season, rice fields used to be covered with Chinese milk vetch. Once the pink flower carpets were a common spring scenery signaling that rice farmers would soon begin to cultivate the fields. They sowed the fields with the grass seeds after they harvested rice in autumn, and the flowers bloomed the next spring. Chinese milk vetch is a leguminous plant, and has a symbiotic relationship with root nodule bacteria. The bacteria fix nitrogen gas in the air to form ammonia, which fertilizes the soil. In addition, the flower carpets prevent weeds from overrunning the fields. But now these charming sights have mostly vanished because the so-called green manure has given way to chemical fertilizers.



The flower looks like a single-flower consisting of several small flowers each of which radiates outward. Each flower is white near the stalk and deep pink near the tip. The aggregate of flowers with many tones of pink fascinates people. The nectar bees gather from Chinese milk vetch turns into simple and mild honey.

Its scientific name 'Astragalus sinicus' shows that the grass is native to China. It is said the Japanese name 'Renge' is derived from lotus flowers because Chinese milk vetch flowers remind us of those of lotus.

The fields covered with Chinese milk vetch were wonderful play grounds for children because no matter how much children trampled the flowers, the grass would be forked in before rice planting.

History of Chigasaki

Imajuku Village (1)

Place names involving the word "宿(Shuku or Juku)" are found everywhere. The kanji character means important traffic positions in which lodging facilities were located. Such places having long history were called 本宿(Honjuku), and places with rising importance were called 新宿(Shinjuku) or 今宿(Imajuku). The name of Imajuku Village of Chigasaki first appeared in an inscription on the temple gong made in 1624, of Shinryuji Temple. There was not a post station in the village in those days, but it was on the Tokaido, and the starting place of Hachioji michi, today's city route 0114, which goes north from the eastern part of the village. Thus, the place was an important traffic position. This may have been the reason why the village was named Imajuku.

新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) says there were 32 households, and a topography called "Kokoku chishi" (literally means the topography edited by the Meiji government) says that as neighboring Nakajima



Temple gong



Starting point of Hachioji michi



Shinryuji Temple

Village was called Honjuku, the village was renamed Imajuku, and there were 49 houses. The village used to be on the sandbank surrounded by the Old-Sagami River, according to 風土記稿, though such scenery has disappeared.

The boundary of the village was quite complicated. Imajuku Village bordered six villages: Hagisono to the north, Hamanogo, Shimomachiya, and Matsuo to the east with the Old Koide River running along the border, and Nakajima to the west and south. The village also touched Suka Village of Hiratsuka.

Kokoku chishi says the soil fertility of the village was ranked average, and suited for growing rice, millets, wheat, beans and radishes. However, farmers were worried about water supply all the time, as drought as well as floods of the Sagami and Koide Rivers tormented them. Some places of the village, such as 生花田(Shyogata), 大田島(Otajima), 上大田島(Kami-otajima), 下ノ川(Shimonokawa), 北ノ窪(Kitanokubo), 上北ノ窪(Kami-kitanokubo), 小中島(Ko-nakajima), 北河原(Kitagawara), and 向河原(Mukougawara), have 田(ta), 島(shima), 川(kawa), 窪(kubo), and 河原(kawara) in their names. This indicates Imajuku Village developed on the low riverbed. The frequent floods and a task to help laborers carry travelers across the rivers made villagers lead hard lives.

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 高木風に折らる

KOBOKU KAZE NI ORARU

KOBOKU means a tall tree, **KAZE** a wind, **NI** by, and **ORARU** to be broken

Tall trees are more often blown down than small ones by the wind. Likewise, people with high social status are envied, exposed to criticism. They have to pay the price of fame. And some of them ruin themselves.

When you achieve fame as a business person, people around you will celebrate. But there are also people who wish you harm. Try harder and behave well all the time.

This saying is in 伊賀越道中双六, or Igagoe-dotyusugoroku, one of the popular kabuki plays. The story is about revenge. It was first played in 1783.

Its English equivalents are:

- High cedars fall when low shrubs remain.
- High place, great danger.
- Tall trees catch much wind.

2) 待てば海路の日和あり

MATEBA KAIRONO HIYORI ARI

MATEBA means while you are waiting, **KAIRO** a sea route, **NO** for, **HIYORI** good weather, and **ARI** to come

When the sea is rough, you should never be impatient to sail the ship. While you are waiting, fair weather will come. Even when the economy is in a low ebb, if you can bear the unpleasant situation, sooner or later good luck will come to you.

No one will dispute the importance of waiting. It is also said that patience is the key to everything. And do not miss the best chance. But easier said than done.

This saying is in *Kefukigusa*, a collection of funny stories published in 1645.

Its English equivalents are:

- After a storm comes a calm.
- There is luck in leisure.
- All things come to those who wait.

Cherry Blossoms Viewing Spots



Gorobei Community Park



On the Koide River Bank



Remnants of Sagami River Bridge Girders



Ichinomiya Park in Samukawa

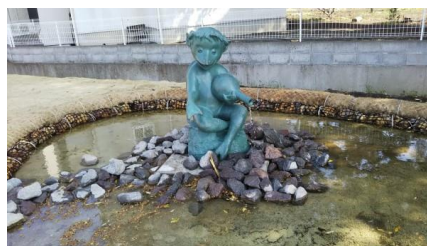
See "Pictures of the Month" for Other Blossoms sites



Tokkuri Hiroba is open to public

A new park called *Tokkuri Hiroba* was completed, and was opened to the public in late March. The park is located at the foot of the Omagari Bridge over the Koide River. A gently sloped open space leads to the eastern bank of the river. The central area is paved with small stones, and walks and the lawn surround the area. In the bower, two mothers were looking after their children. Near the entrance, there is a pond with a statue of a *kappa*, or a water sprite, holding a *tokkuri*, or a sake bottle, from which water was flowing out.

The park was named after the Nishikubo area's folklore "*Kappa Dokkuri*". It says: One day while Gorobei was washing his packhorse in the Koide River, a *kappa* suddenly bit the buttocks of the horse. The *kappa* was caught by villagers, but Gorobei persuaded them to set the *kappa* free. To thank him, the *kappa* gave him a *tokkuri*, saying, "This magic *tokkuri* will give you *sake* no matter how much you want. But if you tap the bottom three times in a row, *sake* will never come out." He had since drunk it all the time, and become indolent. He even forgot to feed his beloved horse. After a while he noticed the horse looking emaciated. He regretted having been indolent, and tapped the bottom three times. Then he returned to a hard worker.



The Ohba family developed and controlled areas around Chigasaki and Fujisawa in the latter half of the Heian era (794-1185). In 1156, the brothers of Ohba, Kageyoshi and Kagechika, participated in the Hogen Rebellion, a series of civil wars between the Heike clan and the Genji clan, on the side of the Genji led by Minamoto no Yoshitomo. Three years later, the Heike defeated the Genji in the Hogen Rebellion. He was killed and his third son, Yoritomo, was deported to Izu.

In the battle of Ishibashiyama on August 23rd, 1180, Kageyoshi joined in the troop of the Genji led by Yoritomo, while Kagechika, supported the Heike as the commander-in-chief. The Genji was defeated, and Yoritomo ran away to Awa, the southern part of Chiba prefecture, but later, managed to move to Kamakura to set up his base in October, 1180.

Kageyoshi continued to support Yoritomo, such as building his palace and helping his transfer of the Tsurugaoka-Hachimangu-Shrine in Kamakura on October 12th, 1180.

He gained trust from Yoritomo, and was given areas around Futokorojima, (around Enzo, Hamanogo, Yabata, Nishikubo) which were called Ohba-mikuriya. On the other hand, Kagechika was caught and decapitated near the bank of the Katase River on October 26th, 1180.

He took over Kagechika's land, and built his mansion in Futokorojima. He reconstructed the Tsurumine-Hachimangu-Shrine under the support of Yoritomo in 1191. At the Shinmei-Shrine, Yoritomo stayed there when he headed to Kyoto in 1190. At Goryo-Shrine, Kageyoshi enshrined his ancestors and Yoshitsune, Yoritomo's brother, to console his spirit.



Tsurumine Shrine



Shinmei Shrine



Goryo Shrine

This is because Yoritomo died in January 1199 due to the injuries he suffered a half month before. Local folklore says his horse was frightened by the ghost of Yoshitsune on the bridge over the Sagami River, and he fell into the river.

Honjya-ga-oka, a place related to the Genji clan

Yorinobu Minamoto, his son Yoriyoshi, and their forces stopped at a grassy mound in today's Yabata in 1031 on their way to Chiba from western Japan. They had been instructed by the imperial court to suppress a revolt instigated by Tadatsune Taira, who exercised his power in southern Ibaraki, Eastern Saitama and the entire Chiba. Yorinobu established Honjya Gu as a branch shrine of Iwashimizu Hachiman in Kyoto, the guardian deity of the Genji clan, on the grassy mound near a path, which was called the Kamakura highway later, and prayed for a victory. He soon brought the troubled area under control.

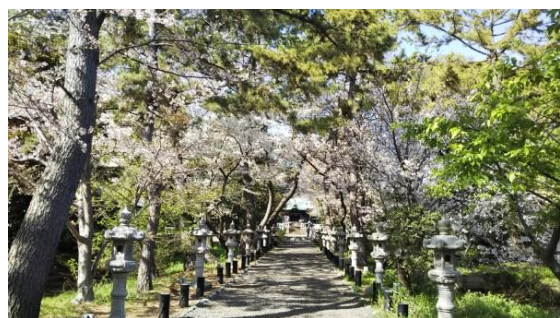
Later in 1055, Yoriyoshi Minamoto and his son Yoshiie stopped at the mound again on their way to northern Japan. Their task was to defeat the rebellious Abe family, which ruled Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate, and Aomori. The war, Zen Kunen no Eki (the Former Nine Years' War), ended in the victory of Yoriyoshi in 1062. The next year, he expressed his appreciation for the victory by establishing Moto Hachiman, now Tsurugaoka Hachiman Gu, in Kamakura as a branch shrine of the Honjya Gu.



Honjya-ga-oka

Twenty years later, Yoshiie Minamoto was dispatched to northern Japan again in 1083. After four years of war (the Later Three Years' War), he put down the rebellion caused by the Kiyohira family. Yoshiie established Tsurumine Hachiman Gu in Hamanogo, on the west of Yabata, by moving the deity of Honjya Gu there. The shrine left on the mound was worshiped as the village shrine of Yabata. The shrine was moved 400m to the north around 1830, and the mound is called Honjya-ga-oka today.

Since the time of Yorinobu Minamoto (968 - 1048), the Genji clan had kept deep relations with powerful families of Kanto, and this armed group enabled Yoritomo (1147 - 1199), the 7th descendant of



Tsurumine Shrine

Yorinobu, to establish the Kamakura shogunate in 1192.

Events in March and early April

Kakkeko Challenge 2021 in Chigasaki Yanagishima Sports Park

On March 13 (Sun), 100m and 50m running races were held at Yanagishima Sports Park. Children and their parents, and young adults gathered and participated in 100m running in the morning, and 50m running in the afternoon. The event was scheduled for September 2021, but was postponed until March 13 due to the spread of the coronavirus infections. The running event was held simultaneously at several sites across the nation, and the time and ranking among all the participants would be given to each runner.



The 9th Won-Nyan Marche

Chuo Koen was crowded with people on March 27 (Sun) for the first time in two years. They were mostly pet lovers, and visited a charity event to raise money for animal protection groups. The groups participating in the event have worked hard to save cats and dogs, aiming to realize zero killing.

A lot of visitors looked at cages to find their favorite cats or dogs. Craft shops displayed various trinkets related to animals. At a corner, singers performed their original songs. And many food trucks served foods which were familiar at event venues.



The 5th Shonan shokai ten

The calligraphy exhibition by the Shonan shokai association, was held at the Civic Hall from March 24 (Thu) to the 27th (Sun). Nearly 100 works were exhibited; 88 by association members and 9 by senior members of Fujisawa, Chigasaki and Samukawa municipalities.

Only visitors' talks in low voices were heard in the tranquil space. Well-balanced Chinese characters and *hiragana* written vertically are beautiful. Just as colorful pictures and photos refresh us, so white and black calligraphy works calm us down.

Cherry blossoms lit up

Cherry blossoms in Samukawa chuo koen were illuminated with multi color LED lights on the evening of April 2. A few lamps were placed under each tree. From 18:00 to 19:00, trees were gradually turned into yellow, pink, blue, red, and green in the dusk. Visitors were deeply impressed by the fantastic scenery, and voices of admiration were heard from everywhere. The light up event was also scheduled for April 3, but was cancelled due to cold rain and winds.



Events in April and early May

Picture exhibition at Hasegawa Book Shop

Pictures of the picture book “Ant truck” have been exhibited on the 2nd floor of Hasegawa Book Shop in the N’EST-CE PAS Chigasaki. The author is Junko Oi, who lives in Chigasaki. Ants are busily working in their nest. Ants’ bodies, their nests, tunnels and other objects are all drawn with gentle curves, which may be why these pictures give a mild image to people. Reading the book, children may imagine what is happening in the underground world. The exhibition will be held until April 30 (Sat).



Citizen Gallery Admission Free

The 13th Exhibition of landscape photos by Nature Photo Chigasaki: April 12 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 16:00, the 13th (Wed) to the 16th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 17th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The photo exhibition by Photo Club Syarakusai: April 19 (Tue) 11:30 ~ 17:00, the 20th (Wed) to the 23rd (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00, the 24th (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00

The Exhibition of dyed goods “Weaving for 60 years” by Eiko Kato: May 4 (Wed) to the 7th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The picture exhibition by the Group Sai: May 24 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 25th (Wed) to the 28th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 29th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The exhibition titled “The sparkle of the Classical European Arts” is now underway.

Admission fee (yen): Adult 800, Unis. Student 600, Citizen of 65 and older 400, High Schooler and younger, and Disabled person and their care taker free.

The exhibition will be held until June 5 (Sun)



(City Museum HP)

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!