

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 ^{ウエーブ} 波 倶楽部

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

The last year of the coronavirus pandemic?

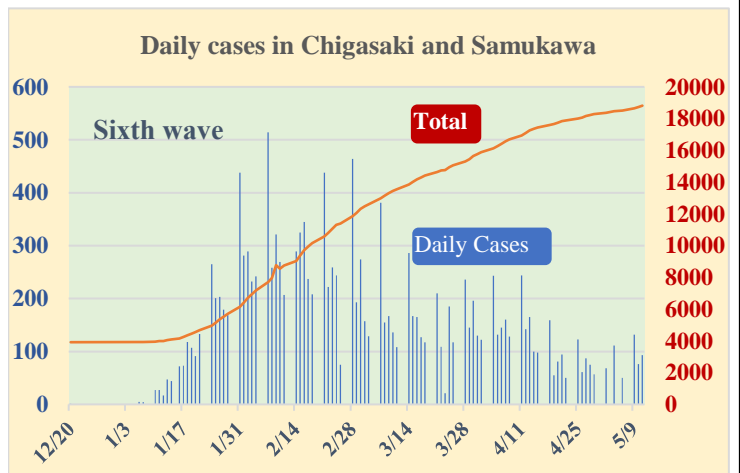
The sixth wave of the corona pandemic is subsiding, but daily cases started increasing again in late April. See the figure on the lower right. In fact, the figures in Tokyo and Kanagawa were larger in early May than in late April. However, medical experts consider the resurgence not a sign of another large wave but a tiny fluctuation.

Chigasaki City is to start the fourth inoculation for citizens ages 60 and older as well as 18 and older with underlying diseases by late May. Vaccination tickets will be sent to those who received the third shot more than five months earlier. The vaccine offered will be the product of either the Pfizer or Moderna companies, irrespective of which vaccine has been received previously.

Spanish influenza, which spread around the world 100 years ago from 1918 through 1920, took three years to subside. During those three years, three waves assaulted the world, and more than 50 million died, eight times the number of the victims of COVID-19. No matter how many people died a century ago, the pandemic was gone in the third year.

Not a few doctors say we do not have to wear a mask all the time, especially, in summer, as the risk of heatstroke will increase. When we can keep a safe distance (about 6 feet) from others, they say a mask is not necessary. Three years into the coronavirus pandemic, people have been used to living with corona. Annual events have gradually been resumed. The beach will be opened for the first time in three years. Is the post-corona era nearing?

(Data Source: City HP)



Are more visitors expected this year?

Turnouts at places of scenic beauty and historic interest in Kanagawa during Golden Week returned to almost the 2019 level. People enjoyed the holidays without behavioral regulations for the first time in three years.

According to the prefecture's latest statistics on the numbers of visitors in 2020, the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, the whole of Shonan area experienced a huge drop of 47% from 2019. This is because of the government's stay-home policy and municipalities' cancellation of most annual events. The declines of Chigasaki and neighboring cities were as follows: Chigasaki ▲30%, Fujisawa ▲40%, Kamakura ▲61%, and Hiratsuka ▲49%. As for Chigasaki, the beach was closed, and all the major events, including Oka Echizen Festival and Hamaori Festival, were cancelled in 2020 (and 2021).

This year, the beach will be opened on July 2 (Sat). The city is expected to have more visitors.



Chigasaki Beach on May 4 (Wed)

Table: Number of visitors to Chigasaki in 2019 and 2020

	2020	2019	▲%
Total visitors	1,815,283	2,573,673	29.5
Day trip	1,754,157	2,495,886	29.7
Days trip	61,126	77,787	21.4
Expenditure (yen)	3,623,421	4,574,183	20.8

(Source: HPs of Prefecture and City)

Flowers of the season

Japanese Kerria

Japanese Kerria is commonly seen on low-mountain and hilly areas throughout the Japanese archipelago. Slim whippy branches of the deciduous shrub have many deep yellow color blossoms with 30 to 40 millimeters in diameter in April and May. The color is well-known among Japanese people as *Yamabuki-iro*, which refers to brilliant yellow inclining to orange. The blossom has two types; one is single and the other is double. The single blossom has five petals, many stamens and eight pistils. Meanwhile, the double blossom has no stamens or pistils which turned into petals so the double blossom does not bear a fruit. The fact was made famous by a poem written by *Dokan Ohota* (1432 to 1486), who is known as a warlord as well as a scholar in the *Muromachi Era* and a builder of Edo Castle.

The beautiful yellow blossoms have been appreciated since ancient times, and appeared in a poem in *Manyoshu*, or the Anthology of Myriad Leaves. The oldest collection in Japan was compiled in the late eighth century AD.

The trunk of Japanese Kerria has the white-colored pith which is like a sponge. Children made use of it as the bullets of pop guns which was made of Simon-cane bamboo. The tree native to Japan grows easily in sunny places and semi-shady areas with moisture in the soil, and people can enjoy blossoms every year.

By the way, there is a tree called white-colored Kerria, which resembles Japanese Kerria in the single flower shape and the tree's figure, but it has an opposite leaf arrangement instead of spiral phyllotaxis, and thus is classified as a different plant.



Summer outing season is just around the corner

On May 4 (Wed), the middle day of Golden Week, there were a lot of people, perhaps more than last year, on the beach. Sounds of waves, winds, and visitors' voices combined to create the noise peculiar to a bathing beach. Many were sunbathing, and some were strolling. Several groups had parties. As usual, local surfers formed a line parallel to the seashore, trying to catch waves. A middle-aged man in a wetsuit said the waves on that day were not the best for him probably because of the unsuitable wind for surfing, and went home around noon by bicycle.

A few cars had to wait before entering the parking lot in front of the gate. Restaurants of the hotel on the beach was almost full. Visitors were waiting in front of fresh-fish restaurants on and near Route 134.

This year, the beach will be open for the first time in three years. Usual summer is expected to come.



On May 5 (Thurs, Children's Day), many young families, and some three-generation families were refreshing at Satoyama Park, in northern Chigasaki. There were more people than last year, but still less than usual. In the multi-purpose square, children and their parents were playing catch, badminton, and other sports.

More people were in the amusement area. Children and adults together played on a long slide. Quite a few families put up tents under the trees, and enjoyed parties, lunch, or just resting.

At the barbecue garden located in the north of the park, 70 to 80% of its sections were occupied.

In the sky above Serizawa, a large kite was seen, which is one of the seasonal things of Kanagawa.



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 内弁慶

UCHI-BENKEI

UCHI means at home, and **BENKEI** an actual sturdy warrior-priest.

Uchi-Benkei means a bold person at home, but a coward outside. People dislike such a person, but not everybody is spiritually tough. Some people tend to take their spite out on their families. They merely need outlets for complaint. Benkei was the number one follower of

Yoshitsune Minamoto's. See the picture on the right. To protect his lord, Benkei fought hard against the enemy force, and died standing.



This saying is in 浮世風呂, or Ukiyoburo, meaning a public bath, a series of funny stories about ordinary people's behaviors and communications in public baths, written by the famous writer Shikitei Sanba in the 1890s.

Its English equivalents are:

- Every dog is a lion at home.
- Invincible in peace, invisible in war
- Every cock is proud on his own dunghill.

2) 蒔かぬ種は生えぬ

MAKANU TANE WA HAENU

MAKANU means not to sow seeds, **TANE** seeds, **WA** are, and **HAENU** not to grow

Unless you sow seeds, you can hardly grow grain, let alone harvest it. Likewise, unless you make an effort and prepare, you can never get good results. If Madame Curie had not continued experimentation stubbornly, radium would not have been discovered. You do not have to make an effort to buy Dream Jumbo lottery tickets, but you can never win 500 million yen unless you buy the tickets. However, when the seeds have invited bad results, you have to take care of them yourself. An English proverb says "As you sow, so shall you reap." A cause and result are one set, for better or worse.

This saying is in 上方いろはかるた, or Japanese playing card, used in the Kyoto area, called Kamigata Iroha Karuta.

Its English equivalents are:

- Harvest follows seedtime.
- Nothing comes of nothing.
- Never shoot, never hit.

History of Chigasaki

Imajuku Village (2)

新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) describes as follows: the Old Sagami River is also called the Ikada River, and there is a place in the village where the river looks like a pond. The quasi-pond is called Old Pond whose size is 54m wide and 90m long. The river passes beneath the 12m-long Imajuku Bridge, on which the Tokaido runs.

Later, Old Pond was named *Ikadama*, or a raft berth, as rafts coming down from the upper stream stayed there. Today the Old Sagami River runs through an underground channel, and the vacant lot near the intersection of Route one and Industry Road, retains the trace of *Ikadama*.

皇国地誌 (the topography edited by the Meiji government) says that the first bridge over the Sagami River was constructed near *Ikadama* between 1190 and 1199, and that floods in 1718 dug out several bridge girders made of camphor tree, and they were sent to the Tokugawa shogunate. To the east of the site, near the Shimomachiya Bridge on Route one, the girders of the bridge over the Sagami River are preserved. This bridge was constructed in the same period as the above-mentioned one. The remains, made of Japanese cypress, appeared in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. Since the Edo period, wooden girders standing in the village have been considered the products of the Kamakura period.

The village shrine, Matsuo Okami, can be found on the Hachioji Road in the Dai section of the village. The shrine was called Sannosha in the Edo period, and in the early Meiji period, there was an elementary school called Dai School near the shrine.



The vacant lot near the intersection



Jyokokuji Temple

Temple. The area is called Tou-no-ato, and the east of the cemetery is called Tou-no-yoko. The pagoda is so conspicuous that it was used as place names, but its origin is not known as no word is inscribed on it.

There were three temples of the Nichiren sect aligned along the Tokaido: Jyokokuji, Bukokuji and Shinryuji Temples from east. Bukokuji Temple disappeared in the early Meiji period. According to 風土記稿, Bukokuji and Shinryuji Temples were built by branch families of the Takeda family of Koshu, today's Yamanashi prefecture, to console the family members' souls. The seated statues of Nichiren in Jyokokuji and Shinryuji Temples are the city's important cultural assets. (As for Shinryuji Temple, see CW67) There is a pagoda which was built in mid-1400 in the cemetery to the north of Shinryuji

Invitation to Kamakura (27) *Tsurezuregusa*

(Bimonthly serial)

Tsurezuregusa is a collection of essays written by the Japanese monk Kenko Yoshida between 1330 and 1332. This is considered one of the three representative essays of Japan, along with the *Pillow Book* and *Hojoki*.

In the turbulent Kamakura era, when the imperial succession conflict raged, he started to serve the Imperial Court at the age of twenty. He devoted himself greatly to Emperor Go-Nijou. However, after the emperor died, he retired from the world at the age of thirty and lived in solitude until death visited him in 1350. Indeed, he lived the life of a recluse, but he never lost the passions and desires of this world.

The title of this book is derived from the opening word of the text, *Tsurezure* (=leisure) *narumamani* (=as it is), meaning that he is leisurely jotting down his reflections on things around him and the thoughts on his mind.

Most Japanese people read some parts from this book in high school as one of the great classic works, but you would have thought it was highly stiff and formal. However, Kenko was not only versatile and sensible, but also humorous and down-to-earth. Let's take a look at a funny but not funny story.

Section 53: At the party to celebrate a boy who is ready to be a monk, almost all the monks became intoxicated. The boy became too excited, seized a three-legged pot, put it on his head, forced it down over his face, and jokingly began to dance. The party was successful. However, when the music was over, the boy found he could not pull the pot off. Although monks tried many things, nothing worked. At last, somebody said, "If his nose and ears are sacrificed, his life at least may be saved. Saved from the brink of death, the boy was an invalid for a long time after that.



Kyoto-Kamakura Highway related to NHK's drama "The 13 Lords of Shogun"

The Kamakura Shogunate improved several major roads linking local areas and Kamakura, which were collectively called Kamakura Highways. Of the six highways described in Azumakagami, Kyoto-Kamakura Highway, which ran through Chigasaki, was the most important.

The highway passed the city from east to west just north of Route one and ran parallel with it. Starting at Gokurakuji-guchi of Kamakura, the highway passed through Katase and Tsujido, then curved north by the west side of today's JR Tsujido Station to enter Chigasaki. The highway continued north along the border between Akamatsu-cho and Honjuku-cho, crossed Route one at the Higashi-kowada crossroads, then turned left, and went west behind Jyoshyo Temple. The temple, established in the Kamakura era, owns a plate, on which is carved the year 1343. See the picture on the right.



Kyoto-Kamakura Highway

The highway went westward, passing in front of Shyorin Junior High School and the rear of Chigasaki High School, Kaizenji Temple and Hachioji Shrine of Honson, and then crossed the JR Sagami Line. As the district in which Chuo Koen, the Civic Hall and City Hall are located has largely been developed, it is hard to trace the ancient road in this central district. The highway subsequently passed the approach to Tsurumine Hachiman-sha, and then crossed Route one at the side of Baiun Temple before reaching the [remnants of bridge piles](#), a national historic site and also a natural monument. It is said the bridge, that spanned Sagami River, was constructed by one of Yoritomo Minamoto's vassals, Saburo Shigenari Inari, in 1198.



Kyoto-Kamakura Highway near Honjya-ga-oka

According to folklore, Yoritomo attended the completion of the bridge, and on his way back to Kamakura he fell off his horse. Yoritomo, his wife Masako and many high-ranking vassals must have frequently gone along this highway. The highway went further west, passing by Hie Shrine and Jyorin Temple of Nakajima, and entered Osumi-Gun near the current Banyu Bridge. In 1993, Kyoto-Kamakura Highway, together with two other Kamakura Highways - Naka-no-michi and Shimo-no-michi - was selected for the fifty ancient roads in Kanagawa. (Original articles are in CW5 and CW6, and as for Honjya-ga-oka, see CW67)

Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage Booklet 1

Events in April and May

The 13th exhibition of landscape photos by Nature Photo Chigasaki

The scenic photo exhibition was held at the Citizen Gallery, on the fourth floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki, from April 12 (Tues) to the 17th (Sun). All of the seventy-four photos were of mountains, lakes, beaches and other places of scenic beauty. Every photo was strongly colored and light and shade was emphasized. Many of the group members belong to alpine clubs, and several photos were taken near the summits or on ridges, suggesting only climbers could take such photos.

These places would beckon to visitors, saying how about getting close to nature once in a while. And some would remind them of mountaineering memories.



Station Piano

Pianists ranging from school children to elderly people enjoyed playing the piano placed by the Luska entrance near the ticket gate of Chigasaki Station on March 22 (Fri) and 23 (Sat). The piano was presented to Koide Elementary School 70 years ago by residents of the district. The piano had since played an important role in music education, festivals and many other events at the school. Time passed, and the piano came to develop trouble frequently. Around 1976, it was replaced with a new one, and had been forgotten. When the old warehouse was demolished, the piano was found there. Teachers were reluctant to dispose of the old piano which was a heartfelt gift from Koide residents. In 2018, the piano was repaired completely with the money raised by residents, a volunteer group in Koide, teachers and parents. This event was planned by Machi-jikara-group. On the two days, a line of about 20 waiting people was never lessened.



Painting exhibition entitled “Sparkling European classical arts” at the City Museum of Art

Classical European arts were drawn about 500 years ago. The sparkling of those works still attract modern people. This exhibition focuses on how they were drawn and why they are so heavenly. The reproduced works by modern Japanese artists have been displayed with explanation panels which show techniques used for original and for reproduction paintings. In addition, pigments and tools have been displayed.

Did European people who lived around the 15th century frequently see these kinds of pictures? They must have felt closer to heaven than we do.

Entrance fee (yen): Adult 800, Uni. Student 600, Citizens of ages 65 and older 400, High schoolers and younger, disabled person and their care taker free. The exhibition will be held until June 5 (Sun).



Events in May and June

Aloha Market

Aloha market is going to be held on May 14 (Sat) and 15 (Sun) in the area of Chigasaki Baseball Park and Umikaze Terrace for the first time in three years.

About 60 tents will sell foods, aloha shirts and other Hawaiian specialties. On the stage of Umikaze Terrace, many groups will perform hula dances. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.



Citizen Gallery on the fourth floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki

Group Sai Painting exhibition by 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

Photo exhibition entitled "My ocean, beloved flowers, and healing scenery" by Taichi Kameya: May 31 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, June 1 (Wed) to the 4th (Sat) 9:30 ~ 17:00, the 5th (Sun) 9:30 ~ 16:30

"A" drawing exhibition by "A": June 16 (Thurs) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 17th (Fri) and the 18th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 19th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Watercolor exhibition by Nichiyo-kai: the 21st (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 22nd (Wed) to the 26th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The 34th Bonsai Exhibition by Chigasaki Bon-yu Kai (Bonsai Friendship Association)

The exhibition will be held at the Civic Hall B exhibition room, on June 5 (Sun) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 6th (Mon) 9:00 ~ 17:00, and the 7th (Tue) 9:00 ~ 16:00. Admission Free.



Chigasaki Wind Symphony regular concert



The Chigasaki-based wind symphony will hold its regular concert at the large hall of the Civic Hall on June 12 (Sunday) at 13:30. Admission Free.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!