

# Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 <sup>ウェーブ</sup> 波 倶楽部

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

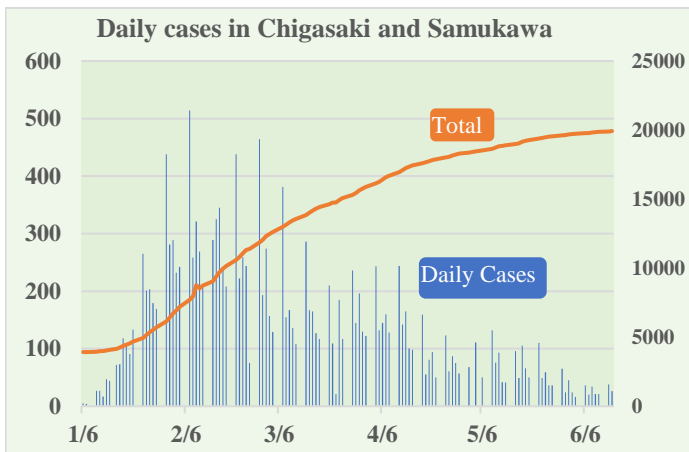
## COVID-19 subsiding, Society returning to normal.

The sixth wave has not finished yet, but the number of daily cases is going down. Another wave is unlikely to come this summer, say medical experts. Many events have been conducted for the first time in three years. More people without masks are on the streets. It is as if COVID-19 has finished. An infectious disease specialist, however, warned that the infections curve would be flat for a while, but an explosion of infections could occur any time, so we should receive the booster dose, and continue to take care of ourselves.

The city sent the first batch of vaccination vouchers at the end of May to citizens aged 60 and older, and those with compromised immune systems. The vouchers will be sent to all citizens who are in the two categories by early August. Inoculation sites will be Community Hall, on the 6th floor of the City Hall annex (the mass vaccination site), and hospitals.

The US Food and Drug Administration thinks that the omicron strain will mutate periodically until next year. However, the toxicity of new omicron variants will be similar to current ones. In the long run, the original omicron strain and its variants may reduce or lose toxicity as viruses in the past have. Nevertheless, it is unclear how pathogenic the next virus will be, nor when it will appear.

A university professor says it is necessary to keep observing patients and the toxicity of new variants as they appear. And take flexible measures. (Source: City HP)



## Of all the City Halls in Kanagawa, the percentage of female managers is highest in Chigasaki.

Statistics of Kanagawa Prefecture in 2017, the latest to be released so far, show that the percentage of female managers of Chigasaki City Hall was 25.6%, higher than any other city or town in Kanagawa, followed by Minami Ashigara at 19.5% and Zama at 19.2%. As for neighboring cities, the rates per 100 managers were: 17.5 in Hiratsuka, 13.8 in Fujisawa, and 7.5 in Kamakura.

The percentage of female members of the city assembly was 28.6 in 2019, the 4th in the prefecture. Kamakura was 30.8, the 2nd, Hiratsuka was 17.9, and Fujisawa 13.9.

Chigasaki's gender equality levels in these two categories are higher than average in the Shonan area.

The number of parks in Chigasaki was 170 in 2016, the 11th in the prefecture. There were 305 in Fujisawa, 278 in Hiratsuka and 249 in Kamakura. However, the number of parks / 1km<sup>2</sup> was: 6.3 in Kamakura, 4.7 in Chigasaki, 4.1 in Hiratsuka and 4.0 in Fujisawa. As for city library collections in 2017, Chigasaki had about 496,000 books, Fujisawa 1,230,000, Hiratsuka 808,000, and Kamakura 554,000. The numbers of books per resident were Kamakura at 3.2, Hiratsuka at 3.1, Fujisawa at 2.9 and Chigasaki at 2.1.



Source: [https://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/documents/3150/h30\\_ran\\_kana\\_03.pdf](https://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/documents/3150/h30_ran_kana_03.pdf)

## Flowers of the Season Iris ensata

Iris ensata bear beautiful and colorful flowers in the rainy season, from May to July. Around the year 1600, several varieties growing in Tohoku areas were used to produce new varieties with better qualities, and today, there are more than 5,000 varieties all of which are garden species. The iridaceous perennial is fond of damp ground and has resistance to cold. The flower's colors are wide-ranging: blue, purple, pink, white, yellow and mixtures of them. The flowers' shapes are divided mainly into two types; one has three outstanding petals, and the other has six wide petals. In addition, there is a variety with double flowers.



Cross-breeding has actively been carried out to create new varieties since the Edo Period, and these developed varieties were classified into three groups: the Edo family, Ise family and Higo family. They were named after the areas they were developed in. In addition, Ofuna Flower Center created 300 species from 1915 to 1920. Furthermore, the varieties whose flowers have inherited a lot of features of the original species are called collectively the old Nagai family.



Japanese people have distinguished three plants having similar flowers, Iris ensata (*Shoubu*), Iris sanguinea (*Ayame*), and Iris lavigata (*Kakitsubata*) by means of the color of the petal's center near the stalk. That part of Iris ensata is yellow, and Iris laviata is white. Iris Sanguinea has cancellate lines in that part, and grows in dry soil. The flowering seasons of the three plants are almost the same.

You can see beautiful cespitose Iris ensata in Samukawa Shrine, Meigetsuin in Kamakura and Odawara Castle Park.

## Piers of a bridge over the Sagami River related to NHK's drama "The 13 Lords of Shogun"

Thick logs suddenly appeared in a paddy field in Shimomachiya just after the Great Kanto Earthquake on September 1, 1923, and after its aftershocks in January the next year. Historian Raisuke Numata found that the logs were piers of a bridge over one of the branches of the Sagami River, and the bridge was constructed in 1198 by Shigenari Inage, one of Yoritomo Minamoto's senior vassals, for his late wife Aki's soul. In the NHK drama, *the 13 Lords of Shogun*, Shigenari is played by Masaki Murakami, and Aki by Ichika Osaki. (See the



Shigenari Inage

Aki

photos, from NHK, on the left.)

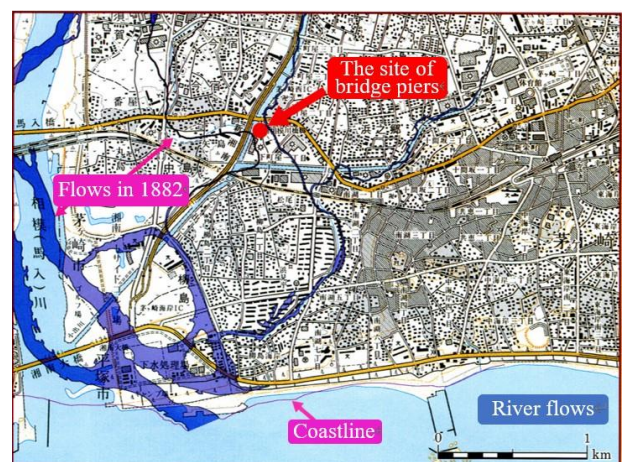
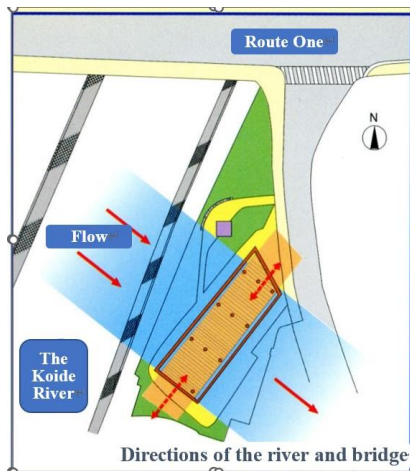
Today, the Sagami River flows 1.5 km west of the piers (the red circle in the map below).

Flow routes on the 1882 map indicate the river curved to the east near the estuary. It is thought that two branches flowed east of the main streams, and one of the two ran through the preservation site in the Kamakura era.

Positions of ten piers indicate that the bridge faced northeast or southwest, and the river flowed from northwest to southeast. The bridge was about 40 meters long and eight meters wide.

It is said Yoritomo participated in the completion ceremony of the bridge which took place on December 27, 1198. On his way back to Kamakura, he fell from his horse, and injured himself. It is said the injury killed him later. He died on February 9, 1199. But there seem to be no documents which explain why he died.

(Source: the city's HP)



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 初心忘るべからず	2) 猫に小判
SHOSHIN WASURU BEKARAZU	NEKO NI KOBAN
SHOSHIN means one's original resolution, WASURU to forget, and BEKARAZU should not.	NEKO means a cat, NI to, and KOBAN a small oval gold coin used in the Edo era.
<p>Gifted Noh performer Zeami preached to his followers. Noh performers should never forget the novice performances they gave when they were beginners. Even after they trained for years, they should consider themselves to be novices when they begin to learn new skills. Even when they get old and have become famous, they should think their skills are still far from completion, and they need more training in order to improve new skills.</p> <p>This saying is in 花鏡, or Kakyō, a collection of essays written by Zeami, an accomplished Noh actor. 花鏡 was compiled in 1424.</p> <p>Its English equivalents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be always as naïve as you were when a novice.</li> <li>● From small beginnings come great things.</li> <li>● Humble hearts have humble desires.</li> </ul>	<p>Gold coins are precious to people. Cats, however, would not be delighted if coins are placed before them. No matter how valuable a thing is, it is worthless for a person who does not appreciate it. It is like a person who passes by Vincent van Gogh's <i>Sunflowers</i> at the National Gallery in London, or a person who sleeps through most of the pictures, for example, <i>The Godfather</i> or <i>Casablanca</i>. Neither great paintings nor great films have value to such a person.</p> <p>This saying is in Kamigata Iroha Karuta, Japanese playing cards used in the Kyoto area.</p> <p>Its English equivalents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A barley corn is better than a diamond to cook.</li> <li>● A blind man will not thank you for a looking glass.</li> <li>● Hay is more acceptable to an ass than gold.</li> </ul>

### History of Chigasaki

### Nakajima Village (1)

Nakajima Village, located in the west end of the city, was bordered south by Yanagishima, north by Imajuku, east by Shimomachiya and west by the Sagami River as well as Suka and Banyu Villages in Hiratsuka. 新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) describes that as the village lay along the Sagami River, residents, almost every autumn, suffered from flooding which inundated several sections of farmland.

Records of the Meiji era say people lived on agriculture and fishing in the Sagami River. Today, they no longer do fishing in the river, but do agriculture and raise green onions on farmland.



Kamigawara area

There were eleven small sections in the village. Most of them, except Ban-ya, have names related to pond (*ike*), the river (*gawara*, *kawabuchi*, *kouchi*) and the sea (*shima*, *jima*): Kami-gawara, Naka-gawara, Marushima, Shimo-gawara, Mukoujima, Ikenoue, Mae-kouchi, Mukou-kouchi, Okawabuchi, and Yajima. These names suggest that the village was located on the field which was covered with water when the river flooded.

The Tokaido ran through the village. On the highway, there was a small warehouse in which official documents of the shogunate as well as of the Kii and the Owari domains were stored, while the Sagami River was rising or flooding, and cross river ferry services were cancelled. In such cases, villagers had to guard the small building, as Nakajima Village located on the eastern bank of the river, and near the ferry of Banyu, from which tourists and parcels crossed the river. The village was commissioned to keep an eye on the documents by the shogunate.

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There is a dictionary of Japanese names, called *Wamyoruijusho* (hereafter *Wamyosho*), which was completed sometime between 931 to 938. The dictionary says there is a district called Nakajima in Osumi-gun (on the west of the Sagami River).



Nakagawara area

Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) was a unique artist who was involved in a wide variety of activities such as building monuments, gardens and parks, and designing interiors of furniture and lights. He was one of the representative sculptors of the 20th century.

He was born in Los Angeles in 1904 as the son of a Japanese poet writing English poems, Yonejiro Noguchi, and an American writer, journalist and teacher, Leonie Gilmour. However, he became an illegitimate child, because Yonejiro returned to Japan three months before he was born.

In 1907, Leonie came to Japan to visit Yonejiro's house when Isamu was three years old, but Yonejiro had already gotten married, to Mastuko Takeda. They started to live with Yonejiro and his wife, but Leonie decided to leave his house, and move to Chigasaki in 1908, because the town had a reputation for its clean air. She bought a small triangular plot of land and built a triangular house with a round window, which gave them beautiful views of Mt. Fuji. She designed it with Isamu.



She enrolled him into Shorin elementary school, and apprenticed him to a carpenter in 1915. Remembering his childhood, he said "It was very lucky to spend my childhood in Chigasaki, which is very sensitive to changing nature. My enlightenment as an artist had been cultivated in Chigasaki."

In 1947, he went to Paris to study western art while learning oriental art and Japanese and Chinese culture. In 1950, he married Toshiko Yamaguchi (Ri Koran), lived in Kamakura, but 5 years later divorced. He learned the ceramic art under the instruction of Kitaoji Rosanjinn.

In 1951, he started to design the 'AKARI' series with a motif of a Gifu lantern, receiving a request from the Mayor of Gifu.

In 1959, he built his atelier and house in Takamatsu, Kagawa prefecture. In 1961, he returned to the US and built an atelier in Long Island City, New York as well. He went back and forth between New York and Japan for 20 years. He founded the Noguchi Garden Museum both in Long Island City, in 1984, and in Takamatsu, in 1985.



Noguchi Garden Museum in Takamatsu

His last work in his life was a 16-year-long big project of Moreinuma Park in Sapporo. He tried to change a mountain of industrial waste to a park full of tools, in which children and adults can play together.



← Moreinuma Park

He continued to work the project enthusiastically, but he passed away on December 30, 1988, at the age of 84, before he witnessed the completion of the park. He sleeps peacefully at the Noguchi Garden Museum in Long Island City.

Events in May and early June

The 33rd Group Sai painting exhibition at Citizen Gallery

The group Sai held its 33rd exhibition at Citizen Gallery, on the 4th floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki, from May 24 (Tues) to the 29th (Sun). Forty-two drawings by 14 members as well as three by a teacher were displayed. The group hold lessons every other Friday afternoon at the Kowada community center. The works ranged from portraits and still lifes to landscapes to abstract paintings. Each member showed their own painting style. The teacher, Keinosuke Usui, was born in the city, and his works have been displayed in many prestigious exhibitions.



## BE POP – Exhibition of Ryu Ambe

Ryu Ambe's works were exhibited at 8Hotel Chigasaki from May 21 (Sat) to the 29th (Sun). Bold features with primary colors were quite different from the portraits we often see, and had something exotic. These drawings would have made visitors happy. Ambe, born and raised in Chigasaki, is also drawing pictures on the walls of shops on, for example, Yuzo Street, hoping that drivers and riders will become more conscious of pedestrians' safety than before.



## Photo exhibition- Ocean, Flowers, and Landscape - by Taichi Kametani

The exhibition also entitled "Sanju Memorial", or 80 years old celebration, was held at Citizen Gallery from May 31 (Tue) to June 5 (Sun). Kametani, having been a resident of Chigasaki for nearly 80 years, deeply loves the beach, flowers and mountains. About sixty photos were of Sagami Bay and flowers as well as mountains and lakes. Most of them have been taken in the last ten years. He changes shutter speeds, lenses and other conditions according to subjects, the weather, and time. A photo of waves, for example, was taken at a shutter speed of 1/1000th second, and that of haze over mountains was with a few seconds. He is also careful of the kinds of paper photos are printed on based on his imagination. The sunset in deep red, flowers in light pink, waves in pale green and other objects in a variety of colors fascinated visitors.



## 2022 Oto-Sada Oppeke Festival

The festival was held at the Takasuna green garden on June 4 (Sat) and 5 (Sun) for the first time in four years. On the two days, there were performances of Japanese drums, the harp, and the shakuhachi as well as historical talks about Hamaori Festival and Chigasaki Elementary School. On the 2nd day, the play "Around the World in 80 Days", which was originally written by French novelist Jules Verne, was performed. Words were translated by Otojiro. Actors and actresses as well as the audience moved to several spots in the garden as the stage in the drama changed from Kobe to San Francisco to other foreign cities. The garden was less crowded than usual, but a traditional event was revived, which may be a visible sign that the coronavirus pandemic is drawing to an end.



## Chigasaki Wind Symphony Regular Concert 2022

The Chigasaki-based wind symphony group held its regular concert at the Civic Hall on June 12 (Sun). As more than 800 people came to the concert, a long line was formed at the entrance. Every other seat was available, but they were occupied soon. Then, reserved seats were offered. The audience ranged from toddlers with their parents to seniors.

They performed *Genesis*, *Blue Spring* (青春), *Folk songs of Yamagata prefecture*, and *Symphonyeta No.3 Hibiki-no-Mori* in the first part. In the second part, they played popular music: *Over the Rainbow*, *Monster Hunter*, *Fandango*, *Songs by Kosaku Dan*, or *Yuzo Kayama*, and *the Bells of Notre Dame*. And *Dragon Quest* for encore.

The audience seemed to enjoy every song, but they mostly clapped their hands to songs by Kayama. They probably felt happy to be citizens of Chigasaki.

Their next concert is going to be held at the Civic Hall on December 3 (Sat).



## Events in June and July

### Opening Ceremony of the beach

The Southern Beach will open for swimming on July 2 (Sat) to August 31 (Wed). The opening ceremony is going to be held on July 2 (Sat) at 10:00 am.

Schedule of the day:

10:00 Prayer for safety, 10:45 Ribbon-cutting ceremony, 11:00 Fula dance performance

### The 40th picture exhibition by the Chigasaki Artist Association

The exhibition has been held since June 14 (Tues) at Chigasaki City Museum of Art. It is going to be held until July 10 (Sun)

Admission Free.



### Photo exhibition at Citizen Gallery, on the 4th floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki

The 10th Photo exhibition by the Shonan photo club: July 29 (Fri) to the 31st (Sun) 10:00 ~ 18:00

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!