

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 corona pandemic – in the middle of the 7th wave

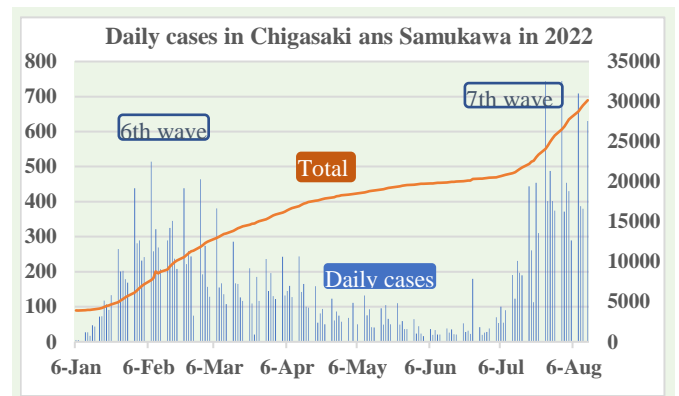
The graph on the lower right shows the astonishing infectiousness of Omicron BA5. The total number of corona patients in Chigasaki and Samukawa had reached 3,900 by the end of December 2021. It then increased by about 16,200 to 20,100 by June 23 in the sixth wave caused by Omicron BA2, and during the next 50 days, in the seventh wave caused by BA5, the number jumped again by 10,060 to 30,160. This indicates that 87% of all patients in these areas were infected this year. Fortunately, the number of serious patients is small despite the huge number of infected people in the latest wave. In fact, of 630 patients found on August 12, there were no serious patients. Is it optimistic of us to conclude that coronavirus has become less pathogenic?

Incidentally, the number of patients has decreased for the last few weeks in Tokyo. A monitoring group said the peak of the seventh wave was in the first week of August. In Chigasaki and Samukawa, as the graph shows, daily cases have been decreasing since late July.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has decided that it will begin to administer a new vaccine designed to target the omicron variant this autumn. Elderly people who have received more than three shots will be eligible.

The Ministry has also decided that the fourth inoculation will be administered to all people ages 18 and over who are employed in medical institutions, welfare facilities for the aged, and facilities for disabled people. About eight million people will be targeted. Currently, the fourth shot is limited to people ages 60 and older.

Data: City HP



Disaster Prevention Day is coming

The Great Kanto Earthquake occurred on September 1, 1923. The day is designated as Disaster Prevention Day, on which many municipalities would hold evacuation drills and events, if it were not for the corona pandemic. Earthquakes, tornadoes, torrential rains and other natural disasters can hit anywhere on the Japanese archipelago at any time, but flooding is quite common these days due to global warming. In early August, record-breaking downpours hit Niigata and Yamagata, flooding areas along the Mogami River.

[The flood hazard map of Chigasaki](#) shows western Chigasaki is vulnerable to heavy rains. This is because three rivers run through the lowland area. The Koide and Senno Rivers meet at Shimomachiya, and then the combined river merges into the Sagami River near the estuary.

As is often said, food and water for several days as well as radios, batteries, flash lights and other emergency items should be prepared. When residents of the area evacuate to northern areas, they have to cross the underpass of the Tokaido Line. Unless they know safe routes, they cannot move to evacuation sites swiftly. Water levels of the Koide and Mekujiri Rivers at several spots are reported every two minutes by [online cameras](#).



Sagami River



Junction of the Koide and Senno Rivers

Flowers of the season

Sunflower

Sunflowers are a composite annual herb flowering from summer to autumn. The round shaped yellow flowers, 20 to 30 centimeters in diameter, consist of many small flowers. Their stalks are covered with hard trichomes, and their leaves are heart shaped with a pointed end. Flat and long egg-shaped seeds, having a black and white stripe pattern, are used to make food and oil as well as ornaments so that the plant is widely cultivated, but mainly in European nations, specifically in Ukraine and Russia.

The Japanese name *Himawari* is said to derive from the flowers' movement: the flowers turn from east to west following the Sun. In other words, they face east in the morning, and west in the evening. However, such movement is seen until the plants bear buds. After blooming, the flowers no longer turn, and always face east. The movement is shown only by a variety which has one flower on one stalk. So, varieties bearing many flowers from a stalk, or flowers growing at a place where sunlight is blocked do not always follow the sun.

Sunflowers were native to the west coast of the North American Continent, and they have been an edible crop for indigenous people since ante-Christum. In 1510, Spanish people brought back the seeds to their country and planted them in a botanical garden in Madrid. By about 100 years later, they had spread to Russia through France. Russian people recognized sunflower seeds to be quite valuable because the seed, a new food to them, was not on

the list of foods which they were forbidden to eat for six weeks of fasting in the Russian Orthodox Church.

Sunflowers came to Japan in the 17th century. Its flowers are a symbol of the summer season but *Samukawa* town succeeded in breeding a winter-hardy variety and attracted people to a full-blown sunflower carpet made with 72,000 blooms near *Samukawa* Shrine in December 2018. It was lucky for the sunflowers because they were not affected by frost and snowfall in the winter of that year. Well, you will be able to see beautiful flowers from the middle to late November this year.



History of Chigasaki

Matsuo Village (1)

Matsuo Village was a small and cozy village that developed near the estuary of the Sagami River. The village measured 450 meters from north to south, and 600 meters from east to west. 新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) says there were 13 houses, the second smallest settlement after 10 of Heidayu Shinden (See CWs 59 and 60). Matsuo Village was bordered east by Nango of Chigasaki Village, bordered south and west by Yanagishima, and north by Shimomachiya Village. There was an exclave in Shimomachiya Village, and part of it is a site of the Hamidaira housing complex today. See the photo on the right.

In 風土記稿, the area of Matsuo Village is called Enzo District. The new topography, however, does not explain why the village was called Enzo. It is assumed that residents of Enzo Village had cultivated the area, or that Matsuo had been part of Futokorojima District, which included Enzo, Yabata and Hamanogo, with Enzo being its center before the Edo period. But it is unknown whether Matsuo was part of the district. The description in 風土記稿 has yet to be solved.

Matsuo came under the direct control of the Tokugawa shogunate in the Edo period. Later in 1762, the village became the territory of Kozaemon Tadamasa Okabe, a direct retainer of the shogun. The Okabe family was from Kanto, in contrast with most of the retainers, who were from the Tokai area, the territory of Ieyasu Tokugawa. The Okabe family used to be one of the lords of neighboring Chigasaki Village, but the village became the shogun's land in 1762, and Matsuo was given to the family. Since then, they ruled the village until the Meiji Restoration.

There is a cemetery at the 12-Hamamidaira area, and in the cemetery, there is a memorial tower for the relatives of the Okabe family. This memorial tower is called *the tomb of the lord* by local people. The inscription on the tower reads "Kozaemon Tadayasu Okabe, the 28th generation from Rokuya Tadasumi Okabe, the founder of the Okabe family, died at the age of 78 on July 3, 1869."



***At 12-Hamamidaira there is a cemetery. But the memorial tower for the relatives of the Okabe family was not found. The area is under construction, and there may be another cemetery nearby, though a passer-by said he did not know.**

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 親の甘茶が毒となる

OYA NO AMACHA GA DOKU NI NARU

OYA means parents, **NO** of, **AMACHA** to spoil children, **GA** to be, **DOKU** poison, and **NINARU** to become.

Amacha is another name of hydrangea tea, and it also means that one's way of thinking or one's way of handling problems is soft and lenient. If parents spoil their children, such attitude will have a bad effect on children's character. For example, to give them everything they want will make them selfish. But to be extremely severe with them is as bad as the other way around. Many parents probably take a practical way, that is to say, they decide how to face children's problems on a case-by-case basis. It is not easy especially for young parents to know how to praise or admonish their children.

The proverb is in 譬喩尽, or Tatoe Zukushi, which is a dictionary of proverbs completed in 1799.

Its English equivalents are:

- Spare the rod and spoil the child.
- The dearer the child, the sharper must be the rod.
- Taking too much heed results in loss.

2) 三人寄れば公界

SANNIN YORE BA KUGAI

SANNIN means three people, **YORE** to gather, **BA** if, and **KUGAI** the public

When three people get together, they form a public society, so it is difficult to keep what they said and what they did secret from others. In other words, a group of three or more is unable to keep a secret. Most people have a desire to share tidbits with somebody else, and they usually start with, "This is just between you and me." *The King with Donkey Ears* in *Aesop Fables* tells us how hard it is to keep a secret. A barber finally shouts towards a deep hole, "The king has ears shaped like a donkey!" Don't you have any secrets you want to tell to somebody?

The proverb is in 御前義経記, or Gozen-gikei-ki a literature, depicting the everyday lives of ordinary people, completed in the mid-Edo era. Its English equivalents are:

- A secret is too little for one, enough for two, and too much for three.
- A secret between more than two is no secret.
- What is known to three is known to everybody.

Grapes, an autumn fruit

Sweltering hot mid-summer weather is continuing. However, autumn fruits have begun to appear on the tables in front of farmers' warehouses. A shop selling fresh grapes opened around August 10 (Wed) in northern Samukawa. Ryuho and Himrod Seedless Grapes were on sale. Every bunch is taken from a tree early in the morning. Honey Seedless, Queen Nina, Pione, Tosa Taro and more will appear from now on. In mid-August, Shonan brands of Japanese pears will go on sale at farmers' small shops. The growth of the pears seems slightly slower this year than usual. Regular customers know these fruits are absolutely delicious, and sell out in the morning.



Shonan brands pears



Grapes

Tsurumine Hachimangu

related to NHK's drama "The 13 Lords of Shogun"

Osaka-based Yoriyoshi Minamoto was dispatched to the north-eastern region of Kanto, today's Chiba, in the year of 1030 to end the Shimousa War, or Taira no Tadatsune War. On his way to Shimousa, he stopped at Yabata Village, and transferred the separated deity of Iwashimizu Hachiman Gu of Kyoto, the guardian deity of the Genji clan, to a low hill, which is called Honjya-ga-oka today. In 1085, Hachiman-Taro-Yoshiie, or Yoshiie Minamoto, the eldest son of Yoriyoshi Minamoto, moved the small shrine on the hill to Hamanogo Village, and named it Tsurumine Hachimansha.

In the 1190s, Yoritomo Minamoto, the fourth descendant of Yoshiie, made one of his vassals, Kageyoshi Oba, renovate Tsurumine Hachimansha. In the Edo period, the approach to the shrine was reconstructed.

About Honjya-ga-oka, see CW67 "Honjya-ga-oka".



Tsurumine Shrine and Ginkgoes



Approach to the shrine

People in Chigasaki-30 Sei Wada

(Bimonthly serial)

Historian Sei Wada was born in Hagisono, Tsurumine Village in Chigasaki in 1890. He greatly contributed to preserving the piers of the bridge over the former Sagami River as a cultural asset in Chigasaki.

When the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred in 1923, seven piers made of Japanese cypress tree emerged from a rice field near the Shimo-machiyabashi area. He went there to inspect them, and was convinced they were foundations of a bridge. In 1924, he did an on-the-spot survey with his friend, Yorisuke Numata, also a noted historian, and verified they were built for the bridge over the former Sagami River in the Kamakura Era.

The bridge was built in 1198 by Shigenari Inage, who was one of the retainers of Minamoto no Yoritomo, to hold a memorial service for his dead wife, a younger sister of Yoritomo's wife, Masako Hojyo. According to 'Azumakagami', a historical book describing the Kamakura shogunate, Yoritomo participated in the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the bridge, and on his way back to Kamakura he fell off his horse and died in January 1199. There is a legend in Chigasaki that he encountered the ghosts of the Heike and Yoshitsune, Yoritomo's younger brother, and fell off his horse.

The bridge was around 7m wide, judging from the arrangements of the piers. It is estimated to be the longest among all the bridges built during the middle age of Japan. Later, three piers under the ground were also found through excavation research.

Wada and Numata greatly contributed to the activities for preserving the ancient foundations, and it was designated as a national historic site in 1926. In addition, after archaeological excavations were conducted by the Chigasaki educational committee in 2001, it turned out that piers emerged due to the liquefaction which took place during the Great Kanto Earthquake. In 2013, the piers were designated as the first national natural monument caused by liquefaction. Wada passed away in 1963 at the age of 72.

(Note)

The Sagami River has changed its flow route several times. In the Kamakura era, there seemed to be several branches near the estuary as described in CW69. The bridge seemed to be over one of these branches.

As the Tokugawa shogunate prohibited the building of bridges across large rivers, the first big bridge like today's Banyu Bridge was constructed in 1878. Until then, boats were used to convey people and materials across the river.



Chigasaki City Museum opened to the public

Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage, in Nakakaigan 2-2-18, closed in March 2021. It had displayed various excavated items since it was established in 1971. Its successor, Chigasaki City Museum, in Tsutsumi, opened on July 30. The new museum is a one-story house, and its exhibition area is about 5.5 times wider than the former museum.

Under a basic plan to display the city's topography and people's lives, permanent exhibits are selected from 17 themes which in turn are based on five characteristic landforms: lowlands, the sea, rivers, hills and coastal dunes. These exhibits are going to be replaced periodically. As there are eight exhibition corners, eight themes out of 17 are displayed at a time.

In addition to the exhibition room, there are also a library corner, a special exhibition room, and a multi-purpose corner. A special exhibition is scheduled for August. At the multi-purpose corner, workshops and lecture meetings are available.



From the west



Exhibition corner



Towards the entrance hall

Until a parking lot is completed in December, cars will be guided to a place near Jokenji Temple.

Events in July and August

Chigasaki City Museum of Art

A picture exhibition entitled “Hide-and-seek” has been held since July 16 (Sat). Works by Keisuke Shirota, Kaoru Ueda, Niwako Tan-ami, and Ryosuke Hara were not usual landscapes. They tried to represent what people do not notice in the ordinary scenes. The remnant in the picture on the lower left is the Parthenon. The work has a strange atmosphere, because there aren't any tourists around the world-famous Parthenon. Shirota painted out tourists in the photo trying to create a mysterious scene. Visitors who look at the picture may feel silence and loneliness. The photo on the right was altered by the same method. It looks like something awful occurred and people instantly disappeared while the building, trees and road were left intact.



Kaoru Ueda depicted light coming from transparent and translucent fluids such as water, starch syrup, jelly, a raw egg and others. While they were flowing, he caught one scene as if he shot with an extremely high shutter speed.

Other artists' works also made visitors think about what they tried to represent. Unusually, school children and their parents were looking at these works. It was also rare scenery. The exhibition will be held until Sept. 4 (Sun).



Entrance fee (yen): Adult 700, Uni. student 500, Citizen at 65 and older 350, High schooler and younger, as well as disabled person and their care takers free.

Events in September

Citizen Gallery

Calligraphy exhibition by Komorebi (Sunshine through the leaves) Group: Sept. 9 (Fri) 11:00~17:00, the 10th (Sat) 10:00~17:00, the 11th (Sun) 10:00~16:00

Photo exhibition by Photo Class of Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Sept. 14 (Wed) to the 17th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 18th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Calligraphy exhibition by Chigasaki Shoyu Club: Sept. 25 (Sun) to the 28th (Wed) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 29th (Thurs) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Chigasaki City Museum of Art

New woodblock prints – the trial by Publisher Shozaburo Watanabe from Sept. 10 (Sat) to Nov. 6 (Sun)

Entrance fee (yen): Adult 800, Uni. student 600, Citizen ages 65 and older 400, High schooler and younger as well as disabled person and their care takers free.

Fireworks on the beach

From 19:00 to 19:15 on September 4 (Sun).



From Museum HP

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!