

# Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.

No.0007

## CELEBRATION for CHILDREN *SHICHI-GO-SAN* 七五三 (Seven-Five-Three)

November 15th is the day of “*Shichi* (Seven) *Go* (Five) *San* (Three)” when children of these ages are celebrated to enhance good health and safety. Traditionally, the odd number is considered to be a sign of luck. While children physically go through significant changes at these ages, they are also inclined to get sick. In other words, children’s sound growth can be expected if they are properly treated. Boys are celebrated when they turn three and five, while girls are celebrated at three and seven.



On this day, parents take children to a Shinto shrine and pay a visit to the tutelary god. Children are dressed up in an old traditional costume, and after the celebration is over, they bring back a special type of candy called *Chitose-ame* that parents buy for them. *Chitose* means one thousand years, and so it’s simply a thousand-years worth candy. The candy or *ame* has a long, thin shape, is red and white, and is wrapped in bags printed with crane and turtle illustrations. Both the crane and turtle are symbols of longevity. Also, red and white are auspicious colors for the Japanese.

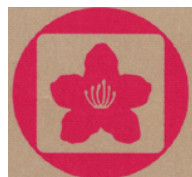
All these indicate strong wishes for children to be happy in their lives and have a long future.

## CIVIC “CONTACT” FESTIVAL *Shimin Furé-ai Matsuri*

On November 3rd, there is a people’s festival called *Shimin Furé-ai Matsuri* at the central park of Chigasaki near the city hall. This event is separated into four categories; the singing and dancing performance on the stage by children and adults, the games and health care corner, shopping, and display/presentations by NPO groups. A number of children and adult groups play music or dance on the stage while a hundred booths sell foodstuffs, porcelain goods, wooden furniture, craft-art, etc. IAC’s “Sewing-box” group displays and sells their handicrafts. Their purpose is to offer an aid to a NPO who opened a training school in Cambodia several years ago to help local children obtain skills for survival.

Every year, a large number of people gather at this central park not only to see dancing and plays on the stage, but also to buy so many different kinds of goodies.

They are open from 10:00 through 15:30.



### YOUR VOICE PLEASE!

A year has passed since we started publishing this Chigasaki Breeze. At this time, we would like to hear from readers as to how we can make this newspaper more attractive to you in any way. Please let us know via e-mail of your concerns or what you expect from this paper. Our e-mail address: [chigasakibreeze@7jp.com](mailto:chigasakibreeze@7jp.com)

## CULTURE DAY *BUNKA-NO-HI* 文化の日

November 3rd is called *BUNKA-NO-HI* or CULTURE DAY. At one time it was the Constitution Day as the Japanese constitution was enacted on November 3rd in 1946. In 1948, however, the day was designated as Culture Day. The day is defined as a day of love, peace, freedom, and of cultural growth.

In commemoration of this Culture Day, the government established a system to award the order of culture to those who contributed in cultural development in various fields. The ceremony takes place in the Imperial Palace where the Orders of Culture to a limited number of contributors are awarded. Also, the government confers cultural service awards on individuals who contributed to Japanese culture in general fields throughout the year.

On November 3rd, cultural and art festivals are performed all over Japan; at schools, social circles, art museums, and so forth. Here in Chigasaki, the 23rd Civic “Contact” Festival or *Shimin Furé-ai Matsuri* is held at Chigasaki Central Park where thousands of people gather to enjoy watching games, stage performances and to shop.

Why don’t you visit the park and spend a day filled with cultural activities enjoyed by all.

### What can you do if a big earthquake happens?

This is a question from the city to the citizens and mentioned below are its background and key for countermeasures.

It was on September 1, 1923, or 83 years ago, when the Great Kanto Earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 hit the northern part of the Sagami-Wan Bay. The earthquake killed 99,331 people, 43,476 people went missing, and 44,718 houses were destroyed by fire. It resulted in unprecedented damage to Tokyo, Chiba and Kanagawa prefecture of which Chigasaki is a part. If an earthquake of the same scale happens, the damage to Chigasaki is forecasted to cause the death of 1,400 people and injure 2,900 people, and destroy 32,500 houses.

Another reason for the city’s concern of a possible earthquake is Chigasaki is in the red zone of the so-called Tokai earthquake which is anticipated to happen some time in the near future. The area centering around Shizuoka prefecture at the foot of Mt. Fuji has run into the cycle of 50~90 years of earthquake generation. Chigasaki city, therefore, is warning citizens to be prepared and is giving basic hints for protection.

1) They suggest that you keep yourself and your family safe and secure in many ways.

As a means, to consider your home a space for safety in a way, to extinguish a fire in front of you, and to be prepared to protect yourself from a large quake are required to be recognized. These are the things that only you can handle and no one else.

2) The city is trying to have a fire drill in each district from time to time and has shown evacuation routes everywhere. They also have arranged for the police, fire station, and other public organizations involved in people’s wellbeing such as water, gas, powers, etc. to consider countermeasures in emergency situations, and to take swift action. For example, all public schools, golf courses, and parks have been designated as the places for evacuation.

3) As a key to protecting yourselves, neighbors and your community in an emergency, to provide mutual assistance or the idea of “mutual defense” has to be kept in mind, the city says.

Actually, nobody will know when this kind of natural disaster will come. “To be prepared” is their only suggestion.