

HELLO SAKURA

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This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by the City. Unless otherwise indicated, inquiries over the telephone or at the facilities are handled only in Japanese. If you do not speak Japanese, please have someone who speaks Japanese with you when you make inquiries. Inquiries in English may be made generally on Wednesdays through *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

KAKUTEI-SHINKOKU (FILING YOUR TAXES FOR 2009)



All residents of Japan are required to pay taxes, which are mainly consisted of income tax (national tax) and resident tax (local tax). Income tax and resident tax are levied according to the amount of your personal income.

RESIDENT TAX: In Sakura the resident tax is comprised of municipal resident tax (city tax) and prefectural resident tax. Residents of Sakura as of January 1, 2010, with income earned in Japan during the past 12 months from January through December, 2009, need to file a resident tax return form with the City Tax Section at the Sakura City Hall. However, you are **not required** to file if :

- you plan to file an income tax return with the Narita Tax office, or
- your employer has submitted a withholding statement to the Taxation Section and you had no income from other sources, or
- you are listed as a dependent family member on the tax return form or the statement of earnings of any other member in the same household.

The tax return forms will be sent in early February to those who filed their tax return last year. First-time tax payers are required to visit the City Tax Section or city branch offices to obtain the form.

INCOME TAX: You **are required** to file your income tax return if :

- the sum of your total employment income receipts exceeds ¥20 million, or
- you received employment income from one payer, and your total amount of various kinds of income other than employment exceeds ¥200,000, or
- you received employment income from two or more payers, and the total amount of your employment income receipts (excluding employment income subject to year-end adjustment) and various kinds of income, other than employment and retirement income, exceeds ¥200,000, or
- income tax was not withheld from your wages each month.
- Others. Your income from sources abroad needs to be filed depending on your resident status. For details, please visit the following website: <http://www.nta.go.jp/taxanswer/english/12001.htm>



◆**Consultation and submission of tax return forms (both income and resident taxes) are available at the Conference Room on the 3rd floor, Social Welfare Center, Sakura City Hall from Tuesday, February 16 through Monday, March 15, 9:00-15:00** (except Saturdays and Sundays. On Sundays, February 28 and March 14, however, consultation and submission of resident tax return are available.). You may also claim a tax refund by declaring deductions for costly medical expenses, housing loan, etc. If you would like to have consultation and you do not quite understand Japanese, please come with someone who interprets your cases. City branch offices accept only submission of the forms. If you mail the form, please send it to: *Sakura Shiyakusho Shiminzei-ka* (or The City Tax Section at Sakura City Hall), 〒285-8501, 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura-shi.

◆**Consultation and submission of tax return forms (any kind of taxes, e.g. inheritance tax) are also available at the Aeon Mall, on the 2nd floor, Aeon Mall Narita (24 Wing-Tsuchiya, Narita) through Monday, March 15, 9:00-17:00** (except Saturdays, Sundays, and national holiday (i.e. February 11). Nevertheless, they are provided and accepted on Sundays, February 21 and 28.). Please note that **the Narita Tax Office now only accepts submission of the forms**. If you mail the form, please send it to: *Narita Zeimusho, Kojin-kazei-bumon* (or The Individual Taxation Section at the Narita Tax Office), 〒286-8501, 1-15 Karabe, Narita-shi.

For further information on resident tax, call the City Tax Section at the Sakura City Hall, ☎484-6115; and call the Narita Tax Office, ☎0476-28-5151 for further information on income tax. We recommend you to access: http://www.nta.go.jp/tetsuzuki/shinkoku/shotoku/tebiki2009/pdf/01_44.pdf for further information on filing of tax return written in English (the homepage of National Taxation Office).

JIDAI MATSURI (FESTIVAL OF THE AGES) – APRIL 25

Why not join the magnificent procession of more than 200 people dressed in colorful costumes representing different ranks of samurai period? The festival is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 25.



- An estimated 100 people in old costumes will form an exciting parade. Rental costumes for *daimyoh* (feudal lord), *okugata* (consort), *himegimi* (princess) are ¥40,000 each. Costumes for *koshimoto* (lady-in-waiting) are available at ¥30,000, and for *yoroï musha* (armored-warrior), *onna musha* (lady warrior), *jjjo* (maid-in-waiting) are available at ¥20,000 each. You can also participate in the parade in your own historical costumes free of charge. Students, or groups of 5 people or more, will get 30% discount. The combination of student discount and group discount will not be accepted.
- There will be a special parade of children who are over 100 cm tall. They will also be dressed in historical costumes at ¥5,000/child (¥4,000/child for the group of 3 children or more).

Costumes, dressing, make-up, hair-set, and lunch are all included in the rental fee.

To participate, call 'Sakura Jidai-matsuri Jikkoh Iin-kai', ☎486-2331, fax 486-5963, e-mail: jidaimatsuri2010@sakura-cci.or.jp, or send a postcard to 〒285-0811 Omote-cho 3-3-10, Sakura Shohkoh-kaigisho-nai 「Sakura Jidai-matsuri Jikkoh Iin-kai」 Jimukyoku. The application should contain: your preferred costume, personal particulars such as name, gender, age, height, address, and telephone number. The application deadline date is Sunday, February 28.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED ! : The executive committee for the festival is looking for volunteers who will help organize the festival on the day of the event: arrangements, guidance, traffic control, or photography. Contact the committee, ☎486-2331 for further information.

VISIT TO KYU-HOTTA-TEI (THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF LORD HOTTA)

On Thursday, February 11 (national holiday), there will be a special public viewing of *Kyu-Hotta-tei*, residence of the last lord of the Sakura clan, Masatomo Hotta. The main part of the residence consists of five single-storied (though partly two-storied) wooden buildings with tiled hipped roofs, which are connected by corridors. They remain in good condition, almost as they were when completed in 1890. The main part of the residence, the gatekeeper's lodge, and the storehouse were designated as National Important Cultural Property in 2006.



In addition to the usual tour in the house, visitors will be guided through the old house to view the study room, the living room on the 2nd floor, and the gatekeeper's lodge which are normally closed to the public. It is open from 10:00 to 16:30 (admittance is accepted by 16:00).

Admission fees are ¥310/adult and ¥150/student. Groups of 20 people or more will get group discount. It would be money-saving if you buy a common ticket covering also *Buke-yashiki* (Old Samurai Houses) and *Sakura Juntendoh Kinenkan* (Juntendoh Memorial Building), which is available for ¥520/adult and ¥260/student at any of these facilities (Note the ticket is valid only on the day of issuance). Call *Kyu-Hotta-tei*, ☎483-2390, *Buke-yashiki*, ☎486-2947, or *Bunka-ka* (the Culture Section) ☎484-6191 for further information.

RESIDENTS' DISASTER MUTUAL AID INSURANCE

The city of Sakura sponsors an inexpensive insurance program (*Sakura-shi Saigai Kyoh'sai*) that offers limited coverage for personal injuries, death, and house damage (for residential building only) caused by fires, lightning strikes, gas explosions, rainstorms, tornados, floods, etc. Damage caused by earthquakes, snowfalls, hailstorms, or decrepitude of houses are excluded. Also, damage of decorations, electric appliances, ancillary facilities, and store buildings are not covered. Heads of the households who are registered as Sakura citizens (including foreign residents) are eligible to enroll in this program.



★**BENEFITS**: The maximum benefit is ¥1.2 million for death, total loss by fire or complete collapse of owner-occupied house damage. In case of rented house, the maximum benefit is ¥0.6 million. Lower benefits will be given for partial loss and injuries. The benefit of this insurance will be given separately from your other insurance.

★**PREMIUMS**: ¥1,000/household.

★**DURATION OF INSURANCE**: Coverage will start on April 1, 2010 and end on March 31, 2011.

Program leaflets and application forms are available in Japanese at *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka* (the Traffic & Disaster Prevention Section), city branch offices, and service centers.

Call *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka*, ☎484-6131 or visit the web-site:

<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/kotubosa/bosaikankei/saigaikyosai/saigai-kyousai22.htm> (written only in Japanese) for further information.

CONGRATULATORY MONEY TO SINGLE-MOTHER FAMILIES

The city of Sakura will present a congratulatory monetary gift to single-mother families if they have children who will enter elementary, junior, or senior high school, or start to work after completing junior high school study in April, 2010. Also, families where people other than parents are bringing up the children are eligible to apply. A monetary gift of ¥10,000 will be presented per child. This gift is not intended for single-father families. Applications must arrive no later than Monday, March 1. Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (the Children and Youth Section), ☎484-6140 for further information.

TEMPORARY DAY CARE SERVICES AT NURSERY SCHOOLS

Some of the nursery schools in Sakura provide temporary day care services to support in-home childcare. Parents whose children are usually raised at home can apply for this service.

★NUMBER OF DAYS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

- Up to 3 days /week for the duration of 6 months---When the parent is unable to care for the child due to a part-time job, school attendance, hospital visit, caring for another person, etc.
- Up to 15 days/month--- In case of sudden illness, childbirth, or nursing.
- Up to 2 days/month--- When the parent wants to feel refreshed.

★**AGE LIMITATION OF CHILDREN:** City residents between 6 months and preschool age who do not have health problems.

★**HOURS:** Up to 4 hours or 8 hours between 8:30 and 17:00 on week days, and between 8:30 and 12:30 on Saturdays. The service is not available on Sundays, national holidays, and the year-end / New Year holidays.

★**COSTS:** ●For children under 3 years of age---¥2,500/up to 8 hour-care, or ¥1250/ up to 4 hour-care.
●For children of 3 years of age and above---¥1,200/up to 8 hour-care, or ¥600/ up to 4 hour-care.

★**BOOKINGS** need to be made at least 7 days prior to your preferred date to each *hoiku-en* (nursery school): Kita-shizu Hoikuen, ☎487-1785; Negoh Hoikuen, ☎484-4661; Sumire Hoikuen, ☎487-8468; Yukari Hello Kids, ☎488-3130; Niji-iro Hoikuen Sakura, ☎309-7526 (Nursery schools with shaded letters are private schools.).



SPECIAL CLOSING DAYS OF SAKURA CITY LIBRARIES



In addition to the usual closing days on every Monday and every 1st Tuesday, Shizu Branch Library and Kita-Shizu Children's Center Library Room will be closed on Thursday, February 11. The Shizu Library will be also closed for the special inventory from Monday, February 1 to Monday, February 8. While the libraries are closed, please return books and magazines to 'book return post boxes'.

APPLICATION FOR MASS-SCREENING FOR BREAST CANCER



Breast cancer was the leading cause of death in women aged 30 to 64 (according to a 2007 government survey). But it has a very high cure rate when diagnosed early. The city of Sakura offers residents inexpensive examination for the early detection of breast cancer.

★ **ULTRA SOUND:** for women aged 30-39 years; fee of ¥1,000; offered on Tuesday, February 9 (reception hours: 9:30 -10:30) at *Nambu Hoken Center* (Nambu Health & Welfare Center), ☎483-2812 ; This is the last opportunity for the 2009 fiscal year (April, 2009 –March, 2010).

★ **MAMMOGRAPHY:** for women aged 40 years and over; fee of ¥1,000; offered till coming March; Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center* (Health Management Center), ☎485-6711, for further information such as dates and locations.

NOTES ●By appointment only. ●Those who took the mass examination of breast cancer in the 2008 fiscal year cannot apply this time. ●Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center*, ☎485-6711, for further information such as what to bring at the time of examination.

★You are eligible to have the examination free of charge if you meet any of the following conditions:
●70 years of age or above on March 31, 2010, ●the insured of *Chiba-ken Kohki-kohreisha Iryoh-rengoh*(the Chiba prefectural federation which manages the medical system for senior citizens aged 75 and older), ●on welfare, ●exempted from city tax, or ●holder of the free breast cancer checkup coupon.

FREE VACCINATION AGAINST NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1)

Vaccination against novel influenza A (H1N1), also called 'swine flu', is now open to anyone who wants it at designated medical institutions in Sakura. Candidates who belong to a household receiving public assistance or to a household exempt from city taxes can be vaccinated for free. To get the free shots, application at a city facility is required prior to visit the medical institution. Call *Kenkoh-zoh'shin-ka* (the Health Promotion Section), ☎485-6711 for where to apply. Vaccination is not compulsory.



HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

Kenkoh Kanri Center (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711; *Seibu Hoken Center* (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181; *Nambu Hoken Center* (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812

AGES OF CHILDREN	FEBRUARY '10	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in September, 2009	10	9:30 – 10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	5	13:30 – 14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	17	13:30 – 14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in May, 2009	23	9:30 – 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	12		Seibu Hoken Center
	17		Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in July, 2008	16	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	24		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in August, 2006	18	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	25		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in February & August, 2007 & in February, 2,008	9	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	26		
	3	13:30 – 14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	15		
	10		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

PLACES	DATES	TIMES
Nambu Hoken Center	Feb. 2	9:30 – 11:30
Kenkoh Kanri Center	Feb. 4	13:30 – 15:30
Seibu Hoken Center	Mar. 18	9:30 – 11:30

Consultation with public health nurse, dental hygienist, or nutritionist is available on these days. An appointment is required by calling the respective centers. Telephone counseling is available at any of the centers, 8:30 – 17:00, Monday - Friday.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 st	Mar. 5	9:00-15:00
2 nd	Mar. 14	9:00-14:30

Free antenatal classes will be held at Nambu Hoken Center for expectant mothers to have the first babies between May and July, 2010. The program will include instructions on how to raise a healthy child, preparation of nutritious baby food, a lecture by a dentist, etc. There is a limit of 35 people in a class. To attend, application is needed by calling Nambu Hoken Center.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate !

Daytime treatment on Sundays & public holidays : Consultation by a physician, a surgeon or a dentist will be available between 9:00 and 17:00 (reception is open until 16:30) at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty.

Nighttime treatment on Sundays & public holidays : Internal medicine & dental treatment are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is open until 21:45). **Treatment by a surgeon or an ENT doctor** (otolaryngologist) will be done at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is open until 21:45). However, obstetrics & gynecology treatment will not be offered any more as there are few patients. Call ☎485-6711 to learn the doctor on duty.

Pediatrics : For children under 16 years of age. Open year-round for treatment at Kenkoh Kanri Center from Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning). On Sundays & public holidays, 9:00-17:00 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of December, 2009, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,903 (86,824 male and 89,079 female) in 69,857 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,020. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,923.

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