

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 of Sakura. 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.

SAKURA TULIP FESTIVAL ~ A FEELING OF SPRING ~



The annual Sakura Tulip *Matsuri* (Festival) will be held at Sakura Furusato *Hiroba* (Square) from Saturday, April 10 to Wednesday, April 14, 10:00 - 16:00, rain or shine.

Some 500,000 tulips of 139 different kinds will be blooming in the field where the landmark Dutch windmill 'De Liefde' rotates its vanes, comfortably catching spring breezes beside the vast *Imba-numa* (marsh).

Visitors will find it a pleasure strolling through the field of tulips and enjoying other spring blooms and greenery surrounding the marsh. Bicycle

rentals are available for ¥500 (electric bicycles for ¥1,000) at the festival site. Also you can enjoy the opening ceremony from 13:30 on April 11; 'yakata-bune' boat tours on *Imba-numa* (ride share: ¥1,000/adult, ¥500/child); putting on Dutch traditional costumes in order for souvenir pictures to be taken; performances of street organ and accordions; and lots more. On April 17, 12:30-13:30, a tulip field wedding will be held by a 20 and 21 year old couple.

Many vendors will set up stalls selling tulips, food, drinks and local products. Admission is free of charge. You can enjoy viewing tulips from April 3 through 25, as well as sales of tulips. Call *Sakura-shi Kankoh-kyohkai* (Sakura City Tourism Association), ☎486-6000 or visit the web-site: <http://www.sakurashi-kankou.or.jp> for further information.

PARKING Parking fee is ¥500/vehicle between April 3 and 25. As there are not enough parking lots around the site and traffic jams are usually foreseen, you are encouraged to take the free shuttle bus service departing at 40-minute intervals from the north exits of Keisei Sakura and JR Sakura Stations between 9:30 and 14:30, and returning between 11:00 and 16:30. Access on foot to *Furusato Hiroba* from Keisei Usui or Keisei Sakura Station takes about 40 minutes, and 60 minutes from JR Sakura Station.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CLEANING AROUND THE FESTIVAL SITE: Please assemble at the Furusato Hiroba on Saturday, April 3, 9:30-11:00. Bring your work gloves and a tool for picking up trash such as fire tongs. Application is not required. To be cancelled in case of rain. Call Ikezawa, ☎485-7477 for further information.

HANAMI (CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING)

Hanami is one of the most popular events of spring among Japanese. *Sakura Johshi-koh'en* (Sakura Castle Park), where the *Sakura Matsuri* (Cherry Blossom Festival) is now on, is a popular *hanami* spot, approximately 20 minutes on foot from Keisei Sakura Station. The 21.31 hectare park with 1,100 cherry trees is lighted up with lovely lanterns until 21:00 every night during the festival. Many people gather for *hanami* picnics or parties, eating, drinking and singing while enjoying the graceful backdrop of cherry blossom. The enchanting sight of showers of delicate pink petals scattering to the ground by the touch of a breeze among the rows of glittering lanterns should not be missed.

The Festival is held through Sunday, April 4, from 9:30 to 16:00. This year, *Chiiba-kun*, the official mascot of the National Athletic Meet in Chiba, will visit the festival site on Saturday, April 3. Events will be held at *honmaru-ato* (the place where the main keep of Sakura Castle located) from 11:00. There will be many vendors setting up food and drink stalls to cater to the large number of visitors. Free parking is available at *Jiyuh Hiroba* (literally free square) adjoining Sakura Higashi Senior High School.

Call *Sakura-shi Kankoh-kyohkai*, ☎486-6000 for more information.



CHANGES OF COLLECTION COMPANIES FOR OVERSIZED GARBAGE

There are changes of collection companies for oversized garbage from April. When you are going to dispose of oversized garbage, please be sure to check the following instructions to correctly understand the area you belong to and the right collection company which covers your area .



- Those who live in the area 'A' (districts of Sakura, Negoh, Wada, and Yatomi), or in the area 'B' (area which is located on the north side of Keisei Railway in Usui and Shizu district) → Call *Imba Boh'eki-sha*, ☎483-5022, Fax:486-2937.
- Those who live in the area 'C' (area which is located on the south side of Keisei Railway in Usui and Shizu district, and those who live in Chiyoda district) → Call *Igarashi Shoh'kai*, ☎443-4676, Fax:442-1581.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF OVERSIZED GARBAGE

- 1) Make an appointment with a collection company which operates in your district. Appointment reception hours and collection hours are from 8:30 to 17:00 on weekdays.
 - 2) Purchase an oversized garbage handling coupon at an outlet listed on the 'Garbage Collection Calendar', which was distributed as an inserted flyer into newspapers on March 29. If you have not received it, please get it at the reception desk of the main building of Sakura City Hall or at any of the city branch offices.
 - 3) Attach the coupon to your oversized garbage, and put the item in front of your residence by 8:30 on the day of collection. You do not need to be present at the time of collection.
- Call *Haikibutsu-taisaku-ka* (the Garbage Control Section), ☎484-6149 for further information.

CHANGE OF TIME IN BROADCASTING MESSAGE MELODY



The City has played it at 16:30 every day to encourage children to go home before it got dark in wintertime. This is also served as an emergency broadcasting test. From April 1 till October 31, however, the city broadcasts the melody at 17:00 since the sun sets later than in winter. Call *Koh'tsuh Boh'sai-ka* (the Traffic Disaster Prevention Section), ☎484-6131 for further information.

OPENING OF NEW *HOIKU-EN* (NURSERY SCHOOLS) ON MAY 1

- *Ohji-dai Hoikuen* (tentative name) is scheduled to open at 4-10-1, Ohji-dai, Sakura for 90 children.
- *Lakeside International* (tentative name) is scheduled to open at 1515-30, Obukai, Sakura for 60 children.

Enrollment will be accepted from Thursday, April 1 through Thursday, April 15. Call *Kosodate-shien-ka* (the Child-rearing Support Section), ☎484-6245 for further information.



WHY NOT JOIN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER ?

The City of Sakura starts a new program 'Family Support Center' in April. This program is a membership-based program that matches up people who need help taking care of their children and those who wish to offer assistance with childcare. Acceptable reasons for requesting assistance are, for example, ●taking or picking up children to/from nursery schools or kindergartens, ●taking care of them after school, ●looking after them in case the member is ill or in emergency, etc.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY There are 2 categories of membership: requesting member and supporting member. ●Requesting members: those who live, study, or work in Sakura as well as being guardians of children who are 57 days of age – the 6th graders of elementary school. ●Supporting members: Sakura residents at the age of 20 or above.

You can enroll in either of them or both of them.

REGISTRATION Registration is required to become a member. Also, both requesting members and supporting members are required to attend a briefing session held on Sunday, April 18, from 13:00, at Shizu Community Center. Supporting members need to attend basic seminar subsequently held there.

HOURS AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT From 6:00 to 22:00.

CHARGES **Monday through Friday:** ●7:00–19:00; ¥700/hour; ●Other hours; ¥900/hour.

Saturday, Sunday, national holidays and during the year-end & New Year holidays: ¥900/hour.

Charges do not include expenses for food, transportation, etc.

Call Family Support Center, ☎488-1270 for further information.



CITY-SPONSORED RABIES VACCINATION

Rabies is fatal to both animals and humans, once symptoms of the disease develop. There is no effective cure available, but inoculation can prevent development of the disease. In accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law, all dog owners are required to register their pets and have them vaccinated once every year. The city offers special vaccination opportunities at many locations in Sakura. The venues and dates for this year are listed in the chart below.



Vaccination notices will be sent to the owners of registered dogs. Please fill out the form and bring it to the venue. The rabies shot costs ¥2,800 and the 'vaccination completed tag' fee is ¥550. Owners of unregistered dogs can also have their dog registered and immunized there. The registration fee is ¥3,000, plus ¥2,800 for the rabies shot and ¥550 for the tag.

NOTES

- We recommend visiting on weekdays.
- In some cases, the rabies shot will not be administered to dogs, for example; if your dog is registered at another city and you have not yet completed its moving-in procedures into Sakura; if it is less than one month since your dog received a different vaccination; if serious side effects from rabies vaccination were experienced in the past; if your dog is pregnant, breast-feeding, in mating season, or under 91 days of age; if you are not able to keep your dog under control etc.
- The vaccination will be held rain or shine. In case of rain, please bring towels, because the shot may not be given if the dog is wet. Be sure to carry a cleanup bag and utensils so that you can take your pet's droppings home for proper disposal.
- Please refrain from visiting by car as parking lots are not available except at Naoya Park and Iwana Sports Park.
- If any changes occur in the information listed on your dog's registration record, such as changes of owner, address, you need to report it to the city in order to have the record updated. Also, if your dog dies, you need to file a death notice to have the record canceled.
- If you are unable to attend any of the city-sponsored vaccination, have your dog immunized at an animal clinic. Afterwards, submit the veterinarian's vaccination certificate to *Kankyoh-hozen-ka* (the Environmental Preservation Section) to receive the 'vaccination completed tag'.

Call *Kankyoh-hozen-ka*, ☎ 484-6148 for further information.

SCHEDULE OF RABIES VACCINATION

DATES	PLACES	TIMES	DATES	PLACES	TIMES
4/9 (Fri.)	Wada Furusato-kan	9:30-10:05	4/16 (Fri.)	Koma-gaeshi Park (Ohsaki-dai 4-chohme)	9:20-9:55
	Sakado Kumin-kan	10:45-11:15		Tohmasaku Park (Minami Yukari-ga-oka)	10:45-11:35
	Someino Reservoir square	12:50-14:25		Yukari-ga-oka Kita Park	13:10-14:00
4/13 (Tue.)	Shizu Koh'minkan	9:30-10:45	4/17 (Sat.)	Yukari-ga-oka Minami Park	9:30-11:25
	Hoshiha Park (Naka-Shizu 1-chohme)	12:20-13:05		Minami Shizu Park (Nishi-Shizu 8-chohme)	13:10-14:15
	Usui Johshi Park	13:45-14:25	4/20 (Tue.)	Naoya Park (Beside the <i>Dai-ichi</i> parking lot)	9:30-10:05
4/14 (Wed.)	<i>Tenshi-no-mori Park</i> (<i>Ohja-machi</i>)	9:20-9:55		San-noh Park (San-noh 2-chohme)	10:55-11:25
				Shirogane Park	13:00-13:55
	Matsuyama Park (Ohji-dai 6-chohme)	10:45-11:25	4/22 (Thu.)	Iwana Sports Park (Beside the main parking lot)	9:15-10:25
Oise Park (Ohji-dai 1-chohme)	13:00-14:25	4/24 (Sat.)	Ebara-dai 3goh Park	11:15-11:55	
			Tohji-dai Nishi Park	13:35-14:05	
			4/24 (Sat.)	City Hall (Parking lot)	9:00-12:00

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	APRIL '10	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in November, 2009	16	9:30-10:30/13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	8	9:30-10:30/13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	15	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in July, 2009	7	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	20	9:30-9:45	Seibu Hoken Center
	15	9:30-9:45	Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in September, 2008	13	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	21		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in October, 2006	14	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	22		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in April or October, 2007 or in April, 2008	20	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	28		
	5	13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	26		
	16		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

PLACES	APRIL '10	TIMES	APPOINTMENT
Nambu Hoken Center	13	9:30-11:30	Nambu Hoken Center
Kenkoh Kanri Center	19	13:30-15:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center

Consultation with public health nurse, nutritionist, or dental hygienist is available.

For consultation, 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

Free antenatal classes will be held at Kenkoh Kanri Center in April & May for expectant mothers to have the first babies between July and September 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 Kenkoh Kanri Center.

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 st	April 23	9:00-15:20
2 nd	May 9	9:00-13:00

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.

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY: As of the end of February 2010, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,943 (86,861 male and 89,082 female) in 69,999 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,004. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,947. Printed on recycled paper.