

HELLO SAKURA

Public Relations Section, Sakura City Hall, ☎(043) 484-1111, Ext.2275 or

☎(043) 484-6103; Fax:(043) 486-8720; E-mail: koho@city.sakura.lg.jp; URL: http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp

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.

BE PREPARED FOR DISASTERS AT ALL TIMES SEPTEMBER 1 - DISASTER PREVENTION DAY

Disaster Prevention Day was established to remind all of us of the importance of lessons learned in past major earthquakes and of the correct measures to take to be better prepared on a daily basis. You can minimize possible damages if you are prepared and know what to do when they occur.

So make your preparations now and follow the rules given below:

Hold family meetings to confirm the roles of each family member and how to contact with each other after a disaster strikes.

Confirm the locations of shelters beforehand In Sakura, there are 40 emergency shelters, most of them are elementary or junior high schools. Check the locations of emergency shelters and evacuation routes in advance. Find alternative routes just in case.

Prepare an emergency pack to take with you in the event of evacuation, containing flashlight, portable radio, spare batteries, drinking water, and emergency food supply. These items will be also useful in the event of power failure or water stoppage. Keep the pack easily accessible.

EARTHQUAKES Japan is an earthquake-prone country. Experts say that major earthquakes such as the one anticipated to strike in the Tokai region could occur at any time.

1) Securing your own safety (self-help)---Safety check of your house

◆Check and reinforce the structure of your house and concrete-block walls (if you have). In the past, many people were killed or injured by collapse of concrete-block walls. Conversion to hedges is recommended.

◆Fix furniture and home electrical appliances to prevent from toppling or falling during tremors. Do not store heavy or fragile items on top of furniture.

2) **Helping others (mutual help):** In times of disaster, you must help each other. Keep a good daily relationship with your neighbors. Participate in disaster preparedness drills conducted by your neighborhood association and set up a well-organized system for cooperation.

TYPHOON & TORRENTIAL RAIN SEASON is coming up. Pay special attention to weather information on radio or television. In Sakura, typhoons and torrential rains caused landslides and inundations above floor level almost once in every 5 years.

When a typhoon is approaching your area, make the following preparations against:

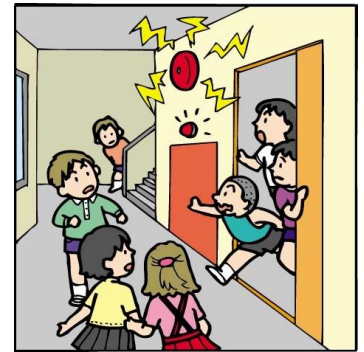
<Wind> Move anything liable to be blown away indoors or secure it.

<Rain> Torrential rain cannot be predicted even with the development of technology in meteorological observation. Prepare for quick evacuation at all times in at-risk areas.

<Landslides> Housing near cliff is often in danger of falling rocks or landslides. Evacuate as soon as possible when you notice landslide warning signs such as new cracks, falling stones and other unusual changes.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DRILL will be conducted at Usui-minami Junior High School from Saturday, October 17, 15:00 till Sunday, October 18, 7:00. Further information will follow in the next issue.

DISASTER EMERGENCY MESSAGE DIAL 171 When an earthquake or other disaster occurs, telephone lines become overwhelmed with calls to the affected area by the people checking the safety of their loved ones, and it may be very difficult to get through for days. Therefore, the Disaster Emergency Message Dial 171 Service is available to confirm the safety of your family, relatives, and friends in such a situation. This service is only available during times of disaster. However, "Practice Days" are provided to practice using this service on the first day of every month. For more information in English, please visit the following website: http://www.ntt-east.co.jp/saigai_e/voice171/index.html



SIEF SPEECH CONTEST

The annual Speech Contest sponsored by Sakura International Exchange Foundation (SIEF) will be held on Sunday, September 27, 10:00-16:00. The program consists of 3 parts: (1) free speeches in the Japanese language by foreign residents, and (2) recitations in English by elementary school pupils, (3) recitations and speech contest in English by junior high school students. Admission is free and you sure will enjoy their speeches and recitations. Call SIEF, ☎484-6326 for further information.

10% PREMIUM MONEY COUPONS RELEASED ON SEPT.4

Save ¥1,000 on a ¥10,000 purchase of coupon!

‘Sakura Premium *Shoh'hin-ken* (money coupon)’ is a part of stimulative measure project to promote consumption through the family budget to boost the local business and economy. The sales of coupons start on September 4 (Fri.) from 10:00 and will be ended as soon as 10,000 packs sold out. Each coupon is valid from September 4 through November 30 (Mon.).



CONTENTS A ticket pack, pricing ¥10,000, with 22 coupons of ¥500 each. Up to 5 packs /person. Please note that member stores fall into two categories: large-scale retail stores (Yukari-ga-oka Saty and Usui Jusco) and small-and-medium-sized stores. 7 green coupons can be used at any member store, while 15 pink coupons are valid only at small-and-medium-sized stores. No change given.

SALES PLACES ●3rd floor of Shizu Station Building, ●2nd floor of Yukari Plaza, ●3rd floor of Usui Jusco, ●*Sakura-shi Kankoh Kyoh'kai* (Sakura Tourism Association), ●*Sakura Shohkoh Kaigisho* (Sakura Chamber of Commerce & Industry).

MEMBER STORES Approximately 400 stores in Sakura from a wide variety of genres: supermarkets, restaurants, pharmacies, barber shops, etc. A list of member stores will be seen at <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/syoko/puremiamu-meibo.mht> Member stores hoist a flag on the right, as well as the flags of Japan and the Netherlands.



Call Sakura Chamber of Commerce & Industry, ☎486-2331 for more information.

HAVE YOU FINISHED APPLYING FOR

‘SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME PAYMENTS’ & ‘SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CHILD-REARING’ ?

In order to receive the ‘Supplementary Income Payments’ (*Teigaku Kyufu-kin*) and/or the ‘Special Allowance for Child-rearing’ (*Kosodate-oh'en Tokubetsu-te'ate*), applications are required. The deadline for submitting the application forms is Monday, November 2. If you have not yet applied, we request you to proceed as soon as possible. Call *Shoh'koh-kankoh-ka* (the Commerce, Industry & Tourism Section), ☎483-3901 for more information.



THE APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING will be accepted through Tuesday, September 15. The following apartment rooms are available this time: Six rooms at Ohja-machi; and one room at Fujisawa-machi. You are eligible to apply for them if : you live in Sakura for 1 year or more; you are not delinquent in payments of your city tax; and you have one or more relatives to live together. There are additional requirements and qualifications to be a tenant, such as income limitation and co-signer. Call *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* (the Construction Guidance Section), ☎484-6168 for further information. Application leaflets are available at *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* at the City Hall, city branch offices, and Nishi-shizu/ Sakura Service Centers.

TEMPORARY SERVICE OF DISPATCHING HELPERS to homes of single-parent families

& widows: The City of Sakura operates a service to dispatch helpers to households which are in need of temporary help in child-raising, cleaning rooms, going shopping for necessities of life, etc. The service is on a membership basis. To become a member, the user is required to submit an application form and have an interview.

ELIGIBILITY Single-parent families, or widows who were once single-mothers.

SERVICE CONTENTS Temporary help at the user's home.

ACCEPTABLE REASONS For instance, the user is ill or in emergency, needs to go to school events, or goes to school to acquire professional qualifications for financial independence.

CHARGES ¥300/hour. Although, free of charge for households receiving public assistance benefits or exempt from city tax; ¥150/hour for households receiving the Child-rearing Allowance.

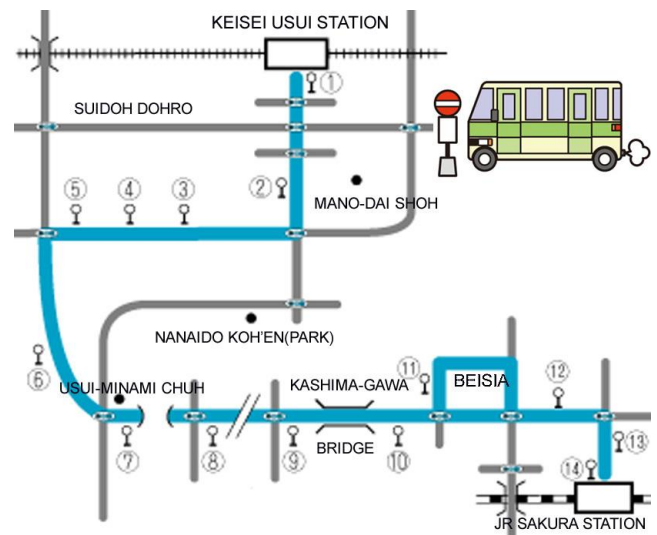
HOURS Up to 8 hours/day from 7:00 to 20:00 except during the year-end and New Year holidays. A maximum of 10 visits/year.

Call Jidoh seishoh'nen-ka (the Children and Youth Section), ☎484-6140 for further information.

NEW BUS LINES BETWEEN JR SAKURA & KEISEI USUI

Chiba Green Bus Co. started two new bus line services from August 24: (1) About a 22-minute ride between JR Sakura and Keisei Usui Stations, and (2) about a 16-minute ride between Keisei Usui Station and Terazaki-kita Bus Stop (right near 'Beisia' supermarket). On either route, the bus runs via Usui-minami Junior High School. Bus schedules at the main stops are shown on page 4 in the August 15 issue of 'Koho Sakura', the Japanese newsletter published by the city. Call Chiba Green Bus Co., ☎481-0808 for further information.

Bus stops between JR Sakura and Keisei Usui Stations are: ①Keisei Usui Station, ②Mano-dai *shoh'gakkoh* (elementary school), ③Yama-no-kami, ④Mano, ⑤Ohji-dai *iriguci* (approach), ⑥Somei-no 6-choh'me, ⑦Usui-minami *chuhgakkoh* (junior high school), ⑧Nanaido-bashi, ⑨Hadori *iriguchi*, ⑩ Terazaki, ⑪ Terazaki-kita, ⑫ Kaburagi 1-choh'me, ⑬ Kaburagi-machi 2-choh'me, ⑭JR Sakura Station.



HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE FORUMS:

High school guidance forums are scheduled for foreign parents and students who are entering senior high school. Participants will learn types of high schools, entrance examinations, school fees and expenses, and other relevant information. Also, there will be presentations about personal experiences by current high school students. Interpreters will be available in various languages. Admission is free except the cost of ¥100 for handouts. Dates and places are as follows: ●October 4 (Sun,) at Chiba University, Inage-ku, Chiba City, ●October 11 (Sun,) at Matsudo-Shimin-Kaikan, Matsudo, and ● October 18 (Sun,) at Funabashi Shiritsu Chuh'oh-Koh'minkan, Funabashi. The Guidance will be held between 13:30 and 16:30 at the respective places. Reservation is recommended, but on-site application is also welcomed. For further information, call Mr. Shiratani at ☎424-4364 or 080-3175-9539, or visit the website where you can find the application form and the maps of venues: <http://www.mcic.or.jp/>



SUBSIDY FOR PETS



Owners of dogs or cats can claim a subsidy of ¥5,000 when they get their pets spayed/neutered. However, the subsidy will be provided for only one pet per household, and not apply to dogs and cats younger than 6 months or those considered too old for surgery. Owners should apply for the subsidy by sending an application form postmarked between September 20 and 26. In case of an excess of application, a draw will be held to determine successful applicants and subsidy tickets will be delivered to them around mid-October. The subsidy tickets must be used by December 26 at the latest. Call *Chiba-ken Juh-ishi-kai* (Chiba Veterinary Medical Association), ☎232-6980 for detailed information, or visit its web site: <http://www.cpvma.com/> to find all the necessary items for application. Also, *Nakayoshi-doh'butsu Festival* (Pet Animals Festival) 2009 will be held at the Chiba-ken *Dohbutsu Aigo Center* (Center for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in Tomisato City on Sunday, September 27, 10:00-15:00. For more information, call the Center, ☎ 0476-93-5711 or visit its website: http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/syozoku/c_eisi/aigo/



SPECIAL CLOSING DAYS OF SAKURA CITY LIBRARIES

Sakura city libraries will be closed for the special inventory as specified below. While the libraries are closed, please return books and magazines to 'book return post boxes'. As well as the following periods, the libraries are closed on every Monday and every 1st Tuesday as usual.



LIBRARY NAMES	PERIODS OF CLOSING	LIBRARY NAMES	PERIODS OF CLOSING IN 2010
Sakura Library	Oct. 6 (Tue.) – 9 (Fri.)	Usui Koh'minkan Library Room	Jan. 26 (Tue.) – 29 (Fri.)
Shizu <i>Bunkan</i> (branch library)	Nov. 3 (Tue.) – 6 (Fri.)	Kita-Shizu Children's Center Library Room	Jan.26 (Tue.) – 29 (Fri.)
Sakura Minami Library	Dec.1 (Tue.) – 6 (Sun.)	Shizu Library	Feb. 2 (Tue.) –7 (Sun.)

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	SEPTEMBER '09	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in April, 2009	24	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	4	9:30-10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
13:30-14:30			
	15	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in December, 2008	28	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	25	9:30-9:45	Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in February, 2008	16	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	10	13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	3	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in March, 2006	17	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	8	13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	2	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in March or September, 2007 or in September, 2006	4	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	11		
	15	13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	30		
	18		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

- **Consultation with public health nurse** is available on ●Friday, September 25, 13:30-15:30 at Kenkoh Kanri Center; ●Tuesday, September 29, 9:30-11:30 at Seibu Hoken Center; ●Wednesday, September 30, 9:30-11:30 at Nambu Hoken Center. Appointment is required. Public health nurse will help you to develop a healthier lifestyle.
- **Telephone counseling** with public health nurse or nutritionist is available at any of the centers, 8:30-17:00, Monday - Friday.
If you need a consultation with dental hygienist or speech therapist, call Kenkoh Kanri Center.

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate !

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME CLINIC FOR CHILDREN'S DEASEASES IN ACUTE & EARLY STAGE (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, and year-end/New year holidays (12/29-1/3) 9:00-17:00 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

DAYTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Consultation with doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty.

●Surgeon: 9:00-16:30, 19:00-21:45 ●Physician, dentist: 9:00-16:30 ●ENT doctor: 19:00-21:45

NIGHTTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Internal medicine & dental treatment are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 21:45.

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of July 2009, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,863 (86,812 male and 89,051 female) in 69,700 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 1,973. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,836.

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