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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 can be answered generally on Mondays and Tuesdays through *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

SAKURA MONOZUKURI FESTA

17 (Sat) and 18 (Sun), March 2012

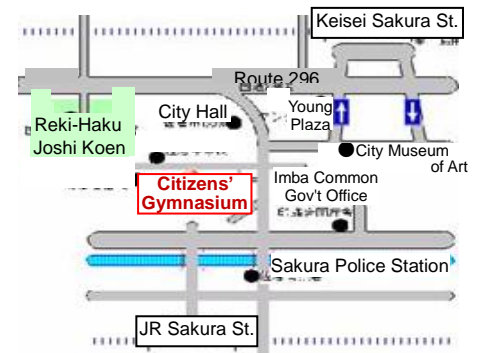
At Citizens' Gymnasium

Sakura Monozukuri Festa, City's industries Festival, will be held at the Citizens' Gymnasium and in a special tent site set up in the adjacent parking lot, former site of Otemon Gate of Sakura Castle in Edo era. Variety of shops and specialties including food, flower, handicrafts and industrial products will be waiting for you to make a new discovery of Sakura.

Special Tent Site at former Otemon Gate

◆Sakura Free Market "Saku-raku-ichi"

Raku-ichi means free market with relaxed regulations, and "raku" also means "enjoyable." Variety of merchandise from all over the City will gather under the roof to be exhibited and sold. You will surely find kinds of favorite shops.



Citizens' Gymnasium Arena

◆Exhibition of Manufacturing and Construction Industries in Sakura

Panels and sample products will be displayed so that even children can easily understand the technology and products manufactured and used in Sakura, supporting our everyday life. Visit the site and you will make new discoveries of Sakura.

◆Open Events:

March 17 (Sat) & 18 (Sun)

- "Kumiko" workshop:** Kumiko means Japanese beautiful, fine latticework made of wood strips called "Kude." Mr. Kohji Shimano, a Kumiko craftsman living in Sakura, will instruct the participants on how to make a Kumiko coaster. Free of charge and no prior application required. Participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

- Scooping up of Sakura rice:** Get as much rice as you can take in one scoop.

March 18 (Sun) only

- Eraser Stamps workshop:** Carve a stamp out of erasers and create your original print! Mr. Mitsuru Nagashima, a printmaker living in Sakura will give instruction to you. Free of charge and no prior application required.

Participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

- **"Yuhnamito-Usasaki" Small Concert:** Yuhnamito-Usasaki, a Pop music unit of a vocalist and a guitarist both from Sakura, will perform a small concert.

- **Concert by Sakura Higashi Junior High Brass Band Club**

- **Get-Together of Local Mascot Characters in Chiba Prefecture:**

Chiiba-kun, the mascot character of Chiba prefecture, Unari-kun of Narita City, Kamuro-chan of Sakura, and many other mascot characters will gather in the Gymnasium!



(Note) There might be a case where the above schedule changes by unavoidable circumstances.

[Parking and Transportation]

- Free shuttle buses ply between the Citizens' Gymnasium and JR Sakura Station, and between the Citizens' Gymnasium and Keisei Sakura Station.
- As the number of the cars can be parked there is limited, **you are kindly requested to use public transport and free shuttle bus services as much as possible**, although free parking is available at Jiyuh Hiroba (Sakura Jyoshi Koen Park Free Square, adjacent Sakura Higashi School).
- Please refrain from parking in the neighborhood streets and the parking lot of Reki-Haku (National Museum of Japanese History).

ANIMATED MOVIE FOR FAMILIES AT CITY CONCERT HALL



"Cars 2" by Disney/Pixar will be shown on Tuesday, March 27, from 10:00 (Doors open at 9:30) until 12:00 at the City Concert Hall. Free of charge, and admittance is on a first-come-first-served basis. No food or drink is allowed. Call Chu'oh Kohmin-kan, ☎485-1801 for more information.

The 31st SAKURA ASAHI KENKOH (Health) MARATHON

Let's Cheer Up the Runners!

9:00 to 15:30, March 25 (Sun), Rain or shine



Runners numbering more than 10,000 from all over Japan will gather to run around Imba-numa Lake starting from *Iwana Undoh Koh'en Rikujoh Kyoh'gijoh* (Athletic Stadium at Iwana Sports Park). Mr. Yoshio Koide, the famous marathon coach and the chairman of the event, will also take part in as well as other members of Sakura Athlete Club. Volunteers will help runners by supplying water, showing the right course, etc. at the venue. Wouldn't you like to join in cheering up the runners along the

course? Your encouragement will definitely help them get over the finish line. One of the good spots we recommend for those who are joining is *Furusato Hiroba*, where you could enjoy beautiful scenery with cherry blossoms and the windmill.

STARTING TIME Opening ceremony at 9:00; Full marathon at 9:30; 3 km run at 9:50; 10 km run at 10:40.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS For the safety of road users, parts of the route will be closed or regulated to traffic on the day of the Marathon as shown below. On March 25, Please refrain from driving into the Iwana Sports Park and around the Marathon course.

★Alternate one-side traffic control:

① 10:20 to 12:00: From the sharp bend near Kusabue-no-oka to Futago-bashi Br.

⑦ 11:00 to 13:00: Funato-Oh'hashi Br.

★One-way traffic control:

③ 09:40 to 11:00: Nakahira-bashi Br.

★Vehicles prohibited:

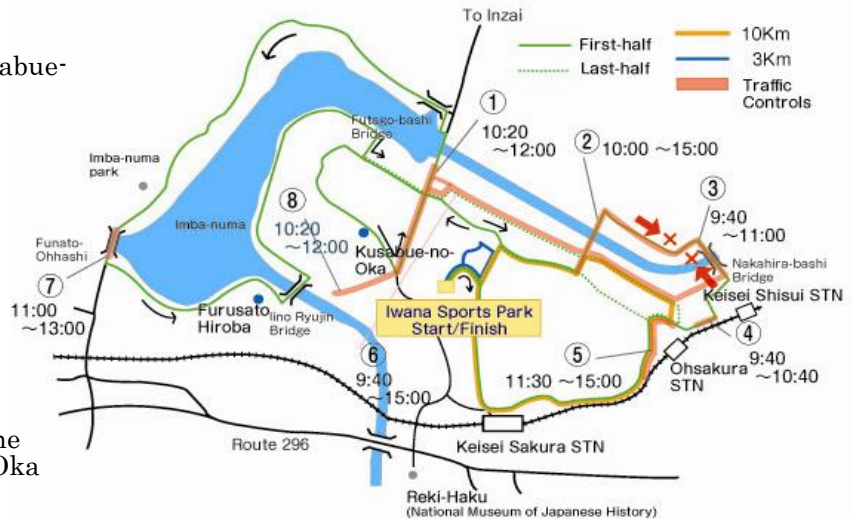
④ 09:40 to 10:40: Part of between Ohsakura St. and Keisei Shisui St.

⑥ 09:40 to 15:00: Near Futago-bashi Br. to Ohsakura St.

② 10:00 to 15:00: Between Iida-dai and Hiraga-gakuen-dai through Iida-bashi Br.

⑧ 10:20 to 12:00: Between Iino Ryujin Br. and the sharp bend near Kusabue-no-Oka

⑤ 11:30 to 15:00: Near Ohsakura St.



FREE SHUTTLE BUSES are available for runners and supporters between north exit of Keisei Sakura/JR Sakura stations and Iwana Sports Park during the hours of 6:30-9:00 & 11:00-17:00.

For the success of the event, organizers request the cooperation and understanding of the public and residents along the route as some inconvenience may be inevitable. Call Sakura Asahi Kenkoh Marathon, ☎485-2929 for more information.

RADIATION MEASUREMENT IN FOODS & AGRI-PRODUCTS

Sakura City has resolved to independently measure radiation in food and agri-products for ensuring the safety. For this purpose, new radiation measurement systems named CAN-OSP-NAI, manufactured by Hitachi Aloka Medical, Ltd. were purchased and installed at **Sakura City Education Center** in Sakura Higashi Elementary school and **Usui Minami Junior High school**, where the measurements are to be conducted.

•Measurement is conducted daily for some part of ingredients for school meals for elementary, junior high, and nursery schools in Sakura, starting on February 20. The results are to be announced on the City's website.

•Agri-products produced in Sakura for sale and personal consumption, and soils and compost for production, can be inspected upon reservation between 13:00 and 16:00 on every Friday from March 9. Only one item can be inspected at one time, and about 2kg of weight per one item is required for inspection. Reservation can be made on and after March 2 by calling *Nohsei-ka*, Agricultural Administration Section, 484-6142.

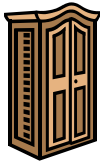
Please refer to the below table for detailed inquiries.



Section in charge	Tel.	Inquiry about
<i>Kosodate Shien-ka</i>	484-6246	School meals at nursery schools
<i>Shidoh-ka</i>	484-6193	School meals at elementary and junior high schools
<i>Nohsei-ka</i>	484-6142	Agri-products and others
<i>Kankyo Hozen-ka</i>	484-6150	Measurement system

Oversized garbage disposal

To dispose oversized garbage, you need to make prior appointments with the contract collector in charge of your district and purchase a ticket to be put on the garbage on the appointed date. To make appointment, please contact collectors shown below. Note that there has been partial change to the service area.



Contact	Service Area
Imba Boh'eki-sha ☎483-5022, Fax 486-2937	Sakura, Negoh, Wada, and Yatomi
	Northern part of Usui and Shizu *1 (*1)Usui and Shizu districts north of the <u>Keisei railway track</u> .
Igarashi Shoh'kai ☎443-4676, Fax 442-1581	Chiyoda, and Southern part of Usui and Shizu *2 (*2)Usui and Shizu districts south of the <u>Keisei railway track</u> .

Subsidy for International exchange activities

Financial support is available for groups in Sakura city which promote or encourage international exchange and/or cooperation activities between April, 2012 and March, 2013. Half of the cost or less (there is an upper limit) for activities will be offered, but will not be granted if the purpose of the activity is religious, political, or commercial. Send or bring the application form to SIEF (the Sakura International Exchange Foundation) no later than April 13 (Fri). Call SIEF, ☎484-6326 or refer to its website, <http://www/sief.jp> for further information.



Tax Declaration Deadline is March 15 (Thu), 2012

- Consultation and submission of tax return forms (any kind of taxes) are accepted at the Aeon Hall on the 2nd floor of Aeon Mall Narita (24 Wing-Tsuchiya, Narita) through March 15 (Thu), 9:00-16:00 (except Saturdays and Sundays).



Please note that the Narita Tax Office now only accepts submission of the forms.

- Consultation and submission of tax return forms (income and resident taxes) are accepted at Sakura City Hall through March 15 (Thu), 9:00-15:00 (except Saturdays and Sundays. On Sunday, March 11, however, consultation and submission of resident tax return are accepted. Submission can be done till 17:00). You may claim tax refunds by declaring deductions for costly medical expenses, housing loans, etc. If you would like to have a consultation, but you do not quite understand Japanese, please come with someone who can interpret for you. City branch offices only accept submission of the forms.

Please refer to “2011 INCOME TAX GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS” (homepage of the National Taxation Office written in English, <http://www.nta.go.jp/tetsuzuki/shinkoku/shotoku/tebiki2011/pdf/43.pdf>), for details. For further inquiries about income tax, please call Narita Tax Office, ☎0476-28-5151 and about resident tax, call the City Tax Section at Sakura City Hall, ☎484-6115.



LIGHT-VEHICLE TAX



Light-vehicle tax is levied on a person who owns a motorbike (*gendohki-tsuki jitensha*), a light-vehicle, a motorcycle, etc. as of April 1 each year. Be sure to complete the procedures for change of owner or scrapping of the vehicle. For example, if you sell, give away, throw away, or do not use the vehicle any more, you must report it to the office where your vehicle is registered. Otherwise, you must continue to pay taxes on that vehicle even if you do not use or possess it any more. Also it is necessary to complete the procedures in case you move out of Sakura or move abroad for a long period. Requirements and the office of application differ depending on the vehicle category. Please call the following offices for further information: ●Motorbikes/motorcycles(125cc and under) & special light vehicles--- *Kazei-ka* (the Taxation Section) ☎484-6223, ●Motorcycles over 125cc--- *Chiba Riku-un Shikyoku* (Chiba Road Transport Bureau) ☎050-5540-2022, ●Light vehicles with 3-wheels or 4-wheels--- *Kei-jidoh sha Kensa Kyoh'kai* (Light Vehicle Inspection Association), ☎245-0163.

PARTIAL SUBSIDIES FOR PNEUMONIA VACCINES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31 (SAT)

Subsidy of 2,000 yen for pneumonia vaccination (23-valent pneumococcal vaccine) started on October 1, 2011. If you took pneumonia vaccination after April 1, 2011 and the conditions below apply to you, please apply as soon as possible at the City Health Centers or by sending postal mail to Kenkoh Kanri Center, Ebaradai 2-27, Sakura, ☎285-0825. Upon application, submission of the application form (available at medical institutions and the Health Centers) with your personal seal, a copy of your payment receipt, and details on your bank account for the deposit are required. Eligible citizens are:



- 65 years of age or older as at the date of the vaccination, or
- between 60 and 64 years of age as at the date of the vaccination and have a disability falling within the 1st grade of disability due to cardiac, kidney, respiratory, or HIV-associated diseases.

Call *Kenkoh-Zohshin-ka* (Health Promotion Section), ☎485-6711 for further information.

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of January 2012, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,144 (87,125 males and 89,019 females) in 71,493 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,103. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,247.

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	March'12	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in October 2011	6 (Tue)	9:30 – 10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30 – 14:30	
	16 (Fri)	9:30 – 10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30 – 14:30	
	19 (Mon)	13:30 – 14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months, born in June 2011	23 (Tue)	9:30 – 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	26 (Mon)		Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in September 2010	13 (Tue)	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	5 (Mon)		Seibu Hoken Center
	21 (Wed)		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in September 2008	14 (Wed)	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	8 (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
	22 (Thu)		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in March or September 2009 or in March 2010 * On the days with * mark, Consultation on Speech Development is also available.)	2* (Fri)	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	7 (Wed)		
	9* (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
	12 (Mon)		
	15* (Thu)		

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

For expectant mothers and fathers to have the **first baby between May and July 2012**, the second session of the free antenatal classes will be held at **Nambu Hoken Center on March 4 (Sun)**. The program will include instructions on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, pregnancy experience simulation for fathers, etc. Attendance at only one session is allowed and attendance by expectant fathers is recommended especially for the second session. There is a limit of 35 people in a class. Application required. The next antenatal class will be held at **Kenkoh Hoken Center, on April 27 (Fri)**, for expectant mothers to have the **first baby between July and September 2012**.

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
2 nd	Mar. 04 (Sun)	9:00-12:30

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 st	Apr. 27 (Fri)	9:00-15:00

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available on **March 1 (Thu), 9:00-12:00** at **Kenkoh Kanri Center**. If you feel distressed about your child's developmental or behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone. Application required.
Consultation with public health nurse for all ages is available on **March 27 (Tue), 9:30 - 11:30**, at **Seibu Hoken Center**. Consultation on health check results and how to live a healthier life, nutritional guidance, and health check including blood-pressure measurement can be provided. Application required.
Telephone counseling with public health nurse or nutritionist is available at each center, 8:30-17:00, Monday - Friday. Dental hygienist or speech therapist are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate!

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME CLINIC FOR CHILDREN'S DISEASES 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) 9:00-16:45 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for details.

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.

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