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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. Printed on recycled paper.



SAKURA FLOWER FESTA 2012

THE 52TH SAKURA CITIZENS' FIREWORKS SHOW

19:00-21:00, AUGUST 4 (Sat)

(In case of bad weather, to be postponed to August 5)

Come and enjoy a summer spectacle of sound and light in the beautiful setting of *Imba-Numa Lake*! As a part of Sakura Flower Festa, a flowery touch is added to the show this year such as sunflowers planted on the site and the HoloSpex, Holographic Glasses which make the fireworks look flower-shaped. It will surely become one of your finest memories of Sakura.

19:00---Opening ceremony

19:20-21:00 (subject to change) --- Approximately 10,000 Japanese fireworks will be set off, including Tezutsu hand-tube fireworks which can be seen only on this

occasion in the Kanto area. You can also enjoy water fireworks beautifully light up the lake surface and jumbo aerial shells whose diameter is more than 23-inch (*Ni-shaku-dama*).

Traffic Restrictions Roads leading to the fireworks site are closed to vehicles on the day of the event from 17:30 to 22:00. The cycling road which runs through the restricted zone will be closed for both pedestrians and vehicles from 9:00, August 3 (Fri) through noon, August 5 (Sun). Please also note that the traffic restriction may start earlier than scheduled.

●No parking is allowed at the venue. Please walk from the nearest stations (40 minutes from Usui Station, 50 minutes from Keisei Sakura Station, and 60 minutes from JR Sakura Station).

For further information, please call Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai (Tourist Association), ☎486-6000, or visit the city's website: <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/sakura/hanabi/>

*The roads on the Inzai side of the lake will be open at 21:00



■ Ticket for A Site

¥10,000 for 1 stall (up to 5 persons)
 Tickets are sold exclusively through
 Lawson Ticket Service (L-code: 38555).
 Call 0570-000-777 for inquiries.

■ Ticket for B Site

Free for elementary school pupils living in Sakura, ¥1,000 for the rest (can be bought after 16:00 of the event day, on site only).
 A HoloSpex, Holographic Glasses will be presented to the



THE 17th USUI SUMMER FESTIVAL


13:00-22:00, August 25 (Sat)

The 17th *Usui Furusato Nigiwai Matsuri* will be held on the street in front of Sakura Concert Hall and Lake-Pia Usui. You can enjoy various events such as *Wadaiko* drumming, *rock-sohran* dancing, *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) parade as well as a summer concert by three bands of junior high school students of Usui area and Fire Department Bands (from 13:00 at the Concert Hall).



WORKSHOP - GLASS PAINTING OF WINDBELL

Edo Fuhrin, a glass wind bell, has been a part of the seasonal culture in Japan since *Edo* era to beat summer heat with clinking cool sound. A unique opportunity of glass painting of *Edo Fuhrin* is offered at the Festival. Number of participants is limited to 60 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

Time: ① 16:00 ② 16:30 ③ 17:00 ④ 17:30 ⑤ 18:00 ⑥ 18:30

Place: In the headquarter tent of the Festival / Fee: ¥1,000 including the material cost

To apply, please send a post card to: Sakura *Shoh'koh-kaigi-sho*, 〒285-0811, 3-3-10, Omote-cho, with your name, address, telephone, and your first & second choices of the session no later than August 19 (Sun). Five persons can apply with one post card.

For further information, please call Sakura Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ☎486-2331.





HAVE SUMMER FUN AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA

Enjoy the series of events for the summer vacation with your family and friends offered at Kusabue-no-Oka! Throughout August, the day's special events are to be offered every day. Especially, everyone is invited to the *Bon-odori* dancing night on Saturday, August 11, from 18:00 with free admission.

←Kaleidoscope Craft

EVENT/CLASS	DATES & TIMES (AUGUST)		FEE*	CAPACITY	
Treasure Hunting Game	04, 23	Sat, Thu	10:00	¥500	30
Nagashi Somen (outdoor party with flowing somen noodles)	05, 12, 19, 26	Sun	11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00	¥500/child, ¥700/adult	20 for each session
Milk-Carton Craft Workshop	06	Mon	10:00	¥500	20
Crayfish Fishing	07	Tue	10:00	¥200	30
“Beat the Summer Heat!” Cooking	08	Wed	10:00	¥1,000	20
Milk-Carton Coaster Craftwork	09	Thu	10:00	¥300	20
Goldfish Scooping	10	Fri	10:00, 13:00	¥300	20 for each session
Bon-Odori Dancing Night	11	Sat	Free admission after 18:00		
Kaleidoscope Craft Workshop	13	Mon	10:00	¥500	20
Bamboo Craft Workshop	14	Tue	10:00	¥500	20 (Water Pistol)
Glass Painting Workshop	15, 30	Wed	10:00	¥800	30
Desk Lamp Making Workshop	16	Thu	10:00	¥500	20
Icing Cookie Workshop	17	Fri	10:00, 14:00	¥650	15 for each session
Paper Screen Print & Hand-made Frame Workshop	18	Sat	10:00	¥1,000	15
Train Craft Workshop	21	Tue	10:00	¥500	20
Pen Holder Workshop	22	Wed	10:00	¥500	20
Take-tombo* Making (*helicopter-like bamboo toy)	24	Fri	10:00	¥300	30
Experience Family Camp!	25	Sat	16:00	¥700/child, ¥1,000/adult	40 (up to 10 families)
Handicraft - Fishing Game	27	Mon	10:00	¥300	20
Learning about Railways—Q&A	28	Tue	10:00	¥200	30
Star-Watching Tour	29	Wed	19:30	¥300	50
Great BBQ Party	31	Fri	11 : 00	¥700/child, ¥1,000/adult	40 (up to 10 groups)

*A separate admission fee is required.

Besides the above day's events, you can enjoy:

World's Insect Exhibition — August 4 (Sat) and August 19 (Sun)

Meet insects from around the world this summer! Rhinoceros beetles (*kabuto-mushi*) and stag beetles (*kuwagata-mushi*) are waiting for your visit.

Night Train Ride — Every Saturday night from 19:30 to 20:30. ¥310.

Very popular train ride in the night park. Let's feel the cool breeze through night trees!

The park is open from 9:00 to 17:00 daily (no admittance after 16:00 except for some evening events). Prior booking is necessary for all events/classes except for the insect exhibition and *Bon-odori* dancing. As for other events in August, visit the web-site: <http://www.kusabue.shiteikanri-sakura.jp>.

Admission fee to Kusabue-no-oka is ¥300 for junior high school & elementary school students, ¥150 for preschool children, and ¥400 for others. Admission fees do not include fees for events/classes.

Please call *Kusabue-no-oka*, ☎485-7821 for bookings and further information.

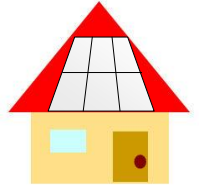
PREY FOR PERMANENT PEACE IN THE WORLD

AUGUST 15 (WED) – SAKURA PEACE CEREMONY

Wednesday, August 15 is the “day for mourning the war dead and praying for peace.” Every year on this day, a nationwide memorial ceremony is held and a joint one-minute silence is offered at noon. Following this silent prayer, Sakura City holds the “Peace Ceremony” at the City Hall and the “Peace Bell of Sakura” tolls in remembrance of the war victims and for the realization of everlasting world peace. The ceremony is open to the public. Those who wish to attend are asked to assemble by 11:50 at the elevator hall on the second floor of the main building, Sakura City Hall. Call *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section), ☎484-6103 for further information.



Subsidy for home solar system installation



To promote solar power generation, Sakura City offers subsidiary to cover a part of the cost for new installation of solar power generation systems for residential buildings. There is a budget limitation and application is accepted on a first-come, first served basis until the budget is fully allocated.

Eligibility Requirements: Those who meet all of the following requirements are eligible for the subsidiary:

- (1) Residents or prospective residents who are going to install a solar power generation system to one's house (including multipurpose houses), or who are going to purchase a ready-built house for one's residence and installing a solar power generation system to it.
- (2) Those who conclude a power interchange contract between an electric power company and are able to submit a performance report no later than March 15, 2013.
- (3) Those who have paid city taxes without delay
- (4) The generation system to be installed is brand new (Systems already installed or delivered are not eligible)

Amount of Subsidy: ¥20,000 per kilowatt of solar power generation capacity, up to 70,000 yen.

How to Apply: On September 3 & 4, application forms are accepted at the conference room on the 6th floor, the 1st bldg. of the City Hall. On September 5 and thereafter, please submit your application form to *Seikatsu Kankyo-ka* (Environmental Sanitation Section), on the 5th floor of the City Hall. Application forms can be obtained by downloading from the City's website or at the said section of the City Hall. Please note that no postal mail is accepted, while proxy application is possible. Only one application can be submitted at one time.

Start of acceptance: 9:00, Monday, September 3

From the above date, applications are accepted between 9:00 and 17:00, Monday through Friday. Please note:

- ① There is a budget limit. Application is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ② Application must be completed at latest 14 days before the installation work starts or the house's delivery date. If the installation starts or the delivery is done before the decision of subsidy grant, the case is exempted from the subsidy.
- ③ In case there is any insufficiency or flows on the application form, the application procedure need to be started over again.

Please call *Seikatsu Kankyo-ka*, ☎484-6148 for further information, or refer to the City's website or pamphlets which are available at the City's branch offices, Service Centers, and the said section at the City Hall.

~Sakura castle town's 400th years anniversary celebration~ THE 14TH JIDAI MATSURI (FESTIVAL OF THE AGES) Saturday, November 17

(To be postponed to Nov. 18 in case of bad weather)

The 14th *Jidai Matsuri* is now being prepared as a part of celebrating Sakura's 400th anniversary since the foundation of Sakura Castle. Setting the Shin-machi street as the main venue of the festival, a virtual town of Edo period will be recreated on November 17. The main events include: theatrical sword fights and famous arrest scenes performed by professional actors on the street, Japanese-traditional street performances including *Saru-mawashi* (Monkey show), and lots more. Street *So-run* (*Soran Bushi* Dance on the street) is also performed on the station street of Keisei Sakura station.



COSTUME PLAYERS WANTED! : Wouldn't you like to take part in the festival in a costume of Edo age? Dressing up with one of the various Edo costumes of your choice from the list shown below, you could enjoy walking through the venue between 11:00 and 15:00 (excluding time for fitting/changing). Types and rents are:

① Karo (chief retainer)	¥40,000	⑧ Geisha	¥20,000
② Koshimoto (waiting maid)	¥35,000	⑨ Samurai	¥18,000
③ Yamabushi (mountain priest)	¥20,000	⑩ Ronin (masterless samurai)	¥10,000
④ Gyo-Sho-nin (street peddler)	¥10,000	⑪ Machi musume (town girl)	¥8,000
⑤ O'dana-nushi (large-store owner)	¥20,000	⑫ Chonin (town people)	¥6,000
⑥ Banto (chief manager)	¥15,000	⑬ Tabi musume (traveling girl)	¥10,000
⑦ Tedai (assistant manager)	¥5,000	⑭ Machi isha (town doctor)	¥10,000

The rental costs are set much less than usual because the festival committee bears a large part. Furthermore, various benefits will be offered for groups with two or more participants. Why wouldn't you join and make a lasting memory?

SAMURAI & EDO PRINCESS WANTED! : We are seeking for an Edo princess and a good-looking Samurai. Those who are selected can be made up as the characters for free. Please apply by sending your photo by post mail.

HOW TO APPLY: Send fax, e-mail or a post card to '*Sakura Jidai-matsuri Jikkoh Iin-kai*' secretariat, clearly stating your preferred section to participate and your personal particulars (name, gender, age, address, and telephone number). Application deadline is Friday, September 14. For further information, please contact:

Jidai-matsuri Jikkoh Iin-kai secretariat, ☎486-6000, fax 486-6063, e-mail: sakurashi-kankou@catv296.ne.jp.

HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN



Contacts: 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	Aug '12	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in March, 2012	28 (Tue)	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	24 (Fri)	9:30-10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30-14:30	
	3 (Fri)	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in November, 2011	10 (Fri)	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	15 (Wed)		Seibu Hoken Center
	3 (Fri)		Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in February, 2011	7 (Tue)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	22 (Wed)		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in February, 2009	8 (Wed)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	23 (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in February or August, 2010, or in August, 2009 *On the days with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	2* (Thu)	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	21 (Tue)		
	17* (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
	27 (Mon)		
	9* (Thu)		

FREE ANTENATAL CLASS

For expectant mothers to have a baby between October 2012 and March 2013, a free antenatal class "Mom's class" will be held:

**9:00 to 14:20, August 31 (Fri)
At the Kenkoh Kanri Center**

The class provides instruction on how to lead a healthy life during pregnancy, including nutrition and oral hygiene education. Parents in their first pregnancy have priority. Please call the respective center to sign up.

CONSULTATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE FOR ALL AGES

13:30 to 15:30, Aug. 6 (Mon): Kenkoh Kanri Center

9:30 to 11:30, Aug. 28 (Tue): Seibu Hoken Center

9:30 to 11:30, Aug.16 (Thu): Nambu 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.

SUKU-SUKU HATTATSU SOHDAN

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available:

**9:00 to 12:00, August 2 (Thu)
At the 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.

TELEPHONE COUNSELING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE OR NUTRITIONIST

Available at each center, 8:30-17:15,
Monday through Friday.

Dental hygienist or speech therapist is also available at the Kenkoh Kanri Center.

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate!

Nighttime Emergency – Physician & Dentist: 19:00-21:45 at Kenkoh Kanri Center ☎485-6711

Pediatrics – for children under 16 years Day & Night, at the Kenkoh Kanri Center

☎485-3355

For diseases in the acute & early stage.
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

Surgeon, Physician, ENT doctor & Dentist

Consultation with doctors will be available during the hours shown below 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

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of June 2012, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,075(87,058 males and 89,017 females) in 71,950 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,132. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,207.

