

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 Mondays and Tuesdays through Koh'hoh-ka (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2011 TOHOKU - PACIFIC OCEAN EARTHQUAKE

Due to the 9-magnitude earthquake off the coast of *Tohoku* region (the northeast Japan) on March 11, 2011, the entire area, especially the coastal region, has suffered catastrophic damage. In Sakura, the quake measured an upper 5 on the seven-point Japanese scale on March 11. Continuing readjustments of stress and associated aftershocks are still expected.

With circumstances widely affecting civic life, including "rolling blackouts" - planned power cuts to predetermined areas, as well as the information unfolding on the situation in the nuclear power plant, we understand that



Landslide at Oh-Sakura
many of you have felt much unease in your daily lives. Nevertheless, demand for energy is rising in the areas affected by the disaster. We would like to ask the citizens to conserve as much energy as possible to improve the balance of supply and demand of power and support those in the afflicted areas. By working together in each family to conserve energy by means such as diligently turning off lights and electric appliances, these small, individual actions will come together to avoid further blackouts. In Sakura, some of the city facilities are closed at night to conserve energy. Please make sure if the facility is open before you visit it.

Also, please refrain from hoarding food and daily necessities. We ask for your cooperation and kindness in supporting each other in order to provide supplies to those who need them.

The city of Sakura is already engaging in aid activities such as dispatching support staff as well as sending relief supplies to the afflicted areas. Also, we are accepting refugees from Fukushima Prefecture at the Youth Center in Iwana Sports Park.

We will continue to do our best to secure safety and peace of mind for our citizens. We ask that you stay calm and act in a rational manner. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

DAMAGE SITUATION IN SAKURA As of March 23, there have been ● two people reported slightly-injured. ●21 houses fully destroyed, two houses half destroyed, and 67 houses partially destroyed. Moreover, approximately 20,000 houses were temporarily without water (back to normal on March 17), and 152 roads were damaged (142 of them were temporarily repaired).

USEFUL INFORMATION IN ENGLISH NHK WORLD: <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld>

Office of Prime Minister: <http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/topics/2011/earthquake2011tohoku.html>

Reading of environmental radioactivity level (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology): http://www.mext.go.jp/english/radioactivity_level/index.htm

Tokyo Electric Power Company: <http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/index-e.html>

Earthquake Information - Japan Meteorological Agency: <http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>

Disaster Prevention Site in Chiba: http://www.bousai.pref.chiba.lg.jp/portal_eng/index.html

Tohoku area pacific offshore earthquake multi-language support center: http://eqinfojp.net/?page_id=66

DONATIONS FOR TOHOKU-PACIFIC OCEAN EARTHQUAKE

The Japanese Red Cross Society is now asking for relief donations to victims of the earthquake.

- ❖ Donation boxes are placed at the reception desks of the main building and the Social Welfare Section at the Sakura City Hall, city branch offices, and city service centers.
- ❖ You can also make a donation by postal money transfer (*yubin furikae*) through Friday, September 30, 2011; **Payable to:** Japanese Red Cross Society (*Nippon Sekijujishi*), **Account number:** 00140-8-507. Please indicate on memo line - 'Tohoku-Kanto-Daishinsai-Gienkin'.

NOTES ★Any amount of money you could donate will contribute to the relief work. ★Relief goods are not accepted. ★Transfer charge is free for postal money transfer. ★Please be careful to avoid fraudulent practices pretending to be donations.

For further information, call: The Chiba Prefectural Chapter of the Japanese Red Cross Society, ☎043-241-7531, or *Shakai-fukushi-ka* (the Social Welfare Section), Sakura City Hall, ☎043-484-6135.



CARPET OF TULIPS – IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!



--- Sakura's tulips are waiting for you, April 2 (Sat.) – 29 (Fri.), 9:00 - 16:00, rain or shine ---

Some 510,000 tulips of 127 different kinds are blooming in the field 'Furusato Hiroba' where the landmark Dutch windmill 'De Liefde' rotates its vanes, comfortably catching spring breezes beside the vast Imba-numa lake. Admission is free of charge.



EVENTS ●Charity flea market on April 2 (Sat.) & 3 (Sun.), 9:30 - 16:00. All proceeds will be donated to victims and survivors of the Tohoku Earthquake, A donation collection box is also placed at the site through April 29. ●Sales of tulips: ¥500/10 flowers (bulbs included). ●Dutch traditional costumes for rent, from April 9 (Sat.) through April 24 (Sun.), ¥500/30 minutes. ●Performance of Dutch street organ from April 9 (Sat.) through April 17 (Sun.). ●'Yakata-bune' boat tours on Imba-numa (ride share: ¥1,000/adult, ¥500/child), on Saturdays & Sundays during the period of April 9 (Sat.) - April 17 (Sun.) ●Bicycle rentals available for ¥500 (electric bicycles for ¥1,000). ●Sales of local products; and lots more.

Call *Sakura-shi Kankoh-kyohkai* (Sakura City Tourism Association), ☎486-6000 for more information.

ACCESS & PARKING As there are not enough parking lots around the field and traffic jams are usually foreseen, you are encouraged to take the shuttle bus service (¥100), departing at 40-minute intervals from the north exit of Keisei Sakura Station between 9:30 and 15:30, and returning to the station between 10:30 and 16:30. Five-minute walk from the bus stop to the tulip field. If you visit the site by your own car, you will be charged ¥500/vehicle for parking.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CLEANING AROUND THE TULIP FIELD Please assemble at the *Furusato Hiroba* on Saturday, April 2, 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 Tsuboi, ☎461-6736 for further information.



HANAMI (CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING)



~Feel the spring in the air with beautiful cherry blossom~

Hanami is one of the most popular events of spring among Japanese. *Sakura Johshi-koh'en* (Sakura Castle Park) is a popular *hanami* spot, approximately 20 minutes on foot from Keisei Sakura or JR Sakura stations. Many people gather for *hanami* picnics or parties, eating, drinking and singing while enjoying the graceful backdrop of cherry blossom. There will be many vendors setting up food and drink stalls to cater to the large number of visitors from Saturday, April 2 through Sunday, April 10, 10:00- 16:00. Although there are free parking lots, they may be full with cars of visitors. We recommend that you visit there on foot.

NOTES ●The annual lighting-up of cherry trees will not be held this year to save electricity. ●The use of products causing fire, such as bonfire and barbecue, is banned in the park. ●Please take your litter home with you.

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

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS




The city of Sakura will grant scholarships for senior high school students who meet all of the following conditions: ●those who live in Sakura, ●those who have recommendation by the junior high school principal, ●those who finished junior high school and were enrolled in senior high school from the next fiscal year or the year after, ●those who had earned a grade point average of three or more on the five level rating system at the time of graduation from junior high school and motivated to learn, and ●those whose family income during the previous year was less than 1.3 times of family receiving public assistance, and who are in financial difficulties in attending senior high school. Successful applicants will be granted the maximum scholarship of 80,000 yen/year. Application deadline is Thursday, April 28. Application forms are available at *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka* (the Education General Affairs Section) at the City Hall. Or, you can download the form from the municipal homepage: <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/kyoikusomu/info/sinsei/syougakukinn2010@.pdf> Call *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka*, ☎484-6182 for further information.

POSTPONEMENT OF VACCINATIONS FOR HIB, PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE, & CERVICAL CANCER

Free vaccinations for HIB (haemophilus influenza type B) and pediatric pneumococcal disease have been postponed, because some deaths were reported after vaccination. But they will be started quite soon, for the government did not find a causal connection between them. Free vaccination for cervical cancer is also postponed due to a shortage of vaccine. Resumption of vaccinations will be informed on the city's homepage or newsletter. Call *Kenkoh-zoh'shin-ka* (the Health Promotion Section), ☎485-6711 for more 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 Transportation & Disaster Preparedness Section), ☎484-6131 for more 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**
- The vaccination will not be held in case that heavy rain warnings was issued at 7a.m.
 - We recommend visiting on weekdays.
 - Please refrain from visiting by car as parking lots are not available except at Iwana Sports Park.
 - 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 kind of vaccination; if serious side effects from vaccination were experienced in the past; if your dog is in mating season, pregnant, breast-feeding, or under 91 days of age; if you are not able to keep your dog under control.
 - In case of rain, please bring towels, because the shot may not be given if the dog is wet.
 - Place a muzzle on your dog at the vaccination venue, if necessary.
 - Be sure to carry a cleanup bag and utensils so that you can take your pet's droppings home.
 - ★ 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'.
 - ★ 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.

SCHEDULE OF RABIES VACCINATION		
DATES	PLACES	TIMES
4/7 (Thu.)	Wada Furusato-kan	9:25-10:00
	Sakado Kumin-kan	10:35-11:10
	Someino Reservoir Square	12:45-14:15
4/8 (Fri.)	Shizu Koh'minkan	9:30-10:45
	Hoshiba Park (Naka-Shizu 1-chohme)	11:25-12:15
	Usui Joh'shi Park	13:35-14:15
4/13 (Wed.)	<i>Tenshi-no-mori Park</i> (<i>Ohja-machi</i>)	9:20-10:00
	Matsuyama Park (Ohji-dai 6-chohme)	10:45-11:25
	Oise Park (Ohji-dai 1-chohme)	13:00-14:25
4/15 (Fri.)	Koma-gaeshi Park (Oh'saki-dai 4-chohme)	9:20-10:00
	Toh'masaku Park (Minami Yukari-ga-oka)	10:45-11:35
	Yukari-ga-oka Kita Park	13:10-14:00
4/16 (Sat.)	Yukari-ga-oka Minami Park	9:30-11:25
	Minami Shizu Park (Nishi-Shizu 8-chohme)	13:10-14:15
4/19 (Tue.)	Yatomi Minzoku Shuh'zoh'ko (Former Yatomi Elementary school)	9:30-10:15
	San-noh Park (San-noh 2-chohme)	10:45-11:20
	Shirogane Park	13:00-13:55
4/21 (Thu.)	Iwana Sports Park (Beside the main parking lot)	9:15-10:25
	Ebara-dai 3goh Park	11:00-11:45
	Tohji-dai Nishi Park	13:20-13:50
4/23 (Sat.)	City Hall (Parking lot)	9:00-12:00

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

Dear readers of Hello Sakura: March 31 was the last day of my almost six years as the writer of Hello Sakura. I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter as much as I have writing it. As I pass the baton to my successor, I take this opportunity to ask you for your continued support, and to join me in welcoming Ms. Motoko Suzuki to the job. Thank you for your loyal readership over the years. Although I leave the job of writing Hello Sakura, I will keep working at the City Hall, to help provide information from the city in English to non-Japanese residents. I hope to continue working as a bridge between you and the city administration.

Sincerely, Mikiko Yagi

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 '11	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in November, 2010	22	9:30 – 10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	8	13:30 – 14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	28	13:30 – 14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in July, 2010	6	9:30 – 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	14		Seibu Hoken Center
	28		Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in September/October, 2009	19	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	11		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in October, 2007	20	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	14		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in April & October, 2008 & in April, 2009	8	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	15		
	13		Seibu Hoken Center
	25		
	21		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available on Thursday, April 7, 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 ●April 12, 13:30-15:30, at Kenkoh Kanri Center, and ●April 18, 9:30-11:30, at Nambu Hoken Center. Public health nurse will help you to develop a healthier lifestyle. Application required.

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.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

Free antenatal classes will be held at Kenkoh Kanri Center in April and May for expectant mothers to have the first babies between July & September, 2011. 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	Apr. 26	9:00-15:00
2 nd	May 15	9:00-12:30

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 15 years old or younger. 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 (reception is available until 16:45) & 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 (surgeon, physician, and dentist) 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.

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 22:00 (reception is available until 21:45.). Consultation with surgeons and ENT doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎485-6711 to learn the doctor on duty.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of February 2011, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,040 (86,962 male and 89,078 female) in 70,808 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,013. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,053.

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