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This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents containing excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by Sakura City. 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.

## The 32<sup>nd</sup> SAKURA ASAHI KENKOH MARATHON\*

### *Let's Cheer Up the Runners!*

9:00 to 15:30, Sunday, March 24, Rain or shine

(\*Application is already closed.)



More than 10,000 runners 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 visit this event as well as other members of Sakura Athlete Club. Volunteers will help runners mainly by supplying water, showing the right course 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.

**CONTACT** Sakura Asahi Kenkoh Marathon Secretariat, ☎485-2929**STARTING TIME** ▶Opening ceremony at 9:00 ▶Full marathon at 9:30 ▶3 km run at 9:50 ▶10 km run at 10:40**FREE SHUTTLE BUSES AVAILABLE** Please refrain from coming by car!

▶North exits of Keisei Sakura and JR Sakura stations ⇔ Iwana Sports Park

▶6:30 to 9:00 (to Iwana Sports Park) &amp; 11:00 to 17:00 (to the stations)

**ROADS TEMPORARILY CLOSED** On March 24, parts of the roads will be closed or regulated as shown below.▶**Alternate one-side traffic control:**

①10:20 to 12:00: From the sharp bend near Kusabue-no-oka to Futago-bashi Br.

⑦11:00 to 13:00: Funato-Oh'hashi Br.

▶**One-way traffic control:**

③09:40 to 11:00: Nakahira-bashi Br.

▶**Vehicles prohibited:**

④09:40 to 10:40: Part of between Ohsakura St. and Keisei Shisui St.

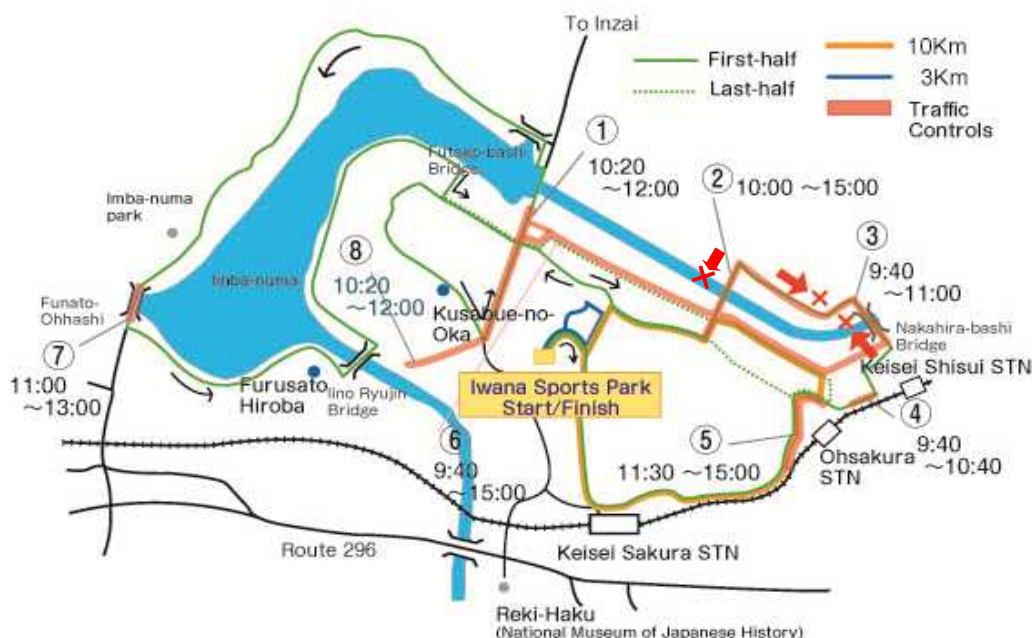
⑥09:40 to 15:00: Near Futago-bashi Br. to Ohsakura St.

②10:00 to 15:00: Between Iida-dai and Hiraga-gakuen-dai through Iida-bashi Br.

⑧10:20 to 12:00: Between Iino Ryujin Br. and the sharp bend near Kusabue-no-Oka

⑤11:30 to 15:00: Near Ohsakura St.

### Marathon Map and Road Closures



### Marathon Photo Contest

Photo works featuring  
**Sakura Asahi Kenkoh Marathon**  
are wanted!

- ▶ Photo size: A4 to quarto (The long side: up to 36cm)
- ▶ Color or Monochrome
- ▶ Must be a single work (No series work is accepted)
- ▶ All photos are prohibited from synthesis
- ▶ Limited to 5 entries per person
- ▶ Entry fee is 1,500 yen
- ▶ Send no later than April 20 to:  
Sakura Asahi Kenkoh  
Marathon Photo Contest,  
Asahi Shimbun Chiba Station,  
10-4 Chuo 3, Chuo-ku, Chiba,  
260-0013
- ▶ Contact: The All-Japan  
Association of Photographic  
Societies (Chiba Office),  
☎047-463-8303



# SAKURA FLOWER FESTA 2013

*Sakura Flower Festa is held again this year, as a part of efforts to make Sakura a warm and homey city with joy and love to flowers all year round!*

Sangyoh-shinkoh-ka, ☎484-6146, or Sakura City Kanko Kyokai, ☎486-6000

In Sakura, beautiful flowers can be seen all the year. Especially in the spring, it would be great for you to enjoy and admire the beauty and fragrance at the popular flower sites in Sakura!



## Cherry Blossom in Sakura Joshi-Koen Castle Park

Cherry Festival: April 1 to April 7

Sakura Joshi-Koen Castle Park is the iconic scenery spot of spring in Sakura. In the site there had been a castle, which was chosen solely from Chiba prefecture as one of the greatest 100 castles in Japan. There are about 1100 cherry trees in 48 species in total. Especially, 13 species of cherry trees that has been famous as the finest cherries since Edo era will be in bloom from **late March to early April**. A variety of stalls selling cooked food, produce, sweets, drinks, etc. will be available during the festival.

## Sakura Tulip Festa

Apr. 6 - April 29

Sakura Furusato Hiroba Square

With the backdrop of the landmark Dutch windmill 'De Liefde,' about 500 thousand tulips in 86 species will be in full bloom. A lot of special events will be held including tulip-bulb digging, house-boating, rental of Dutch costumes, performance of Dutch street organ, sales of souvenirs, and lots more!



### Events to Come

Rose Festival at Kusabue-no-Oka: May 25 – June 2

Iris Festival in Sakura Castle Town: Mid June (TBD)



## “NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN 2013” — MARCH 1-7 NEVER LEAVE THE FIRE UNEXTINGUISHED!

In 2012, 93 fires occurred in Sakura City, Yachimata City and Shisui-machi. 28 of the fires were residential house fires, and the most frequent cause of fires was arson or suspected arson. Be sure not to leave flammable items outside your house to prevent arson fires.

**In case of fire, or to call an ambulance or rescue, simply dial ☎119 (no prefix)**

### ◆ Seven tips to save your life and your loved one's from residential fire:

- Never smoke in bed
- Keep flammable things away the stove
- Never leave cooking fire unattended. Turn off the cooking stove whenever you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time
- Install a fire alarm in your house for immediate escape
- Use fireproof bedclothes, clothes, and curtains to prevent catching fire
- Install a fire extinguisher so that you can extinguish the fire in an early stage
- Work out a cooperative system with your neighbors

### ◆ Residential fire alarms are mandatory - give you time to cope or escape

Having a smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. To show the installation of a fire alarm in your house, the Firefighting Association distributes Fire Alarm Installation Seals to be put on your front porch at city branch offices and fire stations. Distribution is limited to one per household. Call Firefighting Association, ☎481-1217 for further information.



## SUBSIDY FOR HUMAN DOCK (MEDICAL CHECKUP)

**Application deadline is Friday, March 29!**

For medical checkups including checkup items of the “City’s Specified Medical Checkup” taken by between April 1, 2013 and March 29, 2014, half of the cost will be covered with a ceiling of ¥10,000 by the City. Those who subscribe to **National Health Insurance** or **Medical Care System for elderly aged 75 or over** are eligible to apply for this program. For details, please call *Kenko-Hoken-ka (Health Insurance Section)*, ☎484-1783 (for those who are covered by National Health Insurance) or ☎484-6136 (for the elderly aged 75 or over).



# SAKURA AGRI FORUM '13

Discover the Unexpected Charms of Vegetables!

13:00 – 16:00, Saturday, March 23

~ Local consumption of local products leads to dietary education for children ~

Sakura Agri Forum Executive Committee, ☎484-6142



In cooperation with various agricultural groups and associations, a forum is to be held to talk about current situation of agriculture and farmlands and their challenges. Along with the forum, you can enjoy an event to find and purchase wide variety of fresh products of Sakura.

■ **Open forum: 13:00 – 16:00, Sakura Shimin Ongaku Hall (City Music Hall)**

Mr. Satoshi Fujita, a professor famous on TV programs as a leading expert of growing vegetables, will give a lecture on this year's theme. Doors open at 0:30. A prize drawing to win rice and other quality products of Sakura will be held. Sign language interpreting available. Admission-free and no application required.

■ **Direct sales of local products, 10:00 – 15:00, Oise Kohen Park (next to City Music Hall)**

Fresh vegetables, processed meat, dairy products, rice-powder products and other local products will be sold at the event venue, *Oise Kohen Park*, 5-minute walk from Usui station. To be canceled only in case of heavy rain.

## LIGHT-VEHICLE TAX

*Make sure that you file any change or cancellation of your light vehicles!*



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 to avoid paying unnecessary taxes on that vehicle. The procedures are necessary also in a 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 Unyu Shikyoku* (Chiba Transport Branch Office), ☎050-5540-2022
- Light vehicles with 3-wheels or 4-wheels:  
*Kei-jidoh'sha Kensa Kyoh'kai* (Light Vehicle Inspection Association), ☎245-0163

## FINANCIAL AID TO SCHOOL EXPENSES



**For elementary to junior high aged children:** Gakumu-ka (School Affairs Section), ☎484-6186

Sakura City provides financial support for parents who have elementary school children or junior high school students and have financial difficulty paying the school expenses. This system is intended to provide parts of school supplies expenses, school trip expenses, school lunch fees etc.

**Scholarship for high school students:** General Educational Affairs Section, ☎484-6182

For students who desire to learn but have financial difficulty to attend high school and meet certain conditions, parts of the school expenses will be provided by this scholarship. Eligible persons must have a recommendation letter from the principal of the junior high school they graduated. Application can be made in April and September. The amount of the scholarship is up to 80,000 yen per year (40,000 yen for September application) and for 3 years in total.

**Social Welfare Fund Lending (Education Support Fund):** Sakura Social Welfare Council, ☎484-6200

For students attending high school, vocational college, junior college or university with financial difficulties, the Council provides financial assistance for entering fees/expenses, school supplies, uniforms, tuitions, etc, after conducting a screening. Note that this program is for those who could not get other similar assistance. Please apply for other possible programs first.

## Free Screening of Children's Animation Films

10:00 (Doors open at 9:30.), Tuesday March 26

\* All infants must be accompanied by parent/guardian. No food or drink is allowed.



**Sakura Shimin Ongaku Hall**  
"Madagascar 3"

No application required. Call Cyuh-oh Komin-kan, ☎485-1801 for inquiries.

**Nego Komin-kan Community Center**  
"Marco - 3000 Leagues in Search of Mother"  
Application required. Call Negoh Komin-kan, ☎486-3147 to apply.

## POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of January 2013, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,862 (86,926 males and 88,936 females) in 72,193 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,023. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,885.

# HEALTH INFORMATION

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.



HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN			
AGE OF CHILDREN	MAR' 13	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in October 2012	Fri. 22	9:30—10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30—14:30	
	Thu. 07	9:30—10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30—14:30	
	Fri. 15	13:30—14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months, born in June 2012	Fri. 08	9:30— 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Fri. 01		Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in September 2011	Wed. 06	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Wed. 13		Seibu Hoken Center
	Mon. 25		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in September 2009	Tue. 05	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Thu. 14		Seibu Hoken Center
	Tue. 26		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in March 2011 or in March or September 2010 * On the days with * mark, Consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Thu. 07*	13:30—14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Tue. 19		
	Mon. 11*		Seibu Hoken Center
	Thu. 21		
	Wed. 17*		Nambu Hoken Center

COUNSELING SERVICES	
<p><b>FREE ANTENATAL CLASS</b> -Application required-</p> <p>For expectant mothers and fathers to have a baby between March 2013 and August 2013, a free antenatal class, “Mom’s and Pop’s Class,” will be held as follows:</p> <p><b>9:00 to 12:15, Sun. March 03</b> <b>At Seibu Hoken Center</b></p> <p>This class gives instruction on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, pregnancy simulation experience to fathers, etc. Parents in their first pregnancy have priority. Please call Seibu Hoken center to sign up.</p>	<p><b>SUKU-SUKU HATTATSU SOHDAN</b> -Application required-</p> <p>Child development consultation for preschoolers (<i>Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan</i>) is available:</p> <p><b>9:00 to 12:00, Thu. March 07</b> <b>At Kenkoh Kanri Center</b></p> <p>If you feel distressed about your child’s developmental or behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone.</p>
<p><b>TELEPHONE COUNSELING</b> with public health nurse or nutritionist -For all ages- <b>8:30-17:15, Monday through Friday</b> <b>Available at each center</b></p> <p>Dental hygienist and Speech therapist are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE CONSULTATION</b> For all ages - Application required <b>9:30 to 11:30, Fri. March 22</b> <b>At Seibu Hoken Center</b></p> <p>Consultation on health check results and how to live a healthier life, nutritional guidance, and health check including blood-pressure measurement can be provided.</p>

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	
Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate!	
<b>Holiday Nighttime Emergency — Physician &amp; Dentist: 19:00-21:45 at Kenkoh Kanri Center ☎485-6711</b>	
<p><b>Pediatrics — for children under 16 years</b> <b>Day &amp; Night, at the Kenkoh Kanri Center</b> <b>☎485-3355</b></p> <p>For diseases in the acute &amp; 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 &amp; 19:00-6:00</p>	<p><b>Surgeon, Physician, ENT doctor &amp; Dentist</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Surgeon: 9:00-16:30, 19:00-21:45</li> <li>●Physician, Dentist: 9:00-16:30</li> <li>●ENT doctor: 19:00-21:45</li> </ul>