

# HELLO SAKURA



No.281

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 containing 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.

## Mayor Wrabi Announced the Basic Policy FY2013

### AIMING FOR A CITY OF CHOICE

Mayor Kazuo Warabi gave his policy speech at the regular meeting of the City, expressing his determination to create a dignified city that is selected by all the generations. The following is an excerpt.

#### Bolster safeguards against disasters and crimes

~For a safe, secure and comfortable life~

- ✓ Accelerate quake proofing of schools and public facilities
- ✓ Expand subsidy for residential earthquake proofing
- ✓ Enhance self and mutual help in local communities

#### Activate local industries and enhance employment

~Secure job opportunities and access to urban services~

- ✓ Continuously attract companies
- ✓ Encourage and promote new business launches
- ✓ Sixth-industrialization of local agriculture

#### Enrich child support, education, and welfare for the elderly

~Improving the programs~

- ✓ Invite and support private nurseries to expand the total capacity to 1800 children
- ✓ Increase the number of assistances for children with special needs
- ✓ Refine the services for the elderly to be sustainable and truly desired



*"In the city development, we aim for a dignified city, even though the city is medium sized," said Mayor Warabi.*

#### Ensure the impartial and efficient administration

~Quick implementation of necessary measures~

- ✓ Further implement the fifth administrative reform policy
- ✓ Improve facility and infrastructure management

## 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 as one of the greatest 100 castles in Japan. In the park, you can see about 1100 cherry trees in 48 species in total, including 13 species that have been famous as the finest cherries since Edo era. Many of them will be in full bloom from late March to early April. A variety of stalls selling cooked food, produce, sweets, drinks, etc. will be open during the festival, and **Kamuro-chan**, Sakura's famous mascot character, will show up at the Joshi-koen castle park on **Saturday, April 6 at around 11:00 AM.**



## The 25th Sakura Tulip Festa

~Let's Feel the Breath of Spring!~

9:00 to 16:00, April 6 to 29 at **Sakura Furusato Hiroba**



Spring has come and again it's the season to enjoy the carpet of tulips at *Furusato Hiroba*. Some 500,000 tulips of 86 different kinds will be blooming in the field beside the landmark Dutch windmill 'De Liefde' and the *Imba-numa Lake*. A lot of stalls will be set up to sell tulips, food, drinks and local products from April 12, and on Saturday, April 20, Kamuro-chan will show up in the afternoon. You just can't miss it!

- Rental bicycles (¥500/day, or ¥1000/day for an electric bike) .....During the festa
- Tulip bulb digging (¥500 for 10 bulbs) .....During the festa
- "Yakata-bune" boat tour on *Imba-numa Lake* (45-minute ride: ¥1,000/adult, ¥500/child)  
..... Saturdays & Sundays until April 21
- Rental Dutch traditional costumes (45-minute rental: ¥1,000) ..... Apr 6, 7, 13 to 21, and 27 to 29
- Dutch Street Organ performance ..... Saturdays & Sundays between Apr. 7 and 21

As there are not enough parking lots around the venue, you are encouraged to take shuttle bus service (¥100). Call *Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai* (tourist association), ☎486-6000 for further information.



Windmill Festival — Sunday, Apr. 28



~Have a taste of Netherlands!~

- Sales of Dutch food
- Experience of Dutch clogs
- Panel exhibition of windmills
- Flower exhibition, etc.

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Contact: *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka* (General Educational Affairs Section), ☎484-6182



The city of Sakura will grant scholarship 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 are enrolling 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 the standard income for public assistance eligibility, and who are in financial difficulties in attending senior high school. Successful applicants will be granted the scholarship up to ¥80,000 per year. **Application deadline is Tuesday, April 30.** Application forms are available at *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka* (General Educational Affairs Section) at the City Hall. Or, you can download the form from the City's homepage:

<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/0000002952.html>

## CITY TAXES, etc. CAN BE PAID AT CONVENIENCE STORES

Contact: *Shu-zei-ka* (Tax Colloection Section), ☎484-6116

From April 2013, the city taxes, etc. can be paid at convenience stores nationwide, just as in the case for water bills. Payment at convenience stores can be made if: 1) it's prior to the due date 2) the bar-code is printed on the *nouhu-sho* (payment slip) 3) there is no correction on the slip 4) the amount is less than 300,000 yen. All the payment must be made in cash. Please make certain to receive and keep the receipts after the payment.

**Taxes can be paid at convenience stores:** Income tax, fixed assets tax, city planning tax, light vehicle tax, taxes for National Health Insurance, insurance premiums for the Latter-Stage Elderly Healthcare System, daycare fees for nursery schools and after-school daycare centers

**Convenience stores handling tax payment:** Seven Eleven, Lawson, Family Mart, Circle K, Thanks, Ministop, Daily Yamazaki, Yamazaki Daily Store, Yamazaki Special Partner Shop, POPLAR, Three 8, Three F, Save, Seikatu Saika, Seicomart, Hasegawa Store, Hokkaido SPAR, etc.



## DOGS MASS VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES

Contact: *Seikatsu-Kankyo-ka* (Environmental Sanitation Section), ☎484-6148

In accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law, all dog owners are required to register their pets and have them vaccinated against rabies once every year. The city offers mass vaccinations at many locations in Sakura, and 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 at the same time with ¥3,000 registration fee. If you are unable to attend any of the mass vaccination, have your dog immunized at an animal clinic.

**NOTES** ●Please refrain from visiting by car as parking lots are not available except at Iwana Sports Park. ●In the following cases, no rabies shot can be administered to dogs: 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. ●Make sure to carry cleanup bags and utensils so that you can take your pet's droppings home.

If any changes occur in the information on your dog's registration, 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 MASS VACCINATION		
DATE	PLACE	TIME
4/10 (Wed)	Wada Furusato-kan	9:25 - 10:00
	Sakado Kumin-kan	10:35 - 11:10
	Someino Reservoir Square	12:45 - 14:15
4/12 (Fri)	Shizu Koh'minkan	9:30 - 10:30
	Hoshiba Park (Naka-Shizu 1-chome)	11:10 - 11:50
	Usui Joh'shi Castle Park	13:40 - 14:15
4/16 (Tue)	<i>Tenshi-no-mori Park (Ohja-machi)</i>	9:20 - 9:50
	Matsuyama Park (Ohji-dai 6-chome)	10:40 - 11:25
	Oise Park (Ohji-dai 1-chome)	13:00 - 14:15
4/18 (Thu)	Koma-gaeshi Park (Oh'saki-dai 4-chome)	9:20 - 10:00
	Toh'masaku Park (Minami Yukari-ga-oka)	10:50 - 11:45
	Yukari-ga-oka Kita Park	13:20 - 14:10
4/20 (Sat)	Yukari-ga-oka Minami Park	9:30 - 11:25
	Minami Shizu Park (Nishi-Shizu 8-chome)	13:10 - 14:15
4/23 (Tue)	Yatomi Minzoku Shuh'zoh'ko (Former Yatomi Elementary school)	9:30 - 10:05
	San-noh Park (San-noh 2-chome)	10:35 - 11:15
	Shirogane Park	13:00 - 13:55
4/25 (Thu)	Iwana Sports Park (Beside the main parking lot)	9:15 - 10:10
	Ebara-dai 3-goh (No.3) Park	10:50 - 11:35
	Tohji-dai Nishi Park	13:15 - 13:45
4/27(Sat)	City Hall (Parking lot)	9:00 - 12:00



## PM2.5 ALERT BY WIRELESS BROADCASTING

Contact: *Kankyo-Hozen-ka* (Environment Preservation Section), ☎484-6098

Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) refers to small particles in the air that are less than 2.5 micrometers. It comes from sources such as ash and soot released from burning, and car exhaust. PM2.5 is considered bad for your lungs, nose, and throat, because the particles are so small and can easily enter deep into your lungs. Sakura City issues alerts to the citizens by wireless broadcasting, if the levels of PM2.5 in the air exceeds the certain level (35µg/m<sup>3</sup>) upon information from Chiba prefecture. We recommend that children, the elderly, and those with respiratory or heart diseases stay inside when the alert is issued.

### POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of February 2013, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,772 (86,898 males and 88,874 females) in 72,217 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,041. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,813.

# S.I.E.F. JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.), ☎484-6326,

<http://www.sief.jp/40-newHP/index.html>



The city of Sakura always welcomes you to join the Practical Japanese Classes for foreign residents. All classes are conducted free of charge, except ¥1,000/term for the textbooks and materials used in the class.

PLACE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	TEACHER	BABY SITTING
Shizu Community Center	Thursday	10:30 – 12:00	Intermediate	Takeuchi	Not available
		13:00 – 14:30	Beginner to Intermediate	Jin / Okada	Available
		15:00 – 16:30	Introductory to Beginner	Nakajima / Ayusawa	
Millennium Center Sakura	Friday	19:00 – 20:30	Introductory to Beginner	Takeuchi and five others	Not available
Sakura Chuo Kominkan	Sunday	9:00 – 10:20	Intermediate	Fuwa	
		10:30 – 12:00	Beginner to Intermediate	Ohta	
		9:20 – 10:20	Introductory to Beginner	Ohta	
Rainbow Plaza	10:30 – 12:00	Fuwa			

## Vaccination Information

Sakura City bears the expenses for routine vaccinations for the target age groups.

Call Kenkoh Kanri Center ☎485-6711 for inquiries.

### MEASLES AND RUBELLA (MR)

There were 23 cases of measles in Chiba prefecture last year, which was the fifth largest number in Japan. Measles is a very contagious viral disease that can cause potentially fatal lung and brain complications. People get measles by breathing in droplets that contain the measles virus or by contact with fluids from the nose or throat of an infected person.

Rubella has been spreading since last year and the reported number in Chiba prefecture this year already exceeded the half of last year's total. Rubella infection in the early stage of pregnancy poses a high risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, or congenital birth defects.

In order to acquire immunity, a second vaccination is strongly recommended.

Eligible Children	Free Vaccination Available
Stage 1: Babies at least 12 months and under 24 months	During the period eligible
Stage 2: Children born between April 2, 2007 and April 1, 2008 (One year before starting school)	Between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014

\*Free vaccinations for stages 3 (age 1<sup>st</sup> grade of junior high school) and 4 (age 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of high school) were terminated on March 31, 2013.

### CERVICAL CANCER

Newly became one of the routine vaccinations from April 2013.

**Target age group: The 6<sup>th</sup> grade of elementary school to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of senior high school age**

Since the standard vaccination timing is in the age of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of junior high school, vaccination slips are sent by mail to the girls of the age. The girls aged the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of junior high and above can use the slip they have previously received. If you do not have one, please make inquiries.

### HIB & PEDIATRIC PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE

Newly became one of the routine vaccinations from April 2013.

**Target age group: At least 2 months and under five years (up until 2 days before the 5<sup>th</sup> birthday)**



### BCG - TARGET AGE CHANGED

Target age group has been extended up to 12 months. The standard vaccination timing is now between 5 months and 7 months.

### JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS (JE) - TARGET EXPANDED

Those who are under 20 of age and have not get vaccinated due to the JE vaccination suspension recommendation can get free vaccination under the transitional measure. People who were born between April 2, 1995 and May 31, 1995 have been newly included in the eligible age group.

**Eligible age group: Born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2007**

Please note that, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage vaccination, only those who are nine year of age or above are eligible.

A vaccination slip can be obtained at any of the city's health center. Please take your maternal handbook and visit the closest center upon a prior call.

### PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES FOR THE ELDERLY

The subsidy program, fee support by ¥2000 for pneumococcal vaccination (23-valent pneumococcal vaccine) is to be continued through March 31, 2014. If you took the vaccination after April 1, 2013 and the conditions below apply to you, please apply for the subsidy directly to the City Health Centers or by sending the application form with necessary documents to Kenkoh Kanri Center, Ebaradai 2-27, Sakura, 〒285-0825. You need to submit your personal seal, a copy of your payment receipt, and details on your bank account for the deposit of subsidy. Application forms are available at medical institutions and the City Health Centers, and you can also download it from the City's Homepage;

[http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/cmsfiles/contents/0000002/2198/pneumovax\\_sinsei.pdf](http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/cmsfiles/contents/0000002/2198/pneumovax_sinsei.pdf)

Eligible citizens are: i) 65 years of age or above as at the date of the vaccination, or ii) between 60 and 64 years of age as at the date of the vaccination and iii) have a disability falling within the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of disability due to cardiac, kidney, respiratory, or HIV-associated diseases.



# 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	April '13	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in November, 2012	Tue, 23	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	Mon, 08	9:30-10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30-14:30	
	Fri, 05	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in July, 2012	Tue, 16	9:30- 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Fri, 12		Seibu Hoken Center
	Fri, 05		Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in October, 2011	Tue, 09	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Wed, 17		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in October, 2009	Wed, 10	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Thu, 18		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born In April or October, 2010, or in April, 2011 *On the day with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Thu, 11*	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Fri, 19		
	Mon, 15*		Seibu Hoken Center
	Mon, 22		
	Thu, 25*		

## MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH

### THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK [BOSHI KENKO TECHO]

When pregnancy is confirmed, please make sure you notify the City of your pregnancy so that the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (*Boshi Kenko Techo*) can be issued. Although this handbook is usually in Japanese, English and other 7 language versions are also available on request, provided the pregnant woman herself is a registered foreign resident and does not understand written Japanese. The handbook is used for recording pre- and post-natal checkups, as well as keeping track of the child's vaccinations through elementary school. You must show this handbook each time you or your child gets a health check, including when you go to the hospital to give birth.

### VISIT TO ALL THE HOUSEHOLDS WITH A NEWBORN BABY



In Sakura City, one of the health nurses or midwives visits all the households which have their first baby. For newborn babies other than the first baby, one of our Assistant Baby Visitors pays visit as well. Please let us know by the birth-notification postcard inserted in the *Boshi Kenko Techo* as soon as possible after the mother's discharge from the hospital. Also for those who gave birth out of the City, a visit is arranged after the mother's return to Sakura.

### MEDICAL CHECKUPS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS & INFANTS



By the coupons issued as a separate volume of *Boshi Kenko Techo*, a part of the medical checkup fees for pregnant women (for 14 times during pregnancy) and infants (1 time at the age of 3-6 months and 1 at 9-11 months) are borne by public funds. **To use coupons after you moved in the City, please contact us.**

### SUKU-SUKU HATTATSU SOHDAN

-Application required-

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

9:00 to 12:00, Thu. April 4

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!



## 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 during Holidays & Nighttime

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