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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 the Sakura City Hall. (Printed on recycled paper.)



~ 2014 New Year Message from Mayor of Sakura ~

**Maintaining the Vigor of the City**



On this first day of the New Year, I cordially wish each and every one of the citizens of Sakura a Happy New Year. I believe many of you have started the New Year full of hope.

This year, Sakura City marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of a municipal system. We have to make our best efforts to ensure that the achievements of our predecessors are further developed and bequeathed to future generations.

The City has acquired financial soundness in recent years as a result of our efforts for administrative reforms. However, considering the declining population and aging society, there is uncertainty over the City's financial future in the long term. To maintain the vigor of the City, we need not only to make further reforms, but also to enhance Sakura's value and appeal putting next 10 years into perspective.

At present, we are working on improving child-support programs, ensuring earthquake resistance of schools and other facilities, enhancing welfare and nursing care, as well as renewing urban infrastructure. Also, we are going to accelerate the development plan for Shizu district and the Imba-numa lake area, in addition to the streetscape improvement plan in the City. We would like to ask for your continued cooperation and support.

Again, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all our citizens and hope this year will be filled with joy and success for you and your loved ones.

*Kazuo Warabi*  
Mayor of Sakura City

**SEIJIN-SHIKI, CELEBRATION CEREMONY FOR NEW ADULTS**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13 (NATIONAL HOLIDAY)  
AT SHIMIN ONGAKU HALL (CITY CONCERT HALL)**

☎ Jidoh-seishoh' nen-ka (The Children & Youth Section), 484-6190

Sakura City offers the coming-of-age ceremony to those who were born between April 2, 1993 and April 1, 1994. The ceremony is divided into three sessions (30-minutes each) by the new adults' residential area. Starting time for each session is as follows:

- Usui/Chiyoda: 10:00-, ●Shizu: 11:30-, ●Sakura/Negoh/Wada/Yatomi: 13:30-
- Doors open 30 minutes before opening of each session
- Please present your invitation card at the reception desk
- Those who do not have the invitation card (who have moved out or moved in the City recently, or not received or lost the card, etc.) could get the card re-issued at the venue
- Please use public transportation whenever possible to reduce traffic jams.



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**LET'S ENJOY  
TRADITIONAL CHILDREN'S PLAY IN JAPAN**

**13:00 TO 15:30, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19  
(DOORS OPEN AT 12:30)  
AT CHUOH KOMINKAN**



☎ Jidoh Seishohnen-ka  
(The Children & Youth Section)  
484-6190



A great opportunity will be offered to experience Japanese traditional plays such as Kendama (cup and ball), Otedama (beanbags juggling), Karuta (card playing), Koma-mawashi (top spinning), and various other games. Admission free. Please apply no later than Wednesday, January 15 by phone.

**DONDO-YAKI CEREMONY**

**10:30 TO 12:00, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18  
(ACCEPTANCE STARTS AT 10:00)  
AT IMBANUMA LAKE SUNSET HILLS**

☎ Sunset Hills, 484-1011  
Fax: 235-7305

Dondo-yaki is a New Year's bonfire to burn New Year's decoration (Kadomatsu, Matsu-Kazari, Kakizome, etc.). Application required & free participation.



# SHICHI-FUKUJIN STAMP RALLY

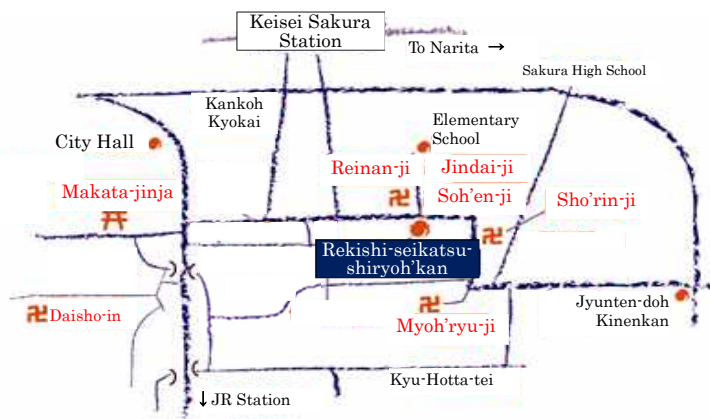
JANUARY 1 TO JANUARY 13

Sakura Shoh'koh Kaigi-sho  
(Chamber of Commerce), ☎ 486-6117



Shichi-fukujin, which literally means "Seven Gods of Good Fortune," are said to bring wealth, happiness, and long life. The shrines/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to a Stamp Rally from January 1 through January 13 and on the 10th day of

every month, from 10:00 to 16:00. The seven shrine/temples are: Jindai-ji, Soh'en-ji, Reinan-ji, Shoh'rin-ji, Myoh'ryu-ji, Makata-jinja, and Daishoh-in. Stamping sheets for vermilion seals are available for ¥400 each at any of the shrine/temples, Rekishi-seikatsu-shiryoh'kan (Center of history and folklore)\*, or the Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai (1-minute walk from the south exit of Keisei Sakura Station, closed January 1 to 3). ¥200 will be charged per vermilion seal to be stamped on the sheet (at Makata-jinja and Daishoh-in, ¥300 for two seals), or you can just purchase a fully stamped sheet for ¥2,000 at the Rekishi-seikatsu-shiryoh'kan.



## CITY SUBSIDY FOR COMPOSTERS & WASTE REDUCTION MACHINES

☎ Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka (Garbage Control Section), 484-6149

Let's be eco-friendly and protect the environment by using waste reduction equipment. Sakura City offers citizens a subsidy for the purchase of home composters and/or raw garbage reduction machines (drying or fermenting system). To be granted the subsidy when purchasing one, bring your ID (some document showing your name and address, such as driver's license) and *hanko* seal to one of the prescribed shops shown below, and fill in the form at the shop so that you can get a discount by the amount of the subsidy. Please note that no subsidy can be paid after purchase. Shown below are eligibility and subsidy amount for each equipment.

### Eligibility and Amount of the Subsidy

Eligible Equipment	Amount of Subsidy
- Composter (C) - Fermenting reduction machine (F)	¥2,000 or one third of the purchase price <sup>(1)</sup> , whichever is lower (Limited to two equipment for one household in one fiscal year)
- Electric food waste reduction machine (E)	¥10,000 or one fourth of the purchase price, whichever is lower (Limited to one equipment for one household in one fiscal year)

District	Shop Name	Tel	Products*	District	Shop Name	Tel	Products*
Sakura	Ishii Sho'kai	484-0768	E	Shizu	Tanaka Yakuten	487-2811	
Usui	Ebihara Kanamono Ten	487-3045	C		Tanaka Yakkyoku (Chemist's)	462-3700	F
Negoh	Oh'kawa Denki Sakura	485-8678	E		Ai-Esu Juh'ken	487-8129	E
	Imba Nohkyo	485-6115	C		Arigataya Beauty Parlor	460-6191	F
	Beisia Denki Sakura	481-0511	E		Kojima New Yukarigaoka-ten	464-2611	E
					Nagashima Denki	461-1041	E

(1) In this calculation, a fraction less than 100 yen shall be discarded. \*Products over ¥80,000 or disposers are not eligible.

\*Products purchased at shops other than the above are not eligible for the subsidy. \*

### FREE CONSULTATION FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

- Specialists help you on Legal matters, immigration, visa, start-up business, pension, insurance, labor problem, etc. -

☎297-0245, Fax:297-2753

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**

13:00 to 16:00

At Chiba International Center

◆Free ◆Reservation required

◆Interpreters available\* on prior request

(\*Need to be applied no later than Friday, January 8)

◆E-mail: [kudo@ccb.or.jp](mailto:kudo@ccb.or.jp)

Place: 14<sup>th</sup> Fl., Marive East, World Business Garden (WBG)  
2-6, Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba

(5-minute walk from South Exit of Kaihin Makuhari Station)



### Job-search Assistance for the Youth (up to around 40 years of age)

Youth Support Station

☎0476-24-7880

- ◆ 13:00 - 17:00, Tuesday, January 14
- ◆ Reservation required. Free of charge.  
(<http://hokusou-saposute.jpn.org/>)

Young Plaza

- ◆ Counseling service provided for free.

☎484-6431

- ◆ 16:00 - 18:00, Friday, January 10
- ◆ Reservation required.



## FY2014 PARKING PERMIT FOR BICYCLES & MOTORCYCLES

☎ Japan Society of Parking Engineering, 03-3597-9851

For convenience of commuters who use stations in Sakura, the City provides bicycle/motorcycle parking at each station. The parking lots are administered and managed by a designated administrator, Japan Society of Parking Engineering. Applications for regular use (continuous use of bicycle/motorcycle parking during the period from April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015) are being accepted at each parking lot. You can apply for regular use for up to one year, or park your bikes temporarily by paying as you go.

For regular-use application, please submit the following information:

**Bicycle parking:** Model of the bicycle, Name of the manufacturer, identification number, color, theft prevention registration number, and user's ID (something certify your name and address)

**Motorcycle parking (up to 50cc or 125cc, depending on the facility):** License plate number, Color, and user's ID.

Utilization	Type of Vehicle	Parking Fee* for Sakura Residents**	
Regular Use	Bicycle	Adults	Indoor: ¥7,600 / year
			Outdoor: ¥3,800 / year
		Children up to high school age	Indoor: ¥3,260 / year
			Outdoor: ¥1,630 / year
	Motorcycle up to 125cc	All ages	Indoor: ¥11,400 / year
			Outdoor: ¥5,700 / year

\* The above fees for regular use are for 12 months. The actual amount for regular use may differ depending on the number of months of actual use. Also, in case of cancellation before March 31, 2015, the fees for the remaining months will be returned.

\*\* For those who are not residents of Sakura, the fees for regular use are two times of the above, while there is no difference in fees for temporary use.

**For temporary parking**, please make a payment each time to the manager at the parking lot. Fees for one-time use are ¥100 for a bicycle and ¥210 for a motorcycle up to 125cc.

### How to apply

Application forms and guidance leaflets are available at the booth in each parking lot. Please fill out and mail it to the address indicated on the leaflet, or bring it to the booth you intend to use during 6:30-10:30 & 16:00-20:00 on weekdays and 8:00-12:00 on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. Please note that some of the parking lots get full very quickly.

### RENTAL CITIZEN'S FARMLAND APPLICATIONS FOR FY2014 NOW ACCEPTED

☎ Noh'sei-ka (Agricultural Administration Section, 484-6141)

Won't you savor the joy of harvest this year? Sakura City offers citizens low-rent plots of farmland as shown below. To apply, please send a postal card to Noh'sei-ka of City Hall, with the following information: Your address, Name, Age, Telephone number, and the Farm location of your choice, **no later than Friday, February 14, 2014**. A drawing will be held if necessary\*1.

Location	No. Available	Facilities	Period of Use	Rent
Obukai	28 plots	Parking, BR*2, & Tap Water	Apr. 1, 2014 to	¥10,000 /year
Oh-Shinozuka	52 plots		Mar. 31, 2015	

\*1 People applying for the first time have priority. \*2 BR: Bathroom

### NEW YEAR GARBAGE COLLECTION

☎ Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka, 484-6149

Normal service starts on Friday, January, 6.

The volume of burnable garbage at the first collections of New Year tends to be very high. Please help us by splitting your garbage into separate collection days between January 6 (Fri), 8 (Wed), and 10 (Fri).



### SUBSIDY FOR NINGEN DOCK (MEDICAL CHECKUP)

Kenkoh Hoken-ka, ☎484-1783 (Who is covered by National Health Insurance)  
☎484-6136 (Elderly aged 75 or over)

**Application deadline is Monday, March 31, 2014**

"Ningen Dock" means a full physical examination ("Ningen" means human, and the word "Dock" came from dry dock for ships). For a "Ningen Dock" that include all the checkup items of the "City's Specified Medical Checkup" taken between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 (FY2013), half of the cost can be covered with a ceiling of ¥10,000 by the City. Those who are aged 20 or over and haven't taken "City's Specified Medical Checkup" in FY2013, and subscribe to **National Health Insurance** or **Medical Care System for Elderly Aged 75 or Over** are eligible to apply for this subsidy. If you are going to take a Ningen Dock within this fiscal year, please submit the application form to Kenkoh Hoken-ka at City Hall (by postal mail or bring-in in person) at least two weeks before the checkup date. Application forms for this subsidy can be obtained at Kenkoh Hoken-ka at City Hall. Please note that your application must arrive by Monday, March 31, 2014.

### POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY



As of the end of November 2013, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,447 (86,734 males and 88,713 females) in 72,849 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,134. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,581.

# HEALTH INFORMATION

Contacts: Kenkoh Kanri Center (Health Management Center) ☎485-6712  
 Seibu Hoken Center (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181  
 Nambu Hoken Center (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812



## HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S AGE	JAN. 2014	ACCEPTANCE TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in August 2013 	Thu. 30	9:30-10:30 13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Tue. 14	9:30-10:30 13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	Fri. 10	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (chew-chew) Class, Health consultation for children of 8 months, born in April 2013	Fri. 17	9:30- 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Tue. 21		Seibu Hoken Center
Health consultation for 18-month children born in July 2012	Tue. 07	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Wed. 15		Seibu Hoken Center
	Mon. 27		Nambu Hoken Center
Health consultation for 3-year children born in July 2010	Wed. 08	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Thu. 16		Seibu Hoken Center
	Tue. 28		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in January or July 2011 or in January 2012  * On the days with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Thu. 09*	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Fri. 24		Seibu Hoken Center
	Mon. 20*		
	Thu. 23		
	Wed. 22*		Nambu Hoken Center
Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sodan (Application required) Child development consultation for preschoolers	Thu. 16	9:00-12:00	Kenkoh Kanri Center

## OTHER INFORMATION

### FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

-Reservation required-

Free antenatal classes, "Mom's Class" and "Mom's & Dad's Class," will be held for expectant mothers and fathers.

Class	Time	Date	Place	Expected Delivery Month
Mom's	9:00-14:20	Wed., Feb. 5	Kenkoh Kanri Center	June and July, 2014
Mom's & Dad's	9:00-12:15	Sat., Mar.1		

- **Mom's class** gives instructions on how to lead a healthy life during pregnancy, including nutrition and oral hygiene education.
  - **Mom's and Dad's Class** gives instruction on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, experience (pregnancy simulation) to fathers, etc.
- Reservations accepted with priority for parents in their first pregnancy.

### CHILD ABUSE HOTLINES

If you suspect that a child is being abused, please report it immediately to protect the child!

#### Jidoh Seishoh'nen-ka

Children & Youth Section: ☎484-6263  
 (Weekend & Holiday): ☎484-1111)

#### Emergency Dial for Children & Families

Chiba Prefecture Child Consultation Center, available 24 hours a day: ☎252-1152

#### Sakura Police Station

Available 24 hours a day: ☎484-0110

### FREE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

-Reservation required at least two days before the designated date-

Time	Date	Place & Consultant
13:50-16:00	Wed. Jan. 29	Seibu Hoken Center (by psychiatrist)

For those who are suffering from mental problems such as anxiety, relationship stress, etc. 30 minutes service per person. A medical interview will be conducted over the phone when making reservation. Please note that the scope of service is limited to consultation and neither treatment nor medication can be provided.

### CONSULTATION BY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

For all ages - Reservation required

Time	Date	Place
9:30-11:30	Fri. Jan. 24	Seibu Hoken Center

The city offers consultations on health check results and how to live a healthier life. Also, nutritional guidance and health checks including blood-pressure measurement is provided on request.

## HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

\* No medical care provided on daytime Sat. January 4\*

Nighttime on Sunday & Holiday (19:00 - 21:45, Physician & Dentist) ☎485-6711 at Kenkoh Kanri Center

### 365 Days a Year Pediatric Emergency

For children under 16 of age

☎485-3355 at Kenkoh Kanri Center

Monday through Saturday: 19:00 - 6:00 (next morning)  
 Sunday & holiday : 9:00 - 16:45 & 19:00 - 6:00

### To Find On-Duty Doctor---Call☎484-2516



On Sunday & Holiday (9:00 - 22:00, recorded audio guidance)

- Surgeon, Physician, & Dentist on the day's duty
  - Surgeon and ENT on the night's duty
- \* Medical care is provided at each doctor's office

### Telephone Consultation for Children's Acute Conditions

☎ #8000 or  
 ☎043 (242) 9939

19:00 - 22:00, 365 days a year  
 Pediatrician or clinical nurse provides medical consultation.