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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.)



The 33rd SAKURA ASAHI HEALTHY MARATHON* *Let's Cheer Up the Runners!*

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

(*Application is already closed.)

☎ Sakura Asahi Healthy Marathon Secretariat, 485-2929

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. At the venue, volunteers will hand out water and direct runners in the right direction. 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 lake view with the windmill.

STARTING TIME ▶Opening of the event: 9:00 ▶Full marathon: 9:30 ▶3 km run: 9:50 ▶10 km run: 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) & 11:00 to 17:00 (to the stations)

ROADS TEMPORARILY CLOSED

On March 30, parts of the roads will be closed or regulated as shown below.

Marathon Map and Road Closures



- ①⑨: Alternate one-side traffic control
- ③④: One-way traffic control
- ②⑤⑥⑦⑧: Vehicles prohibited

Sakura Asahi Healthy Marathon Photo Contest

☎ The All-Japan Association of Photographic Societies (Chiba Office), 047-463-8303

Calling for original photo works featuring the 33rd Sakura Asahi Kenkoh Marathon, taken on the event day! All works are prohibited from synthesis, and must be:

- ▶ Original and unpublished
- ▶ Size: A4 to quarto (The long side: up to 36cm)
- ▶ Color or Monochrome
- ▶ Single work (No series work is accepted)
- ▶ Limited to 5 entries per person
- ▶ Put into transparent bags one by one, if printed using an ink-jet printer

Entry fee: 1,500 yen

Closing of application: need to be received by **April 21**

Please send your works to:

Sakura Asahi Kenkoh Marathon Photo Contest, Asahi Shimbun Chiba Station, 10-4 Chuo 3, Chuo-ku, Chiba, 260-0013



Changes to the City's Garbage Collection

Part of the City's garbage collection rule changes from April. Collection schedule of landfill garbage changes in accordance with the start of metal and small appliances collection. In addition, there are changes to the fee table of oversized garbage. For details, please refer to the "FY2014 Sakura City Garbage Disposal Guide" to be issued later this month. The English version will also be available at the City's branch offices shortly thereafter.



“NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN 2014”

March 1 to 7 -- Never Leave The Fire Unextinguished! --

☎ Firefighting Association, 481-1217

Last year, a total of 116 fires occurred in the area of Sakura City, Yachimata City and Shisui-machi. The leading cause of these fires remains to be arson and suspected arson. We tend to think that arsons take place only late at night or early in the morning, but in many cases they take place in the daytime. To prevent arson fires, be sure not to leave flammable items outside your house.

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

◆ Seven tips to save your life and your loved one's life 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. The seals are available at city branch offices and fire stations. Distribution is limited to one per household.



Revisions of Water and Sewage Charge Due to Rise in Consumption Tax

☎ Suidoh-bu (Bureau of Water Supply), 485-1191
☎ Geslodoh-ka (Sewage Section), 484-6158

The rate of consumption tax will increase from the current 5% to 8% on April 1, 2014. Accordingly, water and sewage charge will be calculated to include 8% tax, instead of 5%, after the meter reading in May (the period between April 1 and the day of May meter reading is a preliminary period before the change).

Changes to City Facility Fees

☎ Each Facility

Besides, usage fees at the City facilities will change to reflect the tax increase with a few exceptions. The major changes include:

- ◆ Millennium Center Public Bathhouse: ¥300 → ¥310
- ◆ Common ticket for three cultural facilities: ¥520 → ¥540
- ◆ Iwana Undoh Koh'en Sports Park tennis court: ¥420 → ¥430 per two hours



S.E.I.F Subsidies International Exchange Activities

☎ Sakura International Exchange Foundation, 484-6326

Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.) subsidizes half of the expenses (with upper limit) for international exchange activities carried out by groups in the city.

- ◆ Eligible groups: Groups that plans to conduct at least an international exchange activity during FY2014 (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015)
- ◆ Application deadline: Thursday, April 10
- ◆ How to apply: Please submit an application form in person directly to S.I.E.F. Application forms are available at S.I.E.F. counter.

For further details, please visit: <http://www.sief.jp>

Free Animation Screening for Kids & Parents Spring Break

“Tom & Jerry” and more!

(トムとジェリー 他)

10:00 - 12:00

Thursday, March 27

Negoh kohmin-kan

☎ Negoh Kohmin-kan, 486-3147

- ★For elementary school kids, preschoolers, and their guardians
- ★Up to 40 people (first come, first served)

★Application required



Despicable Me 2

(怪盗グルーのミニオン危機一発)

10:00 - 11:40 (Doors open at 9:30)

Wednesday, March 26

City Concert Hall (Shimin Ongaku Hall)

☎ Chuh'oh Kohmin-kan, 485-1801

- ★For elementary school kids, preschoolers, and their guardians
- ★Up to 500 people (first come, first served)
- ★No application required

Have you completed Tax Return Filing? The Deadline is Monday, March 17.

INCOME TAX – Narita Tax Office, ☎0476-28-5151 RESIDENT TAX – Kazei-Ka, ☎484-6115

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: Kyoh'iku Soumu-ka, ☎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 is provided (with no obligation to repay) 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 upper limit of the scholarship is 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.

Sakura Minami Toshokan LIBRARY BOOK RECYCLE



Collection and Free
Distribution of Used Books

☎ 483-3000

9:00 – 16:00, March 8 & 9

- There might be entrance restrictions (first come, first served)
- Distribution limited up to 15 books per person

The library accepts your used books

from 9:00 to 17:00 through
Thursday, March 6

(The library closes on Mar.3 & 4).

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 the 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 (125cc and under) & Special light vehicles: *Kazei-ka*, ☎484-6223
- Motorbikes over 125cc: *Chiba Unyu Shikyoku*, ☎050-5540-2022
- Light vehicles with 3-wheels or 4-wheels:
Chiba Office of Kei-jidoh'sha Kensa Kyoh'kai, ☎245-0163



Easy Cycling around Imba-numa Lake with History and Nature Talk

10:00 – 14:00, Sunday, March 23

Meeting Place: *Furusato Hiroba Square*

☎ Imba-numa Sunset Hills, 484-1011

Wouldn't you enjoy an easy cycling feeling the fresh spring breeze from Imba-numa Lake? During breaks, you can also enjoy lectures on the Lake's history and nature.

- ★ Application required (up to 20 entry groups, on a first-come, first served basis). Please call to apply.
- ★ Participation fee: 500 yen including insurance premium
- ★ You could bring your own bike or rent a bike (available for a separate charge) ★ Please bring your lunch!

Let's Stroll Castle Town Wearing Kimono!



Free rental and dressing of Kimono
11:00 to 15:00, through March 10

☎ Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai, 486-6000

Kimono rental & dressing are offered for free along with a free picture of yourself wearing Kimono, shopping maps and discount coupons.

Do not miss this great opportunity!
No application required unless you are participating in a large group.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY



As of the end of January 2014, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,557 (86,778 males and 88,779 females) in 72,968 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,127. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,684.

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

Child Health Consultation for	Mar. 2014	Reception	Place
Children of 4 months , born in October 2013 	Fri. 14	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Mon. 3	13:30 - 14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	Wed. 26	13:30 - 14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
Children of 8 months , born in June 2013 (Called "Mogu-Mogu Class")	Fri. 07	9:30 - 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Mon. 24		Seibu Hoken Center
Children of 18 month , born in September 2012	Tue. 04	13:15 - 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Wed. 19		Seibu Hoken Center
	Tue. 11		Nambu Hoken Center
Children of 3 years of age born in September 2010	Wed. 05	13:15 - 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Thu. 20		Seibu Hoken Center
	Wed. 12		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental Check for children born in March or September 2011 or in March 2012  * On the days with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Thu. 06*	13:30 - 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Tue. 18		Seibu Hoken Center
	Mon. 10*		
	Tue. 25		
	Thu. 13*		
Child Development Consultation for preschoolers (called "Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sodan") * Application required	Thu. 06	9:00 - 12:00	Kenkoh Kanri Center

OTHER INFORMATION



DO NOT MISS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE! FINANCIAL AID FOR FY2013 ADULTS VACCINATIONS

☎ Kenkoh Kanri Center, 485-6711

Please apply in time for the aid for vaccinations below you took in FY2013.

● **Aid of ¥2,000 for Pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly (Once/5yrs):**

Application must be received by March 31

Eligibility: ① Registered Sakura citizen aged 65 or over
② Registered citizen aged 60 to 64 who has Level 1 Physical Disability
Certificate due to cardiac, kidney, respiratory, or HIV-associated diseases

● **Aid of ¥5,000 for MR or ¥3,000 for Rubella vaccinations for adults**

Application must be postmarked by March 31

Eligibility: ① Registered female citizen aged 19 or over who is an expectant mother or wishes to become pregnant
② Registered citizen who is an expectant father

CONSULTATION by PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

For all ages
Reservation required
Consultation on health check results and how to live a healthier life, and nutritional guidance are provided as follows:

Time: 9:30 - 11:30
Date: Monday, Mar. 17
At: Seibu Hoken Center

FREE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

Reservation required at least
two days before the designated date

Time	13:50-16:00
Date	Tue. Mar. 25
Place	Kenkoh Kanri Center
Consultant	Psychiatrist

SUBSIDY FOR CHILDREN'S MEDICAL EXPENSES

☎ Jidoh Seishohnen-ka (Children & Youth Section) . 484-6140

Are you receiving subsidy from the "Children's Medical Expense Subsidy System"? When your children take medical care, make sure you show the subsidy ticket at the hospital counter. Please apply for the ticket within 1 month after the child's birth or your moving in the City. **Coverage:** Junior high school-aged or younger children's medical treatment taken in Chiba prefecture under Health Insurance coverage

Self-payment amount: ¥200 (per 1 hospital visit or 1 day of hospitalization)

* No self-payment for households with inhabitant tax-exempt. *Drugs to be dispensed free of charge.

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

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