

This is a free monthly English newsletter carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published by Sakura City for its residents. For free subscription by postal mail and/or email, please send your request via email or fax to the above address/number. In principle, inquiries can be answered only in Japanese at the City Hall and other city facilities. If you do not speak Japanese, please be accompanied by someone who speaks Japanese when you make inquiries.

(Printed on recycled paper.)

~ 2017 New Year Message from Mayor of Sakura City ~



Towards the Realization of Our Vision of the Future Sakura



On this first day of the New Year, I cordially wish each and every one of Sakura citizens a very happy New Year.

Last year Sakura City actively implemented various measures to increase the City's resident and non-resident populations as well as its birthrate to address the urgent issues of its decreasing and aging population, based on the latter-half of the "4th General Plan of Sakura City" (for FY2016-19). In FY2017, the first year of the three-year wrap-up phase of the General Plan to deliver its results, we will further accelerate the existing measures to "Shape our Love of Sakura: a City Rich in History, Nature and Culture" to realize our vision of the future Sakura.

Specifically, we will further expand the childcare services at nursery schools in order to achieve the goal of "no child waiting for admission" and at the temporary childcare facilities for children after illness to improve the overall childrearing environment so that parents can raise their children feeling at ease.

This year, we will also enhance Sakura's appeal in various approaches. For example, we plan to renovate and reopen *Nagashima Shigeo Memorial Iwana Ballpark* in May, further develop tourist facilities around *Sakura Furusato Hiroba*, and make a good use of the designation as a "Japan Heritage Site" as the new attractiveness of Sakura.

We ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in order to make Sakura "The City of Choice." Again, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the New Year to you and your loved ones.

Kazuo Warabi, Mayor of Sakura City

SEIJIN-SHIKI, CELEBRATION CEREMONY FOR NEW ADULTS

JANUARY 9 at SHIMIN ONGAKU HALL (CITY CONCERT HALL)

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

Sakura City offers the coming-of-age ceremony to those who were born on and between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 1997. The ceremony is divided into three sessions (30-minutes each) by the new adults' residential area. Starting times for each session are:

◆Usui/Chiyoda: 10:00 ◆Shizu: 11:30 ◆Sakura/Negoh/Wada/Yatomi: 13:30

- Doors open 30 minutes before the 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 into Sakura recently, or not have 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.

Services for Foreign Citizens

SAKURA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FOUNDATION (SIEF), ☎/Fax: 484-6326
E-mail: info@sief.jp

As a city contractor, SIEF offers various international services for the citizens of Sakura City.

◆ Free Counseling for Foreigners

Having difficulties in daily lives? Counseling in English, Spanish and Chinese languages is available on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** (excluding national holidays) at SIEF.

For a face-to-face counseling, please make a reservation by the previous day.

◆ Free Japanese Classes and Salon

Free classes are offered on Thur., Fri. and Sundays as well as Japanese language salon on Saturdays. For details, please visit:

<http://www.sief.jp/41/2016-jpn.pdf>



Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

~ Specialists help you on legal matters, immigration, visa, business start-ups, pension, insurance, labor problems, etc. ~

Chiba International Center
☎297-0245, Fax:297-2753
E-mail: kudo@ccb.or.jp

Saturday, January 14, 2017

13:00 to 16:00

- Free of charge ●Reservation required
- Interpreters available* upon prior request
- (*Need to be requested no later than Friday, January 4)

Place: Chiba International Center

14th Fl., Marive East, World Business Garden (WBG)
2-6, Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba

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



Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing

Kenchiku Juhtaku-ka (Construction Guidance Section), ☎484-6168



Three municipal apartments in *Fujisawa* and *Ohja Juhtaku* (see the table to the right) are going to become available shortly. For detailed information, please refer to the application forms that will be available at the City Hall, City branch offices and City Service Centers. Application will be accepted from **8:30AM on January 16 through 5:15PM on January 31 at the City Hall** (Application via post is not allowed).

Location	Fujisawa	Ohja
Type	General	
No. of Houses Available	2	1
Floor Plan	3DK	2DK

Eligible citizens are those who meet all the followings:

1. Living in Sakura City for more than one year and have paid city tax without delay
2. Living or going to live together with at least one relative (Single use is possible under certain conditions.)
3. Having obvious and actual housing difficulty
4. Monthly income is within the prescribed limitation (158,000 yen or 214,000 yen depending on conditions)
5. There is a joint guarantor whose income is on the same level or above the applicant's
6. Neither the applicant nor his/her relatives are members of a gangster organization



Congratulation Money For Children of Single-Parent Families Who are Entering Schools or the Workforce

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

Congratulation money is offered to single-parent families with children entering elementary, junior, or senior high school in April 2017, or starting to work after completing junior high school in March 2017. Families where a person other than the parent is bringing up the child are also entitled to this gift of ¥10,000 per applicable child.

In January, application forms are to be sent out to the households that are receiving "Child Rearing Allowances for Single Parents" or "Medical Expense Subsidies for Single Parent Households."

Please contact *Jidoh Seishohnen-ka* if you don't receive the application form, or if you are not receiving those allowances although you are eligible. Application period is from **February 1 to February 28** (must be postmarked on this day at latest). Please make sure you apply before the deadline, since any delay results in no pay.

One-day Suspension of

My Number Card Systems



My Number Card Issuance Site, ☎311-1001

Please be aware that on **January 22**, all the procedure involving My Number online system will be suspended due to the scheduled system stop.

Although January 22 is one of the open Sundays when the administrative services are available over the counter, the following services cannot be provided on this date:

- Issuance of My Number Card
- Change of security code of My Number Card
- Data updates of My Number Card and/or Electronic Certificate
- Processing for continued use of the card after moving in
- Issuance of notification card

Job-Search Supports for the Youth

*** For those who are looking for a job and aged between 15 and 39.
Free of charge, reservation required.**



- **Job-search Consultation**
January 10 (& every second Tuesday)
10:00-17:00, at Millennium Center Sakura

Chiba Hokusoh Area Youth Support Station
☎0476-24-7880
(<http://hokusou-saposute.jp.org/>)

Chiba Youth Support Station dispatches consultants once a month to Sakura to offer free job-search consultation for the youth.

- **Job-search Basics Seminar in Yachimata**
January 27 (13:30-15:30), at Yachimata City Hall

Shohkoh-ka (Commerce & Industry Section),
Yachimata City ☎443-1405

Jobcafe Chiba, Sakura City and other municipalities around Sakura cooperates to hold a seminar on job-search. Contents include how to schedule the job search, how to fill out the entry sheet and how to write a self-promotion letter. Acquire basic knowledge and get prepared before you apply for a job!

Chiba Minimum Wages Revised

Wages Room, Labor Standards Department,
Chiba Labor Bureau, ☎221-2328



Minimum wages in Chiba Prefecture has been revised (increased by 25 yen) in 2016 as follows:

- Regional minimum wage per hour is 842 yen
(on & after October 1, 2016)
- Industry-specific minimum wages in seven industries ranges from 848 yen to 915 yen
(on & after December 25, 2016)

These minimum wages must be applied to every employee including part-timers and temporary workers. Additional payments such as bonus, family allowance, commutation allowance, and allowances for overtime, holiday and midnight works are not allowed to be included in these minimum wages.

Please note that the job descriptions subject to the industry-specific minimum wages are stipulated in detail. For details, please call the Wages Room of Chiba Labor Bureau or 24 hours information service at ☎221-4700, or the nearest Labor Standards Inspection Office (http://www.mhlw.go.jp/new-info/kobetu/roudou/gyousei/kantoku/dl/040330-3_0004.pdf).

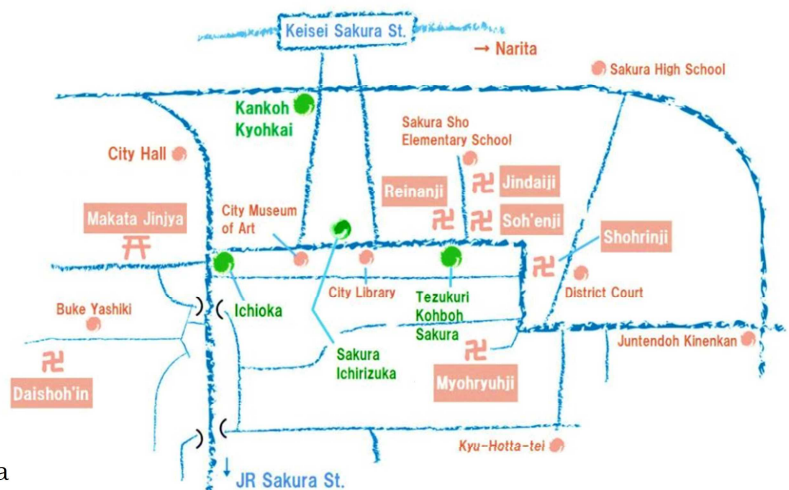


SHICHIFUKUJIN (SEVEN GODS OF GOOD FORTUNE) STAMP RALLY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 — TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Sakura Shichifukujin-kai (in Japanese Sweets Parlor Ichioka), ☎/Fax: 308-7072

Shichifukujin, which literally means “Seven Gods of Good Fortune,” are said to bring wealth, happiness, and long life. From 10:00 to 16:00 from January 1 through January 10 (in addition to the 10th day of every month), the shrines/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to a Stamp Rally to collect vermilion seals of all the seven gods. Stamping paper is available for 400 yen at the temples, the shrine, *Sakura Kankoh Kyohkai* (closed Jan. 1-3), *Tezukuri Kohboh Sakura* (closed Jan. 1-3), and Japanese Sweets Parlor *Ichioka* (closed on Sundays). One stamping of the vermilion seal costs 200 yen (300 yen for two seals of *Makata Jinja* shrine and *Daishoh'in*), or you can purchase a fully stamped paper for 2,000 yen at *Tezukuri Kohboh Sakura* and Japanese Sweets Parlor *Ichioka*.



KIMONO RENTAL & DRESSING AT SAKURA ICHIRIZUKA

Sakura Ichirizuka (10:00-16:00 on Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun) ☎ 483-3535

Won't you wear Kimono and take a stroll through castle town of Sakura? Rental Kimono is available on the days: **JAN. 21, FEB 11 & 26, MAR. 3, 4, 12, 19, 20 & 25.** Rental and dressing fee is ¥3000/person (For children of elementary school age, ¥2000/child or ¥1500/child if two or more children together) including a souvenir picture. All participants will be served with matcha green tea and tea cakes for free. Prior application is required.



Let's Celebrate the New Year at Kusabue-no-Oka

Kusabue-no-Oka (9:00-16:30)
☎485-7821 *Closed on Jan.1*

- On Jan. 2 & 3, free admission is offered celebrating a New Year!
- Events at Kyuh Masudake (Old Residence of the Masuda family)**
- ❖ Mochi (rice cake) pounding (Free. No reservation required.)
Zohni or Shiruko is offered for 100 yen/bowl after pounding.
Jan. 2 (Zohni) & 3 (Shiruko) (11:00 & 13:30)
- ❖ Let's have fun with Japanese traditional play! (Free of charge)
Top spinning, Kite flying, Kendama (Japanese cup-and-ball game), and lots more!
Jan. 2 - 9 (10:00 -15:00)
- ❖ Kite making and flying (for those who are aged at 4 year or older, 500 yen, reservation required. Up to 20 people per session.) Jan. 3 (10:00- & 13:00-)
- ❖ New Year Karuta (Card playing) competition
Jan. 4 (10:00; 11:00; 13:00; 14:00):
- ❖ Takeuma making & riding (4 year or older, 500 yen, reservation required) Jan. 5 & 6 (10:00 & 13:00) Up to 20 people/session.
- ❖ Free Offering of Nanakusa Gayu and Amazake
Jan. 7 (11:00: Nanakusa-Gayu, 13:30: Amazake)



Kite Flying Contest (Takoage Taikai)

Sunday, January 15
(9:30 - 11:30)

at Iwana Athletic Stadium

Jidoh Seishohnen-ka, ☎484-6190

Takoage (kite flying) is traditionally a New Year pleasure in Japan. You can fly kites of any size or design, handmade or purchased, but flying with a fishing rod is forbidden. Prizes will be awarded for kites that are judged to be unique, or those flew highest. Participation is free of charge. No need for prior registration.
*Subject to cancellation in a stormy weather.



Let's Enjoy New-year's Games at Young Plaza

Tuesday, January 10 (13:30~)

Young Plaza, ☎484-6431

Everyone is invited to the New Year games at Young Plaza to participate in. The New Year's traditional games include Jumbo *Daruma Otoshi*, top spinning, etc. Top making workshop is also offered on the day for the first 10 people upon reservation (100 yen for materials). Join and have fun!



POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of November, the population of Sakura City is 176,712 (87,092 males and 89,620 females) in 75,897 households. 2,612 registered foreign residents are included in the above.

For April 2017 Enrollment
into Nursery Schools
and After-school Daycare Centers
**ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION
STARTS SHORTLY**

Kosodate Shien-ka, ☎484-6245

Application period:

Nursery Schools: Jan. 5~13

**After-school Daycare Centers:
Jan. 10~24**



Make Convenient Use of City's News Letter!

Koho-ka (Public Relations Section), ☎ 484-6103
E-mail: koho@city.sakura.lg.jp



On the 1st and 15th every month, Sakura City is issuing *Koho Sakura*, the City's newsletter in Japanese language. Its excerpts in English, Chinese and Spanish languages are also issued on the 1st every month and become available at city branch offices, kohmin-kan and other public facilities as well as city hall. Free subscription of these excerpts is available by postal mail and/or email upon request. Please email your request and get timely and useful information.

HEALTH INFORMATION



Health Information for Mothers& Children				Holiday & Nighttime Emergency Medical Services	
Health Check-ups	Jan. 2017	Center	Reception	Nighttime on Sunday & Holiday Dentistry & Internal Medicine 19:00 - 21:45 ☎239-2020 at Kenkoh KC	
Children of 4 months , born in August 2016	Mon. 23	Kenkoh KC	9:30—10:30		
	Fri. 20	Seibu HC	& 13:30—14:30		
	Fri. 13	Nambu HC	13:30—14:30		
Children of 8 months , born in April 2016 ("Mogu-Mogu Class")	Tue. 17	Kenkoh KC	13:30—13:45		
	Fri. 27	Seibu HC	9:30—9:45		
Children of 18 months , born in July 2015	Thu. 12	Kenkoh KC	13:15—14:15		
	Wed. 18	Seibu HC			
	Wed. 25	Nambu HC			
Children of 3 years of age, born in July 2013	Wed. 11	Kenkoh KC	13:15—14:15		
	Thu. 19	Seibu HC			
	Thu. 26	Nambu HC			
Dental Check for children born in January or July 2014, or in January 2015 * On the days with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Fri. 13*	Kenkoh KC	13:15—14:15		
	Tue. 24				
	Mon. 16*	Seibu HC			
	Mon. 23				
	Fri. 20*				
Child Development Consultation for preschoolers ("Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sohdan")	Thu. 19	Kenkoh KC Application required	9:00—12:00	Nighttime Consultation on Children's Acute Diseases: ☎#8000 (19:00—6:00, 365 days)	
Mom's and Dad's Class for expectant parents due in April or May 2017	Sun. 29	Seibu HC Application required	9:00—12:00		
Mom's Class for expectant parents due in May or June 2017	Wed. Feb. 08	Application required	9:00—14:30		
Health Consultation for Adults				Child Abuse Consultation/Reporting	
Mental Health Consultation by psychiatrist (Reservation accepted from Dec.15)	Thu. 19	Nambu HC Application required	13:50—16:00 (40 min./person)	Children & Youth Section (Daytime): ☎484-6263 (Nighttime, Weekends & Holidays: ☎484-1111)	
	Mon. 16	Kenkoh KC	13:30—15:30		
Consultation by public health nurse				Chiba Child Abuse Hotline (24 hours): ☎252-1152	

