

Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section), Sakura City Hall

☎(043) 484-1111 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 carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter *Kōhō Sakura* (こうほう佐倉) issued by Sakura City. For a free subscription by postal mail and/or email, please send your request via email or fax to the above address/number. On Wednesdays in general, inquiries can be answered in English through *Kōhō-ka*, City Hall. On other days, questions can be answered only in Japanese at City Hall and/or other city facilities. Therefore, when making inquiries, please be accompanied by someone who speaks Japanese if you do not speak Japanese. (Printed on recycled paper.)



~ 2018 New Year Message from Mayor of Sakura City ~  
**Towards a City Design that Capitalizes on Sakura's Charms**

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

Last year, Sakura City made major achievements on various measures to address the urgent issues of the city's decreasing birthrate and aging population. Most importantly, we achieved one of our long-held goals – i.e. “no child on waiting lists” for nursery schools.

In 2018, moving into the second half of the “Latter-half of the 4<sup>th</sup> General Plan of Sakura City (for fiscal years 2016-19),” we will achieve visible results that make Sakura an even happier place to live in, by making the most of Sakura's appeal with our focus on “Comprehensive strategies for community planning, human development & job creation.” In particular, we will make continuous efforts, including provision and assistance of nursery schools to maintain ‘no child in the city still on waiting lists’. For elderly citizens, we will work towards the establishment of a community-based comprehensive care system with utmost respect for the individual will of each care receiver.

Meanwhile, we will further advance measures to respond to natural disasters such as localized heavy rains and large earthquakes. Also, in collaboration with surrounding municipalities and related organizations, we will continue our efforts to enhance the appeal of Sakura's various tourism resources such as the area surrounding Imbanuma, the former castle town centering on Shinmachi Street, and Sakura Castle Site Park.

We ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in order to make Sakura “A 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 8 at SHIMIN ONGAKU HALL (CITY CONCERT HALL)**

Jidō Seishōnen-ka (The Children & Youth Section), ☎ 484-6190

Sakura City offers a coming-of-age ceremony for those who were born on or between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 1998. The ceremony is divided into three sessions (of 30-minutes each), according to the new adults' residential area. Starting times for each session (all on Jan. 8, 2018) are:

- ◆Usui/Chiyoda: 10:00 ◆Shizu: 11:30 ◆Sakura/Negō/Wada/Yatomi: 13:30
- Doors open 30 minutes before the start of each session.
- Please present your invitation card at the reception desk.
- If you do not have the invitation card (people who have moved out of or into Sakura recently, or have not received the card, lost it, etc.), please contact Jidō Seishōnen-ka.



Please use public transportation whenever feasible to reduce traffic jams.

**Services for Foreign Citizens**

Sakura International Exchange Foundation (SIEF)  
☎/Fax: 484-6326, E-mail: info@sief.jp

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

- ◆ **Counseling for Foreigners**  
Having difficulties in your daily life? Free counseling, either by phone or face-to-face, is available in English, Spanish and Chinese on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** (excluding national holidays) at SIEF. For face-to-face counseling, a reservation by the day before is necessary.
- ◆ **Japanese Classes and Salon**  
Japanese classes are offered on Thur., Fri. and Sundays (¥1,000/term is required for teaching materials) as well as a Japanese language salon on Saturdays. For details, please visit: <http://www.sief.jp/41/41-top.html>

**Free Training Class for Volunteer Japanese Language Teachers**

Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section), ☎ 484-6103  
FAX 486-8720, email: koho@city.sakura.lg.jp

The number of non-Japanese residents in Sakura is on the rise in recent years. Accordingly, the need for Japanese language-related support for them is increasing. Why not take a first step to help them have an easier life?

- Participants can register themselves at SIEF as a volunteer Japanese language teacher!
- ◆ Class Level: Introduction to volunteer training
  - ◆ Place: Millennium Center Sakura
  - ◆ Date & Time: February 5, 7 & 14, 2018 (13:30 to 15:30)
  - ◆ Up to 30 people (A drawing will be held if necessary)
- Anyone who wishes to teach the Japanese language in Sakura as a volunteer and is going to participate in all classes is eligible. Application (by post, fax or e-mail with the participant's name, address, phone number and age clearly stated) must be received no later than Jan. 15.



## Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing

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



Five municipal apartments are available, as per the table on the right. For detailed information, please refer to the application forms that will be available at the city hall, city branch offices and city service centers from Jan. 15. Applications will be accepted from **8:30 AM on January 15 through 5:15 PM on January 31 at the City Hall** (Application via post is not allowed).

Location	Ōja		Fujisawa	Horinouchi	
Type	For families with a handicapped member*	General	General	For the elderly	
No. of Houses Available	1	1	1	1	1
Floor Plan	1DK	2DK	2DK	3DK	2DK

\* handicapped person with lower limb disability

Eligible citizens are those who meet all the requirements below:

1. Living in Sakura City for more than one year and have paid city taxes on time
2. Living or going to live together with at least one relative (Use by one person is possible under certain conditions.)
3. Having obvious and actual housing difficulty
4. Monthly income is within the prescribed limits (up to 158,000 yen or 214,000 yen, depending on conditions)
5. There is a joint guarantor whose income is at the same level or greater than 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**  
(Those who are going to enter school or start work)

Jidō Seishōnen-ka (Children & Youth Section) ☎ 484-6140

Congratulation money will be offered by the city to single-parent families with children who are entering elementary, junior or senior high school, or starting to work (after completing junior high school) in April 2018. Families where a person other than a 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" and/or "Medical Expense Subsidies for Single Parent Households."

Please contact *Jidō Seishōnen-ka* if you don't receive the application form, or if you are not receiving those allowances despite being eligible. The application period is from **February 1 to February 28** (must be postmarked by the 28th). Please make sure you apply before the deadline, because if the deadline is missed, no payments will be made.

### Shimin Ongaku Hall (City Concert Hall) Information



☎461-6221

#### Hand-bell Club for Elementary School Kids

Meets on Saturdays (10:00 – 12:00, three times/month) at Shimin Ongaku Hall/Usui Kōminkan. Members will play on stage at the Summer Concert and Christmas Concert held at the Hall.

#### Temporary Closure

Please note that Shimin Ongaku Hall will be temporarily closed from January 22 – September 22 due to renovation work. During this period, however, the city facilities located in the same building (Usui Kōminkan, Usui Kōminkan Library and Usui/Chiyoda branch office of city hall) will be open as usual.

### City-Owned Land on Sale

Shisan Kanri Keij-shitsu  
(Facility Management Office) ☎484-0942

The following city land will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Property:** Residential land (1949.46 m<sup>2</sup>) located at:  
1811-1, Aza Ōraimukai, Kamishizu, Sakura-shi

**Sales price:** 101.2 million yen

**Application deadline:** January 12

Please apply at the section in charge, on the second floor of the City Hall, main building. Please note that there is a possibility that the land is already sold when you apply.

### Job-Search Consultation for the Young

Chiba Hokusō Area Youth Support  
Station ☎0476-24-7880



The Youth Support Station dispatches consultants to Sakura to offer free job-search consultations for the young people.

**January 16 (10:00-17:00)**

**at Millennium Center Sakura**

**\* For people aged 15 - 39 who are looking for a job (parents can also attend). Free of charge, reservation required.**

### Job-search Basics Seminar in Sakura

Sangyō-Shinkō-ka, ☎484-6145

A job-search seminar including: how to schedule one's job search; how to fill out an application form; how to promote one's skills; etc.

**February 7 (13:30-15:30)**

**at Shizu Community Center**

**\* For people aged 15 - 39 who are looking for a job. Free of charge, reservation required. Up to 20 people.**

**Please apply no later than Jan. 30.**

### GAKUDŌ HOIKU APPLICATION PERIOD STARTS SHORTLY

For April 2018 Enrollment

Kosodate Shien-ka, ☎484-6139

**GAKUDŌ HOIKU** (After-school Daycare Centers) **APPLICATION PERIOD:**  
**JAN. 9 ~ 23**

### KUSABUE-NO-OKA TEMPORARY CLOSURE until March 31

☎485-7821

During the closure, only Tōgeisha (pottery studio) and the Kusabue-no-Oka office will be open. For reservations, please call the office at the number above.



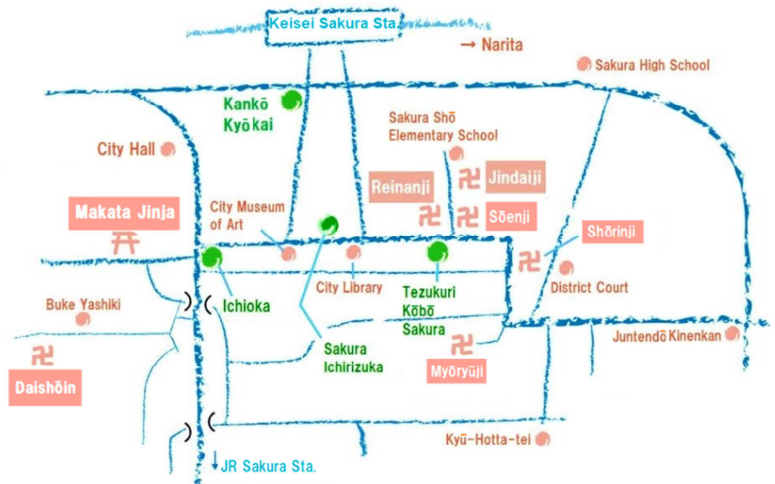
# SHICHIFUKUJIN (SEVEN GODS OF GOOD FORTUNE) STAMP RALLY

JANUARY 1 — JANUARY 10

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

Want to take a walk around the old castle town and view local temples and a shrine?

You can enjoy sightseeing while collecting 'Shichifukujin' stamps! *Shichifukujin*, which literally means "the Seven Gods of Good Fortune," are said to bring people 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 shrine/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to a Stamp Rally to collect vermilion seals of all seven gods. Stamping paper is available for 400 yen at the temples on the map, Makata Shrine, Sakura Kankō Kyōkai (closed Jan. 1-3), Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura (closed Jan. 1-3), and Japanese Sweets Parlor Ichioka (closed on Sundays). One stamp of the vermilion seal costs 200 yen (300 yen for two seals of Makata Jinja shrine and Daishōin), or (to save time) you can purchase a fully-stamped paper for 2,000 yen at Tezukuri Kōbō 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

Why not wear kimono and take a stroll through the old castle town of Sakura? Rental kimonos are available on: **FEB 11, FEB 25, MAR. 3, 4, 11, 17, 21 & 24.** Rental and the dressing fee is ¥3000/person (For children of elementary school age, ¥2000/child or else ¥1500/child if two or more children apply together). Prices include a souvenir picture. Participants will be served with matcha green tea and tea cakes for free. Prior application is required.



## Let's Enjoy New Year's Games

Young Plaza, ☎484-6431

**Friday, January 5 (13:30~15:00) at Young Plaza**

Anyone of elementary school age or older is invited!

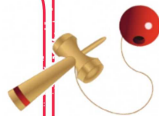
### Spinning Top Making (Up to 10 people)

100 yen; application required.

### Kendama (Cup & Ball) Tournament

Application not required.

Please bring your *Kendama*.



## Enjoy Japanese Traditional Games at Citizens' Gymnasium

Jidō Seishōnen-ka, ☎484-6190

**Sunday, January 21 (13:00~15:30) at Shimin Taikukan (Citizens' Gymnasium)**

Why not enjoy Japanese traditional games such as *Kendama*, *Otedama* (beanbag) juggling, *Karuta* card games, top spinning, etc?

Visitors can enjoy making a rubber band gun, too. Participation is totally free.

Please call to apply no later than Jan. 17. \*In general, infants and elementary school children must be accompanied by a guardian.



## Animal Welfare Promotion Events

Chiba Pref. Animal Welfare Center, ☎0476-93-5711  
<http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/algo/index.html>

### Dog Training Classes

- Basic Class: **January 11, February 1, March 1**; 10:00-12:00 (Check-in must be done 9:30-10:00) Up to 20 parties on a first-come-first-served basis; free of charge. Owners learn without their dogs there, so please don't bring your pet(s) on these days.
- Practical Class: **January 11, February 1, March 10**; 13:00-15:00 (Check-in must be done 12:30-13:00) Up to 10 parties with their dogs, on a first-come-first-served basis. ¥3,000.
- Puppy Class: For owners and their puppies aged 6 months or younger. Dates and times will be determined after receiving applications.

### Dog/Cat Adoption Event

January 25, February 4 & 22, March 15; 13:30-15:00 (Check-in must be done 13:00-13:30)

### Pet Handover Meeting

January 13, February 3, March 10; Reception: 9:00-9:30 for people adopting, 9:30-10:00 for people giving up their pets



**Location for all events:**

Chiba Pref. Animal Welfare Center  
709-1, Goryō, Tomisato

## POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of November, the population of Sakura City was 176,325 (86,917 males and 89,408 females) in 76,605 households. The total includes 2,967 registered non-Japanese residents.

# HEALTH INFORMATION



## Extension of the Period Offering Low-cost Influenza Vaccinations to Senior Citizens



Kenkō Zōshin-ka (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711

It has been decided that, due to a shortage of vaccines, the duration of the city's low-cost influenza vaccinations for senior citizens program is, only for this fiscal year, to be extended until January 31. Eligible citizens can get a vaccination at a reduced cost of 1,500 yen\* at collaborating medical institutions in Sakura City.

(Please call the Kenkō Kanri Center in advance if you are going to get a shot at institutions outside the city.)

\*Free for citizens on welfare. Please obtain a Welfare Recipient Certificate in advance at *Shakai Fukushi-ka* (the Social Welfare Section) in City Hall.

### Eligibility

- 1) Citizens aged 65 or over as of December 31, 2017. Vaccination slips will be sent to people who reach their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2017. Please fill out the vaccination slip and take it to the medical institution on the vaccination day.
- 2) Citizens who have a "Physical Disability Certificate Level 1" due to heart, kidney, or respiratory disease(s), and are 60-64 years of age as of December 31, 2017 (a prior telephone call is necessary).

Health Information for Mothers & Children				<b>Holiday &amp; Night-time Emergency Medical Services</b> <b>Sundays &amp; Holidays Night-time Treatment 19:00 - 21:45</b> Dentistry & Internal Medicine at Kenkō KC ☎239-2020
Health Checkups	Jan. 2018	Center	Reception	
<b>4-month checkup</b> for children born in August 2017 	Mon. 15	Kenkō KC	9:30—10:30	<b>Emergency Pediatric Internal Medicine at Kenkō KC</b> ☎485-3355 for children aged 15 or younger Every night 19:00 - 5:45 (until the next morning) & 9:00 – 16:45 on Sundays & holidays
	Fri. 05	Seibu HC	& 13:30—14:30	
	Fri. 19	Nambu HC	13:30—14:30	
<b>8-month checkup</b> for children born in April 2017 ("Mogu-Mogu Class")	Tue. 16	Kenkō KC	13:30—13:45	<b>To Find an On-Duty Doctor</b> 8:30-22:00 on Sundays & Holidays ☎484-2516 Recorded audio guidance on: ●Daytime treatment in the areas of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry ●Night-time treatment in the area of Surgery* Treatment is provided at each doctor's office
	Tue. 30	Seibu HC	9:30— 9:45	
<b>18-month checkup</b> for children born in July 2016	Thu. 11	Kenkō KC	13:15—14:15	
	Tue. 23			
	Wed. 17			
	Thu. 25			
<b>3-year checkup</b> for children born in July 2014	Wed. 10	Kenkō KC	13:15—14:15	☎484-2516 ●Night-time treatment in the area of Surgery* Treatment is provided at each doctor's office
	Wed. 24			
	Thu. 18			
	Fri. 26			
<b>Dental Checkup</b> for children born in January or July 2015, or in January 2016  * On the days with a * mark, consultation on <b>Speech Development</b> is also available.	Fri. 19*	Kenkō KC	13:15—14:15	
	Mon. 29			
	Mon. 15*			
	Mon. 22			
	Fri. 12*			
<b>Child Development Consultation</b> for pre-schoolers ("Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sohdan")	Thu. 18	Kenkō KC Application required	9:00—12:00	<b>Night-time Consultation on Children's Acute Diseases:</b> ☎ #8000 (19:00 – 6:00, 365 days)
<b>Maternity Class for expectant fathers &amp; mothers of babies due in April or May 2018</b>	Sat. 13	Kenkō KC Application required	9:00—12:00	
Health Consultation for Adults				<b>Child Abuse Consultation</b> <b>Children &amp; Youth Section (Daytime):</b> ☎484-6263 (Night-time, Weekends & Holidays: ☎484-1111) <b>Chiba Child Abuse Hotline (24 hours):</b> ☎252-1152
<b>Consultation with public health nurse</b>	Wed. 31	Kenkō KC Application required	13:30—15:30	<b>Child Abuse Consultation</b> <b>Children &amp; Youth Section (Daytime):</b> ☎484-6263 (Night-time, Weekends & Holidays: ☎484-1111) <b>Chiba Child Abuse Hotline (24 hours):</b> ☎252-1152
<b>Mental Health Consultation with psychiatrist</b>	Mon. 22	Kenkō KC Application required	13:50—16:00 (40 min./person)	

Kenkō Kanri Center ☎485-6711	Seibu Hoken Center ☎463-4181	Nambu Hoken Center ☎483-2812