

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

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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, please send your request via email or fax to the above email address/fax number. In general, inquiries can be answered in English on Wednesdays, in Spanish on Thursdays and in Chinese on Fridays, through *Kōhō-ka*, City Hall. Except these 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 as needed. (Printed on recycled paper.)

~ 2019 New Year Message from the Mayor of Sakura City ~  
**Creating a Strong Foundation for the Future of Sakura, a City of Choice**

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

This year, Sakura City will enter the last year of its “latter half of the 4th General Plan (for FY 2016-19).” I am determined to successfully complete the measures and initiatives that Sakura City has been actively implementing for the past three years to address the urgent issues of our decreasing and aging population.



As for childcare services, aiming for the goal of ‘no child waiting for admission,’ we will strongly enhance our services by increasing the number of nursery schools and expanding their services, to achieve and sustain that goal. At the same time, we will work hard to develop an atmosphere where parents can consult, comfortably and without reservation, with the childcare specialists available at the five “*Kosodate Sedai Hōkatsu Shien Centers* (comprehensive support centers for families with children),” which are our core service providers, located in City Hall, Kenkō Kanri Center, Seibu Hoken Center, Nambu Hoken Center and SkyPlaza Mall in Yūkarigaoka.

With regard to services for the elderly, through the five “*Chiiki Hōkatsu Shien Center* (regional comprehensive support centers)” set up in each area of the city (Northern Shizu, Southern Shizu, Usui/Chiyoda, Sakura and Nambu), we will make every effort to swiftly establish and expand the ‘integrated community care system,’ a system for the elderly and all other concerned parties, from people who need/don’t need nursing care to groups/companies in the local community.

In addition, we will open “Sakura-shi Smart OfficePlace” to offer hourly-charged intelligent office spaces in April this year, for people who are going to start a business or want to work in flexible and diversified work styles, with a view to supporting entrepreneurs who will drive our future making full use of AI and IoT technologies. Through this and other means, we will further promote city vitalization through industrial-academic-government cooperation.

I would like to ask for your continued cooperation and support to create a strong foundation for the future of Sakura, a city of choice.

Again, I extend my greetings and best wishes for the New Year to each of you and to your family.  
**Kazuo Warabi**, Mayor of Sakura City



**SEIJIN-SHIKI, COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY**  
**JANUARY 14 at SHIMIN ONGAKU HALL (CITY CONCERT HALL)**

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

Young adults living in Sakura City who were born on or between April 2, 1998 and April 1, 1999, are invited to the coming-of-age ceremony which will be held three times on January 14. The ceremonies are held separately, according to the residential area of the new adult. The starting times for each are:

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

• Doors open 30 minutes before the start of each ceremony.

• Attending ‘new adults’ are requested to present an 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 us.)

To reduce traffic jams, please use public transportation whenever feasible.

**Services for Non-Japanese Residents**

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

◆ **Japanese classes and salon:**

Daily Japanese conversation classes are offered on Thursdays\*, Fridays and Sundays (¥1,000 /term for learning materials); On Saturdays, there is a class for children of elementary/junior high school age (“AIUE Sakura,” where school subjects are also covered), and a Japanese language salon for all ages. (\*Childcare services available on Thursdays.) Details at: <http://www.sief.jp/41/41-top.html>.

◆ **Counseling on difficulties in daily life** (at SIEF, Rainbow Plaza, 198-2, Kaburagimachi, Sakura) Free counseling in English, Spanish and Chinese, either by phone or face-to-face, is available on weekdays (excluding national holidays; 10:00-12:00 & 13:00-16:00) at SIEF. For a face-to-face counseling session, please make an appointment by the day before.



## Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing

Jūtaku-ka (Housing Section), ☎484-6168



Three 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 (Nishishizu Fureai Center & Millennium Center Sakura) from January 15. Applications will be accepted from 8:30 on January 15 through 17:15 on January 31 at the City Hall. (Applications via post are not accepted.)

Location	Fujisawa		Horinouchi	Ōja
	General	For the elderly	For families with many children	General
Type	General	For the elderly	For families with many children	General
No. of Houses Available	1	1	1	2
Floor Plan	3DK	3DK	4DK	3DK
Rent (yen)	20,600~ 40,400	20,600~ 40,400	24,500~48,200	23,300~ 46,200

Eligible residents are those who meet all the requirements below:

1. Living in Sakura City for more than one year and paying city taxes on time
2. Living or planning to live together with at least one relative (Use by one person is allowed under certain conditions.)
3. Having obvious and actual housing difficulties
4. Monthly income is within the prescribed limits (up to 158,000 yen or 214,000 yen, depending on conditions)
5. The applicant has 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

## Regular Community Bus Services from January 16

Toshi Keikaku-ka, ☎484-6164

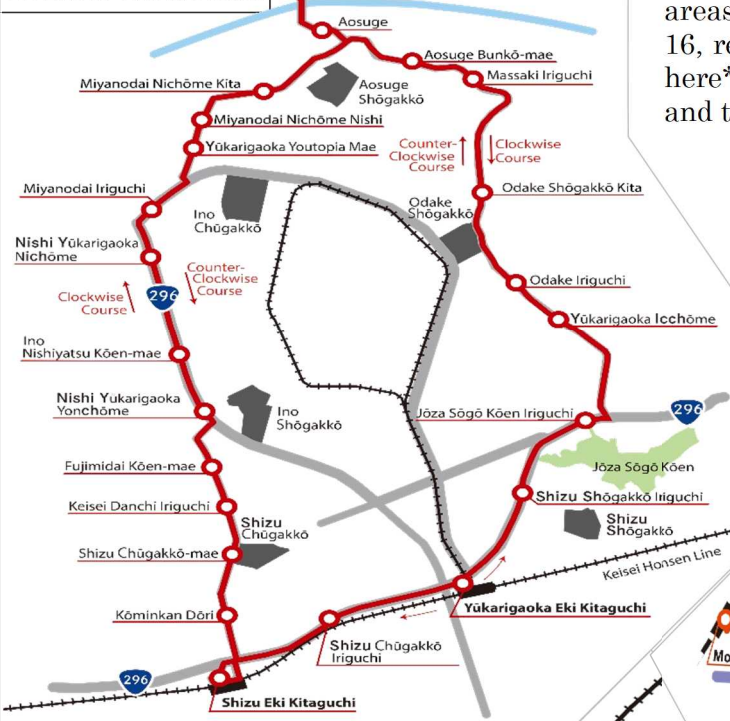
In Sakura City, the community bus service has been offered on four routes, tentatively so far, to help people living in the areas poorly served by public transportation. On January 16, regular operations will start for the three routes shown here\*. Please be aware of the changes to their travel routes and time schedules.

For the new routes and time schedules, please visit:  
<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/0000018049.html>.

\*The city community bus operates in four routes in total. Another is the Uchigō Route, which started regular operations in December 2018.

### 志津北側ルート

#### Northern Shizu Route



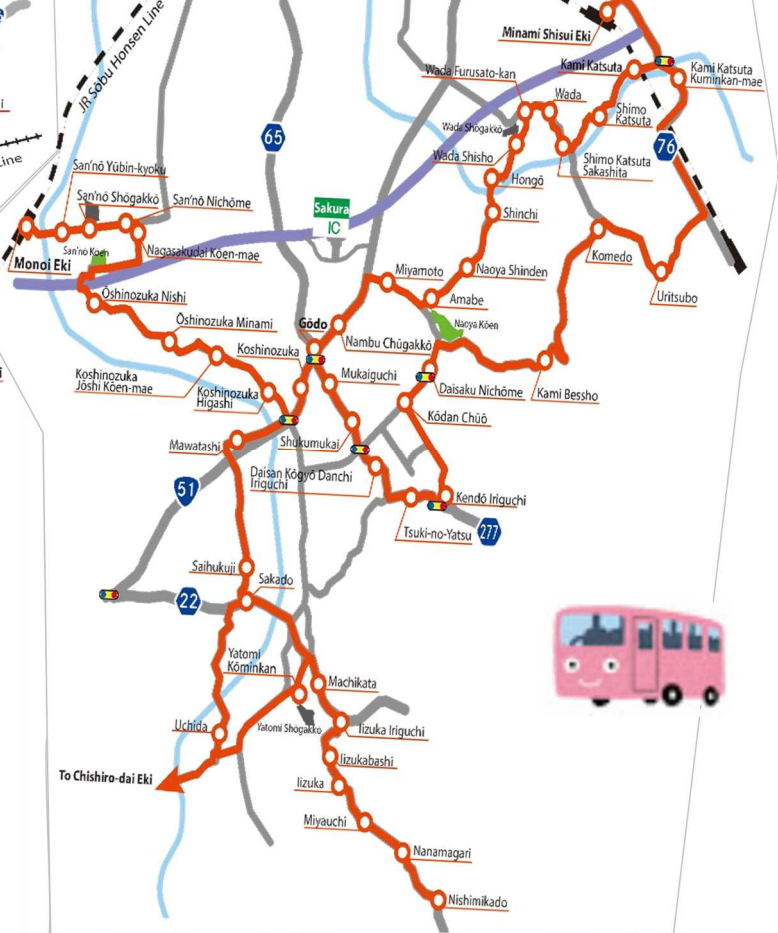
### 畔田・下志津ルート

#### Azeta & Shimoshizu Route



### 南部地域ルート

#### Nambu Area Route



From Jan. 16, a discount on community bus fares is offered to Sakura residents aged 70 years or over who gave up their driver's license during the past one year. For the discount, please apply in advance to get a discount pass.





## SHICHIFUKUJIN STAMP-COLLECTING TOUR

JANUARY 1 — JANUARY 10

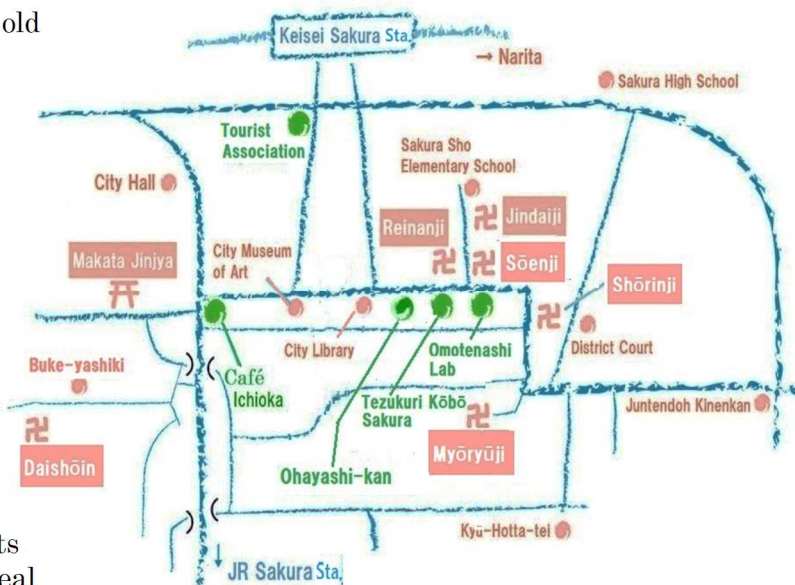
Sakura Shichifukujin-kai (in the Ichioka Japanese Sweets Parlor), ☎/Fax: 308-7072

Want to take a walk around the old castle town to go sightseeing?

Join a stamp-collecting tour of *Shichifukujin* and visit old Japanese temples and a shrine!

*Shichifukujin*, literally meaning 'the seven gods of good fortune,' are said to bring people wealth, happiness, and long life. From January 1 through January 10, and on the 10th of every month (10:00 - 16:00), the shrine/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to such walking tours to collect vermilion seals of all seven gods.

Stamp notepads are available for 400 yen at the temples & shrine on the map, as well as at *Sakura-shi Kankō Kyōkai* (8:30-17:00; closed Jan. 1-3), *Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura* (10:00-17:00; closed Jan. 1-3), and the Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor (10:00-16:00). One stamp of a vermilion seal costs 200 yen (300 yen for the two seals of Makata Jinja Shrine and Daishōin), or you can purchase a fully-stamped notepad for 2,000 yen at *Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura* or the Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor.



### KUSABUE-no-OKA OFFERS ONE-DAY FREE ADMISSION on JANUARY 2

Kusabue-no-Oka ☎485-7821 Open 9:00-17:00; Closed on January 1



Why not join the New Year celebration at *Kusabue-no-Oka* on January 2? On this New Year's first business day at *Kusabue-no-Oka*, free admission to the park will be offered. What's more, there will be New Year's fun events as below.

- 11:00~ **Offering of amazake** (hot sweet non-alcoholic drink made from rice malt)  
Free. Reservation is not required. (*Amazake* will be offered also on Jan. 3.)
- 11:00 & 14:00 Experience **mochi-tsuki** (rice-cake pounding)  
Up to the first 30 people/session with reservations. The rice cakes will be cooked into *ozōni* (Japanese traditional New Year's soup containing rice cakes and vegetables) to be sold for ¥100/bowl.
- Four times from 11:00 **Yaki-imo**\*baking in a bonfire — demonstration & sales  
Up to the first 50 people/session. 100 yen/potato.  
Reservation is not required. To be canceled in case of rain.



\* *Yaki-imo*, baked sweet potatoes in their skin, is a popular winter snack in Japan.

### TAKOAGE TAIKAI (KITE FLYING CONTEST)

Sunday, January 20\* (9:30-11:30)

at Iwana Undō Kōen Athletic Stadium

Jidō Seishōnen-ka, ☎484-6190

*Takoage* (kite flying) is traditionally a New Year's pastime in Japan. At this contest, you can fly kites of any size or design, handmade or purchased, although flying with a fishing rod is forbidden. Prizes will be awarded for kites that are judged to be unique, or those which flew the highest. Participation is free of charge. There is no need for pre-registration.

\*Subject to cancellation in case of stormy weather.



### TEMPORARY WORKERS WANTED at SAKURA FURUSATO HIROBA

Sakura-shi Kankō Kyōkai (Tourism Association) ☎486-6000

The Sakura tourism association is recruiting temporary staff to work at the **Sakura Furusato Hiroba (2714 Usuida)**, for event support and facility/park maintenance (cleaning, planting flowers, etc.). To apply, please submit your CV with a photo, by post or in person, no later than **January 15 to:** Sakura-shi Kankō Kyōkai, 8-7, Sakae-chō, Sakura-shi, 〒285-0014.

- **First work day: February 1, 2019**
- **Working days: 3 - 4 days/week (in shifts including weekends and holidays)**
- **Working hours: 8:30 - 17:15**
- **Wage: 985 yen/hour**
- **Compensation: unemployment insurance, paid absences, provision for commuting expenses (with limitation)**
- **Number to be employed: about eight**
- **Requirement: driver's license (small vessel operator license preferred)**



### APPLICATION PERIOD FOR GAKUDŌ HOIKU

After-school Daycare Centers applications for April 2019 enrollment: **JAN. 8 ~ 22**

Kosodate Shien-ka, ☎484-6139



## CITY CONCERT HALL INFORMATION

Shimin Ongaku Hall (City Concert Hall) ☎461-6221 (Closed January 1 - 4)  
http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/0000015664.html

Tickets can be reserved by phone, via the Internet\*, or at the Shimin Ongaku Hall's ticket counter. \*Students' tickets are not available on the Internet.

### ♪ New Year's Concert 2019 - January 13 (14:00): Strauss Festival Orchestra Vienna

A seats: ¥5,900; B seats: sold out; Student tickets: ¥4,500. Only a few tickets left.

### ♪ L'elisir d'amore (Concert version) - February 17 (14:00)

Accompanied by piano and Japanese narration.

A seats: ¥3,900; B seats: sold out; Student tickets: ¥2,900.

### ♪ Michie Koyama Piano Recital - February 23 (14:00)

Schubert Impromptus op. 90 d. 899; Chopin Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58; Chopin Nocturne No. 21 in C Minor, Op. posth.; etc.

A seats: ¥3,900; B seats: ¥3,500; Student tickets: ¥2,900.



### ♪ New Year's Concert 2020 - January 12 (14:00): Schloss Schönbrunn Orchestra

Tickets will go on sale at 11:00 January 13 at the ticket counter; 13:00 Jan. 14 via the Internet/phone call. A seats: ¥5,900; B seats: ¥5,500; Student tickets: ¥4,500.

## WALKING TOUR in SAMURAI COSTUME

January 8 & 26  
(10:00 - 13:00)

Sakura-shi Kankō Kyōkal  
☎486-6000

Join a guided walking tour in the old castle town Sakura wearing Samurai costume! Participants will visit historical spots related Samurai and experience manners and swordplay of Samurai. This tour is designed for non-Japanese people, but Japanese people are also welcome.



## HEALTH INFORMATION



Kenkō Kanri Center ☎485-6711		Seibu Hoken Center ☎463-4181		Nambu Hoken Center ☎483-2812	
Health Information for Mothers & Children				Holiday & Night-time Emergency Medical Services	
Health Checkups		Jan. 2019	Place	Reception	
4-month checkup for children born in August 2018		Mon. 07	Kenkō KC	9:30 - 10:30	
		Fri. 18	Seibu HC	& 13:30 - 14:30	
		Wed. 23	Nambu HC	13:30 - 14:30	
8-month checkup for children born in April 2018 ("Mogu-Mogu Class")		Wed. 09	Kenkō KC	13:30 - 13:45	
		Tue. 15	Seibu HC	9:30 - 9:45	
18-month checkup for children born in July 2017		Tue. 29	Kenkō KC	13:15 - 14:15	
		Thur. 24	Seibu HC		
		Thur. 10	Nambu HC		
3-year checkup for children born in July 2015		Wed. 30	Kenkō KC	13:15 - 14:15	
		Fri. 25	Seibu HC		
		Fri. 11	Nambu HC		
Dental Checkup for children born in January or July 2016, or in January 2017 (On the days with a * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.)		Tue. 08*	Kenkō KC	13:15 - 14:15	
		Tue. 22			
		Mon. 21*	Seibu HC		
		Mon. 28			
Child Development Consultation for pre-schoolers ("Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sohdan")		Thur. 17	Kenkō KC	9:00 - 12:00	
			Application required		
Childbirth and Parenting Class for expectant fathers & mothers of babies due from March - May '19 (Application accepted by November 1.)		Sun. 20	Seibu HC	9:00 - 12:00	
			Application required		
Health Consultation for Adults				Application required	
Consultation with public health nurse		Mon. 07	Seibu HC	9:30 - 11:30	
Mental health consultation with psychiatrist		Wed. 23	Seibu HC	13:50 - 16:00 (40 min./person)	
		* Reservation can be made on and after Jan. 04.			

Holiday & Night-time  
Emergency Medical Services

Sundays & Holidays  
Night-time Treatment  
19:00 - 21:45  
Dentistry & Internal Medicine  
at Kenkō KC ☎239-2020

Emergency Pediatric  
Internal Medicine  
at Kenkō KC  
☎485-3355  
for children aged 15 or younger  
Every night 19:00 - 5:45  
(until the next morning)  
On Sundays & holidays, open  
9:00 - 16:45 & 19:00 - 5:45

To Find an On-Duty Doctor  
8:30-22:00 on Sundays & Holidays  
☎484-2516  
Recorded audio guidance on contacting:  
(daytime) • a surgeon • a dentist  
• a doctor of internal medicine  
(night-time) • a surgeon  
\*Treatment is provided  
at each doctor's office

Night-time Consultation  
on children's acute illnesses:  
☎#8000 (19:00 - 6:00, 365 days)  
on acute illnesses (for anyone):  
☎#7009 (18:00 - 23:00, 365 days;  
9:00 - 23:00 on Sunday & Holidays)

Child Abuse Consultation/Reporting  
Children & Youth Section, City Hall  
(Daytime): ☎484-6263  
Chiba Pref. Hotline (24 Hours): ☎252-1152  
Sakura Police Station: ☎484-0110

## POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of November, the population of Sakura City was 175,861, consisting of 86,753 males and 89,108 females in 77,351 households. 3,210 non-Japanese residents are included in the above.