

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** and **Thursdays**, 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.)

2020 New Year Message from the Mayor of Sakura City

"Aiming for a city where dreams and hopes bring cheerfulness"

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the citizens on the celebration of the New Year and full of hope for a brilliant future of the Reiwa period.

Last April, entrusted with the support of many citizens, I have been responsible for the Municipal Administration. As we enter the New Year, the desire to create "*Sakura, a lively town full of smiles*" will become stronger and without forgetting this aspiration, we will continue moving forward the Municipal Administration from the perspective of the citizens.

The city was hit by repeated typhoons and unprecedented disasters. Protecting the lives and property of the citizens is one of the important administrative policies. All the staff has been working together to provide relief and overcome this difficult situation.

The social environment surrounding the city will continue to be severe and many problems are expected; among them, a considerable declining birthrate and an aging population, a decrease in city tax revenue accompanying a decline in the working-age population as well as an increase in social security costs. To be able to get over the many issues affecting our city, as the leader of this administration, it's my responsibility to build an attractive town with hopes for a future while citizens, congress and staff create thoughts for Sakura City through dialogue.

In addition, this year is the start of the 5th Sakura City Comprehensive Plan which is planned for the period until the fiscal year 2031 (Year 13 of the Reiwa period). I will do my best to realize this.

I would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation and sincerely pray for the happiness and good health of the citizens.

Sango Nishita, Sakura City Mayor



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

SEIJIN-SHIKI, COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY

JANUARY 13 at SHIMIN ONGAKU HALL (CITY CONCERT HALL)

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

Young adults living in Sakura City who were born on or between April 2, 1999 and April 1, 2000, are invited to the coming-of-age ceremony which will be held three times on January 13. 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.
- Dangerous items and food are not allowed in the venue

City Concert Hall Information



Shimin Ongaku Hall ☎461-6221
<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/sakura/ongaku-hall/>

- ♪ **New Year's Concert 2020** – January 12 (Sun) (14:00): Vienna Schonbrunn Palace Orchestra, "A" seats ¥5,900; "B" seats – All sold out; Student tickets ¥4,500.
- ♪ **Japanese Traditional Performing Arts** – February 22 (Sat) (14:00) All seats ¥2,500; Appearance: Harada Naoyuki / Dance group Chrysanthemum.
- ♪ **Ikuyo Nakamichi Piano Recital** – April 26 (14:00) "A" seats ¥3,900; "B" seats ¥3,500; Student tickets ¥2,900 (Tickets sale will start on January 26 (Sun))
- ♪ **New Year's Concert 2021** – January 10 (Sun) (14:00): Vienna Salon Orchestra, "A" seats ¥5,900; "B" seats ¥5,500; Student tickets ¥4,500 (Ticket reservations will start on January 12, 2020 from 11:00 ~)

Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing

Municipal apartments are available, as per the table on the right. For detailed information, please refer to the application forms that will be available from **January 15** at the City Hall, city branch offices and city service centers (Nishishizu Fureai Center, Yatomi Community Center and Sakura citizens service center at the Millennium Center).

Applications will be accepted from **8:30 on January 15 through 17:15 on January 31 at the City Hall.**

※ (Applications via post office are not accepted.)

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
- ※The rent is determined every year according to the income of the resident and housing conditions.

Jūtaku-ka (Housing Section)
☎484-6168 Fax: 485-0108



Location	Fujisawa		Ōja
Type	General	Elderly	General
Houses Available	3	1	2
Floor Plan	3DK		①2 DK & ②3 DK
Rent (Yen)	20,600~40,400		① 18,300~36,000 ② 23,400~46,000

Postponement of the 60th Sakura Fireworks Show

The Sakura City Fireworks Display Executive Committee has decided to postpone the 60th Sakura City Fireworks Show scheduled for August 2020.

It will certainly be disappointing for citizens who are looking forward to the fireworks display every year, but it will be difficult to make arrangements for hiring security staff while the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics are held.

It was a hard decision for the Executive Committee for all the management systems implied in the organization of the event, including the safety aspects for all the visitors.

On the next fiscal year the fireworks show will be postponed, but the 60th Sakura Fireworks Show scheduled in August 2021 will certainly be a commemorative event and we will continue to prepare in order to hold it grandly. We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.

SAKURA CITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Chairman, Sango Nishita

Sakura City Industry Promotion
Section ☎ 484-6146

Sakura City Tourism
Association ☎ 486-6000

Sakura Chamber of Commerce
☎ 486-2331

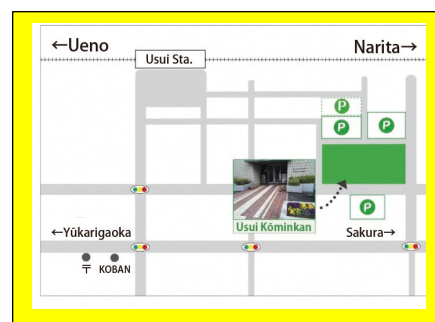
2020 Disaster Prevention Course oriented to Foreigners



Do you know what to do in case of a strong earthquake or other disasters? Now you can learn in detail about how to proceed in such situations. Please participate in this newly opened course.

The course will
be conducted
in Japanese

- Date: February 1, 2020 (Sat.)
- Time: 13:00~16:00 (Reception opens at 12:30)
- Place: Usui Community Center (Usui Kōminkan)
Sakura-shi ōjidai 1-16
(Access: 5 minute walk from Keisei Usui Station)
- Capacity: 20 people ➤ Free of charge
- Course intended for foreigners living in Chiba Prefecture. The topics will include: ★Talk about disasters. ★How to help injured or sick persons. ★Emergency food provisions ★etc.
- Reservation necessary. To apply, please submit by e-mail or fax the following information:
● Name ● Address ● Phone number/e-mail
※The personal information provided will strictly be used and applied only to this course.
- Deadline: January 10 (Fri)



Sakura City Hall, Public Relations Section (Kōhō-ka)
☎ 484-6103 Fax 484-8720 E-mail: koho@city.sakura.lg.jp

Shichifuku-Jin

STAMP-COLLECTING TOUR JANUARY 1 — JANUARY 10



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

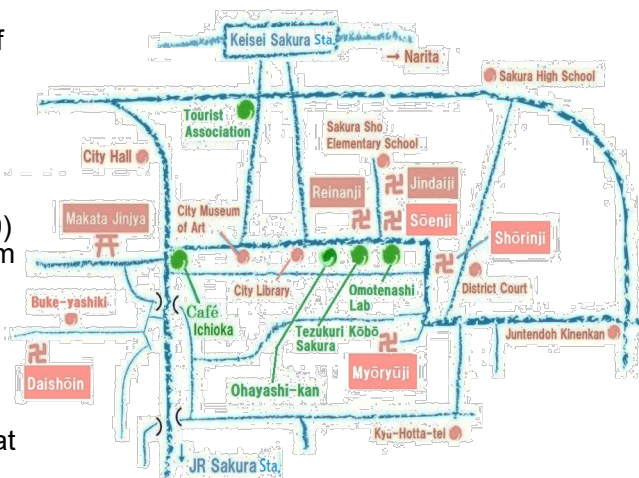
Shichifukujin literally meaning "the seven gods of good fortune" are said to bring people wealth, happiness and long life. From January 1 through January 10 and on the 10th of every month (10:00 ~ 16:00), the shrine/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to such walking tours to collect vermilion seals of all seven gods. Stamp notepads are available for 400 yen at the temples & shrine on the map, as well as:

- ☆ **Sakura-shi Kankō Kyōkai** (8:30 ~ 17:00) closed Jan. 1~3
- ☆ **Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura** ☎ 486-3352 (10:00 ~ 17:00) closed Jan. 1~3
- ☆ **Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor** ☎ 484-0206 (10:00 ~ 17:00) Closed on Sundays and national holidays. Will open from January 1 ~ 10, closing on January 11.

One stamp of a vermilion seal costs 200 yen (300 yen for the two seals of *Makata Jinja Shrine* and *Daishōin*)

※ *Daishōin no Daikokuten* and *Shorinji Bishamonten* are hidden Buddhas and cannot be viewed.

You can also purchase a fully-stamped notepad for 2,000 yen at *Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura* or the *Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor*.



Kusabue-no-Oka

ONE-DAY FREE ADMISSION on JANUARY 2 (Thur) & 3 (Fri)

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

Why not join the New Year celebrations at *Kusabue-no-Oka* on January 2 and 3? On these New Year's first business days 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.

- 10:30 ~ **Offering of amazake** (hot sweet non-alcoholic drink made from rice malt) Free. Reservation is not required. ※ Until gone.
- 11:00 ~ **Yaki-imo** *baking in a bonfire — demonstration & sales 100 Yen / 1 potato Reservation is not required. * *Yaki-imo*, baked sweet potatoes in their skin, is a popular winter snack in Japan. ※ Until gone.
- 11:00 ~ **Ozōni** sale — A Japanese traditional New Year's soup containing vegetables will be for sale at 100 Yen per bowl. ※ Until gone
- 10:30 ~ **Origami** class, first session — admission for 15 persons
- 13:30 ~ **Origami** class, second session — admission for 15 persons

February 2 (Sunday) Mame-maki! (Beans-throwing event) Hosted by Chiba-kun, Kamuro-chan among others. At the stage in front of the gym. Come and enjoy lots of fun events!!



2nd Kanto Challenge Goalball Tournament

Beginners' teams can participate too!

Date: January 12, 2020 (Sunday)
Time: 9:30 ~ 16:45
Place: Sakura Citizens' Gymnasium (Sakura Shimin Taikukan)
Fee: 500 Yen per person

- Deadline to apply is January 6 (Monday)
- Please look for the association homepage to obtain the application form.
- Fill out the form and apply via email or fax.

※ Goalball is an official competition game and for the 2020 Paralympic Games, it will take place at the Makuhari Messe Event Hall.



Japan Goalball Association
e-mail: info_japangoalball@jgba.or.jp
☎ 03-6229-5443 Fax: 03-6229-5420

Walking Tour around Yatomi

Yatomi Community Center
☎ 498-0860 Fax: 481-5151

Won't you take a walk around the historic Yatomi area? The tour will center on the remains of the Iwatomi Castle!

- ★ Date & Time: January 28 (Tue) 9:00 ~ 12:00
- ★ For people living or working in Sakura City
- ★ Free of charge
- ★ Application starts from January 7 (Tue)
- ★ For 15 people (First-come, first served basis)
- ※ Please make your own arrangements for insurance
- ※ Cancelled in case of rain.



TAKOAGE TAIKAI (KITE FLYING CONTEST)

Sunday, January 19 (9:30 ~ 11:30)
At Iwana Undō Kōen Athletic Stadium





Takoage (Kite flying) is a traditional New Year's pastime in Japan. At this contest, you can fly kites of any size or design, handmade or purchased. Prizes will be awarded for kites that are judged to be unique or those which flew the highest. Free of charge/No need for pre-registration. Subject to cancellation in case of stormy weather.



Jidō
Seishōnen-ka
☎ 484-6190

HEALTH INFORMATION – JANUARY 2020



Health Information for Mothers & Children				Holiday & Night-time Emergency Medical Services	
HEALTH CHECKUPS		JAN. 2020	PLACE	RECEPTION	
4-month checkup for children born in August 2019		Wed. 15	Kenkō KC	9:30 — 10:30	
		Fri. 31	Seibu HC	&13:30 — 14:30	
		Fri. 24	Nambu HC	13:30 — 14:30	
8-month checkup for children born in April 2019 (“Mogu-Mogu Class”)		Tue. 14	Kenkō KC	13:30 — 13:45	
		Tue. 28	Seibu HC	9:30 — 9:45	
18-month checkup for children born in July 2018		Wed. 22	Kenkō KC	13:15 — 14:15	
		Thur. 16	Seibu HC		
		Thur. 09	Nambu HC		
3-year checkup for children born in July 2016		Thur. 23	Kenkō KC	13:15 — 14:15	
		Fri. 17	Seibu HC		
		Fri. 10	Nambu HC		
Dental Checkup for children born in January or July 2017, or in January 2018. (On the days with a *mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.)		Wed. 08*	Kenkō KC	 13:15 — 14:15	
		Tue. 21			
		Mon. 20*	Seibu HC		
		Mon. 27			
		Wed. 29*	Nambu HC		
Child Development Consultation for pre-schoolers (“Suku-Suku Hattatsu Sohda”)		Thur. 16	Kenkō KC Application required	9:00 — 12:00	
Maternity Class for expectant fathers & mothers of babies due from Mar. ~ May. 2020		Sun. 19	Seibu HC	9:00 — 12:00	
Health Consultation for Adults					
		Tue. 14	Seibu HC	9:30 — 11:30	
Consultation with public health nurse					
Sundays & Holidays Night-time Treatment Dentistry & Internal Medicine at Kenkō KC ☎239-2020 19:00 ~ 21:45					
Emergency Pediatric Internal Medicine for children aged 15 or younger at Kenkō KC ☎485-3355 Every night 19:00 ~ AM 5:45 On Sundays & holidays, open 9:00 ~ 16:45 & 19:00~AM 5:45					
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)					
To Find an On-Duty Doctor (*) 8:30~22:00 (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					
Child Abuse Consultation/Reporting Children & Youth Section, City Hall (Daytime): ☎484-6263 Chiba Pref. Hotline (24 Hours): ☎252-1152 Sakura Police Station: ☎484-0110					



Rubella Vaccinations

Health Promotion Section (Kenkō Zōshin-ka) ☎ 485-6711

Have you received your free voucher for antibody testing and vaccination?

If a woman in early pregnancy is infected with the rubella virus, there is a high risk of her baby having various congenital disorders. Free coupons were sent in early June 2019 for antibody tests and vaccinations in order to prevent the spread of the infection. Male candidates born between April 2, 1972 to April 1, 1979 and who are not yet been vaccinated, please consider getting vaccinations. Women wishing to get pregnant and their partners can get free antibody tests at designated medical facilities.

➤ **Deadline for vaccination:** March 31, 2020 ※ For those who had a low count on the antibody test, the vaccination will be extended until March 31, 2022.

Please contact us if you are unable to get the antibody test by March 31 or if you have lost your free coupon.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY ※ () Increase/Decrease from previous month

As of the end of November, the population of Sakura City was 175,087 ※ (-134) (86,341 males and 88,746 females) in 78,089 households. The total includes 3,671 registered non-Japanese residents.