



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.



Together with you all, we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the city's incorporation into a year full of smiles!

Nishita Sango,
Sakura City Mayor

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on a New Year filled with bright hopes.

Last year, restrictions on activities due to the coronavirus pandemic were lifted and life is returning to normal. I'm very happy to see so many citizens smiling and doing activities with energy. On the other hand, the situation remains difficult for citizens and business due to the effects of soaring prices. This year we will continue to do our utmost in the city government to protect the lives of our citizens.

This year marks the 70th anniversary when the municipal government was established in March 1954. We will take this commemorative year as an opportunity to promote various projects together with young people toward the 100th anniversary of the municipal government in another 30 years under the slogan "Talent will bloom in Sakura". We look forward to working with you all to make this year's anniversary even more exciting.

I would like to conclude my New Year's greetings by wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous new year.



Towards a people-friendly city where no one is left behind!

Okamura Yoshiki,
Sakura City
Council Chairman

Happy New Year! I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the citizens with hopes that you will welcome the new year in good health.

In Japan, we are promoting efforts to use digital technology to solve various issues faced by local communities, such as population decline, low birthrate, aging population as well as disaster prevention and mitigation. We are also promoting initiatives to improve the attractiveness of local communities.

Our city council is also actively promoting digitalization, with all members using tablet devices. We are working to make council operations more efficient and smooth, and to reduce our environment impact by going paperless and quickly transmitting information.

The city council takes the voices of citizens seriously, responds appropriately to the changing times and strives to build a community where no one is left behind and where various forms of happiness can be achieved as advocated by the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). We will engage in constructive discussions and make recommendations.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone good health and happiness and wish you all the best in the new year.

TAX RETURN PREPARATION CONSULTATIONS
AT THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER (CHŪO KOMINKAN)
Advance reservations required. Shimin Zei-ka (Municipal Tax Section) ☎484-6115

Starting 2024, we will be offering consultations on the preparation of final tax returns, municipal and prefectural tax returns at the Central Community Center by advance reservation. Please note that reservations cannot be made by phone or at the counter. Also, when submitting a completed tax return, reservations in advance will not be required.

Date & Time: February 16 (Fri) ~ March 15 (Fri) 9:00 ~ 15:30
※Excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Holidays.

Target: People who require personal assistance in preparing tax returns.

How to apply:

① **By return postcard** ※Must arrive by Jan. 22, 2024
Please write your name, address, phone number, preferred date (up to 3 choices). If there is another person who would like to make a reservation at the same time, that person's name (up to one person per household). The return address is:

97 Kairinjimachi, Sakura City 285-8501, City Hall, Municipal Tax Section

※For the proper way to fill out the return postcard, please access the QRC ↗



※On the day of your consultation, you will need to present the postcard you received from the City Hall or the reservation confirmation email screen.

② **On the Internet**

Please apply from the reservation system on the city's website (QRC).

Application period: February 1 (Thur) from 9:00 to three days before the desired date (first-come, first-served).

Sakura City Museum of Art

**COMMEMORATING THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY!**



☎ 485-7851 **OPENING HOURS:** 10:00 ~ 18:00 (Last admission is until 17:30) Closed on Mondays but will open if it is a public holiday and the next day will be closed.

The Sakura City Museum of Art, open since 1994, was built in consideration of the preservation and utilization of the former Kawasaki Bank, Sakura Branch (a designated tangible cultural property of Chiba Prefecture built in the Taisho era).

The Sakura City Museum of Art collects works by artists associated with Sakura City and Boso region, with a collection of approximately 1,600 pieces, including works by western-style painter Asai Chū, metalworkers Katori Hotsuma and Tsuda Shinobu.

Up until now, we have held various exhibitions and provided art experiences to citizens. As related projects to each exhibition, we also hold events to widely introduce young artists based in Sakura and the Boso region, such as talk events and workshops with the artists themselves and related parties. The Sakura City Museum of Art will continue to work towards becoming a museum that everyone can enjoy.

This year, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the museum's opening, we are planning to hold an exhibition on picture book author Edward Gorey among other displays. Please come by all means!

🌸 Sakura City Museum of Art New Year Exhibition.

At this 40th Exhibition, works of paintings, crafts, sculpture and calligraphy by contemporary artists based in Sakura City will be introduced.

Date: January 5 (Fri) ~ 18 (Thur)

Place: At the 2nd and 3rd floor exhibition rooms.
Free admission.

🌸 Sakura and Flowers (Collection exhibition).

We will mainly introduce works related to flowers, such as landscape paintings and still life paintings by artists connected to Sakura and Boso region. Why not heading out early to the museum to see the flowers blooming in spring?

Date: January 27 (Sat) ~ April 14 (Sun) (Closed on March 26 (Tue) for exhibit changes).

Place: 2nd floor exhibition room.

Free of charge ※Some exhibits may be changed.

♪ Museum Concert.

Date & Time: January 21, (Sun) from 14:00 ~

Free of charge, reservation unnecessary.

CERAMIC ARTIST: WADA AKIRA



Mr. Wada is a ceramic artist who grew up in Sakura since he was an elementary school student. Last year, his first solo exhibition "WALK ON THE EDGE" was held at the Sakura City Museum of Art. Mr. Wada developed his talent at a young age by winning awards at numerous ceramic art exhibitions in his 20's and is currently active at the forefront of the ceramic art world based in his hometown Sakura.

After graduating from Bunka Gakuin Ceramics Department in 2001, he studied under master craftsman Uwataki Katsuji. In 2005, he became independent and built a kiln. In 2007, at the young age of 28, he won the Japan Crafts Association Award at the New Ceramics Exhibition.

His work has received high praise and has won awards at numerous ceramic art exhibitions. His works are characterized by sharp straight lines and curves, and contrasts between light and shadow created by a technique of thickly rolling porcelain clay on a potter's wheel and carving it out like a sculpture.



WE DELIVER THE CHARM WITH VIDEOS!

**Ceramic Artist Wada Akira:
~WALK ON THE EDGE~**

◆ Weekly Sakura (Sakura City Public Relations Program)

Broadcast schedule: Jan. 29 (Mon) ~ Feb. 4 (Sun)
AM 10:00 ~ / PM 22:00 ~. Cablenet 296 (Terrestrial digital) 10ch: Digital CATV301ch.

◆ Sakura video distribution:
(Sakura City YouTube)

Delivery Schedule: Feb. 5 (Mon) ~



"ENERGY
TREE"
2022



"ENERGY"
2016



Shichifuku-Jin

Sakura Shichifukujin-kai (At the Ichioka Japanese Sweets Parlor) Tel & Fax: 308-7072

STAMP-COLLECTING TOUR 2024

JANUARY
1 ~ 10



Why don't you visit "the seven gods of good fortune" while taking a leisure stroll in Sakura, a town that has been certified as a Japanese heritage?

◆ **Sale of vermilion paper seals:** 400 Yen each. You can obtain them from 10:00~16:00 at each temple and shrine, at the Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor, the Sakura Tourism Association and Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura.

※For 2,000 yen you can buy at Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura and Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor a fully-stamped notepad from all temples and shrines.

- Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor will open from Jan. 1 (Mon/Holiday) until Jan. 10 (Wed), closing on Sundays and holidays.
- Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura will open from Jan. 3 (Wed) until Jan.10 (Wed) closing on Mondays as well as the first and third Tuesdays.
- Sakura City Tourism Association. Closed Jan. 1 (Mon) ~ 3 (Wed)

◆ Vermillion stamps' fees for each temple and shrine.

One stamp of a vermilion seal costs 200 yen (300 yen for the two stamps of Makata Jinja Shrine and Daishōin). You can obtain them from Jan. 1 through Jan. 10 and on the 10th of every month from 10:00 ~ 16:00)

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

※Those who buy a stamped seal will receive a tin badge as a gift. Please note that the giveaway will end once we run out of stocks.

SATOYAMA FORUM "THE FUN OF CREATING SATOYAMA"

Being involved in the maintenance and management of Satoyama may lead to a well-being state, creating mental, physical and social fulfillment. Participants to the forum will learn about the "Fun of Creating Satoyama"! The lecture will be conducted by Mr. Kevin Short, former professor at Tokyo Jōhō Daigaku (Tokyo University of Information Sciences).

Date & Time: January 20 (Sat) from 13:30 ~ 15:30

Place: Millennium Center Sakura

Capacity: 60 people, first-come, first-served.

Deadline: January 12 (Friday)

Please call or email with your name, age and contact information to: Kōen Ryokuchi-ka (Parks and Greenery Section) ☎484-0940 E-mail: kouen@city.sakura.lg.jp

TAKOAGE TAIKAI (KITE FLYING CONTEST)

Takoage (Kite flying) is a traditional New Year's pastime in Japan. 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. If you would like to participate, please come directly to the venue on the day of the event. Free of charge/No need for pre-registration. Subject to cancellation in case of rain or snow. ※Fishing rods are not allowed.

Date & Time: January 21 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 12:25

※Reception closes at 11:00.

Place: Iwana Undō Kōhen, at the Koide Yoshio Athletics Stadium

Inquiries: Kodomo Seisaku-ka (Child Policy Section) ☎ 484-6190



Let's enjoy the New Year at Kusabue-no-Oka!



**ONE-DAY FREE ADMISSION ON
JANUARY 2 (TUESDAY)**



On this day, a free drink of amazake will be provided.

You can also enjoy roasted sweet potatoes which will be sold during the event.

Kusabue-no-Oka General Information

☎ 485-7821 Open 9:00-17:00

(The venue will close on Mondays until mid-March)

Admission fees:

Adults: 410 Yen, Free for infants.

Elementary and Jr. High School Students: 100 Yen

🌹 Climbing rose trellis courses:

Dates: Jan. 18 (Thur), 27 (Sat) & 31 (Wed)

Reservation required.

Time: From 10:00 to 12:00

Fee: 1,000 Yen (Admission fee to the park is not included.)

Capacity: 10 people per course/day, first-come first-served.

※ Cancelled in case of rain.

Items to bring: pruning scissors, leather gloves.

To apply: By postcard, fax or e-mail.

Include your name, address, telephone / fax number, e-mail address and your desired date to participate and send to:

**NPO Rose Culture Research Institute
(NPO Bara Bunka Kenkyūjo)**

〒285-0003 lino 820, Fax 486-9356

✉ koushuukai@kusabueroses.jp

☎080-1239-6992



Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing



Application forms will be available from **January 9 (Tue)** at the City Hall, Housing Section (Jūtaku-ka), city branch offices, Yatomi branch office, Nishishizu citizens' service center and Sakura citizens' service center). Please see the "Information on Tenant Recruitment" enclosed with the application documents for information on available housing, etc.

Jūtaku-ka (Housing Section)
☎484-6168

Applications will be accepted **January 16 (Tue) from 8:30 through January 31 (Wed) until 17:15 hrs.** Please attach the necessary documents to the application form and bring them to the City Hall, Housing Section. Post mailed documents 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 (However, the use by one person is allowed under certain conditions)
- ③ Having obvious and actual housing difficulties and it is clear that the house is actually in need.
- ④ The monthly income is within the prescribed limits:
 - 158,000 yen or less of monthly income for general households.
 - 214,000 yen or less of monthly income for discretionary households (Those that meet certain conditions, such as for the elderly and people with disabilities).
- ⑤ 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.



CASHLESS COUNTERS ELIGIBLE COUNTERS AND SERVICES WILL BE FURTHER EXPANDED

Jōhō Shisutemu-ka (Information System Section) ☎484-6107



Currently available are:

- At the City Hall: ♦Citizens' Section ♦Municipal Tax Section ♦Property Tax Section ♦Credit Management Section.
- At Branch Offices: ♦Shizu branch office.

Expansion of counters available from January 4 (All of the above plus):

- At the City Hall: ♦Administrative Management Section ♦Living Environment Section ♦Road Maintenance Section ♦City Planning Section ♦Construction Planning Guidance Section ♦Urban Improvement Section.
- At Branch Offices: ♦All branch offices ♦Yatomi branch office ♦all Citizen Service Centers ♦Shizu Community Center ♦Chiyoda/Someino Fureai Center ♦Sakura Public-Interest Activity Support Center ♦Sakura Library ♦City Museum of Art.

※Payments of slips made at the counters are not eligible. For more information on applicable fees, please visit the city's website or call the section in charge indicated above.



New Year Garbage Collection Schedule

Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka (Waste Management Section) ☎484-6149

◆The New Year garbage collection schedule is as follows:

January 2024	1 (Mon) ~ 3 (Wed)	No garbage collection
	4 (Thur) *Special collection day.	Burnable garbage collection. Plastic containers/wrappings (yellow bag) and Landfill garbage (blue bag) will not be collected on this day.
	5 (Friday)	Burnable garbage collection. The normal schedule starts.

- ◆Please dispose of the garbage in the morning of the collection day, before and until 8:30 AM.
- ◆Please refrain from putting out the garbage the night before or on other than the designated days.
- ◆The waste should be put in the designated garbage bags.
- ◆On special collection days, items may be collected at different times than usual.
- ◆The collection date for used cooking oil is January 11 (Thursday)

◆Oversized garbage collection reservation starts from January 4th, (Thursday). Please call the facility that corresponds to the area where you live:

- Inba Bōekisha, ☎483-5022 - For those who live in Sakura, Negō, Wada & Yatomi areas. Also, Usui and Shizu area at the **northern side** of the Keisei Line railroad only.
- Igarashi-Shōkai, ☎443-4676 - For those who live in the Chiyoda area. Also, Usui and Shizu areas at the **southern side** of the Keisei Line railroad only.