

March 2024

Reiwa 6



# HELLO SAKURA

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



NO.412

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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.

## SAKURA, A CITY WHERE EVERYONE CAN LIVE COMFORTABLY!



KŌHŌ-KA (PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION) ☎484-6101

### INITIATIVES FOR MULTICULTURAL COEXISTENCE

Multicultural coexistence refers to “People of different nationalities and ethnicities living together as members of a local community, recognizing each other’s cultural diversity and striving to build equal relationships”. In order for us from different cultures to live together, it is important to get to know each other and accept our differences. Let’s start by learning what we need to know.

### SAKURA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

The Sakura International Exchange Foundation is a project commissioned by the city to carry out initiatives for the promotion of multicultural coexistence. For details on how to apply for each project, please access the homepage →



### CONSULTATION COUNTER FOR FOREIGNERS

Resident counselors are available to help foreigners residing in the city with concerns about their daily lives: children’s education, how to use medical services, etc. If you are having trouble and don’t understand something, or if you have difficulty understanding Japanese, please contact us. If you know somebody from abroad, please inform them about this “Foreign Language Consultation counter”.

Languages available: English, Spanish & Chinese.  
Consultation hours: 10:00~12:00 and 13:00~16:00

### JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

With the cooperation of citizen volunteer instructors, we hold weekly Japanese language courses at six public facilities in the city for foreigners living, working or studying in the city.

Since each student has a different level of proficiency in Japanese and what they want to learn, we devise teaching methods that are tailored to each student level, such as giving lectures only in Japanese or adding English as well.

### UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE IMPORTANT!

The Sakura International Exchange Foundation is a public interest incorporated foundation established in 1988 with capital from Sakura City and donations from citizens for the purpose of promoting international mutual understanding and friendship. In addition to the projects listed here, we are working in various ways to encourage people from different cultural backgrounds to live together, such as by translating *Kōhō Sakura* into easy Japanese language. We are working with the aim of realizing a “cultural coexisting society”.

### DO YOU KNOW ANY FOREIGNERS LIVING IN SAKURA?

The number of foreign nationals living in Sakura City is increasing year by year and is about 2.3 times as many as 10 years ago. As of December 31, 2023, there are 4,715 registered foreigners. By region of origin, most people come from Afghanistan (829), China (726), Vietnam (580) and the Philippines (549) but also people from over 70 countries with diverse roots and cultures live here in Sakura. Even in your casual daily life, there may be hidden opportunities to interact with foreigners. Why not try achieving international and multicultural exchange?

### THE CITY PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR FOREIGNERS

In the city, international exchange promotion staff publish foreign language newsletters (English, Spanish and Chinese, once a month), translate notifications from the city and provide support for visitors to the City Hall. Interpretation support for applications and consultations at the counter is also available. We try to communicate information in an easy-to-understand manner such as informing the rules for daily living, ways of disposing off garbage, etc. so that foreigners can live comfortably and with peace of mind.

You can read in 10 languages the Japanese version newsletter “*Kōhō Sakura*” on your smart phone by downloading the application “Catalog Pocket”. For more information please access the website →





# The 24<sup>th</sup> Sakura Jidai Matsuri

Festival of  
the Edo  
Period

Date & Time: March 16 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 15:00

The Sakura Jidai Festival will be held on Shinmachi street for the first time in four years! Set on Shinmachi street, where the atmosphere of a castle town remains, we will enliven the town with performances of the "Tatsumi-ryū", an ancient martial art never seen outside the Sakura clan as well as Sakurabayashi and Sakura Ondo. There will also be food and drink sales at Edo-style food stalls and a costume panel display by Sakura Higashi High School. Please note that due to the event, traffic regulations will apply. Additionally, the Yume Sakura-kan parking lot will not be available from 4 pm on March 15 to all day on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation. ※For an explanatory map and details on the traffic regulations, please view the City's homepage. Inquiries: Sakura-no-Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎484-6146 Sakura-shi Kankyō Kyōkai (Sakura City Tourism Association) ☎486-6000

## SAKURA CASTLE TOWN KIMONO WALK

Why not taking a walk around the charming town of Sakura, where the atmosphere of a castle town still remains? If you visit the Former Lord Hotta House, the Samurai Residence and the Sakura Juntendo Memorial Hall on the days of the event, the admission to those places is free!

**Dates:** ① March 16 (Sat), 17 (Sun), 20 (Wed., Nat. Holiday), 24 (Sun), 31 (Sun)  
② April 7 (Sun), 14 (Sun).

**Application required. Dressing Time:** AM 10:00 ~ PM 13:00

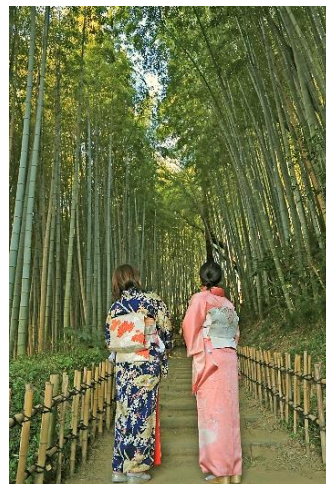
**Fees:** 4,000 Yen / person – Jr. High School students and above.  
3,000 Yen / person – Elementary School students and below.  
2,000 Yen / person – Own kimono dressed by oneself.



**Special course:** 8,000 Yen / person – Includes a Japanese lunch box & soup as well as guidance to Makata Shrine and the Samurai Residences.

All the prices include 'matcha' green tea, a Japanese treat and a souvenir photo.

**Reservations:** At NPO Sakura Ichirizuka ☎080-1008-4579. Please send a fax 489-7844 or email: ☐ yksaku411115@nifty.com Inq: Sakura-no-Miryoku Suishin-ka ☎484-6146



## Kusabue – no – Oka Over 5 million visitors in 45 years since opening

As of Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, the total number of visitors exceeded 5 million people. We will continue to plan attractive events and enhance our facilities, aiming to become a venue that is loved by everyone. Thank you for your support!

### HINA DOLL DISPLAY

Until March 10 (Sunday), Hina dolls will be on display at the training center lobby and at the old private house in the park. (The display is open to the public only on Saturdays & Sundays)



### RAPTOR BIRDS SHOW

On March 17 (Sun) from 11:00 AM ~ and from 14:00 ~ No registration required, free of charge.

Enjoy the performance of more than 10 kinds of raptors such as owls and hawks. There is also a corner where you can interact with birds.

Kusabue-no-Oka ☎485-7821 Open 9:00-17:00 (admission until 16:00)

**Fees:** Adults: 410 Yen, Free for infants.  
Elementary and Jr. High School Students: 100 Yen

## The 41<sup>st</sup> Sakura Marathon

March 24 (Sun) (Rain or shine)  
From 9:00 ~ 15:30  
At the Iwana Sports Park /  
Koide Yoshio Athletics  
Stadium ~ Imbanuma area.



### Tournament Schedule:

9:00 – Opening ceremony.  
9:30 – Full marathon starts.  
9:50 – 3 Km. race  
10:30 – 10 Km. race

※The registration for the  
marathon tournament is  
now closed.

Held as a Japan Athletics Federation official tournament  
(Full) and official course (10 Km).

Aiming for a safe and secure tournament, we kindly ask for your cooperation.

◆Traffic restrictions will be in place around the marathon course to ensure the safety of runners. For details, please view the city's homepage.

◆Please refrain from arriving by car. Unwanted parking near the venue will hinder tournament operations. Please do not park in an inconvenient manner.

◆Free shuttle buses will operate from Keisei Sakura St. & North exit of JR Sakura St. ⇄ Iwana Sports Park. The shuttle buses will head to the venue from AM 6:30 to AM 9:00 and will be returning from AM 11:00 to PM 5:00

**Inquiries:** Sakura Marathon Executive Committee  
Secretariat (Sports for All Section) ☎485-2929 (On the  
day of the Marathon, ☎050-3665-9671 – Automatic  
voice guidance)



# ENJOY SAKURA SPRING FESTIVAL! ~ Sakura Jōshi Kōen Live ~

**Date & Time:** March 30 (Sat) From 10:00 AM (Cancelled under bad weather conditions)

**Place:** At the Sakura Jōshi Kōen (Sakura Castle Ruins Park), Honmaru Ruins

**Inquiries:** Sakura-no-Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎484-6146



**TICKET SALES** 2,500 Yen (includes a 500 Yen discount coupon for in-venue stalls). Now on sale at Ticket Pia and 7-Eleven multi-copy machines. ※Tickets are required to enter the Honmaru ruins, first-come, first-served. If the number of ticket sales is reached, the sale will end.

**ACCESS** There is no parking lot dedicated for the event, so please use public transportation. On the day of the event, a free shuttle bus will run from the south exit of Keisei Sakura Station.

**LIVE EVENT** There will be live performances by Sakura Goodwill Ambassador Yoko Oginome and four groups of artists connected to Sakura City. Also, presentations by High School students from the city. For the live finale, please enjoy a live performance and drone show by Takeshi Kobayashi, General Producer of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chiba Prefecture and musician Ryota Fujimaki.



toybee



Rhythmic Toy World



the quiet room



Akuruyo No Hitsuji



Yoko Oginome



Takeshi Kobayashi



Ryota Fujimaki

**AOZORA RESTAURANT** We will provide drinks and food made with fresh vegetables grown locally in Sakura. In addition, attractive restaurants in the city will also open!

## CHERRY BLOSSOMS LIGHT-UP EVENT HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY

During the "Sakura Castle Ruins Cherry Blossoms" event from March 28 ~ April 2, cherry blossoms will be illuminated to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chiba Prefecture and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Sakura City.

*Sakura City, a town colored with Cherry Blossoms!*

This year as well, in collaboration with Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd., we will be holding this event from March 9 (Sat) to April 7 (Sun). There will be lots of events related to cherry blossoms. For details, please access the website through the QRC →



## HAVE YOU GOTTEN THE VACCINATIONS FOR WHICH YOU ARE ELIGIBLE THIS FISCAL YEAR?

Routine immunization and subsidy system expire on March 31 (Sun).

### 【 Routine Vaccinations 】

#### ◆Pneumococcal vaccinations for senior residents

Eligible people can get immunized at a lower cost of ¥3,000, should be residents in Sakura City, have never gotten a pneumococcal vaccination before and have reached/will reach 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100 years old during the fiscal year ending on March 31. ※If you are 65 years old and have never received a Pneumococcal vaccination, you can receive the vaccination until the day before your 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### ◆Phase 2 measles-rubella (MR) vaccinations for preschoolers

Free of charge until March 31, 2023 for children, residents of Sakura, born on or between April 2, 2017 ~ April 1, 2018. Please note that after the deadline, vaccination **will not** be free of charge.

### 【 Vaccinations Subsidy system 】

#### ①&② common matters

**Target vaccination period:** For those vaccinated between April 1, 2023 ~ March 31, 2024.

**Application deadline:** March 31 (Sun) (Postmark valid).

**Subsidy method:** By reimbursement. After paying the vaccination fee at a medical institution, if you apply for the subsidy, it will be transferred at a later date. If the co-payment amount is less than the subsidy amount, the co-payment will be subsidized.

#### ① Mumps vaccine

**Eligibility:** 1 and 2 years-old children (12 months to less than 36 months-old as of the vaccination date).

**Subsidy amount:** 3,000 Yen (maximum). ※The mumps vaccination is voluntary. Please consult with your doctor regarding vaccinations.

#### ② Rubella vaccine for adults

**Target people:** Those who received a rubella antibody test in Chiba Prefecture or an antibody test using a free coupon and had a low antibody titer and were vaccinated with rubella vaccine or measles-rubella combination (MR). ※Other requirements apply, so please contact us for more information.

**Subsidy amounts (Maximum):** For rubella vaccine 3,000 Yen and for MR combination is 5,000 Yen. Please note that it takes 1-2 weeks to get the result of a rubella antibody test. Consult with your doctor about vaccination depending on the result of the antibody test.

For details, please visit our website or call Bōshi Hoken-ka (Maternal and Child Health Section) ☎ 312-7688.



## If a Large-Scale Disaster Occurs, let's review important facts that can save our lives

Disasters strike just as we forget and quickly take away what is important to us. It will soon be 13 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Noto peninsula earthquake that occurred this year on January 1<sup>st</sup> may have brought back memories to many people. Disasters are not someone else's problem. Please review once more those important facts to see if you are fully prepared.

Kiki Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section) ☎ 484-6131



↑↑ Learning how to use an AED during a disaster prevention drill.

### PROTECTING OUR TOWN BY OURSELVES.

Voluntary disaster prevention organizations are groups in which local residents carry out disaster prevention activities based on the spirit of mutual assistance: "Protecting our own communities". By participating in these activities, local residents can share the mindset of "cooperating with each other in the event of a disaster". There are 118 organizations in the city (as of the end of January 2024). In the event of a large-scale disaster, especially soon after its occurrence, the public assistance functions that the City Hall and other organizations should perform are limited and it takes time for aid to reach every corner. For this reason, the city supports the activities of "voluntary disaster prevention organizations" that complement the role of public assistance. For details, please access the homepage→



### MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF EVACUATION CENTERS

There are 39 designated emergency evacuation sites and evacuation shelters within the city and disaster prevention warehouses located at each location. These are stocked with food, blankets, and other supplies.

In addition to regularly checking to see if items in the warehouses are usable and replacing food that is nearing its expiration date, we conduct emergency attendance drills at all evacuation centers every year to ensure smooth evacuation operations in the event of an emergency. We have put in place a system that will allow us to do so.

In addition, in the event of a disaster, you can check the location, opening and congestion status of evacuation shelters in real time on your smartphone using the "VACAN" (Evacuation center opening and congestion information distribution service). Please access the QRC→.

Living in a crowded evacuation center can lead to contracting an infectious disease and moving to a shelter can even be dangerous. If you can confirm that your home is safe, consider evacuation at home as an option.



### WORKING TOWARDS CREATING A CITY THAT IS RESILIENT TO DISASTERS.

By raising the awareness of disaster prevention among citizens, we can become a "disaster-resistant town" where each and every individual has an awareness of disaster prevention. In order to create a better understanding of disaster prevention, we are conducting various related educational activities. Specifically, we aim to raise awareness among a wide range of generations through lectures at disaster prevention drills conducted by Sakura City, voluntary disaster prevention organizations, neighborhood associations, tours at disaster prevention warehouses and evacuation shelter management recreation experiences, etc.



↑↑ During a tour at the disaster prevention warehouse, the citizens will be given an explanation of the items they can use in an emergency.

⇒ Evacuation center  
personnel conduct  
emergency office  
attendance drills  
every year.



WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO  
PARTICIPATE  
IN A  
LOCAL DISASTER  
PREVENTION DRILL?

In February, the Community Development Council held at Ino Elementary School District a disaster prevention drill with the theme of "Major Disasters Under Infectious Diseases". A total of 133 people participated and observed equipment used in disasters, such as cardboard beds. They got a better idea of what it would be like to live in an evacuation center. In an emergency, check out disaster prevention drills in your area and actively participate so that you don't end up with an evacuation center that isn't what you imagined.