

July 2024

Reiwa 6



HELLO SAKURA

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



No.416

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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 for these days, questions can be answered only in Japanese at the City Hall and/or other city facilities. Therefore, when making inquiries, please be accompanied by someone who speaks Japanese.

SUMMER FUN EVENTS!



Sunflower Garden

July 6 (Sat) ~ July 21 (Sun)

Place: Sakura Furusato Hiroba



Inquiries: Sakura Shi Kankō Kyōkai (Sakura City Tourism Association) ☎ 486-6000



Come and enjoy the sunflowers in full bloom under the summer blue sky, having the Dutch windmill as the perfect background. Some of the events will include:

- ☀ Sightseeing boat around the Imbanuma Lake on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during the event period.
Fares: Adults and High School students: 1,000 Yen, Elementary and Jr. High School students: 500 Yen.
- ☀ Sunflower picking sale, (Up to 2 per person) 100 Yen each flower. (Flowers can be picked from 9:00 ~ 16:00).
- ☀ Kitchen cars selling food, drinks, etc. from 9:00 ~ 16:00.

Kusabue-no-Oka: July / August Activities

ACTIVITY	Date/Time/Cost
Tanabata	July 1 (Mon) ~ July 7 (Sun) (Free of charge)
Water play fountain mat (for small children)	July 20 (Sat) ~ Sep 1 (Sun) (Free of charge)
◎Goldfish scooping (1) 15②15 ES↑ (Small children require guardian)	July 20 (Sat) ① 10:00~12:00 & ② 13:00~15:00 300 Yen
◎Glass painting lesson (20) ES↑	July 25 (Thur) 10:00~12:00 800 Yen
◎Bamboo guns making (20) ES↑	July 28 (Sun) 10:00~12:00 300 Yen
◎Railway classroom(20) ES↑ "Railway lovers gathering"	July 30 (Tue) 10:00~12:00 (Free of Charge)
◎Haniwa making (unglazed) (20) ES↑(Bring towel/drink)	Aug. 1 (Thur) 10:00~12:00 800 Yen
◎Science experiment work (20) ES - Upper grades	Aug 4 (Sun) 10:00~12:00 300 Yen
◎Bamboo LED lamp making (20) ES↑	Aug. 5(Mon) 10:00~12:00 500 Yen

ACTIVITY	Date/Time/Cost
◎Observation of forest creatures (20) ES↑ (Bring work gloves, insect repellent, magnifier, notepad).	Aug. 6 (Tue) 10:00~12:00 ※Cancelled in case of rain (Free of charge)
◎Earthenware making (20) ES↑ (Bring towel/drink)	Aug. 8 (Thur) 10:00~12:00 800 Yen
◎Pinwheel making (20) ES↑	Aug 13 (Tue) 10:00~12:00 200 Yen
◎Stars observation class (25) Any age (ES students and younger with guardians)	Aug. 16 (Fri)19:00~20:30 (Free of charge) ※Cancelled in case of rain
◎Kaleidoscope making (20) ES↑	Aug. 20 (Tue) 10:00~12:00 500 Yen
◎Mini tatami mats making (20) ES↑	Aug. 27 (Tue) 10:00~12:00 300 Yen
◎Hat making with a milk carton (20) ES↑	Aug. 29 (Thur) 10:00~12:00 500 Yen

Kusabue-no-Oka park information: ☎485-7821 Business hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last admission 16:00). Fees: Adults 410 Yen, Children 100 Yen (Elementary and Jr. High School). Free for kindergarten children or younger.

Remarks: ◎These activities require reservation (First-come first-served). Reception starts on July 3 (Wed) from 9:00~
●Only 1 person can participate at one event that require application. ●Fees to the events have to be paid separately.
●(20)=Number of applicants ●ES↑ Elementary school students and above. Please view the homepage for more details.



SAKURA FIREWORKS FESTIVAL 2024

Date & Time: August 3 (Sat) from 18:50 ~ 20:30

Inquiries: Sakura-no-Miryoku Suishin-ka
(City's Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎484-6146
Sakura shi Kankō Kyōkai (Tourism Association) ☎486-6000

Approximately 20,000 fireworks, the largest display in Chiba prefecture this summer, will decorate the night sky of Sakura. There are also some paid seats available, so please see the website for details.



SPREADING SMILES IN THE COMMUNITY BY TALKING TO EACH OTHER A safe life that starts with mutual aid

Neighborhood ties have become weaker due to the shift to nuclear families and the protection of personal information, a trend that has become even stronger due to measures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infection, but the importance of community ties is now being gradually reconsidered.

We introduce ways to connect, support each other and look after each other in the community in order to stay healthy in old age and live with peace of mind in a familiar community. (In 2024 as of the end of May, the population in the city is 169,896 people and among them, the elderly population is 57,051)

Kōreisha Fukushi-ka (Elderly Welfare Section) ☎484-6343



INTRODUCING SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA AND VARIOUS LIFESTYLE SUPPORTS FOR THE ELDERLY.

As the population ages nationwide, one in three people in the city are over the age of 65 and the number of single-person households is increasing. The city is promoting various support measures with the aim of creating a town where people can continue to lead healthy lives as they age and maintain connections with the local community.

LIVING SUPPORT FOR THE ELDERLY.

The city, private organizations and local volunteers provide a variety of lifestyle support services.

MUTUAL SUPPORT SERVICE

A paid "mutual support service" provided by local volunteers is being implemented at 12 local social cooperatives for people who find it difficult to do everyday housework such as taking out the garbage, helping with shopping, weeding, changing light bulbs, etc.



SHOPPING SUPPORT SERVICE

For people who have trouble making daily purchases due to lack of means of transportation, various business operate mobile sales in the city such as Welcia, Yac's and Tokushimaru.



MOBILITY SUPPORT SERVICE

Paid transportation support services are provided for people in need of care or support who find it difficult to use public transportation alone. To use this service, you must register as a member in advance.



Inquiries:

●Sakura City Social Welfare Council, Transportation Services Section

☎484-4319

●Silver Human Resources Center, Rainbow Shuttle representative ☎308-7848

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Please see the Japanese July issue of Kōhō Sakura for more details on services and counseling.



THE 4TH IMBANUMA CARDBOARD IKADA CUP WILL BE HELD!



On August 18 (Sun)

9:00~13:00 Rain or shine. ※Cancelled due to stormy weather.

Place: Sakura Furusato Square (Recommended for ages 5 and above). 15 groups per class, (first-come, first-served) **Holding class/Fee:**

① Elf class (single seater) 5,500 Yen. ② Tom Sawyer class (2-seater) 8,800 Yen. ③ Pirate Ship class (3 or more people) 11,000 Yen. ④ Company/Group class Battle Flag (3 or more people) 16,500 Yen.

Please apply through the homepage QRC→

Inquiries: Inbanuma Cardboard Ikada CUP Executive Committee

☎080-1092-8765 ✉info@inba-ikada-cup.jp



2024 SUMMER TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN WEEK Period: July 10 (Wed) ~ July 19 (Fri)

Slogan: "Let's learn the traffic rules and wear helmets"

At this time of the year, the mind's concentration tends to decline due to heat and other factors. In addition, life can be at stake due to unexpected traffic accidents that may occur due to changes in traffic flow during summer vacation. Let's get into the habit of obeying traffic rules and practicing good traffic manners.

Emphasis should be exercised on the following points:

1. Wearing a bicycle helmet and following traffic rules.
2. Eliminating drunk driving ~Aiming for zero drunk driving ~
3. Ensuring pedestrian safety and enforcing safe driving.
4. Ensuring that all seat belts and child restraints are properly worn.

Inquiries: Dōro Iji-ka (Road Maintenance Section)

☎ 484-6152

SPECIAL BENEFITS AS A SUPPORT MEASURE AGAINST SOARING PRICES

- ① Households exempt from residence tax in 2024 and households subject to only the per capita rate of residence tax in 2024. Benefits will be provided to households that will be newly exempt from the residence tax. The benefit amount is 100,000 Yen per household.
 - ② Additional allowance for children in 2024. The amount is 50,000 per eligible child.
 - ③ Adjusted benefits for FY 2024. For those who are expected to have an amount that cannot be fully deducted from the fixed amount tax reduction for the 2024 income tax and the 2024 residence income tax, the shortfall will be paid as a benefit.
- ①&③ Common details: A "Payment requirements confirmation Form" will be sent to the head of the household that is considered eligible for the payment(s), scheduled to be sent after July. Fill out the necessary information, attach the required documents and return it. The payment will take approximately 1 month to 1 and a half months after receipt. For details, please view the homepage →
Deadline: September 30 (Mon) (Postmark valid).

Inquiries: Shakai Fukushi-ka – Rinji Tokubetsu Kyūfukin (Social Welfare Section, Temporary Special Benefits) ☎484-6496 FAX 486-2503



MEASURES AGAINST THE HEAT AND PREPARATIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

●Would you like to make a green curtain?

Placing plants like a curtain outside a building or window block direct sunlight and lowers the indoor temperature. We recommend morning glories and bitter gourds, which are resistant to heat.

●Take shelter from the heat and cool off.

As a measure to prevent heatstroke, we have set up "Sakura Cooling Rooms" in the city where you can avoid the heat and stay cool. Some cooling areas also have free water dispensers for your own bottles.

Inquiries:

Cooling areas – Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎ 312-8228

Water dispensers – Seikatsu Kankyō-ka (Living Environment Section) ☎484-6716

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING



The next application period is July 16 (Tuesday) from 8:30 ~ July 31 (Wednesday) until 17:15.

Please refer to the application form for available housing units, application qualifications, rent, etc. Recruitment guidance during this application period will be provided at the City Hall, Housing Section at each city branch office, Yatomi, Nishi-Shizu and Sakura Citizens Service Centers. Distribution of application forms starts July 9 (Tue). Please attach the required documents to the application form and bring directly to the Housing Section. Applications by post are not accepted.

Inquiries: Jūtaku-ka (Housing Section) ☎484-6168

STRAY CATS – SPAYING AND NEUTERING

In order to promote community cat activities, the city will subsidize part of the cost of spaying and neutering for stray cats.



All of the following requirements must be met:

① Request by a group of three or more people living in the city (excluding members of the same household).

② Consent must be obtained from the landowner of the area where the animals will be fed.

③ Consent must be obtained from the local community association in the area where the activities will be carried out.

Subsidy amount: 10,000 Yen per animal for the cost of spaying and neutering.

Application period: July 1 (Mon) ~ 2025 Jan. 31 (Fri). The subsidy ends as soon as the budget runs out.

To apply, please fill out the application form, you can obtain it on the website → or at the counter of the section in charge. Please submit the application at the counter. More details on the website.



Inquiries: Seikatsu Kankyō-ka (Life and Environment Section) ☎484-6148

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF CITY TAX REFUND FRAUDS!



Refund scams are occurring nationwide, where scammers pretend to be city employees, offer to get your taxes refunded and lure people to ATM's to transfer cash.

The city will not ask you to use an ATM to receive your refund, nor will we provide you with refund information over the phone or email.

The actual flow of the city tax refund is as follows:

- ① The city sends a notification that a refund has occurred (named "Notice of Refund of overdue payments, etc.") in a sealed envelope.
- ② The "Remittance account form" enclosed in the sealed envelope. Please fill out the form (named "Request form for refund of overdue payments, etc.") and send it in the return envelope.
- ③ After confirmation, the transfer will be made in about 2 to 3 weeks.

Inquiries: Saiken Kanri-ka (Credit Management Section) ☎484-6116



Municipal, Prefectural and Forest Environment Taxes for Fiscal Year 2024

Inquiries: Shiminzei-ka (Municipal Tax Section) ☎484-6115

Shipping date: June 7 (Fri)

Notifications for salary deductions have already been sent to your workplace on May 17 (Fri).

- ◆ If you are eligible for a fixed amount tax reduction, the amount of the fixed amount tax reduction is indicated on your tax payment notice.
- ◆ For those who submitted tax returns after March 16, 2024, the contents may not be reflected in the notification. In that case, a tax amount change notice will be mailed to you at a later date.

Pay your taxes through a convenient and safe bank transfer.

Inquiries: Saiken kanri-ka (Credit Management Section) ☎484-6116

If you pay your taxes by bank transfer, you will save yourself the trouble of going to the counter every time your payment is due. The money is automatically deducted, so you don't have to worry about forgetting to pay it.

◆ **How to apply.** Please fill in the necessary information on the bank transfer request form, affix your seal and complete the procedure at the counter.

◆ **Application counters.** Financial institutions with savings accounts (*), Japan Post Bank, Sakura City Hall (Credit Management Division) or branch offices/dispatch centers. *(Mizuho Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Mitsui Sumitomo Bank, Resona Bank, Saitama Resona Bank, Chiba Bank, Chiba Kogyo Bank, Keiyo Bank, Chiba Shinkin Bank, Choshi Shinkin Bank, Sawara Shinkin Bank, Tokyo Higashi Shinkin Bank, Chiba Mirai Agricultural Cooperative).

◆ **Items required for application.** Passbook, passbook registration seal, tax payment notice (or something that shows the notice number), request form for account transfer.

❖ Please apply at least 2 months prior to the start of the account transfer.

❖ The request forms for account transfer are available at the Credit Management Section, branch offices/dispatch centers and financial institutions in the city.

You can also send them by post mail, so please contact the section in charge.

Let's visit a waste disposal facility!

Inquiries: Haikibutsu-taisaku-ka (Waste Management Section) ☎484-6149

You will be able to watch the flow of disposal and recycling of combustible waste and PET bottles generated in each household.

Date & Time: July 26 (Fri) 8:45 ~ 12:00

- Application required
- **Deadline:** July 12 (Fri).
- Free of charge.

Place: Shisui Recycle Culture Center located in Sakura Daisan Industrial Park.

Meeting place: Tamachi parking lot (Private car parking available).

Capacity: 30 people, first come-first served.

- ※ For people living in the city. Participating elementary school students must be accompanied by a guardian. If elementary school students are joining, those underaged accompanying them may also participate.

How to apply:

Through the Chiba Electronic service →

- ※ Please come wearing clothes that are easy to move in (sport shoes, etc.) Also, to prevent heatstroke, please bring something to keep you hydrated and a hat.



Agricultural Pest Control

July 22 (Mon), 23 (Tue), 24 (Wed) and 25 (Thur)

Pesticides will be sprayed over paddy fields in Sakura City using drones, etc. in order to prevent pests and rice diseases. Please check the schedule below.



Time: 4:00 AM - 11:00 AM*	
SPRAYING AREAS	DATE*
Sakura, Wada, Chiyoda	July 22 (Monday)
Usui, Chiyoda, Shizu, Sakura	July 23 (Tuesday)
Wada & Negō	July 24 (Wednesday)
Negō & Yatomi	July 25 (Thursday)

For inquiries and details on the areas to be sprayed, please call:
Shokubutsu Bōeki Kyōkai, (The Plant Protection Association)
JA Chiba Mirai Sakura Yotsukaido Agricultural Center ☎485-6115.

- ▶ On the dates of the pesticide spraying, please refrain from entering or driving into the sprayed areas.
- ▶ We use highly safe chemicals, but if you inhale them or get them on your body, wash them off immediately.