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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** and, 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.

WE SUPPORT CHILD-REARING IN SAKURA !

NOVEMBER IS AUTUMN'S CHILDREN'S MONTH

The Agency for Children and Families has designated November every year as "Autumn's Children's Month" in order to create an opportunity for the whole society to support children and families raising children.

Let's all watch over and support child-rearing in Sakura, aiming to be a town filled with the smiles of babies, mothers, fathers and everyone else.

◆ MATERNITY & FATHERS/MOTHERS CLASSES ◆

Classes to learn about pregnancy, life after birth and preparing for the arrival of your baby and to get to know other pregnant women in the community.

●Maternity class: Focused on learning about diet and dental health during pregnancy.

●Fathers/Mothers classes: For parents expecting their first baby. Changes in mother's minds and bodies immediately after giving birth, etc. are explained.

IN SAKURA, WE SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO RAISE THEM

The city implements various policies to provide absolute support for the healthy growth of children from conception to adulthood. We take this opportunity to introduce some child and child-rearing policies aimed at realizing a *Kodomo Mannaka Shakai* (Child-centered society) where children can live happily into the future.



◆ BABY STATIONS ◆



To enable parents to enjoy outings with their babies in a fun and safe environment, we have registered facilities that offer free-of-charge diaper-changing and breastfeeding spaces as "Baby Stations". We are currently expanding the number of registered facilities, including private ones. Please feel free to use them! For more Information, please check the website →



◆ REGIONAL CHILDCARE SUPPORT CENTER PROJECT ◆

This is a place for play and interaction for preschool children and their parents. Specialists such as childcare workers and nutritionists, as well as staff with knowledge about child-rearing are always on hand to hold events and lectures, provide child-rearing consultations and information. Please visit the homepage for the facilities' locations →



The 42nd Sakura Marathon - participants' recruitment starts soon!

Commemorating the restoration of the Koide Yoshio Athletics Stadium. The full marathon division is the only Japan Association of Athletics Federation's certified event in the prefecture!

▶**Marathon's date & place:** March 30, 2025 (Sunday) – Rain or shine. The course starts at Iwana Undō Kōen/Koide Yoshio Kinen Rikujō Kyōgijō (Iwana Sports Park / Koide Yoshio Commemorative Athletics Stadium).

▶**Registration period:** November 15 (Friday) ~ December 28 (Saturday)

▶**Eligibility:** Those who can comply with the tournament rules and able to complete the applicable race within the time limit. Anyone who is able to participate and in good health

※ Residents who live, work or study in the city. ※ Those under the age of 18 require parental consent.

▶**Maximum number of entrants:** Full marathon: 5,000 people, 10 km: 2,500 people, 3 km: 1,000 people. ※First-come, first-served on all categories.

▶**How to register:** Via internet through the website → (Please pay the entry fee at a convenience store or with a credit card). ※Once the fee has been paid, no refund can be made.

▶**Inquiries:** Sakura Marathon Executive Committee, Shōgai Spōtsu-ka (Sports-for-All) ☎ 485-2929.

▶**Entry fees and age limit:**



Category	Age limit	Fare (Yen)	Category	Age limit	Fare (Yen)
Full marathon	18 years & above	9,500	3 km	Fun Run	3,000
10 km (general)	16 years & above	5,000		Jr. High school students	2,500
	High school students	3,500		Elementary school students	2,000
10 km (residents)	16 years & above	3,500	※On the day of the competition there may be divisions based on age.		

LET'S PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND PREPARE FOR THEM!

PEACE OF MIND COMES FROM EACH INDIVIDUAL'S EFFORTS

As of the end of August 2024, there had been 196 traffic accidents in Sakura City resulting in injury, the 11th highest number among the 54 cities and towns in the prefecture. Traffic accidents cannot always be prevented by just being careful, but by thinking from the other person's perspective, you can reduce the risk of getting involved and minimize the damage. Let's learn about the current situation regarding traffic accidents in the city and think about what you can do.

Inquiries: Dōro Iji-ka (Road Maintenance Section) ☎ 484-6152



USING A SMARTPHONE WHILE DRIVING IS A VIOLATION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT.

Traffic accidents tend to increase from autumn to winter when the sun sets earlier and there are particularly many accidents around the New Year when people are more active; last year, about 30% of the accidents that occurred in the city happened between October and December.

Among the causes of accidents, the most common was: "failure to check for safety" (129 cases) followed by "failure to pay attention to the road ahead" (54 cases) and "failure to keep an eye on movements" (46 cases). These three causes alone accounted for more than 70% of traffic accidents in the city in 2023. In addition, despite the penalties being tightened since 2019, many accidents are occurring in the city due to people using smartphones while driving, a practice known as "distracted driving".

Don't think that "It's okay if I only use it for a little while". If you absolutely must use the smartphone, be sure to stop the car in a safe place first.

When an accident is caused by operating a smartphone or other device while driving a car, motorbike, etc. the following applies:

Penalty: Imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to 300,000 Yen

Violation points: 6 points (subject to license suspension).



In 2023, Sakura City ranked 11th in the Prefecture with 297 traffic accidents.



CITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

☐ **Maintenance of road markings.** Road markings are symbols that alert people to danger. There are two types: those installed by the Public Safety Commission (Police) and those installed by road administrators (National, prefectural, city, etc.) Both provide information to help prevent accidents, so please follow them.



↑The diamond symbol indicates pedestrian or bicycle crossing ahead.

☐ **Installation of road reflectors (convex mirrors).** In fiscal year 2023, 15 new convex mirrors were installed across the city. These mirrors are installed at intersections with poor visibility to help you check for safety, but please do not rely on them as there are blind spots due to their structure. Whether there is a convex mirror or not, you should always slow down and check for safety at intersections. If you discover a broken or damaged convex mirror, please confirm the location (or a landmark if you don't know the address) and contact the city.



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY NEW INSURANCE CARDS WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED

After December 2, it will no longer be possible to change the information on your health insurance card or issue a new one, including for lost health insurance cards. Current health insurance cards can be used until their expiration date.

MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

For the time being, to those who joined after December 2, a Certificate of Eligibility "shikaku kakuninsho" will be issued regardless your status. New certificates of limit application will no longer be issued. The classification will be stated on the Certificate of Eligibility "shikaku kakuninsho"



Inquiries: Kenkō Hoken-ka (Health Insurance Section)

National Health Insurance ☎ 484-6125
Medical Care for the Elderly ☎ 484-6136

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

● People who have a My Number Card (Myna Health Insurance Card) that has been registered for use as a health insurance card:

➢ You will be issued a Notice of Eligibility Information "shikaku joho tsuchisho" that can confirm your insured status. Please present your Myna Health Insurance Card at the medical institution. If your Myna Health Insurance Card cannot be used, please present both the Notice of Eligibility Information and your Myna Health Insurance Card.

● If you do not have a Myna Health Insurance Card:

➢ For the time being, we will issue you a Certificate of Eligibility "shikaku kakuninsho" which can be used in the same way as your health insurance card.

● Those who are planning to enroll in National Health Insurance for the first time:

➢ Due to the transition of the system, if you subscribe between November 18 (Mon) and December 1 (Sun), or for a future date after December 2, we will mail you a "Certificate of Eligibility" or a "Notice of Eligibility Information" at a later date. ※ There will be no changes to the National Health Insurance Limit Applicable Certificate, etc.



Fun Autumn activities at Kusabue-no-Oka

❖ SAKURA CITY GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION 2024

Date & time: November 9 (Saturday) & 10 (Sunday) 9:00 ~ 15:00

Entrance fee: 200 Yen. (Free of charge to annual pass holders, High School students and younger as well as those with a disability certificate and one caregiver). ※Rain or shine the event will take place but canceled in case of extreme weather conditions.



The city's industrial, economic, agricultural and welfare organizations will be exhibiting to convey the appeal of commerce, industry and agriculture to everyone. At each booth, you can enjoy products, local specialties, technologies and services. There will also be a keyword rally where you can win wonderful prizes! There will be lots of events at the venue!

HOW TO ARRIVE:

- On the days of the event, free shuttle buses will operate between the North Exit of Keisei Sakura Station and the venue, from 8:45 until 16:00. Shuttle bus users will receive a free admission ticket to Kusabue-no-Oka that can be used at a later date. Please check the timetable on the website above ➡
- From Keisei Sakura Station, North Exit and for 200 Yen, you can also take the Sakura City Community bus "Uchigo Route" (Get off at Kusabue-no-Oka bus stop).



Inquiries: Sakura Industrial Exposition Executive Secretariat
Agricultural Administration Section ☎ 043-484-6141
Commerce and Industry Promotion Section ☎ 043-484-6145
Welfare Section for Persons with Disabilities ☎ 043-484-4164

❖ AUTUMN CRAFTS EVENT AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA TRAINING CENTER

- ① Clay crafts - November 2 (Saturday)
- ② Crafts using natural materials and recycled items - November 4 (Monday, Holiday)
- ☐ The schedule on both days is 10:00 ~ 12:00 & 13:00 ~ 15:00 ☐ Participation fee: 300 Yen and above.

❖ KUSABUE-NO-OKA ROSE GARDEN VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

- ☐ For maintenance of the garden facilities and roses. ☐ For 18 years old and above. (Excluding students). More details at the website ➡. Inquiries: ① Rose Garden: ☎ 486-9356 & ② 080-1239-6992



KUSABUE-NO-OKA PARK INFORMATION: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (16:00 is last admission)

- ★ 100 Yen for elementary and Jr. high school children. ★ 410 Yen for adults and youths of high school age.
- ★ Free for kindergarten age children and younger, people with disabilities and up to one caregiver. ※For those participating in an event, an additional fee will be charged. **Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka ☎ 485-7821**

BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT - DONOR SUPPORT PROJECT IN SAKURA CITY

The city provides subsidies to donors and businesses where donors work, with the aim of increasing the number of bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors as well as promoting transplants.



Subsidy targets:

- ① Those who live in the city and have donated bone marrow, etc. through the bone marrow bank program run by the Japan Marrow Donation Foundation.
- ② Those who live in the city and whose bone marrow donation was cancelled after giving final consent.
- ③ The donor's workplace has granted the donor a "donor leave" (special leave taken for hospitalization to undergo tests required for bone marrow donation, etc.) ※Those who gave final consent to donate bone marrow, etc. but whose donation was cancelled, they are now newly covered from Fiscal Year 2024.

Subsidy amount:

The amount will be paid according to the number of days of hospital visits, etc. and the number of days of donor leave given.

➡ Donor: 20,000 Yen per day. (Maximum of 140,000 Yen per donation of bone marrow, etc.)

➡ Businesses: 10,000 Yen per day (Up to 70,000 Yen per donor).

To apply, you will need to submit a certificate issued by the Japan Marrow Donor Bank. Please contact us for details on the required documents. If you would like to register as a donor, please contact the Japan Marrow Bank directly.



For information on subsidies: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎ 485-6711

About donor registration: Nihon Kotsuzui Bank (Japan Marrow Bank) ☎ 03-5280-1789

School supplies expenses will be provided for children entering Elementary School to households with income below a certain level

Parents who meet the following criteria will receive a subsidy for school supplies prior to their child's enrollment in elementary school. For details, please see the city's website or contact us.



① Those who are in financial distress (of income) to an extent equivalent to public assistance. (Households where the total income of all members of the household is less than 1.3 times the standard amount of public assistance. ※Those who are already on welfare are not eligible for this benefit because the benefit is paid as welfare assistance. ※If tax declaration is not filed, it cannot be certified.

② Parents of new first graders who will enter Public Elementary School in April, 2025. If you are unsure about where to enroll your child, please consult us.

③ Those living in Sakura City as of March 1, 2025.

Amount to be paid: 57,060 Yen. The payment will arrive in March, 2025.

Deadline: January 10, 2025 (Friday). Applications must arrive on or before this date.

※ This information will be enclosed with the "School Entry Health Checkup Information", sent around mid-to-late September to those living in the city.

※ Information and application forms can also be downloaded from the city's website →



※The cost of school supplies for new Jr. High School students will be paid at the end of the third term to those currently in the 6th grade of elementary school who are certified under the city's school attendance assistance system. Applications for tuition assistance for current students are accepted at any time. If you would like to apply, please contact us. **Inquiries: Gakumu-ka (School Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6186**

ACCEPTING NOW APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS AND CERTIFIED CHILDCARE CENTERS IN APRIL 2025

Target children: Preschool to kindergarten
※For details such as enrollment in classes for 3-year-old children, please refer to the QRC below and contact each kindergarten.

Private kindergartens →

■Application distribution:
In progress.

■Reception period:
From November 1 (Fri) and on.

Certified Childcare Centers →

■Application distribution:
In progress.

■Reception period:
From November 1 (Fri) and on.

**Inquiries: Kodomo Seisaku-ka
(Child Policy Section)**



ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SAKURA YOCHIEN (SAKURA KINDERGARTEN)

The closure of Sakura kindergarten was discussed at the August assembly and it was decided that Sakura Kindergarten will close on March 31, 2026.

However, in order to continue operating in the 2025 school year, as a transitional measure, only children aged 5 years or older will be accepted.

Childcare period: 1 year

Application distribution: in progress and until November 8 (Fri) from 9:00 to 16:00.

Reception period: November 1 (Fri) ~ November 8 (Fri) from 9:00 ~ 16:00 ※Except Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and from 12:30 ~13:00

Target: Children aged 5 years or older (Born April 2, 2019 ~ April 1, 2020. ※Please come to the nursery accompanied by the eligible child. ※A personal seal and a resident's card showing all household members and their relationships are required. ※Consultation is required after the application period ends. For details, please

contact: **Sakura Kindergarten ☎ 486-1533
Gakumu-ka (School Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6186**



NOTICE ABOUT DIESEL COLLECTION TAX

● Buy diesel within the prefecture.

The diesel tax becomes revenue for the prefecture in which the dealer where the diesel was purchased is located and is used for education, welfare, road construction, etc.

● NO Illegal diesel declaration.

The production, sale and use of illegal diesel is not only a tax evasion, but also a heinous criminal act that has a negative impact on the health of the prefecture's residents and the local environment. We ask for your cooperation in not buying, selling or using illegal diesel.

Inquiries: Chiba Prefecture Sakura Prefectural Tax Office ☎ 483-1116 (In charge: Shimin zei-ka)

TULIP PLANTING EXPERIENCE

Date and Time: Saturday, November 9 and Sunday November 10, 9:00 ~ 14:30.

Registration required. Cancelled in case of rain.

Place: Sakura Furusato Square.

Target people: Elementary School students and younger (accompanied by a guardian).



Please apply through the website ➡

A lottery will be held if there is a large number of applicants.

**Inquiries: Sakura shi Kankō Kyōkai (Sakura City Tourism Association) ☎ 486-6000
(In charge: Kōen Ryokuchi-ka)**