



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.

Towards a town that continues to bloom!

Nishita Sango,
Sakura City Mayor



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of a bright and hopeful New Year. Sakura City has also been nurturing the foundations for town development by young people that sprouted at the turning point of the 70th Anniversary of the city's incorporation last year, and has now entered a year in which it will take a new step towards the hope of realizing a sustainable town.

In particular, we will promote the comprehensive partnership agreement concluded in February last year with five prefectural schools in the city, to increase opportunities for students and other young people who will be the future leaders of the city to take an active and proactive role in city development, leading to the realization of an attractive city.

We face challenges that will take a long time and great effort to solve, such as climate change, rising prices and an aging population with a declining birthrate, but we will work together with all of Sakura, harnessing the imagination and drive of young people to make: "*Korekara mo saku, Sakura*" (Sakura will continue to bloom), which is the slogan for the 70th Anniversary of the city's establishment. In closing, I would like to wish you all a bright and hopeful New Year.

Building a city together!

Shikine Fumihiro
Sakura City
Council Chairman



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our citizens on a bright and hopeful New Year. Last year, Sakura City celebrated its 70th Anniversary as a city and we were able to celebrate together with our citizens through various events, including a commemorative ceremony.

Since last year, our city council has been holding opinion exchange meetings between council members and high school students, which has become a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the younger generation. We would like to continue to value dialogue with our citizens and build a future together.

In addition, the city is facing unprecedented challenges, including rising prices and other factors that have made it difficult for residents and businesses to function, as well as a declining population, climate change and natural disasters that have become more severe. As a city council, we will work closely with the administration to do our utmost to resolve these issues.

I would like to wish you all the best in the coming year and wish you a Happy New Year.

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

The Central Community Center will be offering consultations on preparing final tax returns and municipal and prefectural tax returns for 2024 by appointment only. Reservations cannot be made by phone or at the counter. Reservations are not required if you are submitting a completed tax return.

Date & Time: February 18 (Tue) ~ March 14 (Fri) 9:30 ~ 15:30 ※Excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. **Target:** People who require personal assistance in preparing tax returns.



How to apply:

① By return postcard ※Must arrive by Monday, January 20, 2025

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 address on the return slip and send to:

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 ➡

② On the Internet

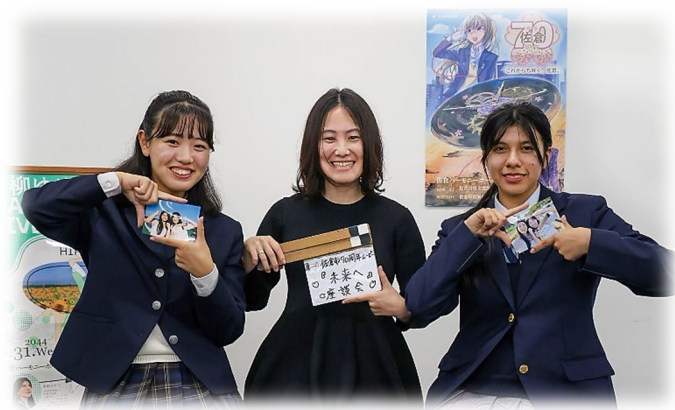
Please apply from the reservation system on the city's website (QRC) ➡.

Application period: January 31 (Fri) ~ to three days before the desired date (first-come, first-served).

※If you apply by postcard, you cannot choose the time. Please mail the postcard without detaching it.

※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.

THE CITY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY MOVIE "MIRAI-E"



To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the city's incorporation, Kamimura Naho, screenwriter and film director born in Sakura City, produced a short movie called "Mirai e" (To the Future).

Story Introduction

[High School students Miku and Yumeno are close childhood friends who support each other's dreams. The two end up making a movie together through an unexpected event. They grow closer than ever through the film production, but shortly after the film is completed, a certain incident causes them to drift apart.] This short movie depicts the beauty of friendship and offers encouragement for the future. Please see the city's special website for the 70th Anniversary Commemorative movie →



The roundtable discussion between Kamimura Naho and the High School students who starred in the film will be broadcast on Cable Net 296 (Terrestrial digital channel 10/digital CATV channel 301).

Broadcast date/time: Jan. 1 (Wed. holiday) until Jan. 12 (Sun) AM 10:00~ , PM 10:00~ (20 minutes each).

NAGASAKI ATOMIC BOMB EXHIBITION A STORY THAT CONVEYS THE HORRORS OF WAR

A panel exhibition on the Nagasaki atomic bomb is being held at Yume Sakura-kan until January 5 (Sun). Japan is the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war and Nagasaki is the last place in the world to have been hit by an atomic bomb. The photographs from that time remind us of the tragedies that war has brought to our lives and the horror of nuclear weapons.

Sakura City is implementing various peace projects based on the "Sakura City Peace Administration Basic Ordinance" enacted in 1995 and the "Peace City Declaration" of the same year. Next year will mark the 80th Anniversary of the end of the war. Let's reflect on the horrors of war and the value of peace!

Inquiries: Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section) ☎ 484-6103

THE CITY HALL CLOCK TOWER HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW PHOTO SPOT, THE SAKURA BLOSSOM GARDEN!

To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the city, the Sakura Branch of Imba Special Needs School, in cooperation with Tokiwa Phytochemical Laboratory Co., Ltd., planted a variety of greenery around the clock tower on the City Hall grounds, and the "Sakura Blossom Garden" was completed in November.

The garden is filled with a variety of flowers that bloom in every season. If you visit the City Hall, why not taking a photo at the Sakura Blossom Garden? For more information, please see the website →

Inquiries: Shisan Keiei-ka (Facility Management Section) ☎ 484-0942



NAGASAKI SOUL FOOD AT SAKURA CITY HALL CAFETERIA

To help people learn about the history of Nagasaki and Sakura, the City Hall Cafeteria will be holding a "Nagasaki Fair" from January 8 (Wed) to January 31 (Fri) where Nagasaki soul foods "Toruko Rice" and "Hatoshi" will be served in traditional Nagasaki ceramic "Hasami ware". A hearty Toruko rice dish with pasta, pilaf and a chicken cutlet are served on a plate. And there is Hatoshi, which is shrimp paste sandwiched between slices of bread and deep-fried, both beloved dishes in Nagasaki. Be sure to give them a try on this occasion. During the event, panels explaining the connection between Nagasaki and Sakura will also be on display, so while you enjoy your meal, you can think back to Nagasaki, which has a deep connection with Sakura. ※ As quantities are limited, we recommend making a reservation in advance by phone, etc. For information and details on the menus and events, please see the cafeteria website →

Inquiries: Sakura City Hall Cafeteria ☎ 312-8895 Personnel Department ☎ 484-6104

Toruko Rice



Hatoshi



KADOMATSU CARDS

If you need New Year's Kadomatsu cards, you can download them from the city's website or print them out at Family Mart or Lawson's multi-copy machines for 60 Yen. Inquiries: Kōen Ryokuchi-ka (Parks and Greenery Section) ☎ 484-0940



JANUARY 10 IS "110 DAY"

When you call 110, you will be connected to the Prefectural Police Headquarters Communications Control Room, which will listen to your call and dispatch police officers and patrol cars. Please remain calm as you speak as we will listen to you in order. Please refrain from making prank calls or silent calls as this may cause delays in responding to emergency incidents and accidents. For non-emergency consultations or inquiries, please contact the Consultation Support Corner #9110, Sakura Police Station or your nearest police box or police station.

Inquiries: Sakura Police Station ☎ 484-0110. In charge: Kiki-Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section).



Shichifuku-Jin

Good luck and good fortune 2025 tour of Sakura Seven Lucky Gods!



Sakura Shichifukujin-kai (At the Ichioka Japanese Sweets Parlor) Tel & Fax: 308-7072
Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion Section) in charge.

Why not taking a leisure stroll through the townscape, enjoying the romantic historical atmosphere of Sakura, a town that has been certified as a Japanese heritage?

◆**Sale of Shrine vermillion stamps** (opening days vary depending on locations)

You can obtain them for 500 Yen at each temple and shrine, also, at Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura, Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor and the Sakura Tourism Association. ※*For 2,100 yen you can buy at Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura and Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor a fully-stamped notepad from all temples and shrines.*

- *Tezukuri Kōbō Sakura* will start New Year operations on Jan. 4 (Sat) from 10:00 ~ 17:00. ※ Closed on Mondays as well as the first and third Tuesdays of every month.
- *Ichioka Japanese sweets parlor* will open from Jan. 1 (Wed/Holiday) until Jan. 10 (Fri) from 10:00 ~ 16:00. Will close on Jan. 11 (Sat). Closed on Sundays and public holidays.
- *Sakura City Tourism Association.* Closed from Jan. 1 (Wed., holiday) to Jan. 3 (Fri., holiday).

◆**Vermillion stamps' fees for each temple and shrine.**

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

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



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



ONE-DAY FREE ADMISSION ON JANUARY 2 (THURSDAY)

On this day, a free drink of amazake will be offered. You can also enjoy roasted sweet potatoes, omochi (rice cakes), tonjiru (pork soup) and other dishes which will be sold during the event at the old private house.

Parent and child soba making experience (Japanese noodles).

Date: January 19 (Sun) ① 10:00 ~ 12:00
 ② 13:00 ~ 15:00

Target: Elementary school students and above (beginners welcome).

Capacity: 8 groups per session (up to three people per group). **Fee:** 1,000 Yen per pair. Reservations start January 7 (Tue), from 9:00 ~

Kusabue-no-Oka General Information

☎485-7821 Open 9:00 ~ 17:00

The venue will close on Mondays until March 19 (or the following day if a Monday is a national holiday).

Admission fees: High school students and above: 410 Yen, Elementary and Jr. High School students: 100 Yen. Free for preschoolers.



THE ILLUMINATIONS IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT BRIGHTEN UP THE TOWN IN WINTER!

Sparkling illuminations will appear in each shopping district in the city. The colorful light art will envelop you in beauty and warmth on cold nights. Enjoy the fantastic world of light with your family and friends! There is also plenty of shopping and dining to enjoy, so please come along and have a heartwarming time! ※The period and other details below are current plans and may be subject to change.

Inquiries: Shōkō Shinkō-ka (Commerce and Industry Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6145



PLACE	PERIOD	ORGANIZATION
Yūkarigaoka Station, North Exit, (Around the pedestrian deck)	Until Sunday, February 16	Yūkarigaoka Shopping Association
Yūkarigaoka Station, South Exit (In front of the station and surrounding stores)		Yūkarigaoka Shopping District Promotion Association
JR Sakura Station, North Exit (Around the English Garden Square)	Until Tuesday, February 18	JR Sakura Station Omotechō Business Association
JR Sakura Station, South Exit (At the Rotary)	Until Friday, February 28	JR Sakura Minami Shopping Association
Keisei Usui Station, South Exit (Around the station square)		Usui District Merchants Association

Accepting Applications for Municipal Housing



Please see the application form for information on available units, application qualifications, rent, etc.

Date: January 16 (Thur) ~ January 31 (Fri), 8:45 ~ 17:00 hrs.

Recruitment information and application forms distribution locations: Housing Section, each branch office, Yatomi branch office, Nishishizu Service Center. At the Sakura Citizens' Service Center distribution begins on January 9 (Thur). **Deadline: January 31 (Fri).** Application form required. Please attach the necessary documents to the application form and bring them to the City Hall, Housing Section. Post mailed documents are not accepted.

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



Garbage Collection – New Year Schedule

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

◆ The New Year garbage collection schedule is as follows:

1 (Wed) ~ 3 (Fri)	No garbage collection
4 (Sat) *Special collection day.	Burnable garbage collection.
5 (Sun)	No garbage collection
6 (Mon)	Burnable garbage collection. The normal schedule starts.

◆ Please put out your garbage by 8:30 am on collection days. The waste should be put in the designated garbage bags.

◆ Please refrain from putting out the garbage the night before or on other than the designated days.

◆ On special collection days, items may be collected at different times than usual.

◆ Oversized garbage collection reservation starts from January 6th, (Mon). Please call the facility that corresponds to the area where you live. ※The telephone lines may be busy during the New Year period.

● **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.

You can carry oversized and other garbage by yourself into the **Shisui Recycle Bunka Center ☎496-7511**; open 8:30 ~ 11:30 & 13:00 ~ 16:30. The center restarts on January 6. A fee of 350 yen is charged for every 10 kg. of garbage. Please note that the fee will be charged even if you are using the city's designated bags.

● **Collection of human waste:** New Year reservations will begin on Monday, January 6, from 8:30 ~ 17:00. Please call: the section in charge indicated above.

ROUTINE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

The vaccination period for regular influenza vaccinations is until the end of January.

Fee: 1,500 Yen. **Target people:** ① Those aged 65 years old or older whose birthday is before January 1, 1960. ② Those aged 60~64 years old with a first-class disability certificate for heart, kidney, respiratory conditions etc. **Deadline:** For both, within and outside the city, until January 31 (Fri). ※The period for vaccinations outside the city has been extended until January 31, 2025.

※Vaccinations outside this period are not covered by public funds.

Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎312-7688



FRAILTY PREVENTION CLASS

Learn the secrets of keeping a healthy mouth and diet!

Dates: First session: January 28 (Tue). Second session: February 4 (Tue). Both sessions from 13:30 ~ 16:00 (Reservation required).

Place: At the Millennium Center Sakura.

Class contents: To stay healthy and live a long life, it is important to chew and eat properly but these important factors are often overlooked. You can have fun learning about preventing frailty by focusing on diet and function of the mouth and teeth in old age.

Target & Capacity: For citizens, 18 persons, those who can participate on both sessions, first-come, first-served. **Deadline:** January 17 (Fri).

Inquiries: Kōreisha Fukushi-ka (Senior Citizens Welfare Section) ☎484-6343

Monthly Free Legal Consultations for Foreign Residents (Muryō Hōritsu Sōdan)

◆ Reservation Required. ◆ Interpreters available on request (Please call at least 10 days in advance).

◆ First-come, first-served basis.

① For Legal matters, divorce, accident, inheritance, labor problems. ② Immigration, visa, business.

January 10 (Fri) ① January 20 (Mon) ① ②
February 3 (Mon) ① February 17 (Mon) ①
March 3 (Mon) ① March 17 (Mon) ① ②

CHIBA INTERNATIONAL CENTER (CHIBA KEN KOKUSAI KORYU CENTER) ☎043-297-2966
〒261-8501 Chiba-shi, Mihama-ku Nakase 1-3 Makuhari Techno Garden (MTG) D Bldg. 14th Floor

Consultation Service for Foreigners in Sakura City

The Sakura International Exchange Foundation offers consultation services on various lifestyle issues. (On working days – 10:00~16:00)
Interpretation is provided into languages such as English, Chinese, Spanish, Dari (Afghan dialect of Farsi) and Persian.

If you need interpretation services, it is required to make a reservation in advance. Please contact:
Sakura Kokusai Kōryū Kikin (Sakura International Exchange Foundation) ☎484-6326