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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.

FRESHLY HARVESTED! FRESHLY PREPARED! SCHOOL-STYLE LUNCHES FILLED WITH HEARTFELT THOUGHTS!

SAKURA CITY PROVIDES SCHOOL LUNCHES AT ALL ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS!

One of the joys of school life for children is school lunches. Sakura City has implemented a “school-style school lunch” system in which nutrition teachers and nutritionists assigned to each school create menus and provide unique school lunches at all Elementary and Junior High Schools in the city. In addition to being able to provide hot and delicious meals quickly, the school’s own school lunches also contribute greatly to the growth of the children in Sakura City.

Inquiries: Shidō-ka (School Guidance Section) ☎ 484-6193



THE APPEAL OF SAKURA CITY’S SCHOOL LUNCHES!

School lunch programs began in earnest in 1954 with the enactment of the School Lunch Act. At that time, the main purpose of school lunches was to provide nutrition, but in recent years, due to the diversification of our lifestyles, the environment surrounding food has changed significantly. In this context, it is recognized that food plays an important role in fostering children’s rich humanity and equipping them with the power to live. As a result, school lunches are now viewed not only as a means of nutritional supplementation but also as an opportunity for food education or “shokuiku” which relates to teaching children about food.

In Sakura City’s self-managed school lunches, nutritionists, who are regularly assigned to each Elementary and Junior High Schools, are in charge of designing the lunch menus. Since nutritionists are familiar figures to the children and arrange the ingredients with knowledge of their backgrounds, it becomes easier to implement practical food education related to the meals.

The schools utilize the natural blessings of Sakura in school lunches:

Since each school arranges its own ingredients, it is easier to use locally produced ingredients from nearby farms, which contributes to providing safe and reliable lunches. Additionally, nutritionists at each school can directly communicate the importance of food to the children.

FOOD EDUCATION THROUGH DISTINCTIVE SCHOOL LUNCHES.

Did you know that it was Tsuda Sen, an agricultural scholar from the former Sakura Domain, who introduced western vegetables like broccoli and asparagus to Japan? In schools within the city, on or around April 24th, which is the anniversary of his death, a special school lunch called “Tsuda Sen Kyūshoku” is offered, featuring a menu centered on the western vegetables that Sen helped popularize.

In addition, there is the “Clara Menu” (held every December), named after Clara Whitney, who, upon receiving Tsuda’s consultation on spreading western vegetables, published a cookbook called “Easy Western Cooking”.



➡ At Nago Elementary School, a special menu called “Tsuda Sen school lunch” created by the students based on what they learned about Tsuda Sen, was provided. The menu of the day included “Sen’s vegetable gratin” made with western vegetables and “strawberry panna cotta”. In fact, Tsuda Sen was also the first to successfully cultivate strawberries in Japan!

Food education is not only for children. Acquiring knowledge about food, learning to make informed food choices and discovering local attractions and culture through food are essential skills for all generations. For more details on the city’s food education initiatives, please refer to the QRC➡



**Inquiries: Nōsei-ka (Agricultural Policy Section)
☎ 484-6142**

The 42nd Sakura Marathon

Commemorating the renovation of the Yoshio Koide Memorial Athletics Stadium

Date: Sunday, March 30 from 9:00 ~ 15:30 (scheduled), rain or shine.

Tournament Schedule:

9:00 – Opening Ceremony

9:30 – Full marathon starts

9:50 – 3 km race

10:30 – 10 km race

Place: At the Iwana Sports Park, Yoshio Koide Memorial Athletics Stadium ~ Imbanuma area.

※The registration for the marathon tournament is now closed

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)

IWANA SPORTS PARK FACILITIES HAVE REOPENED AFTER RENOVATION!



The renovation work on the Yoshio Koide Memorial Stadium has been completed and the venue is now accepting visitors. The new blue tartan color used in the renovation is said to have a relaxing effect and tends to help players perform to their full potential.

SPORTS MUSEUM

In addition to exhibits related to Shigeo Nagashima and Naoko Takahashi, more information signs have been added to the museum. For

details on how to use each facility, please see the Iwana Sports Park website →

Inquiries: Iwana Sports Park ☎483-0131



SPRING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

~Because we have a future to protect, let's be careful about fire ~

As we approach the season when fires are more likely to occur, the "Spring Nationwide Fire Prevention Campaign" will be held for seven days from March 1st. To protect your precious lives and property, take this period to inspect your residential fire alarms and replace any broken or worn-out equipment. Also, review your home fire prevention measures, such as installing earthquake-sensitive breakers to prevent electrical fires.

Inquiries: Sakura City, Yachimata City, Shisui Town Fire Department Association ☎481-0136

Sakura Castle Town Kimono Walk



Dates: Every Sunday from March 9 to April 13.

Also, on March 20 (Thur, National Holiday)

Time: 10:00~13:00 (reception every 30 minutes). **Application required.**

Place: At the Former Hirai Residence.

Fees:

4,000 Yen - Jr. High School students and above.

3,000 Yen - Elementary School students and below.

2,000 Yen - Own kimono dressed by oneself.

Special course: 8,000 Yen - Includes guidance to Makata Shrine and the Samurai Residences. (Only for Junior High School students and above. 6,000 Yen for participants wearing own kimono).

◆Participants will be admitted to the Former Lord Hotta Residence, Samurai Residences and Juntendo Memorial Museum for free on the days of the event.

Inquiries: Sakura Ichirizuka ☎080-1008-4579.

Fax 489-7844 or email: ☐ yksaku411115@nifty.com

Section in charge: Sakura-no-Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion Section)

☎ 484-6146



ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING KUSABUE-NO-OKA

Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka, a facility that has been directly managed by the city, will be operated by Hibiya Amenis East Kanto Branch as the designated manager starting April. Those who have made reservations by the end of March for use from April onwards, will have their reservation information carried over, so in principle, there is no need to make a reservation again. ※The designated manager may contact you if necessary.

For inquiries, please call Kusabue-no-Oka

☎ 485-7821

MARCH IS "SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH" Mental health consultations and lectures

Suicide is not the result of an individual's will or choice, but occurs when health, family or financial problems are involved and the person is driven to a psychological corner. Please do not keep your worries to yourself or your family members, but contact us for advice.

◆Mental Health Consultation (Application required) The city offers consultations by specialist doctors and clinical psychologists. For details, please see the city's website →

◆Consultation counter provided by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. We accept consultations regarding mental health issues via telephone, LINE, etc. Please search for: [mamorōyo kokoro] (Protect your Heart) on the internet and use the service.

◆Lecture: Learn and think about the difficulties facing young people.

March 9 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 11:30

Please see the website for details. →



Inquiries: Health Promotion Section ☎312-8228

SHIN♦MACHI MARKET WILL BE HELD! Buy, eat, see, play!



Date & Time: March 15 (Sat) From 10:00 ~ 15:00 (Cancelled in case of rain)

Place: Sakura Shinmachi street. Access: About a 10 minute-walk from Keisei Sakura Station and approximately a 20 minute-walk from JR Sakura Station.

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

The Sakura Jidai Festival will be transformed into Shin-Machi Market! Made up of five areas, you can enjoy shopping, eating, seeing and playing at the many delicious local gourmet and craft shops. You can also enjoy watching the Sakura Bayashi music performances and Sakura Ondo parades. Please check the details of the event on the website →
Other planned events include the unveiling of the Shin-mobile library and a stamp rally. Why not spending a memorable day on Shinmachi Street?



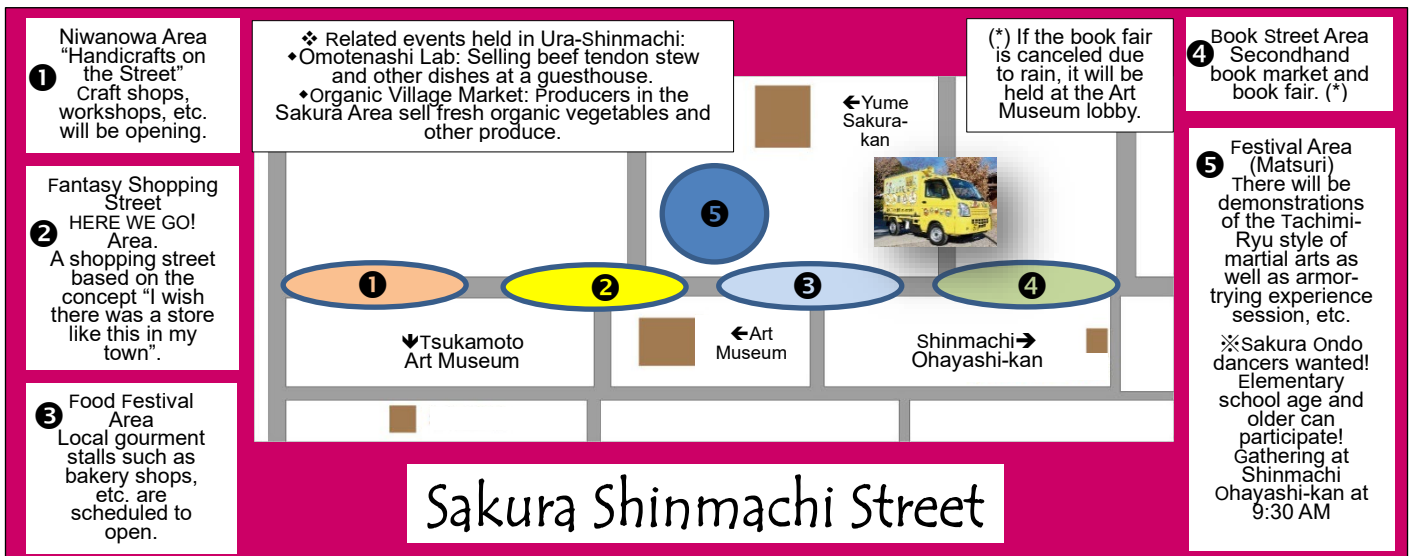
NOTICE OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS DURING SHIN-MACHI MARKET

Due to the event, traffic restrictions will apply as follows: March 15 (Sat) 8:30 ~ 16:30 (scheduled).

◆Buses detour times: 8:00 ~ 17:00

In addition, parking lots 1 and 2 at Yume Sakura-kan will be closed from 20:00 on March 14 (Fri) until the entire day of Saturday, March 15

Thank you for your cooperation.



THANK YOU, DIC KAWAMURA MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF ART !

Since its opening in 1990, the Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art has been highly praised as a museum, boasting an extensive garden and one of the finest collections in the country. It has made a significant contribution to the promotion of culture and the arts in the city as well as revitalizing the local community. Unfortunately, the museum itself will be closing at the end of March but we would like to express our sincere gratitude for its contributions to the city over the past 34 years.

<< Exhibition Information >>

1990 ~ 2025 Works, Architecture, Nature

Based on the concept of harmony between artwork, architecture and nature which has been important since the museum's founding, approximately 180 artworks will be exhibited in the gardens and in all of the museum's exhibition rooms. Enjoy your encounter in a space that has been carefully designed for both the artworks and the viewer.

Period: Until Monday, March 31.

Opening hours: 9:30~17:00 (Admittance until 16:30). Closed on Mondays (Open on the last day, March 31 (Mon)).

Admission fees: 1,800 for adults, 1,600 for students and those aged 65 and over. Free for High School students and younger.

Inquiries: Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art ☎ 050-5541-8600



Sakura City, a town colored with Cherry Blossoms!

March 15 (Sat) ~ April 6 (Sun) at the Castle Town Area in Sakura City

This year as well, in collaboration with Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd., we will be holding this tourism campaign. The signboards at Keisei Sakura Station, Sakura City Hall and Sakura Castle Ruins Park will be updated in a "cherry blossoms" version. There will also be cherry blossoms-themed merchandise for sale and a mystery-solving rally that you can enjoy while touring the city! Anyone who solves all the puzzles will receive an original postcard filled with all the city's famous sights!



Rally details:

Starting point: Outside the ticket gates at Keisei Sakura Station. **Time period:** 9:00 ~ 17:00

Required time: About 2 hours.

Prize exchange place: At the Tourist Information Center in front of Keisei Sakura St. **Free of charge!**

※The difficulty level is set so that children in lower grades of elementary school and younger can enjoy the game with the help of a guardian.

Free Shuttle Bus Information:

During the period, on weekends and holidays, a free shuttle bus will operate between the north exit of Keisei Sakura Station and the Castle Ruins Park.

Inquiries: Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion



TEMPORARY BENEFITS AGAINST RISING PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLDS EXEMPT FROM RESIDENT TAX



In light of the increased burden caused by rising prices, the city will provide grants to households that are exempt from resident tax and are feeling the greatest hardship.

① Additional payment for households not subject to resident tax in fiscal year 2024.

Benefit amount: 30,000 Yen per household.

Target: Heads of households who are registered as residents in the city as of December 13, 2024 and whose members are exempt from resident tax for 2024.

< Households not eligible for the payment >

◆ Those that are exempt from resident tax in 2024 and that have received support from other municipalities similar to Sakura City's 30,000 Yen grant or that include a former head of the household.

◆ Dependents of those who are subject to resident tax.

◆ Those who qualify for tax exemption under a tax treaty.

< Procedure method >

① If you are the head of a household eligible for the benefit, have a government-registered account for receiving public funds or an account in your name that received the previous benefit and meet certain requirements, a "Payment Notice" was sent by the end of January.

② For other heads of households who are deemed eligible for payment, a "Payment Requirements Confirmation Form" may have been sent by the end of February. Please fill out the required information, attach the necessary documents and submit them.

※ There are cases where an application is required regardless of whether or not a confirmation letter was sent.

② Additional child allowance for households exempt from residence tax in fiscal year 2024.

Additional amount: 20,000 per eligible child.

Target: Heads of households with children under the age of 18 (born after April 2, 2006 as of December 13, 2024).

< Procedure method >

As a general rule, the additional child allowance amount is included in the "Payment Notice" or "Payment Requirements Confirmation Form" indicated in ① on the left.

< Special exceptions >

※ Households that fall under item ① and have children who fall under any of the following categories can also be eligible for item ② upon application.

◆ Children under 18 years of age (born after April 2, 2006) who are not living in the same household as the applicant but share the same livelihood as the head of the household on the reference date.

◆ Children born on or after December 14, 2024.

< Common Matters >

Deadline: June 13 (Fri) (postmark deadline).

※ The payment will take approximately one and a half months from the time of application.

※ For more details, please see the city's website ↓

※ There have been many cases of people dialing the wrong number. Please be careful.

Inquiries: Shakai Fukushima, Rinji Tokubetsu Kyūfukin (Social Welfare Section, Temporary Special Benefits)

☎ 484-6496 FAX 486-2503



APPLICATIONS FOR THE FY 2024 SHORT-TERM HEALTH AND BRAIN CHECKUPS SUBSIDIES (NINGEN DOCK AND Nō DOCK) WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 31 (MONDAY)

Target: Those who are insured under Sakura City's National Health Insurance (20 years of age or older) or those who are insured under Sakura City's Medical Care for the Elderly and who went through the following checkups between April 1, 2024 ~ March 31, 2025:

◆ Short-term Health Checkup:

Those who are undergoing a short-term health checkup that includes specified items (equivalent to a specific medical checkup 「Tokutei Kenshin」). ※ Those who had their specific health checkup conducted in fiscal year 2024 are not eligible.

◆ Brain checkup:

Those who have received the FY2024 short-term health checkup subsidy (including those who undergo a short-term health checkup at the same time as a brain checkup) or those who have undergone a specific health checkup implemented in FY 2024 and are undergoing a brain checkup including a head MRI and a head MRA.

The subsidy amount is within one-half of the examination fees:

For the short-term health checkup up to 15,000 Yen.

For the brain checkup, up to 10,000 Yen.

Deadline: March 31 (Monday) ※ Application must arrive by this date.

How to apply: Fill out the application form available at the Health Insurance Section and at each branch office, stamp it and mail or bring it to the section in charge at the City Hall.

Inquiries: Health Insurance Section ☎ 484-6604

Late-Stage Elderly Medical Care ☎ 484-6136

NOTICE REGARDING VACCINATIONS

Common matters:

①②③ **Deadline:** March 31 (Monday)

Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section)

☎ 312-7688

① Routine vaccination for COVID 19 in Fiscal Year 2024 will close by the end of the month.

Please see the website for details →

Place: At cooperative medical institutions in

The City and the prefecture. **Fee:** 3,500 Yen. For

people 65 years old and above (Those born before April 1, 1960) or 60-64 years old who hold a Class 1 Physical Disability Certificate for heart, kidney or respiratory function.

② Measles-Rubella (MR) second-stage routine vaccination ends this month.

Place: At cooperative medical institutions in the City and the prefecture. For eligible children born on April 2, 2018 ~ April 1, 2019.

③ Cervical Cancer Vaccination Cost Subsidy.

Those who paid for the cervical cancer vaccine by themselves between the first day of the year they turn 17 years old and March 31, 2022 may be eligible for a partial refund. Please see the website for details ↗

Subsidy amount: 20,000 Yen per vaccination. For women born between April 2, 1997 ~ April 1, 2005.

④ Partial subsidy for mumps vaccination costs.

Please see the website for details →

Subsidy amount: Maximum 3,000 Yen. For 1~2 years old (12~36 months of age) and Vaccinated on or after April 1, 2024.

Deadline: Within one year from the date of vaccination.

