



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 **Mondays**, in Spanish on **Thursdays** and in Chinese on **Fridays**, through *Kōhō-ka*, City Hall. Except these days, inquiries 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.

## CONSULTATION PARTNER IN THE LOCAL AREA

### Creating a community where people can live with peace of mind!

In addition to the declining birthrate and aging population as well as the continuing decline in population, the problems of daily life are becoming increasingly complex, such as social isolation and poverty among the elderly and family with children.

In this article, we will introduce the “welfare commissioners and child welfare commissioners” who are active as familiar people to consult with in the community.

**Inquiries: Shakai Fukushi-ka (Social Welfare Section)**  
☎484-6135



#### What are welfare commissioners and child welfare commissioners?



The welfare commissioners are part-time local government officials appointed by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare under the Welfare Commissioners Act. In addition, they also serve as child welfare commissioners under the Child Welfare Act.

As part of a network of local residents, they watch over the elderly and people with disabilities in their assigned areas and talk to children.

They respond to consultations about various concerns in daily life and act as a link to specialized local institutions so that people can receive the support they need according to the nature of their concerns.

※ Among the welfare commissioners and child welfare commissioners, there are “Chief commissioners of child welfare” who do not have a specific area of responsibility but specialize in providing consultation and support regarding children and child rearing.



Welfare Commissioners and Child Welfare Commissioners (Usui District)

#### Main activities of welfare commissioners and child welfare commissioners.



We also hold monthly meetings where we exchange information with colleagues.

- ◆ Provide consultation to residents. We offer consultations by visiting residents at their homes or over the phone.
- ◆ Providing information on welfare systems, etc. We listen to the requests of residents and their families and provide information on necessary services.
- ◆ Contact and referral to relevant organizations. At the request of the person or their family seeking advice, we will contact the relevant institutions and take the necessary steps to ensure that the necessary services are received.
- ◆ Lifestyle support (monitoring). For those who need it, we will provide monitoring together with family or neighbors.
- ◆ Promoting community welfare. We participate in local welfare activities and value our connections with local people.

#### You can consult about the following problems.

If you have any worries or problems in your daily life, you can consult with your local welfare commissioner or child welfare commissioner. They are bound by the “obligation of confidentiality” under the Welfare Commissioner Law so that residents can consult with them with peace of mind. If you don't know who the commissioner in your area is, please contact the Social Welfare Section ☎484-6135.



# May Festival at Kusabue-no-Oka!

May 3 (Sat, Nat. Holiday) to  
May 5 (Mon, Nat. Holiday)

Come and enjoy the graceful swimming of "Koinobori", the famous large carp streamers as well as the popular children's air playground equipment "Fuwafuwa" and magic shows! Make some fun memories at Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka this Golden Week!

## May 3 ~ 5 (Daily events)

- ◆Fuwafuwa air playground (200 Yen). 10:00~16:00
- ◆Fluffy soap bubble experience (From 500 Yen~) 10:00~15:00
- ◆Crafts (300 Yen) 10:00~15:00
- ◆Outdoors sports experience 10:00~15:00
- ◆Observation of wildflowers ① 10:30 ② 14:00
- Only on May 3 (Sat, holiday)**
- ◆Firefighters band performance 10:30 ~ 11:15
- Only on May 4 (Sun, holiday)**
- ◆ Magic show by Trick Master "Sora" ① 11:00 ~, ② 13:00 ~, ③ 15:00 ~.
- Only on May 5 (Mon, holiday)**
- ◆Fire ladder truck experience and fire extinguisher experience 10:00~12:00

**PARK INFORMATION: 9:00 ~ 18:00**  
(16:30 is last admission)

★ Free for kindergarten age children and younger. ★ 100 Yen for elementary and Jr. high school children. ★ 410 Yen for adults and youths of high school age.

**Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka**  
☎ 485-7821

## The 12<sup>th</sup> Sakura Auto History Forum

May 6 (Tue - Nat. Holiday)  
From 9:30 to 15:00

(The event will proceed if it rains but it will be cancelled if it's stormy).



Approximately 100 famous cars from Japan and abroad as well as vintage motorcycles will gather at Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka! Admission to the exhibit is free but entrance fee to the park applies.

**Inquiries: Sakura Motor Club (Someya)**  
☎ 090-6517-3152



# Rose Festival

May 10 (Sat) ~ June 1 (Sun)

Kusabue-no-Oka Rose Garden is home to around 2,500 rose plants of 1,250 varieties, mainly wild roses as well as old roses. During the period, there will be garden concerts and various events related to roses. (Events not listed are free of charge. Admission fees apply to all events)

## Garden Concerts (At the Old Rose Garden):

- ♀ Yūnami Live Concert, May 18 (Sun) from 13:30~.
- ♀ Piano concert by Aki Suitō, May 10 (Sat) & 25 (Sun). ① 11:30~, ② 13:30~.
- ♀ Concert by the accordion ensemble "Fūsha", May 14 (Wed) 17 (Sat), 21 (Wed) & 31 (Sat). ① 11:00~, ② 13:30~

## Free bus service:



A free special bus will operate on the days of the event from the north exit of Keisei Sakura St. to Kusabue-no-Oka on Saturdays and Sundays.

## Tolepainting Lessons

Class experience painting roses on flower keychains, etc. and sales of works.

**Days:** May 10 (Sat) ~ 20 (Tue), 22 (Thur) ~ 25(Sun).

**Time:** 10:00 ~ 12:00, 13:00 ~ 15:00

**Fees:** 400 Yen ~ 1,000 Yen

## Clay craft goods

Experience and sale of roses made from lightweight soft clay in frames, wreaths, etc. and sales of works.

**Days:** May 10 (Sat) ~ 13 (Tue), 15 (Thur) ~ 19 (Mon), 24 (Sat), 25 (Sun).

**Time:** 10:00 to 15:00 **Fee:** 300 Yen ~



## CULTURE AND FOOD! INTRODUCING EVENTS WHERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE FEELING OF BEING A SAMURAI

### SAMURAI TRY-ON ARMOR EVENT

The armor comes in three sizes, large, medium and small so even children can try them on! Become a samurai in the place where the Sakura feudal lords spent their time!

**Date and time:** May 5 (Mon/Holiday) 10:00~12:00 and 13:00~15:00.

**Place:** Bukei-ya Shiki (Samurai residence)

**Fares:** Adults 200 Yen, Students 100 Yen.

**Notes:** Reservation in advance not required. Admission fees to the residence apply, Adults 250 Yen and Students 120 Yen.

**Inquiries:** Bunka-ka (Culture Section) ☎484-6192

### SAKURA SAMURAI RICE BURGER AT SAKURA CITY HALL CAFETERIA!

Sakura is a town full of historical atmosphere, with samurai residences, the former Hotta residence and Hiyodorizaka Hill, conveying the atmosphere of the Edo period to the present day.

A healthy yet filling rice burger made with Sakura's specialty products, Yamato yam and lotus root, will be available at the Sakura City Hall cafeteria until Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Reservation orders are recommended as quantities are limited.

**Inquires: Sakura City Hall Cafeteria, ☎312-8895 and Jinji-ka (Human Resources Section) ☎484-6104**





# SAKURA CITY'S MAIN INITIATIVES FOR THIS YEAR

Aging population, declining birthrate, climate change... The environment surrounding local governments is changing dramatically and Sakura City is no exception. One month has passed since the start of this fiscal year 2025. We would like to introduce the main projects that we are working on to make Sakura City a livable city filled with smiles and chosen by many people, funded by the taxes paid by everyone!

**Inquiries: Kikaku Seisaku-ka (Planning and Policy Section) ☎ 484-6017**

## Priority Measure I: Regional Revitalization Initiatives – Four Strategies.

- ① We aim to promote the vitality of the local economy and provide attractive job opportunities.
- ② We will promote the charms of Sakura, creating a flow of people and encouraging them to settle here.
- ③ Fulfilling citizens' hopes for marriage, childbirth and child-rearing.
- ④ Creating a town where people can continue to live happily and with peace of mind.

## Priority Measure II: Three Pillars of Climate Change Response.

- ◆Fostering civic awareness. ◆Promoting adaptation measures. ◆Promoting mitigation measures.



## TOWARDS REALIZING THE VISION OF “KOREKARA MO SAKU, SAKURA”(SAKURA WILL CONTINUE TO BLOOM!) WE WILL CONTINUE PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENTIRE SAKURA COMMUNITY!

The fiscal year 2024 was a year in which “a lot of young talents began to blossom and shine”, and we took a new step towards realizing a “sustainable city of Sakura” with hope for the future. We are convinced that the fact that events such as the “Commemorative Ceremony” and the “Sakura Youth Cultural Festival”, successfully completed through the comprehensive partnership agreement concluded with five prefectural schools in the city on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the city's establishment, is the result of the students demonstrating the ideas and drive unique to young people. In the year 2025, we will continue to strive to develop human resources who will lead the future of Sakura City and will continue to work with the citizens to promote city development together with all of Sakura, in order to realize the slogan “Korekara mo Saku, Sakura” (Sakura will continue to bloom!)



*(Excerpt from Mayor Nishita's Policy Speech  
at the February 2025 regular meeting of the Sakura City Council).*

## Sakura City – Digital City Hall

**MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE CONVENIENT WITH A  
DIGITAL CITY HALL THAT IS ALWAYS CONNECTED!**



**Inquiries: Jōhō Shisutemu-ka (Information Systems  
Section) ☎ 484-6107**

We have launched the “Sakura City Digital City Hall” portal site, which brings together the city's digital services. Please access the website to view the digital services that are convenient for your daily life such as procedures that can be completed from your smartphone or computer without having to go to the city hall, so please take a look!

### ▶ONLINE PROCEDURE SERVICE:

You can apply for administrative procedures such as child care and nursing care, as well as various events and courses, without having to worry about city hall opening hours.

### ▶GUIDE SERVICE ON LIFE PROCEDURES

You can check online for the necessary documents and other procedures for moving out, life events such as marriage, birth, early childhood education and childcare.



We have created a Sakura City Digital Handbook that clearly summarizes the operating procedures for each digital service. It is distributed at public facilities within the city and made available on the portal site “Sakura City Digital City Hall”.



## BICYCLE HELMETS – PARTIAL SUBSIDY

Helmets that meet the following safety certifications and are purchased between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026 will be subsidized to cover part of the cost.

◆ Supported helmets are: SG mark, JCF mark, CE mark (only EN1078), GS mark, CPSC mark (CPSC 1203 only).

◆ Subsidy amount: Half of the helmet purchase cost (up to 2,000 Yen). One helmet per user and subsidy only once (no age restrictions).

※ There are conditions to obtain the grant. For details on the conditions, required documents, application procedures, etc. please check the city's website

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



## FY 2025 LIGHT VEHICLE TAX



A light vehicle tax is levied for any light vehicle (including mopeds, small bikes, small-sized special vehicles, and three- and four-wheeled light vehicles) as of April 1 each year. Tax payment notices will be sent around May 9 (Fri).

**The deadline for light vehicle tax payment is:  
June 2 (Monday).**

◆Please call the section in charge for inquiries about other type of vehicles.  
Shiminzei-ka ☎ 484-6114



**Inquiries about taxation details:**  
Shiminzei-ka (Municipal tax section) ☎ 484-6114  
**Inquiries about tax consultation:**  
Saiken Kanri-ka (Credit Management Section)  
☎ (484) 6118

# VACCINATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

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

**Common information:** If you apply using the city's pre-examination form, the vaccination will be free of charge. ♦ Only for the elderly, the pneumococcal vaccination is 3,000 Yen. For details, please see the city's website →



● **Measles-rubella (MR) vaccination.**

▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> period. Target: Nursery school/kindergarten children born between April 2, 2019 and April 1, 2020.  
▶ Special measures (Infants and school children). Target: those who fall under categories ① or ② below, and those who were unable to receive the vaccination within fiscal year 2024.

① Children born between April 2, 2022 and April 1, 2023.

② Children born between April 2, 2018 and April 1, 2019.

※You can use the "Vaccination Pre-examination Form" that you will receive from the city after submitting the birth notification.

▶ Special measures (Adults). Target: Males born between April 2, 1962 and April 1, 1979 who were found to be in need of vaccination based on the results of a rubella antibody test conducted between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2025, but were unable to receive the MR vaccine within fiscal year 2024 due to uneven distribution of the vaccine. To apply, please access the application service →



● **Cervical cancer vaccination.**

Target: Girls born between April 2, 2009 and April 1, 2014.

Eligible for the catch-up vaccination transitional measure: Women born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2009 who received at least one dose of the cervical cancer vaccine between April 2, 2022 and March 31, 2025.

● **Pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly.**

Cost: 3,000 Yen. Target: those who have never received a pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly and fall under any of the following categories ① or ②.

① Those who are 65 years old on the day of vaccination.

② Those aged 60-64 years old with heart, kidney, respiratory or immune dysfunction as of the date of vaccination, and who hold a Class 1 Disability Certificate.

How to apply: If you fall under category ①, we will send you a pre-vaccination form around the end of the month on your birthday. If you fall under category ② and would like to be vaccinated, please contact us.

● **Japanese encephalitis interim vaccination.**

Target: Those born between April 2, 2005 and April 1, 2007 and under the age of 20 on the day of vaccination.

## WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM MEDICAL CHECKUPS AND BRAIN CHECKUPS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

If you are an insured person under Sakura City's National Health Insurance (20 years of age or older) or an insured person under Sakura City's Medical Care for the Elderly, and you undergo a short-term medical checkup or brain checkup between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 (Tue) and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Tuesday), we will subsidize part of the examination costs.

### Target examination content:

◆ **Short-term medical checkup.**

Those who undergo a short-term medical checkup that includes specified items (equivalent to a specific medical checkup [health examination]). ※Those who underwent a specific medical checkup (health examination) implemented in fiscal year 2025 are not eligible.

**Grant amount:** Up to half the cost of the examination (up to 15,000 Yen)

◆ **Brain checkup.**

Those who have received the FY2025 short-term medical checkup subsidy (including those who undergo a short-term medical checkup at the same time as a brain checkup) or those who have undergone a specific health checkup (health examination) implemented in FY2025 and are undergoing a brain checkup including a head MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) and a head MRA (cerebral angiography).

**Grant amount:** Up to half the cost of the examination (up to 10,000 Yen).

**Deadline:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Tue) (Must arrive by this date). Please apply as soon as the examination date is decided.

**How to apply:** Fill out the application form available at the Health Insurance Section and at each branch office. You can bring it directly to the City Hall, Health Insurance Section, or send it by mail to:

〒285-8501 Sakura City Hall, Kenkō Hoken-ka (Health Insurance Section).

※Those who have outstanding insurance tax (fees) payments are not eligible to apply. For details, please see the city's website →

**Inquiries: Kokumin Kenkō Hoken (National Health Insurance) ☎484-6604  
Kōki Kōreisha Iryō Hoken (Late-stage Elderly Medical Insurance) ☎484-6136**

For those covered  
by National  
Health Insurance →



For those covered  
by Late-stage Elderly  
Medical Insurance →

