

October 2025

Reiwa 7



HELLO SAKURA

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

10月
No.431

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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 **Mondays**, 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 City Hall and/or other city facilities. Therefore, when making inquiries, please be accompanied by someone who speaks Japanese as needed.

SAKURA NO AKI MATSURI

Sakura Autumn Festival

October 10 (Fri) ~ 12 (Sun)
From 15:00 to 22:00 on all three days



This traditional festival, continuing since the Edo period, will be held for three days again this year. Gorgeous floats and portable shrines will parade through the castle town, filling the streets with excitement to the sounds of the Sakura festival music.

● Traffic restrictions (road closures for vehicles and detouring bus routes) will be implemented as shown in the diagram →

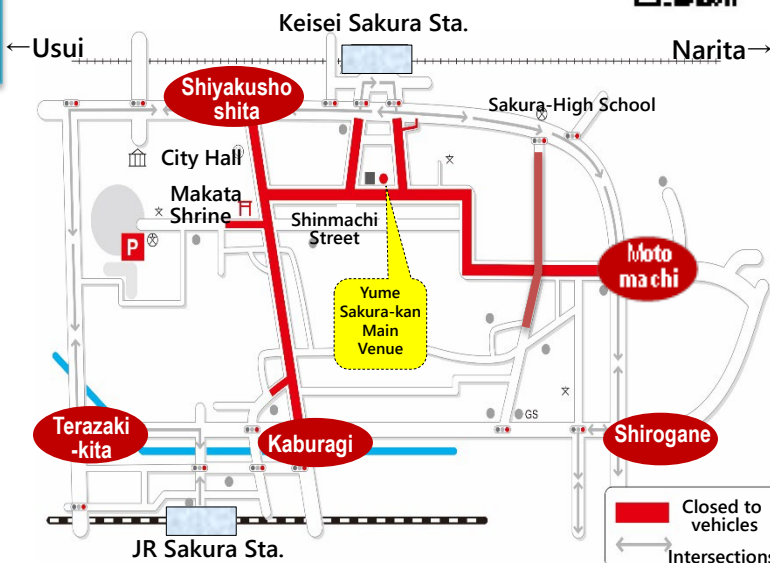
● Congestion is expected on surrounding roads, so please use public transportation.

● Please refrain from riding bicycles in restricted areas.

● Even those who live within the restricted areas will not be able to drive their cars.

● Yume Sakura-kan parking lot No. 1 will be closed from October 9 (Thur) until 13 (Mon, Nat. Holiday). Parking lot No. 2 will also be closed from October 9 (Thur) 5 pm until October 12 (Sun).

This year, all floats, sacred sake floats and mikoshi shrines will be equipped with GPS. Scan the QRC at the venue to check your location on your smartphone.



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

AUTUMN FESTIVAL CALENDARS ON SALE! Price: 1,000 Yen, limited to 600 copies. Sales locations/inquiries:
① Sakura City Tourism Association ② Sakura Chamber of Commerce ③ Makata Shrine

SAKURA FILM COMMISSION - INITIATIVES TO CREATE A STAGE TOWN.

The "Film Commission" aims to "spread the charms of Sakura both domestically and internationally".

Sakura is a charming city where history, nature and culture coexist. The historic castle town has been designated a Japan Heritage Site, and the abundant nature surrounding Imbanuma Lake offers a soothing atmosphere to all who visit. However, while these charms may be well known to residents, they may not be fully conveyed to people outside the city. Sharing and promoting these attractions is the role of the Film Commission.

For details of the initiative, please see the city's website and the Sakura City Filming Location Map (available from the City's Attractiveness Promotion Section).

Inquiries: Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City Attractiveness Promotion Section)
☎ 484-6541



What is a film commission?

This is an initiative that attracts location shoots for movies, TV dramas, commercials, etc., while providing support so that filming can proceed smoothly. Sakura City has been fully implementing this film commission project since 2018 and as of 2023, more than 100 filming projects have taken place in the city annually! By being used as a filming location, Sakura benefits in many ways: it can attract more tourists through increased recognition from movies and dramas, and for residents, the fact that "my town became the setting for this work" makes it a place to take pride in.

So many productions, works filmed in Sakura!

A wide range of productions -including dramas, films and commercials- have been shot throughout the city. To support filming, the city provides assistance to production teams to ensure smooth progress and helps arrange filming locations. To date, the number of filming projects carried out in Sakura has reached more than 440!

A CENTURY OF SOUNDS ECHOING IN SAKURA THE CHARM OF STREET ORGANS

Did you know that Sakura Harmony Hall has three street organs?

These colorfully decorated, hand-cranked instruments have entertained people on the streets of the Netherlands and other parts of Europe. Through these street organs, the city aims to spread the joy of music and the appeal of different cultures.

Inquiries: Sakura Harmony Hall ☎461-6221

The street organs resonates through time in Sakura.

The street organs in Sakura Harmony Hall, which have been featured on TV, are attracting increasing attention. At concerts held at least once a month, you can hear the sounds of all three organs. Each has its own character, with different decorations and tones, so comparing them and finding your favorite is highly recommended.

The street organs are used in concerts and events as part of the city's efforts to promote arts and culture and revitalize the community. Although many years have passed since the three organs were built, they are maintained annually by specialists, and concertgoers often comment on their beautiful sound. Looking ahead, we hope to bring joy to even more people by adding books (music rolls) of the latest popular songs and trying new approaches, such as collaborative performances with other instruments. Please come to Sakura Harmony Hall and enjoy a delightful time with music!



Street organ concert schedule.

◆October 11 (Sat) Noon ~
◆November 1 (Sat) and December 13 (Sat) (The time is to be decided)
※Each session lasts approximately 20~30 minutes. The above dates are subject to change. Please check the city's website or call us before visiting.
A video (Sakura City official YouTube channel ↑) provides a detailed introduction to the rarely seen internal structure of the instruments.



Kusabue-no-Oka Autumn Events!

◆**Model train operation, Pla-rail play.** October 11 (Sat) ~ 13 (Mon, Nat. Holiday) ① 9:30 ~ 10:30
② 11:00 ~ Noon. ③ 13:30 ~ 15:30.

◆**Rose garden event.** Enjoy rose viewing from mid-October to early November. Please check the flowering status before visiting.

◆**Rose garden guided tour.** October 18 (Sat) ~ Nov. 3 (Mon, Nat. Holiday) 11:00 ~ 11:45 ※Cancelled in rainy weather. Capacity: 10 people. Closed on Mondays.

Inquiries: Bara-en Kanri-shitsu (Rose Garden Management office) ☎080-1239-6992

◆**'Fusha' Accordion ensemble concert.** October 18 (Sat) & 19 (Sun) ① 11:00 ~ ② 13:30 ~

◆**Tole painting lessons & sales.** October 18 (Sat) & 19 (Sun), November 2 (Sun) & 3 (Mon, Nat. Holiday) ① 10:00 ~ Noon ② 13:00 ~ 15:00. Cost: 400 Yen ~ 1,000 Yen.

◆**Clay crafts lessons & sales.** October 18 (Sat), 19 (Sun), 25 (Sat), 26 (Sun). November 1 (Sat) ~ 3 (Mon, Nat. Holiday) ① 10:00 ~ Noon ② 13:00 ~ 15:00. Fee: 300 Yen.

◆**Omochi sales at the old private house.** On Sundays and holidays from October to November 3. 11:00 ~ 15:00. Price: 1 dish 400 yen. Sales end when all is sold out.

◆**The 11th Kusabue-no-Oka Drum Festival.** Enjoy two days of drumming sounds! October 25 & 26 (Sat/Sun)

■Drum workshops on both days. 12:15 ~ 14:15 (Reservation required) ※For elementary school students and above. Fee: 2,000 Yen, includes the drumsticks. Capacity: 30 people on each day. For reservations and more workshops' details, please contact the venue.

◆**Fantasy Night Stage.** October 25 (Sat) 16:00 ~ 19:50

Kusabue-no-Oka – Facility Information: ☎485-7821

- Opening hours until October 31 - 9:00 ~ 18:00. From November 1 to March 19 - 9:00 ~ 16:30.
- Fees: Adults 410 Yen, Children 100 Yen (Elem. And Jr. High School). Free for kindergarten children. People with disabilities and one caregiver are also free of charge.
- Fees to the events are paid separately. ※In case of bad weather, please contact us on the day of the event.

DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION KIT

Community welfare and child welfare commissioners will be delivering Emergency Medical Information kits to residents who turn 75 years old. (Please note that delivery may take some time). This kit is designed to be kept in your home refrigerator, containing a form where you fill in details such as your regular medical institution and emergency contacts. This helps ensure quick response in case of an emergency. If you already have the kit, please update the information sheet. It is important to always keep the most up-to-date information in your Emergency Medical Information kit. The sheet can also be downloaded and printed from the city's website. →

Inquiries: Kōreisha Fukushima (Elderly Welfare Section) ☎484-6243

About the Community & Child Welfare Commissioners: Shakai Fukushima (Social Welfare Section) ☎484-6135



Registration of mopeds and small special motor vehicles can now be post mailed.

Starting October 1st, with the exception of some registration procedures, applications for registration of mopeds and other vehicles can now be submitted by post mail. When applying, please send the following required documents, a license plate application form, a copy of your identification document and a return letter pack.

※It takes about a week from application to receiving the number. ※If your vehicle is being modified, the required documents will vary depending on the situation. In this case, applications by mail are not accepted so please apply at the Municipal Tax Section counter. For details, please see the city's website →

Inquiries: Municipal Tax Section ☎ 484-6114



VEHICLE TO BE REGISTERED		REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
Vehicle purchased from a dealer		Sales certificate.
Inherited vehicle	The disposal procedure has been completed.	Vehicle scrapping notification, transfer certificate.
	The vehicle disposal procedure has not been completed.	Certificate of issuance of license plate, license plate, certificate of transfer.
Moving in from another city of town	If you have completed the vehicle disposal procedures in your previous city, town or village.	Scrap car declaration reception form.
	If you have not completed the vehicle disposal procedures in your previous city, town or village.	Certificate of issuance of license plate.



↑Private Kindergarten

↑Certified Nursery School

Kindergarten Admission Procedures for April 2026

Target facilities: private kindergartens, certified childcare centers.

Target children: Younger ages (Nenshō) to older ages (Nenchō).

Application period: Starts on Saturday, November 1st. ※Start dates may vary depending on the kindergarten. For details on enrollment for 3-year-old classes, please visit the city's website. Please check and contact each kindergarten. **Inquiries: Child Policy Section ☎ 484-6139**



Admission for Nursery School and other childcare facilities for January - March & April 2026

Please make a reservation for your application date and time using one of the methods below. Then, come to the City Hall at the date and time notified to you by the city. ※If you use the online application for the "Pittari Service", you don't need to make a reservation or visit the city office. Please see the website for details →



①Reservations (Online reservations are given priority):

◆Online reservations: October 1 (Wed) from 10:00 ~ to November 30 (Sun).

Please make the reservation using the Chiba electronic application service →

◆Counter reservations: December 1 (Mon) to December 8 (Mon)



② **Admission applications.** Application acceptance period: from November 17 (Mon) to December 8 (Mon) 9:00 to 17:00. ※Only on the weekend of November 29 (Sat) and November 30 (Sun) applications will be accepted.

● If you wish to have a nursery school outside the city, please contact the section in charge of the desired municipality as well as the Sakura City Hall, Childcare Section in advance.

● If you wish to enroll in April 2026, applications will be accepted twice in April (first and second screenings). However, only those kindergartens that do not reach capacity in the 1st screening will be eligible for the 2nd one.

● Sakura Nursery school, Shizu Nursery schools and Sennari kindergarten accept children who require medical care on a priority basis. For details, please see the city's website → and contact the section in charge.



Inquiries: Kodomo Hoiku-ka (Childcare Section) ☎ 484-6245

Accepting applications for Senior High School scholarships

Kyōiku Sōmu-ka (General Educational Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6182

The city grants scholarships that do not require repayment to those who are enrolled in High School and find it difficult to complete their studies due to financial reasons. Applications are open to first, second and third year High School students. Eligible people are those who fall under all of the following conditions:

①Living in Sakura City. ②Graduated from Jr. High School, etc. and enrolled in High School, etc. within the following 4 fiscal years. ③ Have earned a grade point average of all the subjects of 3.0 or higher on the 5 grade evaluation system during the third year of Junior High School and is motivated to learn. ④Family income in the previous year was less than 1.3 times the maximum income eligibility level for public assistance and deemed to have financial difficulties attending High School in this fiscal year. ⑤Have a recommendation letter from the principal of the Junior High School from which the student graduated.

Amount granted: Up to 80,000 Yen per year. ※ If a scholarship grant for high school students in Chiba Prefecture is provided, this subsidy will either not be granted or will be reduced by the Equivalent amount of the scholarship.

Application deadline: Until December 26 (Fri). ※For those who moved to Sakura City from outside after April, applications will be accepted until Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Applications: The application form can be downloaded from the City's website. Please attach documents and submit to Kyōiku Sōmu-ka in the City Hall. ※For more information, please visit the website ↗ or contact us.



INFORMATION ON THE PENSIONER SUPPORT BENEFIT SYSTEM

The pensioner support benefits are paid on top of pensions to support the lives of pensioners whose public pension income or other income falls below a certain threshold. For details, please see each website →

- ◆ **Target people:** ❶ Those who are receiving basic old-age pension and meet all the following requirements.
- ▶ All household members aged 65 or over are exempt from municipal resident tax.
 - ▶ The total of pension income and other income is approximately 900,000 Yen or less.
- ❷ Those who receive basic disability pension or basic survivor pension and meet the following requirements:
- ▶ Previous year's income was approximately 4.79 million Yen or less.

Eligible individuals will receive a notification from the Japan Pension Service around early September. Please fill out the enclosed "Pension Support Benefit Claim Form" and submit it. ※This will not be sent to those who have already received the benefit. ※If you apply by January 5, 2026, you can receive payments retroactively from October 2025.

⚠ Beware of suspicious phone calls and information pretending to be from the Japan Pension Service or the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. They will never ask for information such as family details, financial institution account numbers, pin numbers or ask for money over the phone.

Inquiries: Nihon Nenkin kikō (Japan Pension Service) ☎ 0570-05-4092
Section in charge: Shimin-ka (Citizens' Affairs Section)



▲ Ministry of
Health, Labor
and Welfare



▲ Japan
Pension
Service

LET'S GET A COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

Early detection of cancer is important! The only test required is a stool test taken over two days. Please get a cancer screening once a year to check your health.



- ◆ **Target people:** Those 40 years old or above as of March 31, 2026.
- ◆ **Individual examination:** Consultation period is until December 10 (Wed). Fee: 1,000 Yen. Please contact the cooperating medical institution directly. Collect the stool in the container and bring to the medical institution. Fee: 1,000 Yen. ※Checkups at Seirei Sakura Municipal Hospital will be available until Friday, March 13, 2026.
- ◆ **Collective examination:** Until February 18, 2026 (Wed). Fee: 400 Yen.
- For checkup dates, venues, etc. please check the examination guide enclosed with the examination ticket set or on the website. ※If you do not have a medical examination ticket set, please apply for one.

Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎ 497-6750



ROUTINE VACCINATIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS INFLUENZA AND CORONAVIRUS BEGIN ON OCTOBER 1ST

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



INFLUENZA	CORONAVIRUS
Common matters: Pre-examination forms will be sent by September 30 to those who are 65 years of age or older as of October 1, 2025.	
❶ People 65 years or older (born on or before January 1, 1961).	❶ People 65 years or older (born on or before April 1, 1961).
Common matters: ❷ 60~64 years old, with a disability certificate (Level 1) due to heart, kidney or respiratory problems. If you fall under category ❷ and wish to be vaccinated, please contact us.	
The low-cost program of influenza vaccinations for senior citizens starts on <i>October 1 (Wed)</i> and will be available through <i>January 31, 2026 (Sat)</i> .	Coronavirus vaccinations start on <i>October 1 (Wed)</i> and will be available through <i>March 31, 2026 (Tue)</i> .
Cost: 1,800 Yen	Cost: 11,800 Yen (*)
※Those who will turn 65 between October 2, 2025 and January 1, 2026 – pre-examination forms will be sent the day after your birthday.	※Those who will turn 65 between October 2, 2025 and March 15, 2026 – pre-examination forms will be sent the day after your birthday. ※Those who will turn 65 between March 16, 2026 ~ April 1, 2026 and wish to be inoculated, please contact us. (*) The cost will change significantly due to the end of government subsidies.
Common matters: ◆ Vaccinations are optional to those who are not covered by the above, but the full cost will be borne by the individual. ◆ Eligible people can be inoculated at any cooperative medical institution in Sakura City as well as in Chiba Pref. ◆ Free for citizens on welfare. Please obtain a Welfare Recipient Certificate in advance and bring it to the medical institution on the vaccination day.	