



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, 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 the realization of "Sakura, a sustainable town"

Nishita Sango,
Sakura City Mayor



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations as we welcome a healthy and bright New Year!

Over the past year, athletes from Sakura City excelled at the world's championships, truly embodying our vision that "Talent blossoms in Sakura". Their achievements inspired us and filled us with courage. Furthermore, at the Peace Memorial Lecture held to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we were honored to hear from the Mayor of Nagasaki, Mr. Suzuki Shirō, allowing us to reflect together on the value of peace.

Although we face challenges such as population decline, a decreasing birthrate coupled with an aging society and rising prices, we will continue working to ensure that all residents can live safely, securely and vibrantly. This includes strengthening childcare support, social welfare, disaster preparedness and the development of community infrastructure.

Furthermore, viewing the enhancement of Narita Airport's functions as a prime opportunity, we will pursue improvements to the Sakura Furusato Square, promote corporate attraction, advance residential environment development and English education, and move forward with public facility reorganization and climate change measures. Through these efforts, we will strive toward realizing a "Sustainable Sakura".

In closing, I sincerely wish that this year be a joyful and prosperous one for all of you. Please accept my warmest New Year's greetings.

Walking together towards Sakura's future

Murata Jōji
Sakura City
Council Chairman



As we welcome the New Year of Reiwa 8, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all citizens. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation for your warm understanding and cooperation toward the activities of the City Council throughout the past year.

Over the past year, rising prices placed a significant burden on daily life. In response, we worked in close partnership with the city administration to advance measures aimed at supporting households and sustaining the local economy.

In addition, we have continued to promote the development of a sustainable community where everyone can live with peace of mind through enhanced child-rearing support, stronger disaster-preparedness systems and actions to address climate change.

As we mark 80 years since the end of the war, we are once again reminded of the preciousness of peace and feel deeply the responsibility of passing on a secure future to the next generation.

This year as well, the City Council will uphold its commitment to walking alongside the citizens, pursuing forward-looking community development that preserves Sakura's history and culture while further enhancing its appeal. We will continue to devote our utmost efforts to this mission.

In closing, I sincerely wish that the coming year be one of good health and abundant hope for all of you. Please accept my warmest New Year's greetings.

TAX RETURN PREPARATION CONSULTATIONS AT THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER (CHŪO KOMINKAN)

Reservations in advance are required. Shimin Zei-ka (Municipal Tax Section) ☎484-6115



Consultations on preparing final tax returns for 2025 and the municipal and prefectural tax return for 2026.

Date & Time: February 17 (Tue) ~ March 13 (Fri) 2026 from 9:30 to 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 19, 2026

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 through the reservation system on the city's website (QRC) ➡. ※Limited to one person per email address.

Application period: February 2, 2026 (Mon) from 9:00~ 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.



52 ken no Engawa (Yonamoto, Yachiyo City)



KENTARO YAMAZAKI ARCHITECT

This year as well, Kōho Sakura will continue sharing a wide range of information about the city. In this issue, which marks the start of 2026, we introduce Mr. Kentaro Yamazaki, an architect from Sakura City who was appointed as a Sakura Public Relations Ambassador in 2024. We spoke to Mr. Yamazaki about his approach to his work as an architect as well as his thoughts and feelings about Sakura, the city where he was born and raised.

The official city YouTube channel will be broadcasting Mr. Yamazaki's interview on January 5 (Mon), scheduled to be delivered from 18:00 →



Also, the interview with Mr. Yamazaki will be broadcast on Cable Net 296 (terrestrial digital channel 10/digital CATV channel 301). Broadcast date and time: January 1 (Thur/Holiday) to January 11 (Sun) at 10:00 AM ~ and at 10:00 PM ~ (20 minutes each broadcast).

Sakura City Museum of Art

☎ 485-7851 **OPENING HOURS:** 10:00 ~ 18:00 (Last admission is until 17:30) Closed on Mondays but will open if it is a public holiday and the next day will be closed.



TAKAKO HIRONO

Picture book original illustrations exhibition.
Exhibition Date: January 24 (Sat) ~ March 29 (Sun)

We will introduce Takako Hirono, a picture book author who lives in the city, through approximately 300 original illustrations from her picture books. We will explore the background of the work, which was inspired by the life in Sakura and its worldview, which focuses on the mundane everyday life.

Exhibition fees: General 800 Yen, University students 600 Yen, High School students and younger free of charge.



The following events will also take place at the museum:

◆ The 42nd New Year's Sakura Art Exhibition.

Bringing together paintings, sculptures, crafts, calligraphy and other works by artists based in Sakura.

Date: Jan. 6 (Tue) ~ 18 (Sun)

◆ Museum Concert.

Date & Time: Jan. 17 (Sat) from 14:00 ~

Title: "Nebosuke Sūza no Okaimono" (1991)
© Takako Hirono

KITE COMPETITION (TAKOAGE)

Participants will bring their own homemade or store-brought kites and send them to the sky, where youth counselors will judge and award the prizes!

Date & Time: January 25 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 12:25

Place: Yoshio Koide Memorial Stadium

Capacity: 300 people

Inquiries: Sakura City Youth Counselors Liaison Council Secretariat (Children's Policy Section)

☎ 484-6190



BEWARE OF FOREST AND FIELDS FIRES!

Every year from January through May, forest and fields fires are more likely to occur due to low rainfall and dry air. Many of these fires are caused by human carelessness, such as flames spreading from campfires or the open burning of yard waste. On windy days in particular, fires can spread rapidly. Please take extra care when handling fire and always follow fire safety precautions.

Inquiries: Sakura City, Yachimata City and Shisui Town Fire Department, Fire Prevention Section.

☎ 481-0136

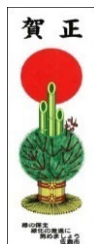
(In charge: Crisis Management Section)

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 2026 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 around the town filled with a romantic, historical atmosphere and visit the Seven Lucky Gods?

◆**Sale of Shrine vermillion stamps** 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. 3 (Sat) to Jan. 12 (Mon/Holiday) 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 (Thur/Holiday) until Jan. 10 (Sat) from 10:00 ~ 16:00. Will close on Jan. 11 (Sun). Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

◆**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 (Thur/holiday) to Jan. 10 (Sat) 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!



The venue will open on January 2 (Fri). In addition to selling amazake, other dishes will be sold during the event at the old private house such as mochi rice cakes and pork soup. There will also be traditional games such as fukuwarai, karuta, origami and battledores (The number of toys is limited).

Parent and child soba making experience
(Japanese noodles).

Date & Time: January 11 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 12:00
(Application required).

Target: Elementary school students and above.

Capacity: 8 groups per session (up to three people per group). **Fee:** 1,000 Yen per group.
Reservations by phone, starting January 4 (Sun), from 9:00 ~

FREE ADMISSION UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY!

Kusabue-no-Oka General Information

☎485-7821 Open 9:00 ~ 16:30

Closed on Mondays until March 19 (or the following day if a Monday is a national holiday).

Kusabue-no-Oka Rose Garden
Rose Pruning Workshop

Date & Time: January 14 (Wed), 17 (Sat), 22 (Thur) 10:00 ~ 12:00

※ cancelled in case of rain.

Fee: 1,500 Yen.

What to bring: Pruning shears, leather gloves.

Reservation required. Can be done by phone ☎ 486-9356 or through the website →



SAKURA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW YEAR 2026
PARADE CEREMONY

This year's ceremony will feature a parade of fire engines, including ladder trucks and a performance by the Fire Department Band!

Date & Time: January 11 (Sun) 10:30 ~

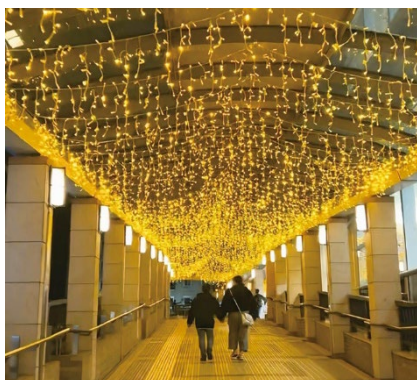
Place: Sakura Jōshi Kōen, at the open square. ※In case of rain, it will be held at Sakura City Harmony Hall.

Inquiries: Kiki Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section)
☎ 484-6132

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

Illuminations will once again light up shopping streets throughout the city this year. As you enjoy the festive lights decorating the town, please also take the opportunity to explore and shop at the various local shopping districts. ※ Please note that the lighting schedule and other details are tentative at this stage 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 Saturday, February 14	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 Sunday, February 15	JR Sakura Station Omotechō Business Association
JR Sakura Station, South Exit (At the Rotary)	Until Saturday, 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 (Fri) ~ January 30 (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 (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

Shingles vaccination information corresponding to Fiscal Year 2025

◆Routine shingles vaccination

Vaccination period: Until March 31, 2026 (Tue)

Cost: *Inactivated vaccine:* 10,000 Yen per dose

(2 doses are required to complete the vaccination, the second dose should be taken at least two months after the first vaccination). *Live vaccine:* 4,000 yen per dose (vaccination completed in one dose).

※For those receiving welfare benefits, the vaccination is free if you bring your welfare benefits certificate with you.

Target people: Those who fall under either ❶ or ❷ below:

❶ People who will be 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100 years old or older in fiscal year 2025.

❷ Those who are 60 to 64 years old at the time of vaccination and have immune dysfunction caused by the human immunodeficiency virus to the extent that daily life is almost impossible.

※Vaccinations cannot be covered by public funds outside of this period.

※It takes more than two months to complete the two-dose inactivated vaccine. Those who wish to receive the vaccine must apply for the first dose by January at the latest.



◆Subsidies for voluntary shingles vaccination will end in FY 2025.



Subsidy amount: Inactivated vaccines cost up to 5,000 yen per dose (subsidies are limited to two doses). Live vaccines cost up to a maximum of 2,000 yen per dose (subsidy is limited to one dose).

Target people: Those who received voluntary vaccinations after April 2024 and are 50 years of age or older, excluding those who are eligible for regular vaccinations or those 18 years of age or older who are at high risk of contracting shingles.

Deadline: March 31, 2026 (Tue)

※For those who received the vaccination during fiscal year 2024, it will be within one year from the date of the last vaccination.

For inquiries, please call:

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

SAKURA CITY IS LAUNCHING A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS ALL CHILDREN TO ATTEND CHILDCARE SERVICES.

A new child-rearing support system will begin in fiscal year 2026.

To support the development of every child, this system allows children to attend daycare centers and other facilities regardless of their childcare requirements. With the support of childcare workers, children can spend time with others of similar age and enjoy a wide range of experiences together.

Acceptance of applications for certification will start on January 15 (Thur).

The system will start on April 1 (Wed) ~. (Scheduled to be implemented in local governments nationwide).

Target people: Those who meet all of the ❶ ~ ❸ criteria:

❶ Residing in the city.

❷ From 6 months to under 3 years old (until two days before the third birthday),

❸ Not enrolled in a nursery school, etc.

Usage hours: Up to 10 hours per month.

Usage fee: Childcare fee: 300 yen per hour. ※In addition, actual costs for school meals (snacks and lunch) may be incurred.

Implementing facilities (within the city) (Facilities outside the city can also be used) Usui Nursery School, Shizu Nursery School, Nego Nursery School, Kitashizu Nursery School. ※Prior authorization is required for use. For details, please visit the city's website →

Inquiries: Kodomo Seisaku-ka
(Child Policy Section) ☎ 484-6139



NAMBU HOKEN CENTER (SOUTHERN HEALTH CENTER) NOTICE OF CLOSURE

The Nambu Hoken Center will close from March 31 (Tue). The work and procedures that were previously carried out at the Southern Health Center will be consolidated at the Kenkō Kanri Center and at the Seibu Hoken Center. Applications for child medical expenses subsidies and intractable illness sympathy payments can continue to be processed at the City Hall, Kenkō Kanri Center and at the Seibu Hoken Center. Thank you for your understanding.

■ Inquiries for various health checkups, vaccinations and adult consultations:
Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section)
☎485-6711

■ Issuance of Maternal and Child Health Handbooks, matters related to the health of pregnant women, mothers and infants:
Boshi Hoken-ka (Maternal and Child Health Section) ☎485-6712

■ For inquiries regarding child medical expenses subsidies: **Kodomo Katei-ka (Child and Family Section) ☎484-6140**

■ For inquiries regarding applications for intractable illness sympathy payments:
Shōgai Fukushi-ka (Disability Welfare Section) ☎484-4153