



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

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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 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.

When you hear "Sakura City's nature and wildlife", what kind of scenery and creatures come to your mind?

Sakura City is home to a rich natural environment including farmland, woodlands and the Imbanuma Lake where many forms of life thrive. The ecosystems created by this natural diversity provide invaluable benefits that support our daily lives.

In recent years, however, the decline of nature and wildlife due to changes in the global environment and the impact of invasive species has become a serious global problem. "What is biodiversity?" and "Why do we need to protect it?" Initiatives are being undertaken in Sakura City.

Inquiries: Seikatsu Kankyō-ka (Living Environment Section) ☎ 484-4278

In response to the biodiversity crisis, the concept of "nature positive" (nature restoration) has recently been promoted and is gaining attention.

Sakura City has focused on preserving the city's representative natural environment together with its citizens. In September 2025, the Azeta Yatsu area and the Azeta Yatsu Workshop (*) activity plan were recognized as a "Nature Coexistence Site" by the Ministry of the Environment as an area where biodiversity conservation is being achieved through private-sector initiatives and related efforts in support of realizing a Nature Positive future. (*) The Azeta Yatsu Workshop is a collaborative project between citizens and the city to restore abandoned farmland in a valley and conserve the ecosystems and wildlife.

BIODIVERSITY AND OUR LIVES

Harmonizing nature and town for the future



What is Nature Positive?

Nature Positive aims to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2030, using 2020 as the baseline year and to reverse the trend toward recovery. This has been set as a global goal to realize a world in harmony with nature.

To achieve nature positivity, it is essential that we change our awareness and behavior and ensure that the entire society and economy focuses on biodiversity conservation.

Learn more about biodiversity on *Kōhō Sakura*, January 15th issue (in Japanese) ☗*Kōhō Sakura* is available on the free app "Catalog Pocket" and can be translated into 10 languages.

What can we do to protect biodiversity? Making environmentally friendly choices in various aspects of our daily lives help us achieve nature positivity. For example:

- ◆ Choose locally produced and environmentally friendly products.
- ◆ Reduce food waste and promote recycling.
- ◆ Implement energy conservation measures such as saving electricity and water and using public transportation.
- ◆ Participate in nature observation and other activities.

HOLDING SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

◆ Sakura Juntendo Kinenkan
(Sakura Juntendo Memorial Building)

◆ Buke-ya Shiki (Samurai houses)

◆ Kyū Hotta Tei (Former residence of Feudal Lord Hotta)

Date: February 11 (Wed, Holiday) You will be able to view valuable materials and tour around rooms that are normally closed to the public.

◆ Former Lord Hotta residence. (9:30 ~ 16:30)
Fees: 350 Yen/adults, 170 Yen/students.
◆ Sakura Juntendo Kinenkan. (9:00 ~ 17:00)
Fees: 100 Yen/adults, 50 Yen/students.
◆ Buke-ya Shiki (Samurai houses): (9:00 ~ 17:00).
Fees: 250 Yen/adults, 120 Yen/students.
◆ Armor fitting event on the same day. (10:00 ~ 12:00 & 13:00 ~ 15:00) You can try on a Samurai armor, which has been restored based on documents from the Edo Period. At the Samurai Houses. Fees: 200 Yen/adults, 100 Yen/students. ☗Separate admission fee required. Reservation not necessary.

Inquiries: Bunka-ka (Cultural Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6192

FOREIGNERS' CONSULTATIONS ABOUT DAILY LIFE

In Sakura City, foreigners living in the city can consult about daily life so they can live with peace of mind. In addition, volunteers are available to interpret for foreigners when they go through various procedures in the city.

Please access the website for details about daily life consultations ➔

※Please note that we may not be able to assist you with your consultation.



We also offer Japanese Language Courses
Japanese classes are offered to those who live, work or study in the city.

To participate, an application is necessary. Please call to the phone number below or send an email.

Inquiries: Sakura Kokusai Kōryū Kikin (Sakura International Exchange Foundation) ☎ 484-6326
Email address: info@sief.jp
(In charge Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section).



Filing period:
Until March 16
(Mon)

2025 RESIDENCE TAX FILING (Shiminzei / Kenminzei Shinkoku) & INCOME TAX RETURN (Shotoku-zei no Kakutei Shinkoku)



Please meet the deadline and file your tax return correctly.

Filing tax returns is an important procedure for calculating your taxes correctly. If you have not had your salary adjusted at the end of the year or if you have multiple sources of income, you may need to file a tax return. Check whether you need to file various returns and start the process as soon as possible. (Please note that the filing venue, acceptance period and reservation method will vary depending on the content of your tax return).

You can easily file from home using e-Tax or by mail. **Inquiries: Municipal Tax Section: ☎484-6115.**

※Please note that during the declaration period, February 17 (Tue) ~ March 13 (Fri), the Municipal Tax Section counter will not be accepting consultations on preparing tax returns or accepting in-person submissions.

Please prepare and complete your tax return at home as much as possible and submit it electronically or by mail.

◆Use the convenient e-Tax to file your tax return. We recommend using e-Tax, which allows you to file your tax return electronically using your computer or smartphone. It is very convenient and saves you time and effort. On the National Tax Agency website "Tax Return Preparation Corner" →, you just follow the on-screen instructions to enter the necessary information and the tax amount will be calculated automatically. You can also print out the completed tax return and submit it to the tax office by mail.



◆Declaration mailing addresses and inquiries:

◆Final Tax Return: Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau Business Center, Chiba West Branch (Narita Tax Office)
1-520 Takeishicho, Hanamigawa-ku, Chiba City, ☎262-8507 ☎0570-00-5901

◆Municipal/Prefectural Tax Returns: Sakura City Hall, Municipal Tax Section ☎484-6115. (There is no copy for the 2026 tax return. If you need a record, please make a copy before submitting it.)



TAX RETURN FILING VENUES

City and Prefectural 2025 tax returns
(Those whose income is "salary" or
"public pension")

CHŪŌ KŌMINKAN,
198-3 Nabekicho, Sakura City
(Advance reservation required)

Date: Feb. 17 (Tue) ~ March 13 (Fri)
(Closed on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays).
Time: 9:30 ~ 15:30 (Same for submissions only).
※Applications cannot be accepted between noon
and 13:00). For details, please check the website↑



Final, past, quasi-final, consumption tax
returns and gift tax

AEON MALL NARITA

Aeon Hall, 2nd Floor, (Wing Tsuchiya 24,
Narita City) (Advance reservation via the
National Tax Agency's official LINE account
is required to enter the venue. Please see
the website) →



Date: Feb. 16 (Mon) ~ March 16 (Mon) (Closed on
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays).
Time: 9:00 ~ 16:00

Other venues for City and Prefectural 2025 tax returns
(Submit in person) ※Service for consultations/preparations is not provided.

SAKURA CITY BRANCH OFFICES

Date & Time: Until March 13 (Fri). Closed on
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
From 9:00 ~ 16:30

SAKURA & NISHISHIZU CITIZENS' SERVICE CENTERS

Date & Time: Until March 13 (Fri). Open on Saturdays
and Sundays. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.
From 9:00 ~ 17:00

Please note that assistance in preparation of the following items is provided only at AEON MALL Narita.
Chūō Kominkan cannot handle preparation on them.

- Those with income other than salary or public pension. •Special deduction for housing loans, etc. (Those already adjusted at the end of the year are acceptable). •Declaration of donation deduction other than hometown tax.
- Declaration of income related to business, agriculture, real estate, interest, dividends, transfers, lump-sum, retirement income, miscellaneous loss deduction, foreign tax credit. •Futures trading gift tax, consumption tax.
- Quasi-final return (deceased/moved abroad). •Declarations for 2024 or before. •Other declarations with complex calculations or declarations requiring judgment by the tax office.

Identity verification documents:

If you do not have a My Number card, you will need both a "personal number verification document" and a "personal identification document".

◆ Documents verifying your individual number: Notification card (only if there are no changes to the information or if the change procedures have been carried out correctly), a copy of your resident registration card showing your MyNumber or a certificate of resident registration details.

◆ Identification documents. One of the following: driver's license, qualification certificate, passport, pension book, disability certificate, etc.

2025 RESIDENCE TAX FILING (Shiminzei / Kenminzei Shinkoku) & INCOME TAX RETURN (Shotoku-zei no Kakutei Shinkoku) - Continued

To those insured under National Health Insurance and their families:

Sakura City National Health Insurance subscribers and their heads of households, and those insured under the Medical Care System for the Elderly and their family members who share the same household may be required to file municipal and prefectural taxes. Those who had no income or whose only income was non-taxable income such as disability pensions, survivor pensions and unemployment benefits from employment insurance are required to file municipal and prefectural taxes. If you do not file a declaration, you may not be eligible for reduced insurance tax (fees), your self-payment limit may be higher, etc. Please contact the relevant section for details:

For those with National Health Insurance
☎ 484-6125

For those covered by the Medical Care System for the Elderly ☎ 484-6136

If you don't make a reservation, you won't be able to get a consultation.

- To participate in the tax return preparation/consultation session it is required an advance reservation. Please apply through the city's website ➔ Reservations cannot be made by phone or at the counter.
- For other points to note regarding declaration, please check the city's website ➔



If you don't file within the deadline:

- ◆ Due to delays in the calculation of municipal and prefectural taxes may result in fewer payment periods and an increase in the amount to be paid in one payment.
- ◆ We may not be able to issue tax certificates such as tax (income) certificates.
- ◆ National pension (basic disability pension, old-age welfare pension, insurance premium exemption, etc.) and various welfare benefits cannot be conducted.
- ◆ There are some incomes and deductions that cannot be declared unless they are filed within a certain period.

APPLICATIONS BEGIN FOR REGULAR USE OF CITY-OPERATED BICYCLE PARKING SPACES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Applications for regular bicycle parking will be accepted from February 1 (Sun). Those who wish to use the parking lot should check the "User's Guide" distributed at each parking lot and submit an application form to the manager of the parking lot of their choice.

Target units: Bicycles and motorized bicycles under 125cc.



※ Applications are not being handled at the City Hall counter.

Inquiries: Sanesu (Safety Security Service)
☎ 0476-20-4801
Section in charge: Dōro Iji-ka (Road Maintenance Section)

SAKURA PRECON

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW FOR THE FUTURE?

Preconception Care (Precon) is an initiative to help people acquire correct knowledge about sexuality and pregnancy and manage their health appropriately. Preconception is important to everyone, regardless of whether you want to have children or not. Lifestyle habits formed at a young age affect not only your own future health but also the health of the next generation.



◎ **Sakura City supports you with "Sakura Precon".** Thinking about your future life plan and taking care of your daily health is a form of healthcare that has been gaining attention in recent years. Through "Sakura Precon" the city supports you in realizing the way of life you desire.

◎ **Why is Precon important?** Lifestyle habits formed at a young age can affect future health and pregnancy.
◆ Being underweight (BMI under 18.5) or overweight. ◆ Excessive drinking or smoking ◆ Unmanaged stress or menstrual problems. These factors may lead to anemia, depression, osteoporosis, infertility and a decrease in sperm count. (Infertility is often thought to be caused only by women; however, according to a survey by the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly half of couples experiencing infertility have male-related factors as well.)

◎ **What you can do starting today.** ① Eat a well-balanced diet. ② Engage in moderate exercise and maintain a healthy weight. ③ Receive necessary vaccinations before pregnancy. ④ Have regular health checkups and screenings. Avoid excessive stress, alcohol consumption and smoking. Let's start healthy habits today! For more details, please visit the city's website ➔

Inquiries: Boshi Hoken-ka (Maternal and Child Health Section) ☎ 485-6712

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL ENTRANCE AND EMPLOYMENT BONUS.

We will provide a school entrance and employment congratulatory grant to single-parent families with children who will be entering Junior High, High School this April or those who will be graduating from Junior High School and entering the workforce.

※ These grant includes families raising children in place of parents.

Subsidy amount: 10,000 per person.



Deadline: February 28 (Sat)



Electronic application service available ↗
Inquiries:

Kodomo Katei-ka
(Child and Family Support Section)
☎ 484-6140



BE CAREFUL WHEN DISPOSING OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

In recent years, several municipalities have experienced fires in garbage trucks and waste disposal facilities that are believed to have been caused by mobile batteries, lithium-ion batteries, etc. Fires can damage equipment, causing continued disruption to recycling processes and requiring significant repair costs.

In Sakura city, fires believed to be caused by lithium-ion batteries mixed in with (other plastic containers and packaging) occurred at a plastic recycling facility for two consecutive months in 2020, causing the recycling processing line to be halted.

Mobile batteries and lithium-ion batteries should never be disposed of at collection points.



■How to dispose of lithium-ion batteries:

Please bring products made by domestic manufacturers to one of 11 participating collection stores in the city. Products that cannot be collected at participating stores, swollen or damaged products and home appliances with built-in lithium-ion batteries that cannot be removed, can be collected at the Waste Management Section counter on the 5th floor of Sakura City Hall, Building No. 1.

There are many types of batteries, not just lithium-ion batteries, and disposal methods vary. Please refer to the city's website ↗ and cooperate in properly separating batteries.

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

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ALLOWANCE

To support families raising children who have been affected by rising prices, an amount of 20,000 Yen will be provided for each eligible child. An information postcard has been sent to eligible recipients on January 15. Those who have received the postcard do not need to apply and the child allowance will be transferred to their account in mid-February. The city will send separate information to public servants and newborns born by March 31, 2026. Please check the website for more information ↗

※Some people, such as new residents, may not have received information from the city.

Inquiries: Kodomo Katei-ka (Child and Family Support Section) ☎ 484-6140



SUPPORT PROJECT FOR CANCER PATIENTS

The city is carrying out the following projects to support cancer patients.

❖**Cancer patient appearance care support project:**
To support those who are concerned about changes in appearance due to cancer treatment, we will subsidize part of the cost of purchasing or renting medical wigs and other items.



❖**Home care support program for young cancer patients:** We will subsidize part of the fees for home care services so that cancer patients aged 39 or younger can live safely in the comfort of their own homes.



Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section)
☎ 485-6711

BEWARE OF MISINFORMATION ABOUT CANNABIS! FEBRUARY IS CHIBA PREFECTURE'S DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

The abuse of drugs such as narcotics, stimulants, marijuana and so-called dangerous drugs has become a major social problem.

In particular, arrests involving cannabis among young people have been increasing in recent years, making this a growing concern. One contributing factor is the spread of false information on social media, such as claims that "cannabis is harmless". In reality, cannabis is a harmful and illegal drug that can cause hallucinations, memory impairment, and a decline in learning ability.

In addition, cases of overdose involving prescription and over-the-counter medications have risen sharply among teenagers and people in their twenties, with reports of not only emergency hospitalizations but also fatalities.

Drug abuse is extremely dangerous. Even if motivated by curiosity or taken "just for fun", using drugs can harm not only the individual but also their family and friends. If you are offered drugs, it is important to be cautious, clearly refuse and seek advice from friends or family rather than dealing with the situation alone.

Let's correctly understand the dangers of drugs and aim to create a society that does not tolerate drug abuse.

Inquiries: Chiba Prefecture Pharmaceutical Affairs
Section ☎ 223-2620
In charge, Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion
Section)