

July 2026

Reiwa 8

HELLO SAKURA



No.440

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Hello Sakura is a free monthly newsletter featuring excerpts from the Japanese language Public Relations newsletter *Kōhō Sakura* (こうほう佐倉) issued by Sakura City. This newsletter is distributed free of charge at public facilities within the city and is also available on the city's website. Additionally, English interpretation services are available for procedures at the counters. Please be sure to make a reservation in advance by phone or email to the Public Relations Section.



SUMMER FUN EVENTS!

Kusabue-no-Oka: July / August Activities



ACTIVITY	Date/Time/Cost
Making blueberry jam with your Child (Guardians and ES↑)	July 18 (Sat) 1,000 (1 couple) Limited to 8 couples.
Glass painting lesson (20 on each day) ES↑	July 24 (Fri)/Aug. 26 (Wed) 1,000 Yen
Haniwa making (20) ES↑ (◆)	July 30 (Thur) 1,000 Yen
Earthenware making (20) ES↑ (◆)	July 31 (Fri) 1,000 Yen
Observation of forest creatures (20) ES↑ (3 graders and below require guardians)	Aug. 8 (Sat) 200 Yen (1 couple)

ACTIVITY	Date/Time/Cost
Science experiment craft (20) 4 th grade ES↑	Aug. 9 (Sun) 300 Yen
Guardian & Child Flower vase making (12 couples) ES↑	Aug. 15 (Sat) 500 Yen (1 couple)
Kaleidoscope making (15) ES (Lower grades and below)	Aug. 19 (Wed) 500 Yen (1 couple)
Guardian & Child woodworking toy making (10 couples) ES↑	Aug. 23 (Sun) 1,200 Yen (1 couple)
Rice harvesting experience for everyone (50 people) ES↑	Aug. 30 (Sun) 800 Yen for admission to the rice paddies.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ★Let's write our wishes on strips of paper! July 1 (Wed) ~ July 7 (Tue).
- ★Water play fountain mat. (For preschoolers) July 18 (Sat) ~ Aug 31 (Mon).
- ★Super ball scooping and "Kusabue" bingo game. (Please inquire for details regarding date and time.)

KUSABUE-NO-OKA PARK INFORMATION: ☎485-7821
Opening hours 9:00 ~ 18:00. Admission fees: 410 Yen for High School students and above. 100 Yen for Elementary and Jr. High School students. Free admission for preschool children, people with disabilities and one accompanying caregiver.

General information: The activities above will take place from 10:00 until 12:00 (Advanced registration required, first-come, first-served). (◆) Haniwa and Earthenware making: Only those who can pick up their artwork in late August. ●(20) = Number of applicants ● ES↑ = Elementary school students and above.



POSTPONEMENT OF THE 65TH SAKURA CITIZENS' FIREWORKS FESTIVAL



Due to the expansion and improvement work being carried out at Sakura Furusato Hiroba, the Sakura Citizens Fireworks Festival will be postponed until after the completion of the renovation work. After the renovation, we plan to hold a fireworks display on the shores of Lake Imbanuma, aiming to once again launch large, two-foot diameter fireworks into the sky of Sakura. To make this a reality, we will be conducting a crowdfunding campaign.



CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ↑

Inquiries: Sakura Shimin Hanabi Taikai Jikkō linkai (Sakura City Fireworks Festival Executive Committee)
Sakura shi Kankō Kyōkai (Sakura City Tourism Association) ☎ 486-6000
Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6146

Period: July 15 (Wed) until Aug. 31 (Mon)

It's summer! Let's go swimming!

- Iwana Sports Park: 50m pool, Infants pool.
- Jōza Sōgō Park: 25m pool, Infants & Toddlers' pools. Mini-slider.



Time: AM session: 9:00 ~ 12:00 (Last entry at 11:30) PM session: 13:00 ~ 16:00 (Last entry at 15:30). AM and PM sessions are completely separate.

Fees: 480 Yen for High School students and above, 150 Yen for elementary & Jr. High school students. Infants free of charge. Free lockers available. Please check the rules of each pool facility in advance.

General Information: Iwana Sports Park Management Office ☎ 483-0131
During the period only: ◆ Iwana Sports Park ☎ 484-1943 ◆ Jōza Sōgō Park ☎ 461-2611

SAKURA CITY COUNCIL Extraordinary Session



The Sakura City Council held an extraordinary session on May 15th and all four proposals were passed and approved. Prior to the deliberation of the agenda items, an election was held, being Ms. Akemi Saito elected as the Chairman and Mr. Eiji Yamamoto elected as Vice-Chairman.

In addition, new members were elected to the standing committee and parliamentary affairs committee.

Inquiries: Gikai Jimu-Kyoku (City Council Secretariat) ☎ 484-6254

ON ASSUMING THE POSITIONS OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

We express our sincere gratitude to all citizens for your deep understanding and cooperation regarding the activities of the City Council.

We have now been appointed to the important positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sakura City Council, thanks to the recommendations of all council members. We deeply understand the weight of these responsibilities and feel a great sense of responsibility.

Our city is facing a challenging socio-economic situation, affected by population decline, the aging of society and rising prices. Furthermore, issues directly related to the lives of citizens, including disaster response, are becoming increasingly complex. The City Council has a responsibility to fulfill the trust placed in it by the citizens, to engage in fair and careful discussions, and to contribute to the improvement of citizens' welfare.

To the end, we will strive to make the council more transparent and improve information dissemination and to make the content of council activities easier to understand. In the future, as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, we will maintain a fair and neutral stance and strive for smooth council operations while cooperating with others. We will also cherish trusting relationships that transcend party lines and positions, and work to realize a council that is trusted by the citizens through active and constructive discussions.

CONNECTING SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SAKURA

BASIC POLICY ON THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

Taking into account changes in society, projected trends in student enrollment and current educational challenges, the City aims to realize a sustainable and engaging school education system. To further ensure the development of children's knowledge, skills and abilities, the City has compiled its fundamental vision for what schools should look like in the future.

Inquiries: Kyōiku Sōmu-ka (General Education Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6183



The City is committed to advancing education that supports the growth and development of every child under the guiding principle of the Sakura City Education Vision *"Nurturing the People of Sakura -where individuals shine, communities shine and the future shines"*.

In schools, the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the essential role of educational institutions, while the GIGA (*Global and Innovation Gateway for All*) School Initiative accelerated the use of ICT (*Information and Communication Technology*) in education. At the same time, challenges such as increasing demands on teachers, rising school absenteeism and growing needs for special support education have become more apparent. To address these emerging challenges, the City has formulated the **"Basic Policy on the Future of Schools in Sakura City"**. Based on this policy, the City will continue engaging in dialogue with students, parents and others while working to create a more enriching and supportive educational environment.



VISION FOR FUTURE SCHOOL EDUCATION

Through connections with people, knowledge and society, schools will foster opportunities for collaborative learning and meaningful experiences, helping students develop the ability to think independently and take initiative.

By respecting diverse values, cultivating cooperation and compassion, and providing learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, schools will nurture the skills needed to thrive in society and expand students' potential for the future.

CURRENT STATE AND CHALLENGES OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

As the declining birthrate leads to a decrease in the number of students and classes, the challenges facing school education are becoming increasingly complex. There is a growing need to build a sustainable educational environment in collaboration with local communities.

For the full review on the basic policy and initiatives, please search on Kōhō Sakura (Japanese version) July 1st issue.

USE AN APP TO BLOCK SCAM CALLS!

[Recommended by the National Police Agency]

There has been a sharp increase in cases of people receiving calls on their mobile phones from perpetrators of special fraud schemes.



Use apps that block the numbers used by these perpetrators, such as international phone numbers, to avoid receiving these calls. These apps are easy to use and free on smartphones.

Main features: ※ May vary depending on your smartphone model.

◆ Bulk blocking and warning of incoming and outgoing international phone numbers.

◆ Blocking and warnings against incoming and outgoing calls from numbers used in special fraud schemes, etc.

In addition, the National Police Agency distributes notices regarding special fraud. For details, please visit the National Police Agency website →



If you receive a suspicious phone call or feel uneasy, do not hesitate to call 110 or use the following consultation services:

Police consultation hotline#9110

Consumer hotline ☎ 188

**Section in charge: Kiki Kanri-ka
(Crisis Management Section)**

RECEPTION HOURS AT ALL CITY OFFICES WILL CHANGE

The city currently has modified reception hours at some service counters and starting August 1, the change will be expanded to include additional counters. For details, please refer to the city's website →



New reception hours: 9:00 ~ 16:30

Applicable Service Counters:

All city service counters, except for facilities such as libraries and community centers.

**Inquiries: Gyōsei Kanri-ka ☎ 484-6288
(Administrative Management Section)**

MUNICIPAL HOUSING – APPLICANTS WANTED!

For details such as the available housing units, eligibility requirements and rent, please refer to the application form.

**Application period: July 16 (Thu) ~ July 31 (Fri),
from 8:45 ~ 17:00 ※Deadline: July 31 (Fri)**

How to apply: Submit the application form and all required documents in person to the Housing Section.

※ Applications by mail are not accepted.

Application guidelines and forms will be available starting July 9 at the Housing Section, each branch office, Yatomi branch and Shizu Shimin Service Center.

Inquiries: Jūtaku-ka (Housing Section) ☎ 484-6168

Summer Activities in Sakura City!

TEA CEREMONY – URASENKE STYLE

Dates: July 5 (Sun) and July 12 (Sun)

Time: 10:00~15:30

Place: Sankei-tei ☎ 486-4520 (Located within the grounds of Sakura Castle Ruins Park)

Fee: 800 Yen per session (400 Yen for children)

Inquiries:

Bunka-ka (Cultural Affairs Section)

☎ 484-6191

Regarding rental of seats, please contact:

**Kōen Ryokuchi-ka (Parks & Greenery
Section) ☎ 484-6165**

UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF WATER!

What kind of place is Lake Imbanuma? Let's learn about it in a fun way through experiments and crafts.

Date & Time: Aug. 2 (Sun) 10:00~11:30

Place: Millennium Center Sakura

Target: Elementary and Jr. High School Students residing in the city and their guardians.

Capacity: 24 people (first-come, first-served)

Application form through the website →

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



LET'S TAKE A TOUR OF A WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY!

Date & Time: July 24 (Fri) From 8:45 ~ Noon
Application required. **Deadline:** July 13 (Mon)

Place: Sakura City and Shisui Town Cleaning Association, Sakuma Recycling Center.

Target: Elementary school students and above living in the city. (Elementary school students must be accompanied by a guardian).

Application through the Chiba Electronic Application Service →



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

YUKATA DRESSING CLASS

Date & Time: July 20 (Mon, Holiday) ①9:30~ ②13:00~
Application required. **Deadline:** July 16 (Thu)

Place: Shizu Community Center

Class content: How to wear and fold a Yukata

Target: Elementary School students and older. (Elementary and Jr. High school students must be accompanied by a guardian.)

Capacity: 15 people per session

Application through the website → or call
NPO Japan Kimono Education Support Project,
Sakamoto ☎ 090-8003-9878

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



CANOEING – 1-DAY EXPERIENCE CLASS

Date & Time: July 12 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 12:00. **Application required. Deadline:** July 8 (Wed). **Place:** Sakura City Canoe Association Training Ground. **Target:** Elementary School students 3rd grade and above. **Fees:** Jr. High School students and younger 1,000 Yen. High School students and older 2,000 Yen. (Insurance included). Application through the Sakura City Canoe Association website →

Inquiries: Sakura City Canoe Association, Nagasu ☎ 080-2675-9881

Section in charge: Shōgai Supōtsu-ka (Sports for all Section)





Agricultural Pest Control



From July 21 (Tue) to July 24 (Fri)

Pesticides will be sprayed over paddy fields in Sakura City from 4:00 to 11:00 using drones, etc. in order to prevent pests and rice diseases. Please check the schedule for your area on Kōhō Sakura, July 1st issue (In Japanese).

- ▶ On the dates of the pesticide spraying, please refrain from entering into the sprayed areas and do not enter the rice fields where the product has been sprayed for about 5 days.
- ▶ We use highly safe chemicals. However, households living near the spraying areas should refrain from storing food or drinks outside. Contact us if you experience any health problems. Schedules and other details may be subject to change.

For inquiries, please contact: Shokubutsu Bōeki Kyōkai, (The Plant Protection Association) JA Chiba Mirai Sakura Yotsukaido Agricultural Center ☎485-6115. In charge: Nōsei-ka (Agricultural Administration Section)

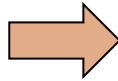
GET REGULAR MEDICAL CHECKUPS! WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FY 2026



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

The city conducts various medical examinations to prevent and detect illnesses early. In addition, you will need a medical examination ticket to receive a medical examination. If you do not have a medical examination ticket, please apply using the following method:

- ① Prepare a “consultation ticket”. To issue a medical examination ticket, you must apply (through the Chiba Electronic service) ↘ or contact the Health Promotion Section.



- ② Book a medical examination.
 - ▶ **Group examinations:** Make a reservation online → or submit a reservation request form by mail, counter, fax, etc. Please see page 7 of the “Test Information Booklet” enclosed with your medical examination voucher.
 - ▶ **Individual examinations:** Apply directly to medical institutions cooperating with individual examinations.



↑ City's Website

CHECKUP SCHEDULE ↘ ↘

- ▶ **Group examinations:** July 1 (Wed) ~ January 28, 2027 (Thur). ※Breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings are available until Feb. 5, 2027 (Fri).

- ▶ **Individual examinations:** June 1 (Mon) ~ December 10 (Thur) ※With the exception of Seirei Sakura Citizen's Hospital Health Checkup Center, which will accept individual examinations until March 12, 2027 (Fri) ※Dental checkups will be conducted until February 10, 2027 (Wed).

※Young people can get screened! People aged 19 to 30 can also receive cervical cancer screening, osteoporosis screening and adult dental checkups. For details on the screening content and conditions, please see the city's website.

※For a detailed list on the various medical examinations and prices, please see the city's website.

THE FOOD HYGIENE SUMMER COUNTERMEASURE PERIOD IN CHIBA PREFECTURE IS JUNE ~ SEPTEMBER

The hot and humid summer is the time when food poisoning caused by bacteria such as campylobacter and enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli O157 is most likely to occur. Food poisoning can occur not only in restaurants but also in homes, so be careful when handling food to prevent it.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING FOOD POISONING AT HOME:

At the time of purchase:

- ▶ Check the expiration date, etc. ▶ Buy fresh and frozen foods last. ▶ Wrap meat, fish, etc. in separate plastic bags to prevent juices from getting on other foods. ▶ Go straight home without making any detours.

When saving:

- ▶ Store refrigerated or frozen foods in the refrigerator or freezer immediately after bringing them home. ▶ Keep the refrigerator below 10° C and the freezer below -15° C. ▶ Don't overfill the fridge or freezer.

When cooking:

- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly with soap before cooking. ▶ Use separate knives and cutting boards for meat, fish and vegetables or rinse and put boiling water over them before using. ▶ Cook meat and fish thoroughly. The guideline for cooking is to bring the internal temperature to 75° C for at least one minute. ▶ Thaw only the amount of frozen foods you will use and do not repeatedly freeze and thaw it.

At meal times:

- ▶ Wash your hands with soap before eating. ▶ Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for a long time.

Leftover food:

- ▶ After washing your hands, divide into small portions and store in clean utensils and containers so that they cool down quickly. ▶ Throw away anything that is too old. ▶ When reheating, heat thoroughly. As a guideline, heat to a core temperature of 75° C for at least one minute.

Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎ 312-8228