

October 2026

Reiwa 8

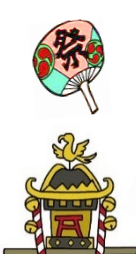
HELLO SAKURA



10 月
No.443

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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.



SAKURA NO AKI MATSURI

Sakura Autumn Festival

October 9 (Fri) ~ 11 (Sun)

From 15:00 to 22:00 on all three days

Venue: Shinmachi street and surrounding area.



This historic autumn festival of Sakura, continuing since the Edo period, will be held for three days again this year. The castle town will be filled with excitement!

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

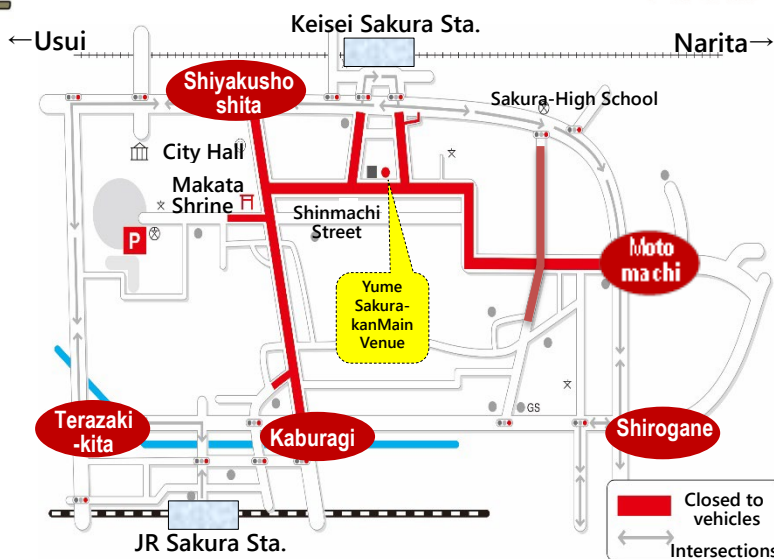
● Congestion is expected on surrounding roads, so please use public transportation.

● 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 8 (Thur) until October 12 (Mon, Nat. Holiday). Parking lot No. 2 will also be closed from October 8 (Thur) 5 pm until October 11 (Sun).

❖ You can check the location of the floats and other attractions on your smartphone by scanning the QR code at the venue. This year, all floats, *sakestands* and portable shrines will be equipped with GPS!



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



Kusabue-no-Oka Autumn Events!

◆ Model train operation, toy train play. October 10 (Sat) ~ October 12 (Mon, Nat. Holiday) ① 9:30 ~ 10:30 ② 11:00 ~ Noon. ③ 13:30 ~ 15:30.

◆ The 12th Kusabue-no-Oka Drum Festival.

October 24 & 25 (Sat/Sun).

■ Japanese Drum Workshops on both days.

12:15 ~ 14:15 (Reservation required)

Target: Elementary school students and above.

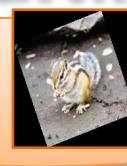
Fee: 2,000 Yen, includes the drumsticks. Capacity:

30 people on each day. Please contact the venue for more information: Kusabue-no-Oka ☎ 485-7821

■ Japanese Drum interaction corner. October 24 (Sat)

11:00 ~ 15:00 ※Cancelled in case of rain.

◆ Fantasy Night Stage. October 24 (Sat) 16:00 ~ 19:50



◆ Let's make "Kusabue" Karuta game!

Let's make a card game using the photos you have taken! October 31 (Sat) 10:00 ~ Noon (Reservation required)

Target: Parents and their children of elementary school age and older.

Capacity: 10 groups (first-come, first-served).

※Please inquire on the day in case of bad weather.

※An additional admission fee is required.

※The completed card game will be published on the website.

Kusabue-no-Oka – Facility Information: ☎ 485-7821 (9:00 ~ 17:00)

● 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.

SAKURA CITY'S UNIQUE LEARNING – “SAKURA STUDIES” (SAKURA GAKU)

“Sakura Studies” is the study of the charm and characteristics of the region, including the history, culture, nature, people and lifestyle of Sakura.

In elementary and junior high schools throughout the city, “Sakura Studies” is used to deepen understanding of the local community and foster a sense of attachment and pride in one’s hometown. Furthermore, through library exhibits and community center courses, it is a popular initiative unique to Sakura City that allows people of all ages, from children to adults, to learn.

Inquiries: Shakai Kyōiku-ka (Social Education Section) ☎ 484-6189

Sakura Gaku’s three initiatives: “Learn, Experience and Apply”

LEARN – Connecting school studies with the local community.

Using the charms of their local area as a theme, students can deepen their understanding of what they learned in school through visits to the area and interactions with local people. Adults can also learn through courses held at community centers and other venues.

EXPERIENCE – You can experience authentic history and culture.

Sakura offers a wealth of learning resources, including historical materials, cultural assets, its rich natural environment, and the people who are actively contributing to the local community. Understanding can be deepened not only through textbooks, books and videos, but also by experiencing and interacting with the real thing.



← The school lunch menu that won the Mayor’s Award at the Sakura Gaku Children’s Art Exhibition is now being served.

APPLY – Put learning into practice.

By sharing the results of their research and hands-on learning through the “Sakura Children’s Learning Exhibition”, presentations at school and in the community, social media and other channels, students develop the ability to communicate the appeal of their community while fostering a sense of attachment to and pride in the city they call home.

LET’S GO TO THE PLAY PARK! PLAY MAKES OUR COMMUNITY GROW!

Are you familiar with the Play Park initiative?

The environment surrounding children is changing every day, but the fundamental desire of children to “play a lot, freely!” remains unchanged. Did you know that play parks are being held in various locations throughout the city as a way to fully respect these feelings of children? Learn about play parks and go play there with your children or grandchildren.

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



Introducing the charm of play parks.

“Pre-paku”, the Japanese term used for Play Park, is a playground for children that starts with children’s “I want to do it!” and “I want to try it!”.

Guided by the mottos: “You are responsible for your own scrapes and your own lunch” and “Play freely and responsibly”, play parks aim to minimize rules and restrictions while respecting children’s curiosity, creativity and willingness to take on challenges. But don’t underestimate it as just a children’s playground, “Pre-paku” is a wonderful place filled with opportunities for children to discover, explore and grow.

Play parks are hubs for interaction that connect people in the town through children’s play, and we believe that its vibrancy contributes to the vitality of the town. Not only children, but also local residents who are willing to drop by or volunteer are very welcome!

We support those who are organizing Play Parks!

The city is subsidizing a portion of the operating expenses of privately run play parks within the city as part of its efforts to create a child-rearing environment that takes advantage of its rich natural surroundings.

For details, please see city’s website →

※Applications will close once the budget is reached.



List of organizations receiving subsidies for the Sakura City Play Park Subsidy Program in fiscal year 2026 (See the QRC for details on each organization↓)

Organization Name	Main activity base
Kaze no Mura Bōken Kichi	Miyamae Chūō Kōen (Central Park)
Sakura Child-Rearing Support Network	Sakura Higashi Elementary School
Satoyama Play Park	Sakura Satoyama Nature Park
Nobizora Play Park	Shizu Nature Park
Terazaki Shokudo	Komagaeri Park
Takasaki Salon	Takasaki Community Center
Sakura Child-Rearing Festival Executive Committee	Jōza Sōgo Kōen
NPO Hōjin Sakura no Saku-Oka	Shizu-sō





Kindergarten Admission Procedures for April 2027

Target facilities: Private kindergartens, certified childcare centers (kindergarten section).

Eligible children: Children aged 3 to 5 (Nenshō through Nenchō levels).

Application form distribution: Starts on October 15 (Thur). Acceptance period from November 2 (Mon). ※Start dates may vary depending on the facility. For details on enrollment for 3-year-old classes, please visit the city's website and contact the individual facility.

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

The application period begins soon!



Admission for Nursery School and other childcare facilities for 1st screening on January~March & April 2027

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 apply online, no reservation or visit the City Hall office is required. Please see the website for details →

① Online reservations (First-come, first-served):

◆October 1 (Thur) from 10:00 ~ to November 30 (Mon). Please make the reservation using the counter application service →

◆Counter reservations: December 1 (Tue) to December 9 (Wed)

② **Admission applications.** Application acceptance period: from November 16 (Mon) to December 9 (Wed) 9:00 to 16:30. ※Only Saturday of November 28 and Sunday of November 29 we will be accepting applications.

- 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 2027, applications will be accepted twice in April (first and second screenings). Only those kindergartens that do not reach capacity in the 1st screening will be eligible for the 2nd screening. (If vacancies arise after the capacity has been reached, they will be eligible for the second round of admission selection).
- Sakura Nursery school, Shizu Nursery schools and Sennari kindergarten have priority slots for children requiring medical care. For details, please see the city's website → and contact the section in charge.



↑Counter Reservation Service



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

Related to childcare period

The national pension insurance premium exemption system will begin

Starting October 1st, a new system will be implemented to exempt Category 1 National Pension insured persons who are raising children from paying National Pension premiums during the childcare period.

In principle, biological parents, adoptive parents and others raising a child up to one year old who meet certain requirements are exempt from paying national pension insurance premiums upon application.

The exemption period will be treated as if insurance premiums had been paid and will be reflected in the amount of the basic old-age pension received.



《**Target**》 From October 1st onwards, the biological and adoptive parents of National Pension Category 1 insured persons who are raising a child (*) up to one year old. To be eligible to raise a child, you must meet both of the following requirements:

- ① The relationship between the child and parent continues.
- ② Must have the same address as the child.

(*) This also applies to children under the care of a special adoption family and children in need of protection who have been placed with foster parents.

《How to apply》

◆ Electronic application via My Number Portal. ◆ Application by notification (Submit to the Insurance and Pension Section of Makuhari Pension Office. (Please check each website → for details).



←Japan Pension Service



←Insurance and Pension Section

Inquiries: Makuhari Nenkin Jimusho (Makuhari Pension Office) ☎ 212-8621
Hoken Nenkin-ka (Insurance and Pension Section) ☎ 484-6126

SAKURA TOWN SHOPPING VOUCHERS EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 31ST !

The Sakura Machinaka Shopping Vouchers will expire on October 31 (Sat). If you have not yet received your vouchers, please contact us. Please note that:

- ❖ Gift certificates that have expired cannot be used.
- ❖ Cannot be exchanged for cash, etc.

Inquiries: Sakura Machinaka Shōhin-ken Call Center ☎ 0120-205-065
Section in charge: Shōko Shinkō-ka (Commerce and Industry Promotion Section)



SAKURA FURUSATO HIROBA

Based on the "Sakura Furusato Hiroba Expansion and Development Basic Plan" formulated in fiscal year 2021, the city has been working on formulating the basic design since fiscal year 2025 to develop a facility with "seeing", "experiencing" and "eating" functions, themed around "business" and "environment" with four development concepts: flower tourism, green tourism, cycle tourism and a place for citizens to relax and be active. Now that the basic design has been finalized, we are conducting a public comment period to solicit your opinions. For details, please see the city's website →

Period: September 15 (Tue) ~ October 14 (Wed)



Inquiries: Kōen Ryokuchi-ka (Parks and Greenery Section) ☎ 484-0940



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

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



INFLUENZA	CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19 INFECTION)
Common matters: Eligibility: Those who are registered residents of Sakura City on the day of vaccination and who meet the following criteria. Pre-examination forms will be sent from September 30 to those who are 65 years of age or older as of October 1, 2026.	
① People 65 years or older (born on or before January 1, 1962).	① People 65 years or older (born on or before April 1, 1962).
Common matters: ② 60~64 years old, with a disability certificate (Level 1) due to heart, kidney or respiratory problems. If you fall under category ② and wish to be vaccinated, please contact us.	
The low-cost program of influenza vaccinations for senior citizens starts on <i>October 1 (Thur) and will be available through January 31, 2027 (Sun).</i>	Coronavirus vaccinations start on <i>October 1 (Thur) and will be available through March 31, 2027 (Wed).</i>
Cost: 1,800 Yen	Cost: 11,800 Yen
※ Those who will turn 65 between October 2, 2026 and January 1, 2027 – pre-examination forms will be sent the day after your birthday.	※ Those who will turn 65 between October 2, 2026 and March 15, 2027 – pre-examination forms will be sent the day after your birthday. ※ Those who will turn 65 between March 16, 2027 ~ April 1, 2027 and wish to be inoculated, please contact us.
Common matters: ◆ Vaccinations are optional to those who are not covered by the above, but the full cost will be borne by the individual. ◆ Free for citizens on welfare. Please obtain a Welfare Recipient Certificate in advance and bring it to the medical institution on the vaccination day.	

WE WILL DELIVER AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION KIT



With the cooperation of community welfare commissioners and child welfare Commissioners we will be distributing emergency medical information kits to those turning 75 this year. Please note that delivery may take some time. An emergency medical information kit includes a form to keep in your home refrigerator in case of an emergency, containing information such as your regular healthcare provider and emergency contact details.

If you already have one, it is important to update the contents of your emergency medical information form. You can download the form from the city's website →

Please use it when updating.



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

Inquiries on community and child welfare commissioners: Shakai Fukushi-ka (Social Welfare Section) ☎ 484-6135

BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT BUSINESS PRACTICES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DISASTERS!

After natural disasters such as typhoons, heavy rains and earthquakes, there tend to be an increase in troubles related to fraudulent business practices that take advantage of the disaster.

- ◆ Beware of "free inspections"!
- ◆ Be careful of tactics that try to instill fear by saying things like "If you don't fix it now, something terrible will happen" and then rush you into signing a contract.
- ◆ It is important to consult with someone first, rather than deciding on a contract on the spot.
- ※ If you entered into a contract after being visited or solicited by a business operator, you may be able to exercise your right to a cooling-off period.
- ※ If you encounter any problems, please contact your local consumer affairs center as soon as possible.

Inquiries: Shōhi Seikatsu Sentā (Consumer Affairs Center) ☎ 483-4999