November 2026

Reiwa 8

# HELLO SAKURA

11月

NO.444

☎ (043) 484-6103; Fax:(043) 486-8720; E-mail: koho@city.sakura.lg.jp; URL: https://www.city.sakura.lg.jp

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.

## ♦ INFORMATION ON THE DAMAGE CAUSED IN THE CITY BY TYPHOON No. 25 ♦ SUPPORT FOR DISASTER VICTIMS.



Due to the effects of Typhoon No. 25, which approached the city from September 20th to the 22nd, the city recorded a cumulative rainfall of 378.5 mm, causing the Takasaki River to overflow and resulting in landslides. Extensive damage occurred in various parts of the city, including flooded roads, houses, farmland and road damage. The city will work in cooperation with the national and prefectural governments and other relevant organizations to ensure that citizens can return to their normal lives as soon as possible. We ask for your cooperation.

**Information on support systems for those affected by Typhoon No. 25 and the August torrential rains in Chiba.**
A consultation counter regarding support systems for disaster victims has been established at the City Hall, on the 2nd floor of building No. 1.

●Applications for "Disaster Damage Certificates" and "Certificates of Disaster Impact" are now being accepted. ※Please take photos showing the extent of the damage before repairing your home or other property. ※We are accepting applications for these certificates, which are required for purposes such as obtaining reductions or exemptions on public service fees or filing claims with insurance companies. For details, please visit the city's website ➔

►Disaster Damage Certificate (Risai Shōmei-sho): A document issued by the city certifying the extent of damage to a residence (e.g. total collapse, partial collapse, minor damage).

►Certificate of Disaster Impact (Hisai Shōmei-sho): A document issued by the city certifying that assets other than a residence (e.g. exterior structures, gates, vehicles, household goods) have sustained damage.

※Note: this does not certify the specific degree of damage.

**Reception hours:** Weekdays from 9:00 to 16:30. Please bring your personal seal (inkan) and photos showing both the overall view and the specific damage. ※Applications cannot be made by phone and certificates cannot be issued on the same day. **Inquiries:** Kiki Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section) ☎484-6131

❶ Inquiries regarding "August Torrential Rains in Chiba Prefecture"
❷ Inquiries regarding "Typhoon No. 25"

**For detailed information on relief measures, please check Kōhō Sakura, October 15 Issue, page 2 (in Japanese).**
(Kōhō Sakura can be translated into 10 languages by using the free app "Catalog Pocket")

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## Message from the City Mayor to all those affected by the recent disaster.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to everyone affected by the record-breaking heavy rainfall associated with Typhoon No. 25.

The heavy rains in Chiba Prefecture in August, the downpours from September 6th to 7th, and this recent typhoon have all had a serious impact on the lives of many residents in Sakura City. Due to these successive disasters occurring within a short period, significant damage has been confirmed throughout the city. Many people are facing great anxiety and difficulties, forced to endure inconvenient living conditions. It is truly heartbreaking to think of the hardships faced by those affected by the disaster.

To date, the city has been working tirelessly -with the cooperation of relevant agencies, including the fire department, police and the Self-Defense Forces- to prioritize saving lives through rescue operations, shelter management, and assessing the extent of the damage. Moving forward, we will prioritize providing livelihood support for those affected and swiftly and steadily implement necessary measures, such as disaster waste disposal, the restoration of public infrastructure and assistance for damaged homes.

In the wake of this disaster, we received words of sympathy and swift support including the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces from Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. Furthermore, under mutual aid agreements, we have received human and material support from numerous municipalities and organizations both within and outside the prefecture, including fire departments from Chiba City, Matsudo City, Ichikawa City and Inzai City. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has provided support and made efforts on our behalf. I ask all citizens to exercise caution regarding accidents during recovery efforts and to take care of their health while checking periodically for updates released by the city.

**Nishita Sango, Sakura City Mayor**

# ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF SAKURA'S CASTLE TOWN AREA



**Towards a castle town that leverages its history, fosters human connection and gives rise to new challenges!**

In 2024, the city formulated the "Sakura Castle Town Area Vision" and is undertaking various projects to pass on the historic townscape, culture and nature of the castle town area to future generations, while also transforming it into an area where people gather and new activities are born. This section introduces a new initiative for community development undertaken by citizens, businesses and the city government.



**Inquiries:** Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6146

**A town that everyone can enjoy: "The Neighboring Castle Town"**

Under its "Tourism Grand Design" – specifically the "Dual Tourism Hub Concept", the city is working to develop key tourism centers with a primary focus on the Imbanuma area and the historic castle town district. Regarding the castle town area, the city formulated the "Sakura Castle Town Area Vision" in 2024 to serve as a roadmap for realizing its initiatives. This vision defines the desired future state of the area as a "neighboring castle town" that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike and the city is currently implementing various measures to bring this vision to life.





**The key to the Sakura Castle Town Area Vision is "3"**

◆**Three perspectives:** Three pillars for shaping the future of the castle town.
① Creating destinations: Increasing the number of places people want to visit.
② Establishing a framework: Creating a system to ensure continuity, rather than letting it be a one-time episode.
③ Creating a safe and comfortable environment where everyone can walk around safely and comfortably.

◆**Three Neighbors:** Building a town that grows by connecting with its surroundings.
① Neighboring municipalities: A place to visit easily and often.
② Tokyo Metropolitan area: A destination that can be visited on a one-day trip and enjoyed for sightseeing, taking advantage of its location.
③ Narita Airport: A place that can serve as a gateway for international visitors and from Japan as well. We want to help spread the charm of the castle town to a wider audience.

◆**Three zones:** Urban development that leverages the unique characteristics of each region.
①Keisei Sakura Station front zone: A gateway that welcomes visitors and invites them to explore the town.
②Shinmachi zone: The heart of a castle town where you can feel history and daily life.
③Castle Ruins Park zone: A place to enjoy history, nature and to relax.

**To review the full article, please check Kōhō Sakura, November 1st issue, page 2 (in Japanese).**

# "TAMARUBA" Castle Town hangout 2026

**November 15 (Sun), 10:00~15:00**

**@ the Sakura Castle Town Area:** Keisei Sakura Station street, Municipal Art Museum, Ura-Shinmachi Warehouse, the Ohayashi-kan, the Otemon Gate Ruins Square, Sakura Castle Ruins Park and more!

※The event will proceed in light rain but canceled under severe weather conditions

"Tamaruba" is a social experiment exploring the potential of the town! Come and see! Have fun! Sakura's genuine energy right now.

♦**Sakura de Books** – Used book fair in front of the store.
♦**Sakura With & HERE WE GO!** A collaborative event between the museum shop "Sakura With" and "HERE WE GO".
♦**Tamaruba Food Street** – A spot showcasing Sakura's food culture.
♦**Organic Village Market** –Producers from the Sakura City area sell fresh, organic vegetables and processed goods.
For more information, please visit the city's website or the official Tamaruba Instagram account:
♦**Asobi no Komichi (Playing Path)** – A play street springs to life, where everyone can freely play board games, draw street art and more!

In addition to this, there will be plenty of other events planned, organized by local residents, shops and high school students! With the cooperation of the Sakura Castle Town Shopping District, we will also be holding a stamp rally where you can visit various shops.
For details, please visit the city's website or the Tamaruba official Instagram account ➔

City's Homepage ➔

←Official Tamaruba Instagram account

♦**The Otemon Gate is revived ! Sakura Castle Time Travel**

A day to "see, walk and experience" Sakura Castle, with activities such as trying on armor, weapons and shuriken, and a quiz rally around the castle ruins park. Food trucks will also be present!

♦**Sakura Kosodachi Festa! (Sakura Child-Rearing Festival)**

Held at various locations throughout Shinmachi, including the backyard of Mugitoro Surugaya!
This time, we are venturing beyond our usual park and holding events all over Shinmachi. Let's explore the town to the fullest! The International Day will also be taking place at the same time.

**Inquiries:** Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6146

## THE FILM "WATASHI NO SHIRANAI KODOMO-TACHI" (CHILDREN UNTOLD) WAS FILMED AT THE FORMER MASUDA FAMILY RESIDENCE!



Directed by Miwa Nishikawa, the film "Children Untold", which was filmed at the Former Masuda Family Residence in Sakura City, has been released in cinemas nationwide starting Friday, October 16. Many cast members, including lead actress Ami Koyae, Fumi Nikaidō, Kōji Yakusho, Yūko Tanaka and Ryōta Bando among others, took part in filming at the historic residence.

**Film Synopsis:** Kotoko, a 12-year-old girl who has lost her family and her everyday life to war, chooses to conceal her gender and live as a boy in order to survive. With comfort stations for occupying forces and street prostitution spreading in the aftermath of the war, this is her decision to escape a reality in which simply being a girl puts her in danger.
Please view the Sakura Film Commission website for more information ➔
**Inquiries:** Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (City's Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎484-6541

## 3rd HAWAIIAN SUNSET HILLS

We are hosting our third Hawaiian event at "Imbanuma Sunset Hills", a campsite with a panoramic view of Lake Imbanuma!




Enjoy Hawaiian food and the market while watching the hula performance. The food area will also feature numerous stalls selling "saimin", a noodle dish originating in Hawaii. This is an event where you can easily enjoy a taste of Hawaii. Please come and join us!
**Date & Time:** Nov. 1 (Sun) 10:00~17:00
**Place:** Imbanuma Sunset Hills. ※ For more details, please see the website↗
**Inquiries:** Sakura no Miryoku Suishin-ka (Sakura City Attractiveness Promotion Section) ☎ 484-6146

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE GATHERING!

Foreigners learning Japanese will present speeches and songs. Why not join us and enjoy this stage of international exchange?

**Date & Time:** Nov. 15 (Sun) 13:00 ~16:30 (Registration starts at 12:30)
**Place:** Chūo Kominkan (Central Community Center)
**Target:** Those who live in the city.
Please apply through the website application form ➔
**Deadline:** Nov. 9 (Mon)
**Inquiries:** Sakura Kokusai Kōryū Kikin (Sakura International Exchange Foundation) ☎ 484-6326

**(In charge):** Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section)

## To New Elementary School students: Financial assistance will be provided for school supplies.



(For Households Below a Certain Income Level)

To be eligible for this benefit, the applicants must meet all three of the following conditions:
❶The household is experiencing financial hardship to a degree comparable to receiving public assistance. (Households where the total income of all members of the household is less than 1.3 times the public assistance standard amount. ※Those who are already on welfare are not eligible for this program as their benefits are provided as part of their public assistance payments. ※Those who have not filed tax returns cannot be certified.
❷Parents of new first graders who will enter a public elementary school in April, 2027.
If you are unsure about where to enroll your child, please contact us.
❸ Those who are residents in Sakura City as of March 1, 2027.
**Deadline:** Application must arrive by January 8 (Fri), 2027. **Payment amount:** 64,300 Yen.
**Payment period:** March 2027.
※ This information is enclosed with the "School Entry Health Checkup Information" sent to city residents around mid-September. Information and application forms can be downloaded from the city's homepage ↗
※ School supplies expenses for new enrollment in a Jr. High School will be paid around March 2027 to eligible students currently in the 6th grade elementary school students. ※ Applications for financial assistance for currently enrolled students are accepted at any time. Please contact us if you wish to apply.
**Inquiries:** Gakumu-ka (School Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6186

## WE WILL PROVIDE PARTIAL SUBSIDY COSTS FOR HOME SECURITY CAMERAS, ETC.



**Content:** We will subsidize a portion of the costs of items purchased and installed between June 1 (Mon) and November 30 (Mon), 2026.
**Subsidy amount:** Half of the purchase cost, etc. (maximum 20,000 Yen). ※ Limited to one application per house. (Applications will close once the budget is reached).
**Support:** For the purchase and installation costs for security cameras (excluding doorbells with recording functions) and motion-sensor lights installed on the property of the residence.
**Deadline:** Monday, November 30, until 16:30 (must arrive by this time)
Please visit the city's website for more information ➔
**Inquiries:** Kiki Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section) ☎484-6161

# Sakura City Grand Industrial Expo 2026

Sakura's commerce, industry, agriculture and welfare sectors will come together for the Sakura City Grand Industrial Expo 2026!
**Dates & Time:** November 7 and 8 (Sat/Sun) from 9:00 ~ 15:00

**Place:** Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka. **Fare:** 300 Yen (Free of charge to High School students and younger as well as those who have an annual passport with a disability certificate and one caregiver). ※Entry to Kusabue-no-Oka is also permitted.

### THERE WILL BE LOTS OF EVENTS AT THE VENUE!

- Sakura Food Championship – Let's decide the No. 1 at the Industrial Expo! (A collaborative project with the Sakura City Food Truck and Street Vendor Association).
- Industry Public Relations booth – Discover new companies, products and activities!
- Food and drink booths, merchandise booths and food trucks. A huge gathering of Sakura's delicious foods!
- Working vehicles exhibition: Pump trucks only on the 7th. Articulated ladder trucks only on the 8th. Police cars and even huge agricultural machinery will also be on display.
- Keyword rally with great prizes such as rice, shumai and juice made in Sakura! (The rally ends when prizes run out).

### HOW TO ARRIVE:

- On the days of the event, free shuttle buses will operate between the North Exit of Keisei Sakura Station and the venue, from 8:45 until 16:00.
- You can also take the Sakura City Community bus at Keisei Sakura Station, North Exit (200 Yen) "Uchigo route" (get off at Kusabue-no-Oka bus stop).

**Inquiries:** Sakura Industrial Exposition Executive Committee Secretariat
♦Agricultural Administration Section ☎ 484-6141 ♦Commerce and Industry Promotion Section ☎ 484-6145
♦Welfare Section for Persons with Disabilities ☎ 484-4164

## 2027 COMING OF AGE CEREMONY

**It will be held on Sunday, January 10th**

The event will be scheduled in three parts, each ceremony lasting 35 minutes. ※ Registration begins 30 minutes before each district ceremony.

① Usui/Chiyoda area: 10:00 ~
② Shizu area: 11:30 ~
③ Sakura, Nego, Wada & Yatomi areas: 13:30 ~

**Place:** Sakura Harmony Hall
**Target:** Those who have turned 20 years old during the fiscal year 2026 (those born between April 2, 2006 and April 1, 2007.)
♦If you require childcare, please contact the section in charge by Friday, Nov. 20.
♦For further details, please check the city's website ➔

**Inquiries:** Kodomo Seisaku-ka (Child Policy Section) ☎ 484-6190
✉ kodomoseisaku@city.sakura.lg.jp

## NOVEMBER 14TH IS "WORLD DIABETES DAY"

**Let's focus on maintaining a regular diet and getting moderate exercise.**

In Japan, the week including November 14, has been designated as "National Diabetes Week", a time dedicated to raise awareness of diabetes prevention. Diabetes is a disease that causes an increase in blood sugar. Complications can be prevented by regular medical checkups and treatment, as well as by eating a healthy diet and exercising appropriately.

**Exercise class for beginners and those who want to prevent diabetes, etc.**

**Date and time:** November 25 (Wed), 13:45 ~ 15:30 (Registration begins at 13:30).
**Place:** Seibu Hoken Center (Seibu Health Center).
**Target:** Those aged 40~74 who live or work in the city. For more details, please check the city's website➔

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

## NOVEMBER IS ORANGE RIBBON MONTH

**A campaign to promote the prevention of child abuse is currently underway.**
**FY 2025 slogan: "189 (Ichihayaku) Notice the signs quickly"**

Let's work together to protect children's smiles! Child abuse harms children both physically and emotionally and violates their human rights. Early detection helps protect children and their families. If you notice anything that concerns you, please contact the appropriate consultation service. Even if you are unsure whether abuse is occurring or only suspect that it may be happening, you can make a report anonymously.

Preventing child abuse is not something that public agencies alone, such as child guidance centers and municipal governments, can accomplish. Each of us can help prevent child abuse by contributing to a society that is supportive and understanding of families raising children.

The Orange Ribbon is a symbol of the movement to create a society free from child abuse. Its orange color represents a bright future for all children. The "Dutch windmill" will also be lit up in orange, from Nov. 2 (Mon) to the 6th (Fri). Time: 17:00 until 20:00.



**Consultation services regarding child abuse:**
- Sakura City Children and Family Center ☎ 484-6263 (On weekdays 8:30 ~ 17:15).
- Child and Family Emergency Hotline ☎252-1152 (Daily 8:30 ~ 20:00).
- Child consultation hotline nationwide: 189 (Ichihayaku) – 24 hours.