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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.



WHAT DOES PEACE MEAN?



~ *Thinking about peace as something that concerns us all* ~

People envision peace in different ways, yet peace is not something that exists only in distant parts of the world: it is something that is woven into each of our daily lives. Why not take small steps toward creating a peaceful society where everyone can live safely and with peace of mind? Each of us has a role to play. The city carries out a variety of peace initiatives to preserve the memories of the tragedies caused by war and pass them on to future generations, while working toward the realization of lasting world peace.

Inquiries: Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section) ☎484-6103



PEACE INITIATIVES IN SAKURA CITY

❖ Sakura Peace Mission

To foster an understanding of the horrors of war and nuclear weapons, as well as the value of peace, the city sends representatives from local junior high schools to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cities that suffered atomic bombings. Since 1996, a total of 457 students have been sent. This year, from August 5th to the 7th, 23 junior high school students visited Hiroshima City. The mission of this peace delegation extends beyond merely visiting the sites of the atomic bombings; its goal is for the students to share what they learned and convey the importance of peace to others in their own words.



Following their visit, the students engage in activities such as reporting on their experiences at the Sakura City Peace Ceremony and performing choral readings at the memorial service for the war dead. They also share their experiences and reflections at school assemblies, working to pass on their thoughts regarding peace to their peers.



❖ Peace Learning Support

The city provides subsidies for admission fees to the "Yokaren Peace Memorial Museum" in Ami Town, Ibaraki Prefecture. This subsidy applies for elementary, junior high and high school students residing or attending school in Sakura City. "Yokaren" refers to a facility where boys, roughly the age of today's junior high and high school students, received training to become naval pilots. During the Pacific War, many graduates perished on the battlefield. The memorial museum displays valuable documents and photographs, allowing visitors to learn about the training, daily life and feelings of these boys.



For more details, please visit the city's website ↑

❖ Elementary school peace memorial lectures and film screening.

Ms. Takako Kotani ~ Having experienced the atomic bombing of Hiroshima at the age of 6, she has been working as a storyteller since 2003, together with her ventriloquist dummy "A-chan" to convey her own experiences, the horrors of war and the importance of peace.

Ms. Keiko Higuchi ~ Since 2016, she has been working as a storyteller to pass on to younger generations the experiences, feelings and wishes for peace of her mother, who was a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

You can view their thoughts as "storytellers" of the war on the official Sakura City YouTube channel.

Passing the baton of peace to the future!

Eighty-one years have passed since the end of the war, but conflict still rages around the world. In Japan, as those who experienced the war grow older, a major challenge is how to pass on the horrors of war, the preciousness of peace and the terror of nuclear weapons to the next generation. I believe this is my mission as a second-generation survivor of the atomic bombing. Under its "Peace Ordinance", the city has continued to convey the memories of war and the desire of peace to its citizens through various activities. We are confident that the continuation of these activities will be the driving force for all generations to think about and act on peace. Moving forward, we will continue to work with our citizens on various projects aimed at achieving lasting world peace.



Nishita Sango
Sakura City Mayor

ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVOR PIANO PEACE CONCERT

Prayers for peace will be conveyed through music

A "hibaku piano" is a piano that has survived the atomic bombing in 1945 and has been restored by piano tuners such as Mr. Mitsunori Yagawa, a second-generation atomic bomb survivor, and is now being played throughout Japan. At this concert, the atomic bomb survivor piano will be played by Ms. Asako Nasu, a singer/songwriter from Sakura City. Why not reflect on the preciousness of peace and the importance of life through the sounds played by a piano that survived the atomic bombing?

Date and time: October 11 (Sun) – Starts at 13:30
(doors open at 12:30)

Place: Sakura Harmony Hall **Target:** Open to the public in general ※Because of the nature of the program, parents whose young children (infants, toddlers, etc.) can sit still for about an hour are welcome. We appreciate your understanding.

Concert content: ◆A conversation between Ms. Asako Nasu and piano tuner Mr. Yagawa. (conducted in Japanese) ◆Atomic bomb piano performance.

Capacity: 400 people (first-come, first-served).

Reservations until September 28 (Mon)

Please apply through the Chiba
Electronic Application Service.

More details on the City's homepage. →



PEACE RELATED EVENTS

◆Screening of the film "Mother's Atomic Bomb Survivor Piano"

We will be showing a film about a piano that survived the atomic bombing. This film is a human drama depicting the growth of a university student who, through the lens of the atomic bombing, confronts the memories of his grandmother and family as well as his own roots, and a piano tuner who restores a piano that survived the bombing in Hiroshima and uses it to spread a message of peace throughout Japan.

Date and time: September 26 (Sat) – 14:00

Place: Yume Sakura-kan

◆Atomic Bomb exhibition outside Nagasaki Pref.

As the number of war and atomic bomb survivors dwindles, we will be holding an exhibition of atomic bomb-related materials to help more people understand the reality of the bombing.

Date and time: October 6 (Tue) ~ 15 (Thur)
from 9:00 ~ 16:30 (Until noon on the last day.

Place: Usui Community Center.

Inquiries: Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section) ☎ 484-6103

Please be aware of fraudulent sales tactics!

We are seeing a surge in inquiries regarding fraudulent sales tactics related to electrical distribution board inspections.

◆Advice to customers:

Household electrical equipment, including distribution boards, is subject to a legal requirement that power companies conduct inspections every four years.

For mandatory inspections, you will always receive written notification in advance, and the inspector will visit carrying an identification card from a registered inspection agency. Furthermore, they will not solicit any contracts on the spot after the inspection. Be wary of door-to-door sales tactics disguised as mandatory inspections.

[Points to consider]

■When undergoing an investigation, always ask to see the inspector's identification card.

■Even if you are pressured to sign a contract due to heightened anxiety, do not sign it on the spot and instead check with the power company.

■Even if you have already signed a contract, you may be able to use the cooling-off period. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Sakura City Consumer Affairs Center or other relevant organizations immediately.

■Specialized counselors are available to handle inquiries and give assistance regarding consumer issues such as problems with contracts for goods or services.

Monday ~ Friday 9:00~12:00 & 13:00~16:00. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays and the Year-end/New Year holidays.



**Inquiries: Shōhi Seikatsu Sōdan (Shōhi Seikatsu Sentā) Consumer Affairs Consultation
(Consumer Affairs Center) ☎ 483-4999 Place: Millennium Center Sakura**

30 KM/H - NEW SPEED LIMIT ON RESIDENCIAL ROADS

Due to the enforcement of the revised Cabinet Order for the Road Traffic Act, the statutory speed limit for automobiles on residential roads will be lowered from 60 km/h to 30 km/h, effective September 1, 2026.

What are "residential roads"? These are roads primarily used by area residents for daily activities that lack center lines or designated traffic lanes.

Roads subject to the 30 km/h statutory limit. On general roads that lack center lines or traffic lanes and do not have specific limit signs, the statutory speed limit will be 30 km/h.

Roads remaining at 60 km/h. Roads with center lines or traffic lanes, roads where opposing traffic is separated (e.g. by a median strip), and roads designated exclusively for automobiles will remain at 60 km/h. However, if a specific speed is indicated by signs or other markers, that indicated speed takes precedence.

To all drivers. On residential roads, people come first. Please practice safe driving: keep your speed down, yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and slow down at intersections with poor visibility.

Inquiries: Dōro Iji-ka (Road Maintenance Section) ☎ 484-6152

MESSAGE FROM SAKURA CITY MAYOR REGARDING THE RECENT DISASTER

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to everyone affected by this disaster. We pray sincerely for the souls of those who lost their lives in the recent torrential rain disaster and extend our deepest condolences to their bereaved families.

From the evening of August 13th onward, a linear rainband developed across widespread areas of the prefecture, bringing concentrated rainfall in a short period equivalent to approximately 2.5 times the city's average monthly rainfall for August. As a result, extensive damage occurred throughout the city, including flooded roads and inundated homes, landslides causing damage to houses and roads and other issues, even in areas that had not previously experienced flooding.

The city worked diligently to gather information and following the issuance of weather warnings, issued evacuation orders and opened evacuation shelters. In cooperation with the fire brigade, fire department,

Sakura Police, the Sakura City Construction Industry Disaster Prevention Association, the national prefectural governments and other relevant organizations, we worked around the clock to carry out rescue and relief operations, drainage work, emergency measures for landslides and other disaster-response efforts.

Moving forward, we will continue working to restore normal living conditions as quickly as possible for all residents. In coordination with the national and prefectural governments and the City Council, we will make every effort to achieve an early recovery. We ask for your understanding and cooperation.

In the wake of this disaster, we have received a wide range of support from many companies, organizations and volunteers. On behalf of the city, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported us and I ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Nishita Sango, Sakura City Mayor



DISASTER PREVENTION MEASURES – Start with daily preparations!

Natural disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. To reduce damage from earthquakes and floods, it is important for each individual to take an interest in disaster prevention and to raise awareness of “self-help” – protecting oneself and one’s family and “mutual assistance” – supporting one’s community. Review your daily preparations and evacuation procedures so that you can act calmly in the event of an emergency.

Inquiries: Kiki Kanri-ka (Crisis Management Section) ☎484-6131

PAY ATTENTION TO DISASTER PREVENTION WEATHER INFORMATION. A new disaster prevention weather information system has been in operation since May 29th. For disasters such as river flooding, heavy rain and landslides, a warning level number is now assigned along with the information name, making clearer the criteria for deciding whether to evacuate. Let’s use this to help with early evacuation in case of an emergency. ↓ ※Please note that 5 is the highest level in the Japanese warning system.

MAKE USE OF THE DISASTER PREVENTION GUIDEBOOK.

The Crisis Management Section is distributing a “Disaster Prevention Guidebook” which includes hazard maps and information on disaster preparedness. Please use it to review your daily preparations and evacuation procedures. Please see the website for more details →



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM JAPAN’S METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY				INFORMATION FROM SAKURA CITY	ACTIONS RESIDENTS SHOULD TAKE
ALERT LEVEL	RIVER FLOODING	HEAVY RAIN	LANDSLIDE DISASTER		
5	Level 5 Flood special warning	Level 5 Heavy rain special warning	Level 5 Special warning for landslides	Emergency safety assurance	 Life in danger. Ensure safety immediately. e.g.: vertical evacuation. ▶ A disaster has already occurred. Let’s take the best possible action to protect our lives.
EVACUATE FROM DANGEROUS AREAS WHEN ALERT 4 IS REACHED.					
4	Level 4 Flood Danger warning	Level 4 Heavy rain warning	Level 4 Landslide hazard warning	Evacuation order	 Evacuate everyone from dangerous areas. ▶ If moving is difficult evacuate to a safer place within your home
3	Level 3 Flood warning	Level 3 Heavy rain warning	Level 3 Landslide warning	Evacuation of elderly people, etc.	 Elderly and vulnerable individuals should evacuate from dangerous areas. ▶ People who require more time to evacuate (elderly, disabled, infants, etc.) and their caregivers should evacuate.
2	Level 2 Flood warning	Level 2 Heavy rain warning	Level 2 Landslide warning		▶ Confirm evacuation procedures.
1	Early warning information				▶ Strengthen your preparedness for disasters

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF HEATSTROKE

The number of deaths due to heatstroke reaches around 1,000 each year, and in 2024, the highest number ever recorded was 2,160.

Furthermore, more than 80% of those who died were elderly people aged 65 or older. As people age, they tend to feel less heat and their ability to regulate their body temperature declines, making them more susceptible to heatstroke and more likely to experience severe symptoms. Elderly people need to be especially careful.

Key points to prevent heatstroke:

- ❶ Turn on the air conditioner every day without hesitation.
- ❷ Drink fluids frequently, about 8 times a day, before you feel thirsty.
- ❸ Avoid unnecessary and non-essential outings.
- ❹ When going out, make use of public facilities such as Sakura Suzumi Dokoro ↓ and take frequent breaks in cool places.

PLEASE USE "SAKURA SUZUMI DOKORO" "Sakura Cooling Areas!"

These cooling areas are available at public facilities throughout the city. They are fully air conditioned, equipped with seating and rest areas and are free of charge for anyone to use. Please feel free to stop by while you are out or taking a walk. ※ These facilities are intended for temporary use to escape the heat. Please refrain from staying for extended periods. For details, please check the city's website ↗

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



CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION VACCINE (PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINATIONS)

Cervical cancer has a relatively high incidence among young women. The city is implementing a publicly funded HPV vaccination prevention program, and the final year of the program is for students equivalent to the first year of high school.

Target: Females from 6th grade in elementary school to the 1st year of high school (born between 2010 ~ 2014)

Fee: Free of charge (If using the city's pre-examination form)

Number of doses: 2 or 3 doses (depending on the type of vaccine).

Time to complete vaccination: Approximately 6 months.

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



SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 10 (Thursday) ~ 16 (Wednesday)

According to statistics from the National Police Agency, the number of suicides in Japan in 2025 reached 19,188. Precious lives are lost every year, in Sakura City as well. During Suicide Prevention Week, the city will light up the Dutch windmill at Sakura Furusato Square in blue, a color believed to have a calming effect. Don't worry alone, reach out for help!

Mental health consultations: (Application required)

▶ Sep. 17 (Thur) – Psychiatrist consultation.

Place: Kenkō Kanri Center

▶ Sep. 24 (Thur) – Counselor consultation.

Place: Seibu Hoken Center

Time: 13:50 ~ 16:00 on both days (30 minutes each person).

Capacity: 4 people per session, first-come, first-served. ※ Reservations can be done on the day previous the consultation, until 15:00 hrs.

※ For detailed information, please check the consultation information on the city's website and contact us ↗

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



SEPTEMBER IS DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH

September 21st is "Dementia Day" and September is the World's Alzheimer's Month.

Anyone can develop dementia and there is also "early-onset dementia" that develops before the age of 65. In Sakura City, we are working to spread understanding of dementia so that people can continue living vibrant lives as members of the community, whether they have dementia or not.

Around Dementia Day, various initiatives are being carried out throughout the country. In Sakura City, in addition to displaying posters and distributing leaflets at various facilities in the city, the windmill at Sakura Furusato Hiroba will be lit up in orange,

Windmill light-up period: September 18 (Fri) ~ 23rd (Wed - holiday) From sunset until 20:00

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT DEMENTIA OR MEMORY LOSS, PLEASE CONTACT US!

Forgetfulness consultation:

Individual consultations with specialists are held once a month. For details, please contact the Elderly Welfare Section.

Regional Comprehensive Support Center:

Health, welfare and care professionals will provide consultations on caregiving, daily life and other related matters.

Chiba Dementia Consultation Call Center

☎ 238-7731 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10:00 ~ 16:00)

Chiba Prefecture's dedicated consultation service for early-onset dementia

☎ 226-2601 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 ~ 15:00)

Inquiries: Kōreisha Fukushi-ka (Elderly Welfare Section) ☎ 484-6343