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City Life

ISSUE 181

April/May 2024 Edition

City Life is a free English newsletter published every even month by the International Division at the Sakai City Government to provide information to the residents of Sakai City. It is available at libraries, ward offices and other city facilities, or you can view it online at the Sakai City Government English website. Don't forget to also sign up for emails to know when each new edition is published! Scan the QR code for more information. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Lena at the following email address: kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp



Legend: ☆Events ◆Exhibitions ※Important Notices ▲Campaigns ●Child & Healthcare ❁Environment ☎Help Lines

☆Opening of the Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence

The Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence offers visitors with a unique, interactive experience, where you can learn all about gun manufacturing in the actual place they were made. You can really feel the history as you walk through the workshop and residence, with traditional tatami rooms, exhibition cases, a video about the gunsmith industry in Sakai and even a beautiful Japanese garden you can see through the open shoji sliding doors. There is also a room where you can try blowing the bellows to grow the virtual fire on the screen and you can also practice using a mallet while following the instructions of the video.



During May traditional samurai armor and a carp streamer will be displayed at the Traditional Town-house Museums (Seigakuin, Yamaguchi Residence & Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence) from the 1st to the 27th. For more information, please scan the QR code.



Opening hours: 10:00-17:00

Closed: Every Tuesday and New Year holidays (December 29th ~January 3rd)

Entrance fee: 500 yen

Address: 1-3-22 Kitahatago-cho Nishi, Sakai-ku

Nearest train station: 5-minute walk from Takasujinsha station (Hankai Line) and Shichido station (Nankai Line).



☆Wisteria at Ohama Park

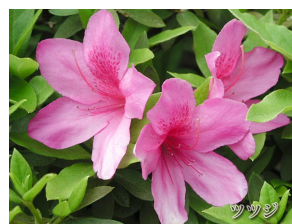
Ohama Park is known for its wisteria. Within this park there are 3 areas with wisteria pergolas, and the one that is located north to a monkey breeding cage was planted when Ohama Park was established in 1879, so its over 140 years old.

From late April, when the flowers start blooming, it produces clusters of white flowers around 25cm in length. There are 2 other wisteria pergolas with light purple-coloured flowers.

Ohama Park: 10-minute walk from Sakai station (Nankai Line).



☆Azaleas at the Asakayama Greenway



Around 2500 azalea bushes will reach peak bloom around late April. You can leisurely walk along the 600m walkway while enjoying the flowers! Did you know that the azalea is Sakai City's official flowering bush? The Asakayama Greenway was originally the site of the Asakayama Water Filtration Plant and azaleas were first

planted in 1937 for the public to enjoy, leading to them being widely loved and designated as the city's official flowering bush.

Nearest station: Asaka station (JR Hanwa Line), Asakayama station (Nankai Koya Line), Aisengakuen-mae bus stop (Nankai bus).



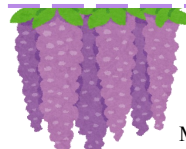
Events at city-affiliated facilities are updated on the Sakai City Government English website when City Life is released. Detailed information on opening hours, admission costs, access etc. is available there.



Parks & Gyms



Flower Calendar



Museums & Facilities

◆Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum

"Illustration: The drawings of Mucha and Art Nouveau"

Over his lifetime illustrations and art pieces drawn by Mucha were published in more than 250 books and magazines. This exhibition introduces the beauty of illustrations from books for which Mucha handled binding and design as well as illustrations and others from the same Art Nouveau Era
Exhibition period: April 6th ~ July 28th



☆◆Sakai City Museum

Let's try on clothing from ancient times and see how it feels!

Date/time: May 5th, morning session: 10:00-12:00 afternoon session 13:00-15:00

Venue: Sakai City Museum Hall

Capacity: 5 people (young children can participate with their guardians)

How to participate: Free participation no need for prior reservation. First come first served.

☆Sakai Knife Festival

This popular event will take place this year again!

Date/time: April 13th ~14th, 10:00-16:00

Admission: free

Venue: Sakai Industrial Promotion Center (nearby Nakamozu station)

- Exhibition and on-the-spot sale of Sakai knives
- Fish fillet lesson (only on the 13th from 10:30 and 13:30)
- Knife sharpening (fee-charging, until 14:00 on the 13th and 12:00 on the 14th)
- Traditional metal tempering performance (for handcrafted knife making) on both days at 10:30 and 13:30
- Daikon radish peeling competition, on both days 11:00-13:00

There will also be food trucks and events at the Children Square.



☆Daisen Park Japanese Garden Peonies

Mid to end of April is the ideal time to view the 500 peony plants. You can admire the peony pots exhibition inside the large traditional Japanese house and at the Chinese Shangri-la Togendai garden, peonies planted outside. The gorgeous red, pink, white and yellow peonies proudly signal the arrival of spring.



☆Harvest Hill

April: Open every day
May: Closed on 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

Field of 70,000 Tulips

Peak viewing: Late March to early April

You can go onto the field and take photos!



Rose Road

Peak viewing: Early May
You can walk on the small road to the top of the hill.

Strawberry Harvest and Crepe-making

Pick one pack of strawberries from the greenhouse and make crepes. You can eat it there or take it home. ※The strawberries are not all-you-can-eat

Date/time: Weekends & public holidays in April, 13:30~

Duration: 90 minutes

Cost: 2100 yen

Capacity: 48 people



☆Mihara Museum

MC Gallery Exhibition



'Sakai is a nice place' photo exhibition 2024

Everyday scene and scenery photos that people think 'Sakai is a nice place' will be displayed
Period: April 13th ~ May 12th 9:30-17:00

For more information about events see the Museum and Facilities QR code above.

☆International Women's Sumo Invitational Championship, Sakai



Day of Competition: April 7th, 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sumo Stadium, Ohama Park
Athletes from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand are set to participate. Come and directly see the intense action!

☆Foreign Language Picture Books

There is an exhibition of picture books donated by Soroptimist International of Sakai last year. After the exhibition has ended, from May the 1st, you may borrow the books. This time we have a lot of Chinese books. Other than this exhibition, in Sakai City libraries we have picture books in English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and more. Why don't you take this opportunity to read picture books to your children in the language of your own country?

Date: April 2nd ~ April 30th

Place: Central library lobby



☆Hamadera Park rose garden

In May the roses in Hamadera park bloom proudly and beautifully.

From wild roses that are native to Japan to the modern rose, you can enjoy 6,000 rose trees of 500 different varieties!

Opening hours: 10:00-17:00

Day of closure: Tuesday (if it falls on a public holiday it will be the next day)

Free entrance.



☆ Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko Sakai Marche: New tea season!



Date/time: May 3rd 10:00-16:00

Food and drink stalls using tea

Special exhibition: You can view the process of tea from being harvested till becoming a drink.

Photo spot: You can take a photo with a large tea bowl as if you are drinking from it.

Workshops

Free participation, no prior reservation necessary.

- **Tea picking experience:** 10:00~ until the leaves are picked.
- **Grinding matcha experience:** 10:00-16:00.
- **Japanese paper-dyeing experience:** 11:00-12:00 and 13:00-15:00.



※Tax Notice

May will be the appointed time for payment for the light vehicle tax and also the start of the first appointed time for the fixed property and city planning taxes. The deadline is **Friday May 31st**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, post office, convenience store, or by internet, credit card or mobile banking. Please make sure to pay before the deadline.

For those that use the automatic transfer, payment will automatically be deducted on **Friday May 31st** so please check that you have sufficient funds.



If you pay the car type-based levy of the light vehicle tax through your bank account transfer, a tax payment proof will be sent you around mid-June to be submitted on having your car inspected.

※School Expense Subsidies

Sakai City offers financial assistance to families with children in public primary and junior high schools who have difficulty covering primary school lunch fees, school supplies and other related expenses. Eligible families will fall into one of the following groups based on their total household income from 2023 (please note the amount of income may vary depending on household members' ages)



- 2 person households – 2.07 million yen or less
- 3 person households – 2.56 million yen or less
- 4 person households – 2.78 million yen or less
- 5 person households – 3.15 million yen or less
- 6 person households – 3.55 million yen or less

The application process must be completed between April 15th to 30th (excluding weekends and public holidays). Apply either at the school your child is enrolled at or bring your name seal and documentation for your bank account to your local ward office's application counter. Online applications (until April 30th) and by post (postmark deadline April 30th) are also accepted. Applications can still be made after this period until the end of February next year, however in that instance, subsidies will be calculated from the month you apply.

Please note that the school expense subsidy does not roll over automatically and must be reapplied for each year.

More detailed information will be delivered through schools at the start of April and will be available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Tagalog upon request.

●Free Cancer Screening Test

The free screening tests offered as part of the campaign to promote people to take them more often will continue to be offered until March 31st 2025. Lets get checked regularly!

Stomach cancer – even number ages 50 and over

Lung cancer – 40 and over

Large intestine cancer – 40 and over

Uterine cancer – women of even number ages 20 and over

Breast cancer – women of even number ages 40 and over

Stomach cancer risk check-up – once between ages 35-49

Prostate cancer – even number ages 50-69 (done at the same time as stomach, lung or large intestine cancer screenings)



*Those at an odd numbered age are eligible for testing if they didn't get tested the previous year.



*Group examinations are for lung cancer only. All other tests will have to be arranged individually at medical institutions.

● National Health Insurance Deadlines

For payments other than pension payments, the national health insurance payment period will be from June until the March the next year, at the end of each month (December is on 25th), and the payment period for the medical health insurance for the elderly is from July to March also at the end of every month (December will be next year January 4th (direct debit is December 28th)). Furthermore, the deadline for April and May is as follows.

April: April 30th
May: May 31st



※Special Holiday Counter

Every ward office will have special holiday counters on April the 6th and 7th from 9:00-12:00 to accommodate for the influx of people changing residences at this time of year. You can also pick up your My Number card.

Please beware of the following points if you are applying:

When requesting a certificate or submitting a notification, you need documents to prove your identity and depending on the process an inkan seal too.

Depending on the contents of the notification or application, we may have to enquire with other municipalities or receive attachments from them so it may not be possible to complete the procedures on the day. Please enquire beforehand.

You can issue documents such as copy of residence certificate, inkan seal registration certificate, city or prefectural tax certificate at the convenience store using your My Number card (foreign language services unavailable).

Civic Affairs Division:

Procedures for changing residence (excluding cases where school enrollment consultations are necessary), name seal registration, notification of family registration, issuance of copies of residence certificate etc., receiving My Number Card etc.

Health Insurance & Pension Division:

Qualification/disqualification for National Health Insurance, qualification/disqualification for Medical Expense Subsidies for Childcare etc.

Child-raising Support Division:

Application for Child Allowance.

● Spring National Traffic Safety Campaign



From April 6th~15th there will be a spring national campaign for traffic safety. Let's keep the road rules such as always following the traffic lights when crossing the road and always wearing a helmet when riding a bike.

Hospital Hours on April 27th to May 6th

Semboku Emergency Medical Center	April 27 th : 17:30-20:30 April 28 th ~29 th & May 3 rd ~6 th : 9:30-11:30, 12:45-
Sakai Dental Health Center	April 27 th : 17:30~20:30 April 28 th ~29 th & May 3 rd ~6 th : 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30
Sakai Children's Emergency Medical Center	April 27 th : 17:30-4:30 of next morning April 28 th ~29 th & May 3 rd ~6 th : 9:30~11:30, 12:45~16:30, 17:30~4:30 of next morning
Osaka Central Emergency Medical Clinic (eyes, ears, nose and throat care)	April 27 th : 15:00-21:30 April 28 th ~29 th & May 3 rd ~6 th : 10:00-21:30

The Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai (POME Sakai) can help you with language assistance for any of the processes in the city notices listed here. Check the back page for all their contact information!

☎ Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai

TEL: 072-228-7499

Email: kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp

Address: 2-1 Minamikawara-machi, Sakai-ku (5F Sakai City General Welfare Hall)

Opening Hours: Sunday to Friday 9:00-17:30

Golden Week Closure: April 27th & 29th, May 3rd-6th

General Consultations for Foreign Residents

Please drop by in person or call during these hours if you have any queries regarding daily life.

Mon to Fri 10:00-12:00 & 13:00-16:00

Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Thai.

*Tagalog, Indonesian and Nepali is only available for in person consultations.



*Languages other than Japanese/English will be conducted through a 3-way call or through the use of translation devices and interpreting services.

Volunteer Interpreter Service

Those who need interpretation can apply for a volunteer interpreter using the form available for download from the QR code. Please make sure to hand it in via post, fax or email **at least 10 days in advance.**

やさしい日本語 Facebook Page

POME Sakai has a Facebook page which posts about emergencies, disaster warnings, upcoming events, etc., in Easy Japanese. This is a great resource for those who want to attain information in Japanese.

Free Confidential Consultation

April 17th & May 15th 14:00-17:00. Three slots available (reservations required). Those that require an interpreter must apply at least 10 days before the date of the consultation.



🌸 Smoking and Littering Ban

In Sakai City, there is a ban on smoking and littering stretching from around Sakai Higashi station, the City Hall and Oshoji road to Sakai station (East to West). There is a **1000 yen penalty fee** if caught.

The areas of western Sakaihigashi station, Nakamozu station, Mikunigaoka station, JR Sakaishi station and the shopping arcade in front of it and Komyoike Station have been marked as priority areas for improvement. We appreciate your cooperation.



🌸 Parking Ban-Zones for Bicycles & Mini Bikes

Each railway station in Sakai City (except for the Hankai Line) is designated as a parking ban zone. Bicycles and mini bikes left in the zone will be removed. In addition, we will collect the removal & storage fee for the return of a removed bike or mini bike. Please use the parking lot to park a bicycle or mini-bike.



☎ “Suirin すいりん” App for Waterworks

Download the official Sakai City Waterworks and Sewage Bureau app for these convenient features!

- Get notices about checkups and view up to 2 years of past water usage and bills
- Get digital bills delivered through the app and pay using PayPay or by showing the barcode at your local 7-Eleven or Ministop.
- Get confirmations of bank transfer payments
- Apply for temporary stop and start of water pipes
- Pay bills with your credit card (registration required)



☎ Emergency Numbers

110: accident or require police

119: fire or medical emergency (available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese)

- Ambulances are free to use however, they are only for emergencies, not for minor illnesses or injuries.
- When you call 119, the operator can set up a three way call with an interpreter. It can take up to 10 seconds to connect, during which the caller should wait on the line.



🌸 Storing Water in Case of Disaster

It's important to store drinkable water for at least 7 days in case of a disaster. One person drinks about 3 liters of water for one day. It is necessary to save water in case of a large earthquake that could result in water pipes being damaged, causing filthy or sewage water not being properly disposed. If this happens, it is recommended that you refrain from using the water from the pipes. By doing this, you can reduce the sewage up to about 70%.

☎ Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Please search Sakai City CIR on Facebook and Instagram!



“goruden ui-ku” - Golden Week, referring to the consecutive public holidays at the end of April to beginning of May.

April 29th - Showa Day
May 3rd - Constitution Memorial Day
May 4th - Greenery Day
May 5th - Children's Day
May 6th - Substitute Holiday



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ウィーク