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City Life

ISSUE 193

April/May 2026 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, or would like the paper version sent to you (free for foreign residents who live, work or study in Sakai), please contact Lena at the following email address: kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp



Legend: ☆Events ◆Exhibitions ※Important Notices ▲Campaigns ●Child & Healthcare ✿ Nature 📞Help Lines

World Masters Games 2027 KANSAI



The World Masters Games is an international multi-sport event for lifelong sports, organised every four years by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA). In principle, anyone who is 30 years of age or older and a sports enthusiast may participate.

The first Games were held in Toronto, Canada in 1985, and the most recent 10th Games were held in Taipei City and New Taipei City in Taiwan, 2025. In 2027 (postponed from 2021), Japan will host the Games for the first time, with venues spread across the Kansai region. The goal is to attract 20,000 overseas participants and 30,000 domestic participants, for a total of 50,000 competitors.

Event period: May 14th (Fri) to May 30th (Sun), 2027

During the 17-day period, 35 official sports and 59 disciplines, including baseball, half marathon, judo, karate, tennis, and weightlifting will be held. In Sakai City, J-GREEN Sakai will host the soccer and futsal events. Why not take this opportunity to join?

Application period: From March 2nd (Mon), 10:00, 2026 until February 28th (Sun), 23:59:59, 2027

Scan the QR code for more details.

(You can select Japanese, English, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese)



**WORLD
MASTERS
GAMES
2027 KANSAI
JAPAN**



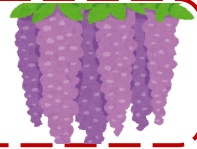
Events at city-affiliated facilities are updated on the Sakai City Government English website when City Life is released. Detailed information on opening hours, admission costs, access etc. is available there.



Parks & Gyms



Flower Calendar



☆Hamadera Park Rose Garden

In May the spring roses in Hamadera Park bloom proud 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! On May 17th (Sun) children and adults alike can enjoy the 46th Hamadera Rose Carnival. ※In case of rain, it will be postponed to May 24th (Sun).



☆Traditional Boys Day Display

Samurai armour will be exhibited at the Old Yamaguchi Family Residence, Old Seigakuin Mountain Priest Dojo, and Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence.



Exhibition period: April 29th (Wed, public holiday), to May 25th (Mon) 10:00-17:00, (last entry 16:30)

✿Peonies at the Japanese Garden in Daisen Park

From mid-April to early May around 500 peony plants reach their peak viewing season. You can admire the peonies at Togendai garden, inspired by the Chinese 'Shangri-la' design. The gorgeous red, pink, white and yellow peonies proudly signal the arrival of spring.



☆Sakai Knife Festival

A hugely popular event featuring Sakai's traditional industry, Sakai knives! Free entry. **Date/time:** April 11th (Sat) ~12th (Sun), 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sakai Industrial Promotion Center (in front of Nakamozu station)

- Exhibition and on the spot sale of Sakai knives
- Knife sharpening (from 1400 yen per knife, up to 2 knives per person, until 14:00 on the 11th, 12:00 on the 12th)
- Traditional forging demonstration (handcrafting process of red-hot heated iron being hammered and shaped. Held at 10:30 and 13:30 on both days).
- Food stalls selling Japanese lunchboxes (bento), bread, sweets and drinks
- Sale of Sakai-grown agricultural products 'Sakai no Megumi'



✿Flowers of Ohama Park

Ohama Park is known for its wisteria. There are three wisteria pergolas in the park, and the one north of the monkey breeding cage was planted around the time the park was established in 1879. It is now 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. From late May to early June, you can also enjoy Japanese irises along the walking path at the ruins of the south gun battery, located in the northeastern part of the park.



☆Naniwa Honzome (Chusen) Week

May 25th (Mon) ~ 30th (Sat)

Venue: Naka Ward Office entrance hall, Naka Ward Office east side community garden

- Exhibition of *chusen* products (25th ~ 30th 9:00-17:00)

There will be an exhibition of *tenugui* towels and panels showing the dyeing process.

- Selling of products (29th & 30th 9:30-16:00)

Tenugui, gauze handkerchiefs, and other *chusen* and *wazarashi* products are available for purchase.

※On the 29th, a midday concert (12:00-12:45) will also be held at the east side community garden.

- Snowflake pattern tie-dyeing workshop (On 30th from 10:00, 11:00, 13:30, 14:30, 15:30, 5 times in total, 8 people each time, 1,500 yen). It is a dyeing experience that children or first timers can easily do. The workshop is around 30-60 minutes long. You can take the *tenugui* you make home.

To apply: Sakai City e-application system or by phone (072-270-8181), FAX (072-270-8101) addressed to the Naka Ward Office Planning and General Affairs Division. If there are free spaces, you may be able to join on the day.



☆Sophia Market – Handmade goods and food

This lively event will be held during the Golden Week holiday, featuring handmade goods such as accessories, along with food trucks. Please come and visit. Free entrance.

For details scan the QR code (Japanese only).

Date/time: May 5th (Tue, public holiday) 11:00-17:00 and May 6th (Wed, public holiday), 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sakai City Education and Culture Center (Sophia Sakai), 1F Gallery and Courtyard



☆A Life with Mucha

In Paris at the end of the 19th century, prosperity spread alongside industrial development. As people grew wealthier, they began to find joy in incorporating beauty into their everyday lives. The world of Mucha, expressed through soft, gentle colors and delicate lines, awakens the desire not just to admire it from afar, but to place it within arm's reach and enjoy it up close. This exhibition focuses on the most familiar of spaces: the home. It explores how Mucha's works enriched ordinary home life and transformed daily moments into something special. Enjoy discovering the beauty of Mucha as it lives and breathes in everyday life.

Dates: April 4th (Sat) ~ July 26th (Sun)

Venue: Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum



Alphonse Mucha, *Rodo Perfume (Lance)*, 1896, Lithograph on paper, Collection of the Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum



Alphonse Mucha, *Chocolat Idéal*, 1897, Lithograph on paper Ogata Collection

☆International Women's Sumo Invitational Championship, Sakai

Day of competition: April 12th (Sun) 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sumo Stadium, Ohama Park

Athletes from overseas are also scheduled to participate. Last year, competitors from Taiwan and Australia took part. Why not experience the power and excitement of the matches up close? No application needed and free admission.



✿Azaleas at the Asakayama Greenway

Azalea is Sakai City's official flowering bush. At Asakayama Greenway, every year from around late April azalea bushes reach their peak bloom. Visitors can enjoy viewing them while strolling freely along the 600-meter-long path. Asakayama Greenway was originally part of Asakayama Water Filtration Plant. In 1937 azaleas were planted there for the public to enjoy, leading to them being widely loved and designated as the city's official flowering bush. Why don't you come enjoy the beautiful azaleas and also ponder such history?



※School Expense Subsidies

Sakai City offers financial assistance to families with children enrolled in public elementary and junior high schools who are experiencing financial difficulties, to help cover part of the cost of school supplies and other necessary expenses. For more information scan the QR code.



※Fines will be introduced for bicycle traffic violations!

As of April 1st, the traffic violation notification system, commonly known as the blue ticket, has been applied to more than 100 types of bicycle violations, such as using a smartphone while riding and ignoring traffic lights. Under this system, offenders who pay the fine will not be subject to criminal penalties. The applicable age is 16 years and above. To ensure safe and comfortable bicycle use, take this opportunity to deepen your understanding of proper traffic rules and be careful to avoid both causing accidents and being involved in them.

Major bicycle traffic violations and penalty amounts

- Using a smartphone while riding (distracted driving): 12,000 yen
- Entering a closed railroad crossing: 7,000 yen
- Ignoring a traffic light signal: 6,000 yen
- Riding on the right side of the road: 6,000 yen
- Failure to stop at a stop sign: 5,000 yen



※Tax Payment

May is the first payment period for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax and the payment deadline is June 1st. Please make your payment by the deadline at your nearest financial institution, convenience store, etc. Payment can also be made using Pay-easy, mobile payment methods, and credit cards via the regional tax payment website (eLTAX). Scan the QR code for the English user's guide on the website (eLTAX). For those using automatic withdrawal, the first payment period for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax will be withdrawn on June 1st. Please ensure you have sufficient funds in your account.



※Cycle City Sakai

—The history connecting Sakai and bicycles for over 1600 years—
The roots of Sakai's bicycle industry can be traced back to the Kofun period around 1600 years ago when World Heritage Site 'Mozu Furuichi Kofun Group' was constructed. The ironworking technology necessary for constructing these kofun were developed in Sakai and expanded over the centuries. By the Sengoku period the city had become a prominent gun manufacturing center in Japan. From the Meiji period onwards, this technology was passed down to the bicycle-parts manufacturing industry which grew into one of Sakai's important local industries. 'Yamatogawa Riverside Cycling Road' was developed in March 2025, where riders can enjoy nature and scenic views. Along the route, you'll also find 'Kai', the Yamatogawa Cycle Monument featuring a bicycle motif. Why not commemorate this occasion by taking a photo with your bicycle and the monument? For details about the cycling road scan the QR code (Japanese only).



※Special Holiday Counter

Every ward office will have special holiday counters on April 4th and 5th from 9:00-12:00 to accommodate for the influx of people changing residences at this time of year. Major services you can receive are shown below. 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 (such as a driver's license, passport, My Number card or residence card) and depending on the process a seal (inkan), too.
- Depending on the contents of the notification or application, inquiry with other municipalities or documents from them may be necessary so it may not be possible to complete the procedures on the day. Please enquire beforehand.
- You can obtain documents such as a copy of your residence certificate, seal (inkan) registration certificate, city or prefectural tax certificate at the convenience store using your My Number card.

Civic Affairs Division:

Procedures for changing residence (excluding cases requiring school enrollment consultation), change of address notification for foreign residents, seal (inkan) registration, family registry notifications, issuance of certificates such as copies of the resident record, and issuance of My Number cards and renewal of electronic certificates.

Health Insurance and Pension Division:

Notification of acquisition or loss of eligibility for National Health Insurance and for Medical Expense Subsidies for children's medical care etc.

●Hospital Hours during Golden Week (April 29th ~ May 6th)

Please make sure to bring the necessary official documents, such as your My Number health insurance card, eligibility certificates, and any public medical care certificate such as child or elderly medical support certificates if applicable. For more details about each institution, scan the QR code.



● Free Cancer Screening Tests

Let's regularly undergo cancer screening.

Screening name and eligible residents (age as of screening date)

- Stomach cancer - even-numbered ages 50 and over*¹
- Lung cancer - ages 40 and over
- Colorectal cancer - ages 40 and over
- Cervical cancer - women of even-numbered ages 20 and over*¹
- Breast cancer - women of even-numbered ages 40 and over*¹
- Stomach cancer risk check up - once between ages 35-49
- Prostate cancer - men of even-numbered ages 50-69*¹ (when taken together with stomach, lung, or colorectal cancer screenings, or the specified health checkup for Sakai City National Health Insurance)

• *¹Those at an odd-numbered age who didn't get tested the previous year are eligible for testing if they apply in advance at a Public Health center or Sakai City e-application system. For more information scan the QR code.



Hospital Hours during Golden Week April 29th to May 6th

Sakai Children's Emergency Medical Center	April 29, May 3~6: 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30, 17:30-4:30 (next morning) April 30, May 1 20:30-4:30 (next morning) May 2: 17:30-4:30 (next morning)
Senboku Emergency Medical Center	April 29, May 3~6: 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30, 17:30-20:30 April 30, May 1: No consultation May 2: 17:30-20:30
Sakai Dental Health Center	April 29, May 3~6: 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30 April 30, May 1: No consultation May 2: 17:30-20:30
Chuo Emergency Medical Clinic in Osaka City (eyes, ears, nose and throat care)	April 29, May 3~6: 10:00-21:30 April 30, May 1: 22:00-0:30 (next morning) May 2: 15:00-21:30

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 25th & 29th, May 2nd ~ 6th



Free Online Consultations for Foreign Residents

As the date is still undecided, we will update as soon as it's confirmed.

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 15th (Wed) & May 20th (Wed), 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.

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.



“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 at a convenience store.
- Get confirmations of automatic withdrawal payments.
- Apply for temporary stop and start of water services.
- Pay bills with your credit card (registration required).

For more details and to download the app, scan the QR codes (Japanese only).

For Android users



For iPhone users



Waterworks and Sewage Bureau Website



No smoking or littering on the street

The area in front of Sakaihigashi station and the public road on the south side, the squares in front of Sakai station (west and east), Oshoji street, and the area around the city hall are designated as non-smoking and no littering zones. Violations will result in a fine of 1,000 yen. Additionally, Sakaihigashi station's west side, Nakamozu station, Mikunigaoka station, Sakaishi station, Komyoike station, Fukai station and Izumigaoka station are designated as priority areas for improving smoking and littering manners. We appreciate your cooperation.



Emergency Numbers

110: Police

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

When you call 119, the operator can set up a three or four-way call with an interpreter/s. It can take up to 10 seconds to connect, during which the caller should wait on the line and not hang up.

For sudden injuries or illnesses, there is a national 'Ambulance Use Guide'.

It is available in multiple languages, so scan the QR code to access it.



Storing Water and Toilets in Case of Disaster

It is said that a person needs about 3 liters of water per day. Immediately after a major disaster, water supply will be cut off. Prepare three days' worth of drinking water to be ready for a disaster.

From the fourth day after a disaster occurs, you will be able to receive water at evacuation centers. Prepare portable toilets for times when your home toilet cannot be used.



Parking Ban-Zones for Bicycles & Minibikes

Abandoned bicycles (including minibikes) obstruct the safe passage of pedestrians and the entry of emergency vehicles. The areas around 27 stations in Sakai City (within approximately 300 meters of railway stations, excluding the Hankai line) are designated as a parking ban zone for bicycles. Bicycles and minibikes left in the zone will be removed, and a removal and storage fee will be required for their return. Please park your bicycles and minibikes in designated parking areas.



National Health Insurance

In Japan, everyone is required to enroll in public health insurance to ensure access to medical care with peace of mind. Programmes such as National Health Insurance and the Medical Care System for the Elderly are part of this framework. These systems are based on mutual support, with all insured individuals contributing to help one another. Let's support each

other to protect healthy living for everyone. For more information scan the QR codes below.

• Those under 74 years National Health Insurance



• Those aged 75 and older Medical Care System for the Elderly (Japanese only)



“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



Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Please search Sakai City CIR on Facebook and Instagram!

