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City Life

ISSUE 183

August/September 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

Shimano Bicycle Museum

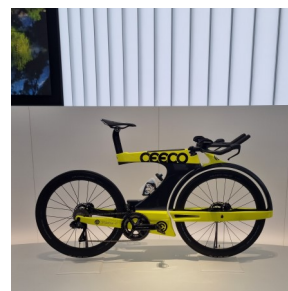
Address: 2-2-1 Minamikoyo-cho, Sakai-ku

Time: 10:00-16:30

Closed: Monday, (Tuesday, if it falls on a public holiday), New Year's break

Admission: General 500 yen, high school/university student 200 yen
Free for junior high school students and younger, 65 years and older, and those with a disability handbook and their attendant

Access: 5 mins walk from Sakaihigashi station (on the Nankai Koya Line)



Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the Shimano Bicycle Museum for the first time. Located less than 10 minutes away from Sakaihigashi station, this bicycle museum will pleasantly surprise you with the sheer depth and knowledge located within. The layout of the museum is conveniently ordered chronologically, such that you can learn about the inventions and beginnings of the bicycle and the many developments it goes through. The museum does a fantastic job of illustrating the history of the bicycle, using an animation to talk about the origins and a panorama showing the development of the bicycle. Below this panorama are real models of bicycles that have made an influence in its evolution, with handy English descriptions of its origins and make. There's also a panel that discusses the benefits of having a bicycle on your health, the environment and greater society. You wouldn't necessarily think that a bicycle would bear benefits past your own health and your carbon footprint, but this panel cleverly illustrates the bicycles' role in allowing people to come together and affords you the freedom of discovering new places – free. If this museum doesn't convince you to start riding a bicycle, frankly I'm not sure what will. Although I could go on, I really employ you to take a look for yourself and truly understand the great invention and societal benefits the bicycle has and continues to provide.

As you enter the museum you are greeted with the following quote about what a bicycle is: "A bicycle will take you to your desired destination at your desired speed. A bicycle is a vehicle that can be used freely at your own will". I like this quote because it expresses the freedom using a bicycle gives you, where you can choose to go as fast or as slow as you like.



自分の力で思うがままに進み 行きたい場所へ好きなペースで行ける

限りなく自由な乗り物 自転車

A bicycle will take you to your desired destination at your desired speed.

A bicycle is a vehicle that can be used freely at your will.

Detailed information on opening hours, admission costs, access etc. of Harvest Hill, Sakai City Museum, Mihara History Museum, Sophia Sakai, Fenice Sacay, Alphonse Mucha Museum and Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko can be found on the Sakai City Government English website.

Museums &
City Facilities



Events



☆Manto-e Buddhist Lantern Festival

Manto-e is a traditional Buddhist rite where people light lanterns for the spirits of the dead and also pray for good health. The Manto-e Buddhist lantern festival at Ho'unji Temple started in 1825 but stopped indefinitely until about 100 years passed and it restarted. The candles of the Manto-e calm and cleanse the hearts of all those who look upon them and are thus known as "healing lights". On the night of Obon (August 15th) as many as a thousand lanterns glow with the wishes and hopes of those who lit them, creating an enchanting atmosphere in the grounds of Ho'unji Temple.
Place: Ho'unji Temple (192 Imai, Mihara-ku)
Nearest Station: Catch the Nanaki bus from Hatsushiba Station (Nankai Koya Line) to Imai-minami bus stop



☆Nippon Steel Sakai Blazers

Free invitation for 2000 match tickets

Date: September 14th 15:00-18:00 (opening at 13:00)
Venue: Ohama Daishin Arena (5-7



-1, Ohama Kitamachi, Sakai-ku)
Application method: register as a user on Pia Getti webpage (scan the QR code) and apply or send a post card with your postal number, address, name, age, phone number and desired amount of tickets (up to 5) to Blazers sports club preseason match division, 1 Chikko-yawata-machi, Sakai-ku, Sakai 590-0901
Application period: August 1st ~20th (post must arrive by deadline). If applicants are over capacity, they will be chosen by lottery (citizens will be prioritised).



☆ASEAN Photo Contest 2024

We invite you to submit photos that highlight the appeal of the ASEAN nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam) in scenery, people, history and culture etc. We also accept photos such as ASEAN food that you've made at home, or where you could feel the ASEAN culture in Japan too. The winners (the top 10 entrants) will be awarded famous goods of Sakai. In addition, the photographs of the top 50 entrants will be displayed on the 1st floor of Sakai City Hall high rise building.



Application period: Until 23:00, August 31st
For more details, scan the "Events" QR code above.

◆Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum

Poster mania! Mucha Mania! Collection of posters from the end of the 19th century
Period: August 3rd ~ December 1st
In Paris at the end of 19th Century known as the golden age of posters, a phenomenon "poster mania," broke out, where posters were loved. During this period, Mucha was welcomed as a new poster artist. This exhibition sparked the appeal of Mucha's posters, giving momentum to poster maniacs, and his talent as a commercial designer.



☆Futon Daiko and Danjiri Festival

Both of these are autumn traditional festivals of Sakai. At futon daiko festivals you will see large portable shrines being shouldered and paraded around. At Danjiri festivals you will see giant floats with exquisite wood carving barreling down the streets pulled by many people.



Futon Daiko

The representative futon daiko will be at the entrance of Mozu Hachimangu Shrine which will be held on September 21st between 11:00-22:30 and will be leaving on September 22nd 9:30-22:00.

Danjiri Festival

The representative Danjiri festival is at Otori Shrine between October 4th (Fri evening) to 6th (Sun). 10 Danjiri floats will enter the shrine on the 5th from 9:00, and leave the shrine from 11:00. Also, on the 6th at around 14:00 there will be the Nishi Ward festival parade! For more details scan the above QR code.



☆Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko night museum

August 10th (Sat)

Museum opening time will be extended. (18:00-20:30, last entrance 20:00)

You can experience the museum in the evening, unlike anything before. Food trucks and coffee carts will also be there.

• Casual style tea ceremony

17:00-20:00 (booking unnecessary, last available time 19:45)

• Free painting event

Paint the outside of the glass wall with other participants

Time: 16:00-16:40, 17:00-17:40, 18:00-18:40 (plan)

Eligibility: Elementary school students and their guardians each time 5 pairs

Application is unnecessary, first come first served. Reception opens 30 mins prior.



◆Free night concert

Date/time: August 30th 19:00-20:00

Venue: Sakai City Hall 21st floor lobby

Application: Unnecessary (first 200 people)

Why don't you enjoy the calming sound of the clarinet on the 21st floor while admiring the night view?



◆Daisen Park Japanese Garden

Make the most of free weekday entrance between August 1st~August 23rd.



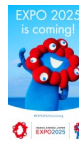
☆Gashi Festival

Refreshment booths, stage performances and bon-odori traditional Japanese dancing will be on display! Why don't you enjoy this summer festival in Sakai Higashi?
Date/time: August 3rd, refreshment booths



◆EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Next year from April 13th until October 13th, you can look forward to pavilions from countries all over the world and domestic companies at the EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. Currently the tickets are on presale. Sakai City and Chief Haniwa Officer (CHO) have been promoting EXPO 2025 so that many people visit Sakai, too, so let's get excited for it!



☆Sakai Tea Ceremony

Sakai is the hometown of grand tea master Sen no Rikyu. The city has a tea ceremony ordinance that encourages anyone and everyone to enjoy chanoyu culture. Come enjoy a cup of matcha green tea and traditional Japanese sweet!

Date/time: September 9th (Mon) 14:00-15:00

Place: Inside Minami Ward Office

School: Omotesenke

Capacity: 45 people

Cost: Free. No reservations required however numbered tickets will be handed out from 13:30, first come first served.



◆Sakai-India children's art exhibition "How We See Each Other"

Period: August 13th ~ 20th (open hours 9:00-21:00)



On the first day it'll commence from 15:00, on the last day it'll finish at 16:00
Venue: Sakai City Hall high rise building 1st floor north lobby.

The exhibition will be displaying drawings about what Indian and Japanese children learn about each other's countries.

11:00-21:00, stage performances 11:00-17:30, bon-odori dancing 18:00-21:00 ※cancelled in case of rain
Location: Mina Sakai (Citizens Plaza in front of City Hall)
Application/fee: Unnecessary, free entrance

※National Health Insurance Deadline for August and September

If you do not make payments from pension, the deadline for national health insurance payments (June through to March 2025) is the **last day of every month**, aside from December which is the 25th. The deadline for elderly person health insurance payments is the **last day every month** between July and March 2025 (the payment for December will be January 4th and if automatic deduction, December 28th). The payment deadline dates for August and September are as follows:

August: September 2nd
September: September 30th



※Beginners' Japanese Lessons

Date/time: October 4th ~ November 29th, every Tuesday & Friday, 14:00-16:00
Venue: Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai

Eligibility: For people living, working or studying (at university etc.) in Sakai City
Content: Speak in Japanese with classmates and Japanese people about things you like or want to do. Study useful everyday conversational Japanese.

Fee: Free

To apply: Fill in the application form and fax, mail, email or hand it in to Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai.



※Payment Tax

August will be the second appointed time for the City and Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **September 2nd**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, convenience store etc. Payment can also be made using pay-easy, mobile payment methods and credit card. For those that use the automatic transfer, the payment will automatically be deducted on **September 2nd**, so please check that you have sufficient funds.

※Pools

Hot days continue, but how about visiting a cool pool? This fiscal year, please beware that Kanaoka Park pool is closed due to deterioration. For the latest information scan the QR code.



• Smog Warning

Until September, photochemical smog is very common. When smog forecasts and warnings are issued, color-coded flags (forecast is green, warning is yellow, alarm is orange) are posted at ward offices, schools and other public facilities. Please avoid doing intense exercise outdoors during an issuance. If you have symptoms such as irritated eyes and pains in the throat area, please rinse your eyes and gargle.

• Watch out for food poisoning!

There are many cases of food poisoning across the country from June to October every year. Please take the following measures to prevent it happening to you.

When buying food:

- Check the expiration date and level of freshness
- Only buy what you need
- Aim to purchase refrigerated and frozen foods last and store away as soon as possible



Storage:

- Don't leave fridge door open for long periods of time
- Try not to fill up your fridge or freezer
- Keep meat and fish wrapped up well to prevent the liquid leakage

When cooking:

- Always wash your hands before cooking
- Wash your chopping board and knives in hot water to kill germs before you start cooking
- Make sure food is cooked thoroughly and to eat it as soon as possible
- Keep chopsticks used for handling the raw meat separate from the ones used for eating

※Adjustment Benefit for Flat-amount Tax Cut

As a measure against inflation, Flat-amount Tax Cut on income tax and resident tax is currently being carried out. Those whose income tax for 2024 is under 30,000 yen and/or those whose resident tax (per-income portion) for FY 2024 is under 10,000 yen, will receive the difference in amount as "adjustment benefit." (The amount of benefit received will differ depending on individual's conditions, such as the number of dependents to support). Those who are eligible have already received the notice in July, and upon confirmation, must apply through Sakai City electronic application system or by post by September 30th. After document examination, if submitted through Sakai City electronic application the benefit will be transferred to the applicant's personal bank account in about 15 days, and about 1 month if submitted by post.

For enquires:
 TEL 0120-829-800

Other than Japanese, can enquire in English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.



※Emergency Hospital Hours For Obon

Opening hours may differ slightly over August 13th-15th for Obon. Please scan the QR code for the updated list of after-hour medical centers open during the Obon period.



• Tuberculosis Prevention Week (September 24th-30th)

Every year in Japan, over 10,000 people catch the disease and about 1,600 people die from it. Every year over 1,000 people born outside of Japan catch the illness and the number is rising amongst younger ages. Initial symptoms of tuberculosis include coughing, phlegm, slight fever, chest pain and fatigue. If the cough continues for more than **2 weeks**, it is important to have it checked at a medical institution. Early detection not only prevents the illness from getting worse, but also prevents the illness from spreading.



In Sakai City, persons at the age of 40 and over can receive tuberculosis screening for free once a year. From September 1st, it is possible to take the tuberculosis screening at a medical institution. The medical institutions in question will be published on the Sakai City homepage. Lung cancer and tuberculosis screening at elementary schools will end after March 31st 2025 so those who would like to receive a medical examination please do so within this fiscal year.



QR code for September 2024 to March 2025 (Japanese only)



QR code for until end of August 2024 (Japanese only) →



• My Number Card

My Number Card Application

Make a card to get the following benefits:

- Using it as your health insurance card
- Use it to print certificates at convenience stores
- Allows you to do administrative procedures online

With many functions, it makes your life so convenient with just one card!



Why don't you apply at the Sakai City My Number Card Promotion center?

Using translation tools, we support foreign language speakers to apply for the My Number Card. Using your residence card and another form of personal identification, we can send your card directly to your place.

At the following locations and dates we will provide multilingual support:

August 3rd & 4th, 1st floor event space, Andy Izumiya Semboku Store
August 17th & 18th, 1st floor plaza of Viva Mall Mihara Minami Inter Store

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 (closed on public holidays and New Year's break December 29th to January 3rd)

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.

Free Confidential Consultation

August 21st & September 18th, 14:00-17:00

Consultations on naturalizations and immigrations with an administrative procedure specialists are available for discussing the status of or changes to applications. Three slots available (Reservations re-



quired). Those that require an interpreter must apply at least 10 days before the date of the consultation.

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 Online Consultations for Foreign Residents

The Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai are offering free online consultations using Zoom for foreign residents living, working, or studying at school in Sakai City in 13 languages. Get advice from immigration and law experts. Please make an appointment by phone or e-mail one week in advance of your consultation day.

Administrative: September 22nd, 13:30-16:30

Labour: September 2nd, 13:30-16:30

Immigration: September 25th, 13:30-16:30

Law: September 20th, 18:00-21:00

Daily Life: September 24th & 26th, 13:30-16:30



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

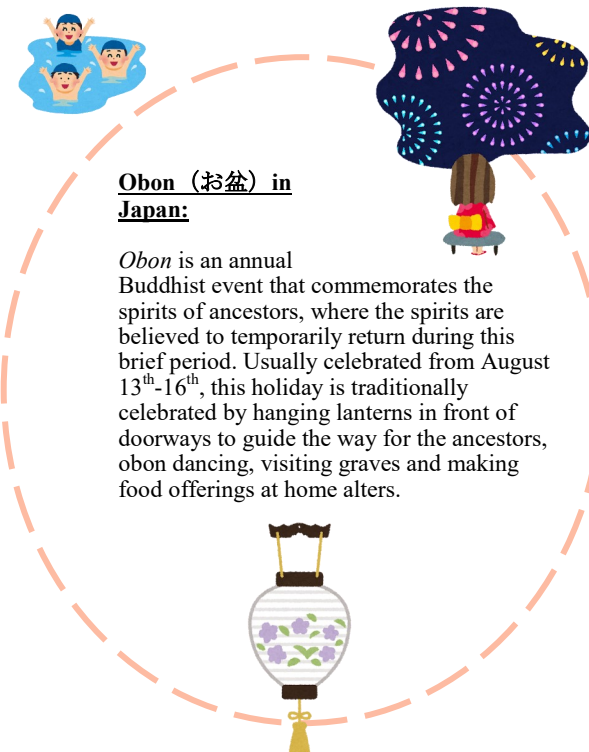
Each railway station in Sakai City (except for the Hankai Line) is designated as a parking ban zone. Bicycles and mini bikes left in the zone will be removed. In addition, we will collect the removal & storage fee for the return of a removed bike or mini bike. Please use the parking lot to park a bicycle 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 with cash after showing the barcode at your local convenience store
- Get confirmations of bank transfer payments
- Apply for temporary stop and start of water pipes
- Pay bills with your credit card (registration required)



Obon (お盆) in Japan:

Obon is an annual Buddhist event that commemorates the spirits of ancestors, where the spirits are believed to temporarily return during this brief period. Usually celebrated from August 13th-16th, this holiday is traditionally celebrated by hanging lanterns in front of doorways to guide the way for the ancestors, obon dancing, visiting graves and making food offerings at home alters.

Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Get the most up-to-date information on what's happening in Sakai. Sakai is a beautiful place and we would love it if you shared with us what amazing places you know. Please follow and add #hellosakai to your posts! Find us by searching 'Sakai City CIR' on Facebook and Instagram!

