

EST. 1994

## City Life

ISSUE 185

December 2024/January 2025 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](mailto:kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp)



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

### Sakai City General Disaster Prevention Center



堺市総合防災センター

**Address:** 129-4 Ami, Mihara-ku

**Hours:** 9:00-17:15

**Closed:** Monday (open if public holiday and closed the next day), every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and December 29<sup>th</sup> ~January 3<sup>rd</sup> and special holidays.

**Admission:** Free

**Access:** Nankai bus from Nankai Koya Line Hatsushiba Station to Funatoshita bus stop (50m from center), or Kintetsu bus from Kintetsu Kawachimatsubara station to Hiraomichi bus stop (160m from center).

**Book a course:**

- QR code (Japanese only, need to register to apply).
- By phone (Japanese 072-363-2225 complete the application form on the same day of entrance, if its 10 people or more please submit the form 14 days before visiting by fax or email).
- If there are spaces you may be able to visit on the day.

**TEL :** 072-363-2225

**FAX :** 072-363-2228

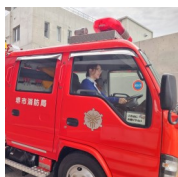
**MAIL :** [shobouse@city.sakai.lg.jp](mailto:shobouse@city.sakai.lg.jp)



Japan is an earthquake prone country which experiences over 150 earthquakes a year at *shindo* 4 or higher (Japan's seismic activity scale; *shindo* 4 is significant tremor with minor damage). It is predicted that there is a 70-80% likelihood of a large earthquake occurring within the next 30 years, due to the Nankai Trough. Although the thought of earthquakes is daunting, it is comforting to know that Sakai City is well-equipped in disaster prevention, education, and frequently gets the locals involved in training sessions.

Want an informative yet fun way to learn about natural disasters? The Sakai City General Disaster Prevention Center located in Mihara Ward offers real life scenarios to learn about how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Here you can even experience a simulation of a *shindo* 7 earthquake and see the difference between the amount of damage caused without preparation and with preparation! The video that is played at the start really expresses the importance of the community's effort in keeping themselves safe. It is said that the crucial timeframe is 72 hours after a disaster has occurred, called the 'limit between life or death' or the 'life limit'. There is an emphasis on "community effort", where the majority of the rescues from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake were done by the locals, not rescue teams. This is why it is important for everyone to receive this education so we can fight disasters together and keep each other safe.

The 1.5-hour course that I went on was a very thorough course allowing us to experience the many disasters that can happen, within the safety of the center. It feels comforting to know that with the knowledge I learned at the center, I know I can help save someone's life, I can organize my living space that will cause the least damage during an earthquake, I can escape a fire in the safest way possible and I know what materials I need, to give myself the best chance of survival. This course includes a theatre show, earthquake room, smoke and blackout room, fire extinguishing, first-aid and disaster prevention quiz.



The center also has a large warehouse that stocks enough food for 140,000 evacuees, blankets, diapers and other necessities. There is also a massive gasoline tank hidden underneath the grounds that contains 15,000 liters of fuel and a standby generator to ensure emergency services can keep moving when usual lifelines are cut. There is also the opportunity to get into the ambulance or firetruck and take photos. There are always events planned at the center so be sure to keep an eye out!



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.



Museums &amp; Facilities



Temples &amp; Shrines



### ☆Harvest Hill: Wonder Night Hill 2024

**Date:** Appointed days until January 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun).  
**Time:** 17:45-21:00 (last entrance 20:30).

#### Appointed days:

December: 1<sup>st</sup>~3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>~9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>~17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>~30<sup>th</sup>  
 January: 2<sup>nd</sup>~5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>~13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>~19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>~26<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** Adults (junior high school and above) 1500 yen, (December 23<sup>rd</sup>~25<sup>th</sup> and Fridays and Saturdays in December are 1800 yen), children (4 years and above) 800 yen, persons with disabilities (junior high school and above) 800 yen, persons with disabilities (4 years and above) 400 yen, their attendants (18 years and above) 800 yen, dogs 600 yen.

This is the third year of one of the largest illuminations in Minami Osaka. There will be 20-meter-tall sequoia trees, a light-up seesaw, a light-up road that makes sounds, lit-up animal robots that move, not only for looking at but adults and children can interact with and enjoy them too! You can bring your pet dog. There is also a light-up Ferris wheel and merry-go-round.



You must provide a certificate for the 'pentavalent vaccine' and a 'rabies vaccine' that have been given within 1 year upon entering the facility. Also, the lead must be within 2 meters long (long lead or telescopic motion lead not allowed) and you must bring a waste disposal bag and water. There are also other rules of use so please scan the QR code (Japanese only).

### ☆Sakai Marche – Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko: Bread Festival

There will be food trucks and tents with the theme of 'bread' at the front court of the facility's entrance and the parking area. Inside the main building there will be a concert in the lobby and a wagashi-making experience. Cancelled in case of stormy weather.

※Wagashi-making experience is fee-charged. Please apply from the QR code. (There is a chance that the spaces are all filled up).

**Date/time:** December 8<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 11:00-16:00.

**Venue:** Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko.



### ☆Beethoven's Ninth Symphony Christmas Concert 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> section:** A classical concert with vocalists and string ensemble.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> section:** Musical performance of "The ninth symphony" fourth movement.

**Date/time:** December 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sun), start time: 14:00, doors open: 13:20.

**Venue:** Nishi Cultural Hall.

**Fee:** Adult – 3500 yen, 18 and under to elementary school students – 2500 yen. (Pre-school aged children are not permitted to enter).

**Capacity:** 540 people.

#### Application methods:

- Buy it directly at the counter at the Nishi Cultural Hall.
- Call the Nishi Cultural Hall and make a reservation (072-275-0120).
- Make an internet reservation through this QR code (Japanese only).



### ☆Moat Illumination

**Operating period:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Mon) ~ January 15<sup>th</sup> (Wed) 17:00-23:30. The moat will be coloured in blue and champagne gold lights.



#### Sakai-ko Festa

**Date/time:** December 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and 15<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 14:00-20:00.

**Location:** Sakai Ebisujima DOCK (Uchikawa riverside, which is on the west side of Xavier Park).

You can enjoy food trucks, workshops and stalls.

#### Children Shop Keeper Experience



**Eligibility:** Elementary school students (bring apron).

**Capacity:** 10 children per day.

**Time:** From 16:00 for 20 minutes (accepting: 15:00~ first come first served).



### ☆Sakai Omotenashi 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. This tea ceremony event is being held free of charge. Come enjoy a cup of matcha green tea and traditional Japanese sweets!



**Date/time:** January 20<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 14:00-15:00.

**Location:** Sakai City Hall main building entrance.

**School of tea ceremony:** Mushakojisenke

**Capacity:** 45 people.

**Fee:** Free.

※No reservations required however numbered tickets will be handed out from 13:30, for the first 45 people.



### ☆Ebisu Festival

**Date:** January 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

**Place:** Sugawara Shrine (2-1-38 Ebisuno-cho Higashi, Sakai-ku).

**Nearest stations:** 10 minutes from Sakai station (Nankai Line) or Sakaihigashi station (Nankai Koya Line). Also 3 minutes from Oshoji station (Hankai Line).



This is a festival to celebrate "Ebe-ssan" (Ebisu), the Japanese god of fishermen and business prosperity. People visit to buy a lucky bamboo branch and decorate it with lucky charms for prosperity and wellbeing, or a bamboo rake decorated with auspicious motifs to "rake in" the good luck and fortune for the next year.



### December 1<sup>st</sup>: World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to raise awareness of the disease and fight against discrimination towards those that are affected by it. It is commemorated on December 1<sup>st</sup> and was first established in 1988. The red ribbon is a symbol of support against prejudice and discrimination towards those living with AIDS. Sakai City is implementing HIV testing. Please refer to the QR code for more information.



[A request to those wanting a test]  
Please refrain from coming if you have a fever, cough etc.  
You will be turned away if you show such symptoms.



### City and Prefectural Tax Notice

December will be the third appointed time for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax. The deadline is **December 25<sup>th</sup>**. January will be the fourth appointed time for the City and Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, convenience store etc. Payment can also be made using paidy, mobile payment methods and credit cards on regional tax payment sites. For those that use the automatic transfer, the payment for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax will automatically be deducted on **December 25<sup>th</sup>** and the payment for the City and Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax will be deducted on **January 31<sup>st</sup>** so please check that you have sufficient funds.

### Celebration for Turning 20

January 13<sup>th</sup> (Monday, public holiday).

(1-part system)  
**Sakai, Naka, Higashi, Minami, Kita, Mihara Wards** from 10:00~.

(3-part system)  
**Nishi ward**  
1<sup>st</sup>-part: 9:00~  
2<sup>nd</sup>-part: 10:45~  
3<sup>rd</sup>-part: 12:30~



**Venue:** Please join the venue of the junior high school you went to or the school district you live in.

**Eligibility:** Those born between April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004

(Heisei 16) to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 (Heisei 17) who are on the Sakai City basic resident register (those who are eligible will be posted an invitation by late November).



### Garbage Disposal Over the New Year Holiday Period



There will be regular garbage collection till the December 31<sup>st</sup>, then no collection of garbage between January 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information see the QR code.



### Illegally parked bicycles cause trouble

Illegally parked bicycles (including minibikes) cause disturbances to the safety of pedestrians and interruptions to emergency vehicles. Illegally parked bicycles will be removed within the parking ban zone of the city's 27 stations (around 300m range from stations). The return of removed illegally parked bicycles will incur a removal and storage fee. Please use the bicycle parking spaces provided.



### Government Services During the New Year's Holidays

From Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 5<sup>th</sup> the City's business affairs will be closed. However, reception for the notice of family register, issuing of burial/cremation permits will still be accepted at the night and holiday reception counter at the east entrance of the city hall's main building, and the security guard ward office will also be open. Plaza of Multicultural Exchange will also be closed from Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.



### Norovirus food poisoning prevention campaign (until Feb 28<sup>th</sup>)

Norovirus infects the human body and causes gastroenteritis which results in diarrhea, vomiting and more. It is particularly common in winter (November to March). The excrement and vomit of those infected is contaminated with the virus. The virus is spread by pre-

paring food with unclean hands, or eating contaminated clams without heating them enough, or by airborne viruses through the hands to the mouth. Let's prevent the spread of the virus by using appropriate measures. For more information see the QR code.



**Emergency Medical Care during the New Year Holiday Period is between Dec 29<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Scan the QR code for usual operating hours of the medical facilities.

### Emergency Medical Care

#### TEL & Field

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sakai Children's Emergency Medical Center	072-272-0909 Pediatric Care *junior high & under	9:30-11:00, 12:45-16:30, 17:30-4:30 (of next day)
Semboku Emergency Medical Center	072-292-0099 Internal Medicine	9:30-11:00, 12:45-16:30
Sakai Dental Health Center	072-243-0099 Dentistry	9:30-11:00, 12:45-16:30
Osaka Central Emergency Medical Clinic	06-6534-0321 Eyes, ears, nose & throat care	Until Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 10:00-21:30

Please make sure to bring official certificates, such as health insurance card, child and elderly medical cost support certificates.



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>**)

### 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 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:** January 26<sup>th</sup> 13:30-16:30

**Labour:** January 20<sup>th</sup> 13:30-16:30

**Law:** January 24<sup>th</sup> 18:00-21:00

**Immigration:** January 22<sup>nd</sup> 13:30-16:30

**Daily Life:** January 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 13:30-16:30



### Free Confidential Consultation

**December 18<sup>th</sup> (Wed) & January 15<sup>th</sup> (Wed), 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 required). 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 started 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.



## 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.



## “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 PayPal 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)



Christmas in Japan may be quite different than the typical Christmas you may see in other countries. There are no strong cultural traditions but often people eat fried chicken and Christmas cake. It is also a popular time for couples to get together and go on a romantic date. You will see lots of illuminations around in the Cities.



## 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!!

