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City Life

ISSUE 182

June/July 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

Festivals and more in Sakai

☆Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market

Date/time: Saturday July 27th, 11:00-21:30

Location: Ohama Park

Nearest Station: Sakai station (Nankai Line)



Believed to have begun during the Kamakura period and have an impressive history of about 700 years, this event is a seasonal summer tradition of Sakai. It first began when local fishermen made offerings of fish during Sumiyoshi Festival's Mikoshi Togyo parade, and a fish market started being held on Ohama beach. The most exciting attraction is the fish auction that is planned for the evening. Also, there will be fireworks, night stalls and lots of booths. Please be aware that this year, unlike past years it will be held in the weekend instead of the 31st.



☆Kansai University Sakai Campus Festival

Kansai University is a private university in Kansai region and its Faculty of Health and Wellbeing campus is located in Sakai. Under the collaboration agreement with the city, it is holding a variety of projects targeted at children and the elderly. The annual campus festival is organized by the students' executive committee and offers many events that locals can enjoy. There will be dance and pop music stage performances, refreshment booths, and indoor festival activities, such as water balloon fishing, ring toss and a knockout ball throwing game. Please feel free to join!

Date/time: Sunday June 23rd, 10:00-16:00

Location: Kansai University, Sakai Campus (1 min walk from, Asakayama station, Nankai Koya Line)



Scan the QR code for more details.
※Rain or shine



☆ Selling of Naniwa Honzome (chusen) Yukata

Period: June 14th ~ 16th

Location: Sakai Traditional Crafts Museum

Naniwa Honzome (chusen) is a government-designated traditional craft. Rolls of cloth hand-dyed by experienced craftsmen will be exhibited and sold. From traditional patterns to modern styles, you can see the beauty of this hand-dyeing skill. Tailoring is available to those who have purchased a roll (fee-charged). There are also yukata on sale that are ready-to-wear.



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 &
Facilities



Flower
Calendar



☆Harvest Hill

Jabujabu Hiroba Waterpark

This facility that is a big hit every summer is open this year too!

Date: Open every day until September 23rd

※closed in case of rain

Harvest Hill flower information

Type: Hydrangeas

Period of bloom: Mid to late June

Location: Mura area Ajisai road

There is an approx. 80-meter long path with hydrangeas blooming on both sides

※there is a chance that the flower blooming period changes. Please check the website.



Making strawberry ice cream

We will make it by mixing in strawberry jam made at Harvest Hill.

Date/time: Every day in June from 14:00~

Length: Around 60 mins (including eating time)

Fee: 800 yen

Capacity: Prior reservation necessary, up to 24 people.

☆Planetarium

When it's raining or too hot to be outside, why don't you spend it at the cool and pleasant planetarium?

The weekend and public holiday schedule until July 19th

11:00-11:40 Tio, the Ursa Minor*

12:00-12:45 Chibi Maruko-chan Enchanted by the Southern Cross*

13:30-14:10 Yo-kai Watch! Let's Go to the Black Hole*

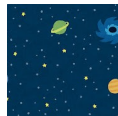
14:30-15:15 Find the Oasis of the Universe music: Taro Hakase

15:30-16:15 To the Grand Universe

16:30-17:15 Starry Tales

18:00-18:45 Mt. Fuji's Star Calendar

*Children Programmes



☆Sakai Multicultural Room 'Mix-Smile'

This is an exchange event among elementary and junior high school students with foreign roots. The guardians can also attend together! You can interact with the culture of your country, and make friends with people who have the same roots as you!

Date/time: June 22nd & July 13th 9:30-11:30

Location: Sakai City Government Mikuni-gaoka Building 5F BOE Meeting Room

Target: Sakai City elementary and junior high school students with foreign roots

What to bring: water bottle and stationery

Fee: Free

Application: QR code (up)

Details: QR code (down)



Sakai City Museum 5-year anniversary of world heritage registration free entrance day: July 6th and 7th

Try a study craft session, perfect for summer holiday homework

Venue: Sakai City Museum Hall

Application: Please apply from 10am on the designated day by phone only (072-245-6201) first come, first served.

※Entrance fee is separate



1. Let's make Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

Date/time: July 21st, August 3rd (both days 13:00-16:00)

Capacity: 1 elementary or junior high school student with 1 adult (1 pair, 20 pairs/session)

Participation fee: 180 yen

Application day: June 19th ~

2. Let's make Magatama Ancient Jewelry

Date/time: July 27th, August 18th (both days 10:00-12:00 & 13:30-15:30)

Capacity: Elementary school students and above, 20 people/session

Participation fee: 280 yen

Application day: June 28th ~



3. Let's make Haniwa Clay Figures!

Those who want to can exhibit them at the museum.

Date/time: August 4th & August 17th (both days 13:00-16:00)

Capacity: Elementary and junior high school students, 20 people/session

Participation fee: 350 yen

What to bring: A dust cloth, a bag to take home

Application: July 3rd ~

For more information about other events please visit our website via Museums & Facilities QR code above.

☆ Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko: Fukuoka Michio Exhibition

Period: July 6th ~ September 1st

Fee: Adult 300 yen, high school 200 yen, junior high school and under free.

(You can also see

Sen no Rikyu Chanoyu Museum and Yosano Akiko Museum with the fee of this exhibition).

This event will be held to remember the Sakai born sculptor, Fukuoka Michio, who passed away at the end of 2023. Please enjoy this avant-garde sculptor's artwork who represents the Kansai area.



☆Free English picture book live

There will be a picture book reading event and hand games for small children.

Date/time: July 21st 15:00-15:30

Location: Kita Ward Office 3rd floor, Ohanashi Room

Application: Unnecessary



☆Mihara History Museum



Observing River Creatures

Have fun while learning about the fish in Ishikawa River.

Date/time: July 28th, 13:30-14:15, 14:30-15:15

Location: MC Hall

Target: Ages 4 elementary up to 6th grade (3rd grade and younger must be accompanied by a guardian)

Capacity: 15 pairs/session (first-come-first-served)

Cost: Free

What to bring: Stationary

Apply: Directly at the museum, phone, fax or email, between July 4th~26th

Mobile Aquarium of River Creatures

You can see the variety of river creatures, such as carp, crayfish and tortoise.

Date/time: July 28th, 13:30-15:30

Location: Tent near the front entrance

Observation fee: Free

☆Hydrangeas at Sambo

Dates: June 6th~9th

Time: 10:00-16:00 (until 17:00 on week-ends)

Place: Sambo Water Recycle Center

Cost: Free

Access:

Get off at Matsuya Yamatogawa-dori bus stop (Nankai Bus) from Sakaihigashi station (Nankai Koya Line), Shichido station (Nankai Line) or Ayanochi station (Hankai Tramway)

There are about 1200 hydrangea plants that are grown with recycled water processed at the Sambo Water Recycle Center. There are roughly 100 different varieties, including some rarities.



☆Tanabata decorations at the Traditional Townhouse Museums: Yamaguchi Residence, Seigakuin and Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence

Period: July 3rd ~ July 8th

Time: 10:00-17:00 (last entrance 16:30)

Tanabata decorations will be displayed at each Townhouse History Museums. Let's write our wishes and hang them up on the bamboo tree.

Please feel free to participate.

☆West Japan Businesspeople Sumo Championship Tournament

Around 30 teams of corporations in West Japan with over 100 participants will compete in the teams event and/or individual event to win!

Date: June 30th

Time: 9:00~

Venue: Ohama Sumo Stadium

Cost: Free, no reservations required



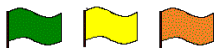
※National Health Insurance Premium Notification

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

June: July 1st
July: July 31st



● 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.

Application for Financial Assistance for Senior High School Students for FY2024

For households with financial difficulties sending their children to senior high school etc., assistance of maximum 60,000 yen a year is available. Financial assistance is granted following the results of a screening process with assistance administered to the **500 students** most in need.



The following are eligible to apply:

- Students enrolled in one of the following senior high schools as of July 1st 2024, and has been commuting from a residence in Sakai.
- Senior high schools, private schools (senior levels only), technical colleges (1st-3rd grades), vocational schools (senior courses only), support schools (senior levels only).



Application period is July 1st-10th (excluding weekends).

For more information, please scan the QR code to read on our website.



※Pools in Sakai

Summer is here, so why not cool off at the pool? They are set to open this year. Please check our website for more info!



● 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

※Payment Notice of City and Prefectural Residential Tax and Forest Environment Tax

Starting early from June, the Payment Notice of City and Prefectural Residential Tax and Forest Environment Tax (納税通知書 *nozei tsuchisho*) will be sent out. Taxation description (課税明細書 *kazei meisaisho*) attached to the notice and other documents you may receive separately, such as city and prefectural special taxation amount notice (市・府民税・森林環境税特別徴収税額通知書 *shiminzei fuminzei shinrinkankyozei tokubetsu choshuzeitaku tsuchisho*), can be used instead of income or taxation proof (所得・課税証明書 *shotoku kazei shomeisho*) in applying for moving to public housing or school expense subsidy (就学援助 *shugakuenjo*) etc. Please keep and use them if necessary.

※Tax Payment

June will be the first appointed time for the City and Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **July 1st**. July will be the second appointed time for fixed property and city planning taxes. The deadline is **July 31st**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, convenience store etc., or through mobile payment methods.

For those that use the automatic transfer, payment will automatically be deducted on **July 1st** for resident, prefectural taxes and forest environmental taxes on **July 31st** for fixed property and city planning, so please check that you have sufficient funds.



● Free HIV Testing



June is Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention Month. Public health centers regularly offer free tests for syphilis, chlamydia and HIV antibodies.

Please go directly to the public health center from 9:30-11:00 (9:15-10:45 for Sakai Public Health Center). You will be notified of the results roughly a week after at the same place and time.



● Adult Dental Examinations

June 4th is Cavity Prevention Day. At certain ages, adults can receive a subsidized dental health exam of 500 yen to know the condition of their oral health. Reservations are required.



Eligibility: citizens aged 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70-74 and those receiving public assistance (生活保護 *seikatsuhogo*) aged 75 and over

*Those from households receiving public assistance or exempted from city tax can receive the exam for free upon application in advance through public health centers.



Please check the QR code for more info on available medical institutions and application methods (Japanese).

● Beware of Heatstroke

Summer in Japan is very hot and humid. There are around 400,000 cases of heatstroke reported every year, with over 40,000 of those people needing to be hospitalised. Please seek help if you start to feel unwell in the extreme heat. Make sure to stay hydrated and avoid the sun during the hottest times of the day.

If someone loses consciousness or is unable to drink water themselves, call 119 for an ambulance.



Things to bring to the hospital:

Cash and credit card, any prescription medicine they are taking and their health insurance card (if they are enrolled), or passport.

※The 'family-ship' including children and their parents

Since April 2019, Sakai City supports the 'Partnership Oath System' and is striving to achieve a society where those who identify themselves as LGBTQIA+ can live freely as themselves. From April, it won't only be the partnership oath, but the vow will now include their children (including adopted kids) and parents (including foster parents).



You can utilize this system for municipal apartment applications and for visitation and consent to operate at Sakai City Medical Center. It is pride month in June. Using this opportunity lets think about the LGBTQIA+ community.



☎ 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 29 December to 3 January)

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

June 19th & July 17th, 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.

Labour: July 1st 13:30-16:30

Immigration: July 24th 13:30-16:30

Law: July 26th 18:00-21:00

Clinical Psychologist: July 28th 13:30-16:30

Daily life: July 23rd & 25th 13:30-16:30



※MyNumber 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 for the card at Sakai My Number 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. For more details scan the QR code below.

For foreign residents, the My Number Card expiration date is the same as the date of expiration on your visa. It does not renew automatically so please visit your local government to renew your My Number Card after renewing your visa.



☎ “Suirin すいりん” App for Waterworks

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

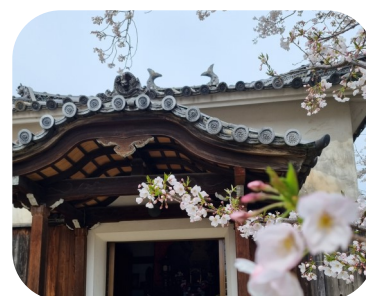
- Get notices about checkups and view up to 2 years of past water usage and bills
- Get digital bills delivered through the app and pay using PayPay or with cash after showing the barcode at your local convenience store
- Get confirmations of bank transfer payments
- Apply for temporary stop and start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



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!!



“tsuyu” - rainy season

Typically occurring in the months of June to July, Japan experiences an unusually long period of rain due to the collision of hot and cold air masses.

