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# City Life

ISSUE 188

June/July 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

## Around Sakai Station and More!

### ☆ Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market

**Date:** July 26<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

**Location:** Ohama Park

**Nearest station/access:** 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, and a fish market started being held on Ohama beach. The main attraction is the exciting fish auction scheduled for the evening. Also, there will be fireworks, night stalls and industry PR booths etc. For detailed times and more information, scan the QR code to visit the website (Japanese only).



### ☆ Porto Mare

An urban resort called 'Porto Mare' has been established in the Sakai Old Port area, featuring a hotel, a café and restaurant, and a facility where you can encounter dolphins! Conveniently located near the station, you can enjoy a resort atmosphere while taking in the beautiful seaside views. Be sure to visit this summer! (Closest station: Sakai station on the Nankai line).



### ☆ Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Japan is underway! Until October 13<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

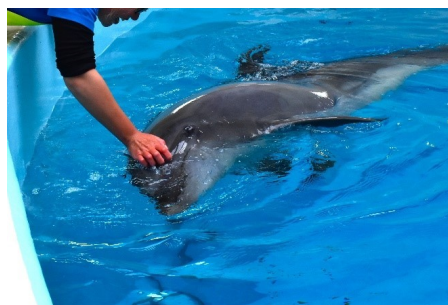
For the official Expo website, scan QR code ①. During the Expo period, Sakai City plans to hold events within the venue to showcase the charms of Sakai to both domestic and international visitors. These events will include exhibitions of traditional industries and local businesses. For information about the events, scan QR code ②.



①



②



Period	Main exhibits
July 28 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) September 25 <sup>th</sup> (Thu)	Interactive stage performances and experiences of traditional industries

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.



Enjoy Sakai



### ☆ English picture book reading

Enjoy English picture books being read out loud, hand games, and English songs! Participation is free, and no reservation required.



**Date/time:** July 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 15:00-15:30

**Location:** Sakai City Kita Library 3rd floor training room (inside Kita Ward Office)

**Access:** 200 meters east from Exit 2 of Osaka Metro Midosuji line, Shinkanaoka station.



Take the bus from Miku-nigaoka station (JR Hanwa line and Nankai Koya line) and it is right by Kitakuyakushomae stop, where you get off.

### ☆ Hydrangeas at Sambo

**Date/time:** June 5<sup>th</sup> (Thu) to June 8<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 10:00 to 16:00 (until 17:00 on weekends)

**Location:** Sambo Water Recycle Center

**Access:** Get off at Matsuya Yamatogawadori bus stop (Nankai bus) from Sakaihigashi station (Nankai Koya line), Sakai station (Nankai line), Shichido station (Nankai line) or Ayanochi station (Hankai Tramway)

There are about 1200 hydrangea plants of 100 different species grown with recycled water processed at the Sambo Water Recycle Center. There are some rare species of hydrangeas, too. Free and no reservation required.



### ● Sakai City Adult Dental Examinations

June 4<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> is Oral Health Week. To maintain the health of your teeth and mouth, practice thorough brushing and getting dental check-ups.



**Eligibility:** citizens aged 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70-74 and those receiving public assistance (生活保護) aged 75 and over can receive a dental check-up at a participating medical institution in the city for 500 yen once a year at the target age. Prior reservation is required. \*Those from households receiving public assistance or exempted from city tax can receive the exam for free if an application is made in advance at a public health center.

Please scan the QR code for more info on participating medical institutions



### ※ Junior high school lunches start

Starting in June, all students at Sakai City junior high schools will begin receiving school lunches. We will provide hygienic and delicious meals prepared at two lunch centers.



### ☆ Special Exhibition: Mucha and Quo Vadis, His Enigmatic Painting

**Period:** Until August 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

**Location:** Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum

The oil painting 'Quo Vadis,' created at the end of Mucha's Paris period, is a large work measuring over 2 meters in both height and width. This piece depicts a scene from a novel, but it includes characters not in the novel and was missing for a long time until it was rediscovered in 1979, making it a work full of mysteries. This exhibition will reveal the full story of 'Quo Vadis.' Unveiled for the first time will be a nearly life-sized tapestry of this painting, hand woven using a technique of Sakai dantsu carpets, a traditional local craft, and completed through crowdfunding last October. Don't miss this historic opportunity to see these two masterpieces side by side.



### ☆ West Japan Businesspeople Sumo Championship Tournament

Around 30 teams of corporations in West Japan with over 100 participants will compete in the team event and/or individual event to win! Admission is free, and no reservation required.

**Date/time:** June 29<sup>th</sup> (Sun) from 9:00

**Location:** Sumo Stadium, Ohama Park



### ☆ Reading picture books in Japanese and foreign languages

We (coordinators for international relations of Sakai City!) will read picture books in various languages. There will also be a display of foreign picture books, so please enjoy comparing them. Participation is free, and no reservation required.

**Date/time:** July 30<sup>th</sup> (Wed), 13:30-16:00

**Venue:** Sakai City Minami Library, 3rd floor library hall, 300 meters southwest from Izumigaoka station on the Nankai Semboku line (formerly Semboku Rapid Railway)

For more details, please scan the QR code (Japanese only).



### ● Free STI Testing

June is Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention Month. Public health centers regularly offer free tests for HIV, syphilis and chlamydia. (However, it is free only if you take these three tests simultaneously. Sun Square Sakai offers HIV and syphilis tests only).

**Reservation:** Unnecessary, you can go straight to the center.

**Results notification:** You will be notified roughly a week after.

Details vary by testing location, so please inquire for more information. For more details, scan the QR code.

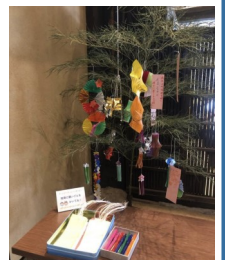


### ☆ Tanabata decorations

**Venue:** Old Yamaguchi Family Residence, Old Seigakuin Mountain Priest Dojo, Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence

**Date/time:** July 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wed) to July 7<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 10:00-17:00 (last entry until 16:30).

Would you like to join us in decorating the bamboo tree with your wishes written on tanzaku (strips of paper)? You can participate freely so please come by.





### ※ Payment for National Health Insurance

For payments other than pension payments, the national health insurance payment period will be from June until March the next year, at the end of each month (December is on 25<sup>th</sup>), and the payment period for the medical health insurance for the elderly is from July to March the next year, also at the end of every month (automatic withdrawal is December 28<sup>th</sup>). If the due date falls on a bank holiday, it will be the next business day. Furthermore, the deadline for June and July is as follows.

**June:** June 30<sup>th</sup>

**July:** July 31<sup>st</sup>

### ※ Sakai City Scholarships for FY2025 (High School Students)

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 a review of income and household conditions, prioritizing households with higher levels of need, with approximately **500 people** selected.

Please scan the QR code for more information.



### ● Beware of Smog

Photochemical smog tends to occur during the daytime when temperatures are high and winds are weak. When photochemical smog forecasts or warnings are issued, flags (green for forecast, yellow for precaution, orange for warning) and signs indicating 'Photochemical Smog Forecast Issued' will be displayed at public facilities such as ward offices and schools. During the issuance, avoid strenuous outdoor activities. If your eyes feel irritated or your throat hurts, please rinse your eyes and gargle. Additionally, Osaka Prefecture provides an information distribution service via email and app, so please register (you can select the displayed language within the distribution service). Please scan the QR codes to register for the email and download the app.



Osaka Disaster Prevention App



Osaka Disaster Prevention Email



### ● Stay Fire Safe!

Out of the reasons that cause house fires, electricity-related and cigarettes are the top two. In 2024, 11 people in Sakai City passed away due to fires. Let's prevent fires and keep ourselves and our families safe by following the guidelines below.

#### Fires caused by electricity

1. Do not let dust accumulate around plug sockets
2. Do not overload electrical circuits
3. Do not trap cords under furniture
4. Insert plugs correctly
5. Do not get the plugs or cords wet
6. Do not use cords while bunched up
7. Do not use if the cord, plug or any parts of electric appliances/products have any damage



#### Fires caused by cigarettes

1. Do not smoke in bed or litter cigarettes
2. Always put water in the ashtray
3. Check if the fire from the cigarette has died out

### ※ City Tax Notice

June will be the first appointed time for City Tax, Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The payment deadline is **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. July will be the second appointed time for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax. The payment deadline is **July 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please make your payments at nearby financial institutions, convenience stores, etc., by the due date. You can also use Pay-easy, smartphone payment apps and credit cards on regional tax payment sites. For those using automatic withdrawal, the first appointed time for City Tax, Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax will automatically be deducted on **June 30<sup>th</sup>**, and the second appointed time for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax will automatically be deducted on **July 31<sup>st</sup>**, so please check that you have sufficient funds.

### ※ 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.



### ● 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.

### ※ Tax Payment Notice

Around early June, the Payment Notice of City Tax, Prefectural Residential Tax and Forest Environment Tax (納税通知書) will be sent out. Taxation description (課税明細書) attached to the notice and the City Tax, Prefectural Residential Tax and Forest Environment Tax Special Taxation Amount Notice (市・府民税・森林環境税特別徴収税額通知書) you may receive separately, can be used instead of income or taxation proof (所得・課税証明書) in applying for moving to public housing or school expense subsidy (就学援助) etc. Please keep and use them if necessary.



### ● Air conditioning in school gymnasiums



We have started installing air conditioning systems in the gymnasiums of municipal elementary, junior high, high schools, and special support schools that can operate even during power outages. We aim to have these systems installed in all schools by the end of March 2030. This will improve the learning and exercise environment for children, maintain their health, and enhance the environment of evacuation shelters during disasters.

### ※ 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.

## FOR YOUR REFERENCE

### ☎ 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 18<sup>th</sup> (Wed) & July 16<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 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

**Labour:** July 4<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 13:30-16:30

**Immigration:** July 11<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 13:30-16:30

**Daily life:** July 18<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 13:30-16:30

**Law:** July 25<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 18:00-20:00



### ☎ “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 Web-site



### • No smoking or littering on the street

The area in front of Sakaihigashi station, 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, the areas around the west side of Sakaihigashi station, Nakamozu station, Mikunigaoka station, Sakaishi station, and Komyoike station are designated as priority areas for improving smoking and littering manners. We appreciate your cooperation.



### 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.



### ※Pools in Sakai

For more details, scan the QR code to visit Sakai City website.

