



# いちご 5

No. 217

Seika Town News and Events Guide

May 2013

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General Affairs, Planning and  
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## Pension Announcement for Students

がくせい かた ねんきん し  
学生の方へ 年金のお知らせ

All residents of Japan between the ages of 20 and 59 are required to enroll in the National Pension system. This requirement applies to students as well. However, due to the number of students who have financial difficulty paying pension premiums, those enrolled in postsecondary institutions may apply for a deferral on premium payments through the Special Payment System for Students.

### ▼ Categories of Eligibility

- ① Students whose income for the previous year does not exceed ¥1,180,000 (amount differs for those with dependents)
  - ② Those who left employment and became a student during the fiscal year for which they apply or the previous fiscal year
- ※ Those who fall under ② may be eligible even if income exceeds ¥1,180,000. When applying for deferral, please include official documentation such as *rishokuhyō* (a document received when leaving employment) or Certificate of Employment Insurance Eligibility.
- ※ Both ① and ② are limited to those attending university, graduate school, junior college, technical college, or vocational school (including those enrolled in evening, part-time, or online courses). Eligibility varies based on school and course of study.
- ※ The Japan Pension Service will send out notifications regarding approval for deferral.

### ▼ Deferral Period

Entire duration of fiscal year for which deferral is requested

### ▼ How to Apply

Please bring registered seal (*inkan*) along with student I.D. or proof of student status to the location listed below.

※ If the person applying provides a signature, a personal seal is not needed.

The deferral period will be counted towards the minimum enrollment period needed to receive pension benefits. However, it will not be credited towards the amount of benefit money received. After the deferral period, deferred premiums may be paid in order within 10 years.

Disability Basic Pension and Survivors' Basic Pension may both be claimed during the deferral period.

### After Leaving School

After graduating or discontinuing studies, those who do not intend to enroll in Employees' Pension Insurance or Mutual Aid Pension and continue to have financial difficulty paying National Pension premiums may apply for continued deferral of premium payments. This only applies to those below 30 years of age.

### QUESTIONS

General Services Division, National Pension Section  
そうごうまどぐちか ねんきんがかり  
総合窓口課 年金係

TEL: 0774-95-1915

## Important Information

## おもなじょうほう

## Quakeproofing Your House いえ じしん つよ 家を地震に強く！

Houses built in May of 1981 or earlier are considered more likely to collapse in an earthquake than houses built after that point. Owners of wooden houses built before this time may ask the Town of Seika to send an expert to look at the house and determine its risk of damage in case of an earthquake. The expert will evaluate the house based primarily on its exterior and offer evaluation results and quakeproofing advice at a later time.

The cost of the evaluation is ¥51,000, but the homeowner will only be responsible for ¥3,000. The total time required for the evaluation is 2 to 4 weeks (varies based on factors such as size of the house).

### Financial Support: ¥90,000 Maximum

If the owner of a wooden house which is judged to be at risk of collapse as a result of evaluation (and fulfills other criteria as specified by the Town of Seika) opts to have the house reinforced, the Town of Seika will pay for 75% (maximum of ¥900,000, or ¥300,000 in case of simple reinforcement) of the cost.

When having your house reinforced, be sure to choose an experienced professional. It is important to consider not only safety, but also a wide variety of other factors including cost and convenience. Be sure to choose the most rational reinforcement plan, including such steps as decreasing roof weight and strengthening walls.

To receive financial support, you must apply and receive documentation signifying approval of your application before starting reinforcement. You may not apply after the reinforcement contract has been signed or the work on your house has finished.

### APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS

City Development Division, Development Guidance Section としせいびか かいほうしどうがかり 都市整備課 開発指導係  
TEL: 0774-95-1902 FAX: 0774-95-3973

## Tax Breaks for Quakeproofing いえ つよ 家を強くして、ぜいきんげんかくほじょう 税金減額補助を受けましょう

By having their homes reinforced, homeowners may qualify for a partial rebate on property (fixed asset) taxes. Those interested should inquire for further details. Qualifying homeowners will have up to 120 square meters' worth of property (fixed income) taxes reduced by half for the following fiscal year.

**Qualifying Conditions:** Reinforcement must be completed no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015; house must have been constructed January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1982 or earlier; reinforcement must adhere to current standards as stipulated by the Building Standards Act; reinforcement must cost ¥500,000 or more per house (¥300,000 or more for contracts from prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013); application for rebate must be submitted within three months of completion of reinforcement

Rebates are also available for home improvements regarding energy efficiency and handicap accessibility. Please inquire for further details.

### QUESTIONS

Taxation Division, Property Tax Section ぜいむか こていしきんぜいかかり 税務課 固定資産税係 TEL: 0774-95-1916

**General Information**

**くらしのじょうほう**

**May**

Date	Time	What	Where
8~9 (Wed~Thu)	13:00~	Checkup for 3-and-a-half-year-olds	Health Center
10 (Fri)	13:00~	Checkup for 18-month-olds	Health Center
13 (Mon)	13:00~	Dental Checkup for 2-year-olds	Health Center
14 (Tue)	13:00~	Checkup for 9- to 10-month-olds	Health Center
16 (Thu)	13:00~	Checkup for 3- to 4-month-olds	Health Center
”	13:15~14:15	Tuberculosis Vaccinations	Health Center
21 (Tue)	13:30~15:00	Training Room Orientation	Mukunoki Center
22 (Wed)		Mukunoki Center Closed	
26 (Sun)	10:00~11:30	Story Time Special	Town Library Assembly Room
27 (Mon)	13:30~15:30	Parenting Class – Childbirth	Health Center

**June**

11 (Tue)	13:00~	Checkup for 3-and-a-half-year-olds	Health Center
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**What to do if...**

**You have a question about something in Ichigo:**

Call Steven Pelcovits, Coordinator for International Relations at the Seika Town Office. You may also call if you need an interpreter, as most of the events and classes in Ichigo will be in Japanese.

**You have a problem with life in Japan:**

If you have any questions or problems concerning life in Japan not related to an article in Ichigo, please first contact Steven Pelcovits, Coordinator for International Relations at the Seika Town Office.

TEL : 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971 E-mail: cir@town.seika.kyoto.jp or kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp (Planning and Coordinating Division)

**You have an issue with your visa or other questions:**

The Kyōto City International Foundation (located at 2-1 Torichō Awataguchi, Sakyo-ku, Kyōto-shi) , offers advice and consultation on visa issues and general problems. Visa consultations are available on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of every month (appointment required). Consultations can be done in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish. General counseling is available Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 21:00.

TEL: 075-752-3511 Homepage: <http://www.kcif.or.jp/en>

## Upcoming Events

## こんげつのイベント

## Homepage Update あたら新しいホームページについて

Starting in May, the Seika homepage will be redesigned. What is now the English website will include both English and Simple Japanese. The website will have many useful features, such as the town living guide and the online version of "Ichigo." There will also be a news section for announcements and events, so be sure to check regularly.

### QUESTIONS

Planning and Coordinating Division, Public Relations Section きかくちょうせいか こうほうがかり 企画調整課 広報係  
TEL: 0774-95-1900

## Citizens of the World Workshop: Different Yet Same, Same Yet Different!

こくさいりかいこうざ 国際理解講座 「ちきゅう地球こうざっこ講座」 ちがってもおなじ、おなじでもちがう！！



▼ **DATE:** Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 14:00 to 16:00

▼ **LOCATION:** Seika Hall (Seika Town Office 2F)

▼ **LIMIT:** First 50 applicants ※Children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and below must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

▼ **DESCRIPTION:** Come interview people from all over the world and learn about different cultures.

▼ **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Applications must be received by Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Hours: Weekdays, 8:30 to noon and 13:00 to 17:00

▼ **HOW TO APPLY:** Please contact the Seika Global Network Office by phone, fax, or e-mail with your name, address, telephone number, grade in school (if applicable), and age.

### APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS

Seika Global Network Office (Planning and Coordinating Division) TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971

せいかがローバルネット事務局 じむきょく きかくちょうせいかない (企画調整課内)

E-mail: kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp

## Keihanna Commemorative Park Upcoming Events and Activities

### けいはんな記念公園の催し物

#### Mini-Pocket★mini ポケ

WHEN: Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30-16:00 (canceled in case of inclement weather) WHERE: Shibafu Area WHAT: A market for antiques and other goods. FEE: Free QUESTIONS: Pocket Marche Executive Committee (TEL: 080-5364-2345)

#### Tsuki no Niwa Gallery Exhibition: Mie Ōsaka Abstract Art and Original Picture Book Exhibit★ギャラリー 月の庭展覧会 大坂美詠展 CONTINUE BOND 抽象絵画と絵本原画展

WHEN: Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00-17:00 (10:00-16:00 on the 19<sup>th</sup>) WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō Tsuki no Niwa Gallery WHAT: Exhibition for the winner of last year's Art of the Moon Exhibition FEE: Suikeien admission fee

#### Hand Puppet Crafts★指人形工作

WHEN: Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 14:00- WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō Tsuki no Niwa Gallery WHAT: Come make cute hand puppets with papier-mâché. FEE: ¥500 (for materials) and Suikeien admission fee (application required) APPLICATIONS: Ōsaka (TEL: 090-9985-9826)

#### Suikeien Flower Arrangement Class★水景園のいけばな教室

WHEN: Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 13:30-16:00 WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō Study Room WHAT: Come learn about the 500-year-old art of flower arrangement. FEE: ¥2,000 (please apply at least two days in advance)

#### 44th Great Flower Operation: Morning Glories★第44回 花いっぱい大作戦 ～あさがお棚をつくろう～

WHEN: Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00-noon (moved to Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> in case of rain) WHERE: Meet in front of Suikeien reception area WHAT: Park beautification with flowers and plants. WHAT TO BRING: Clothes that are easy to move around in and working gloves FEE: Free (application required, limit 30 people)

#### Starry Night Cafe★星空カフェ

WHEN: Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 19:00-21:00 (canceled in case of rain or overcast weather) WHERE: Suikeien reception area WHAT: Gaze at stars and planets while enjoying tea and snacks. FEE: Free SPONSORED BY: Astronomy Club Copernicus

#### Forest Plaza: Fun in the Forest★森っこ広場～森あそび～

WHEN: Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 13:00-16:00 (canceled in case of rain) WHERE: Suikeien Yamatanada WHO: Children ages 4 and above and parents ※Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below must attend with a parent or guardian WHAT TO BRING: Working gloves FEE: Suikeien admission fee

#### Firefly-Watching Parties★水景園のホタル観賞会

WHEN: Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> ※Except Thursdays 18:00-21:00 (glowing begins approximately 19:30, no entry after 20:30) WHERE: Suikeien WHAT: Come enjoy the dreamlike beauty of fireflies glowing in the night at the Suikeien. FEE: ¥300 for adults, ¥150 for middle and elementary school students, free for children below school age

Continued from Page 5

### Handicraft Market and Workshop ★<sup>てづく さっか</sup>手作り作家マーケット & ワークショップ <sup>フチ</sup>Pura Marche vol. 3

WHEN: Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00-15:00 (glowing begins approximately 19:30, no entry after 20:30) WHERE: Visitor Center WHAT: Market featuring handmade goods and delicious food. FEE: Free QUESTIONS: Moiroimi (E-mail: moiroimi@yahoo.co.jp)

### 22nd Garden Lecture: Planning and Making Your Garden ★<sup>だい かい ていえんこうざ</sup>第22回 庭園講座～<sup>せつけいず</sup>設計図をみて、<sup>さくてい</sup>作庭する<sup>ぎじゅつ</sup>技術を学<sup>まな</sup>ぶ～

WHEN: Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 13:00-15:00 WHERE: Suikeien (meet in front of Suikeien reception area) WHAT: A lecture for those who want to connect with nature. This lecture will be about spring gardening. WHO: Middle schoolers and above FEE: ¥2,000 (application required, limit 20 people)

**PARK INFORMATION:** Entrance to Suikeien and Shizenrin: Adults: ¥200, J.H.S. and E.S. students: ¥100 (discount for groups of 25 or more) **HOURS:** 9:00-17:00

**QUESTIONS:** Keihanna Commemorative Park Mgmt.

Office <sup>きねんこうえんかんりじむしょ</sup> けいはんな記念公園管理事務所

TEL: 0774-93-1200, FAX: 0774-93-2688

<http://www.keihanna-park.jp>

## Keihanna Plaza Upcoming Events

けいはんなプラザの<sup>もよお</sup>催し物<sup>もの</sup>

### Keihanna Movies <sup>えいがけきじょう</sup>けいはんな映画劇場

“The Intouchables” <sup>さいきょう</sup>「最強のふたり」

(2011, France)

Driss applies for a job as a caregiver for a wealthy man named Philippe, despite having no desire to do the job and believing he will not be hired. To Driss' surprise, however, not only does he get the job, but he and Philippe quickly develop a close friendship.



#### WHEN:

May 16<sup>th</sup> (Thu), 10:30, 13:00, 15:30

May 17<sup>th</sup> (Fri), 10:30, 13:00, 18:00

May 18<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 10:30, 13:00, 15:30

**WHERE:** Keihanna Plaza Main Hall

General Admission.....¥1,000

J.H.S. students or younger.....¥700

Senior citizens aged 60 or older.....¥700

Keihanna Tomonokai Members.....¥700

**QUESTIONS:** Keihanna Convention Department, <sup>じきょうふ</sup>けいはんなコンベンション事業部

TEL: 0774-95-5115

### Keihanna Plaza Small Concert

けいはんなプラザプチコンサート

▼WHEN Every Wednesday 12:15-12:45 ▼WHERE Keihanna Plaza Atrium Lobby

▼PROGRAM: ◆May 15<sup>th</sup>

Enjoying the Marimba through Emmanuel Sejourne Emmanuel Sejourne: Marimba Concerto

◆May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Color: Percussion and Piano Sarasate: Zigeunerweisen

◆May 29<sup>th</sup>

Japanese and Austrian Music On the Violin Pleyel: Duo for 2 Violins, Op. 24, No. 4

◆June 5<sup>th</sup>

Ayu Kamihirata and Eri Kitade Piano Concert Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue

QUESTIONS: Keihanna Plaza Petit Concert Committee <sup>じつこういんかい</sup>けいはんなプラザプチコンサート実行委員会 TEL: 0774-95-5105

**Cooking      クッキング**

**Hijiki Salad**

1. Soak the *hijiki* in water, parboil, then drain.
2. Shred the cabbage, parboil, then drain.
3. Prepare vinegar dressing.
4. Dress (1), (2), and tuna with vinegar dressing and toss lightly.

**Ingredients (Serves 2)**

*Hijiki* seaweed-----6g  
Cabbage-----60g  
Tuna canned in oil-----20g

**Vinegar Dressing**

Sugar-----a little over 1 tsp  
Vinegar---a little over 1/2 tsp  
Soy sauce--a little over 1 tsp



**Giseigo Corner      擬声語コーナー**

Hello and welcome to the Giseigo Corner! Giseigo are Japanese words describing sounds or conditions.



ぐっすり

**Gussuri**

**“Sleeping soundly”**

In Japan, there is a saying, “In spring one sleeps a sleep that knows no dawn.” In other words, during springtime, people sleep so well that they have trouble waking up. Are you managing to get some *gussuri* sleep?



**Transportation to Kansai Airport  
かんさいくうこうまでのこうつう**

**Kansai Airport Bus**

かんさいくうこう  
関西空港エアポートリムジンバス

The Nara Kōtsū Airport Bus offers service to Kansai International Airport from Keihanna Plaza, available seven days a week (¥2,000 one way). Bookings are available. Call the number below to reserve a seat.

Departure	Arrival
5:50	7:30
6:50	8:25
7:50	9:30
9:50	11:30
10:50	12:30
11:50	13:30

Departure	Arrival
12:40	14:20
15:40	17:20
16:40	18:20
17:40	19:20
18:40	20:20

For more information or to reserve a seat:

Nara Kōtsū Bus Reservation Center

ならこうつう      予約センター  
奈良交通バス予約センター

TEL: 0742-22-5110      (Hours: 9:00-19:00)

**Note from the Editor  
へんしゅうしゃのことば**

In America and some other English-speaking countries, we have an old cliché, “April showers bring May flowers.” Unfortunately, in Japan, April showers wash away the March flowers – that is, the cherry blossoms. It is sad to think that another year will pass before I can see those beautiful pink petals dancing in the wind again.

Nonetheless, May is still a gorgeous month with colorful flowers of its own. Soon, summer humidity and *tsuyu*, the rainy season, will arrive. We must always cherish fleeting pleasures, whether they be cherry blossoms or moderate weather.

- Steven

Check out the Kyoto CIR blog!

<http://tabunkakyoito.wordpress.com/>



## Festivals and National Holidays さいじつ・ぎょうじ

## Constitution Memorial Day

けんぽうきねんび  
憲法記念日May 3<sup>rd</sup>

This holiday commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of Japan on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1947. It is the only day of the year on which the National Diet Building in Tōkyō is open to the general public.

## Greenery Day

みどりの日

May 4<sup>th</sup>

Greenery Day was celebrated on April 29<sup>th</sup> between 1989 and 2006, but assumed its current date in 2007. As the name suggests, this holiday is devoted to thinking about and treasuring nature.

## Children's Day

こどもの日

May 5<sup>th</sup>

Children's Day, established in 1948, is based off of an ancient holiday called *Tango no Sekku*, or Boys' Day. This day is an opportunity for parents to celebrate the happiness and health of their children. Sets of armor and special dolls are set up around the house, and many people fly *koinobori*, or carp streamers.



## Aoi Festival

あおいまつり  
葵祭May 15<sup>th</sup>

Also known as the Kamo Festival, the Aoi Festival is one of the three main festivals of Kyōto, along with the Festival of the Ages in October and the Gion Festival in July. It originated in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD as a way to appease Shintō deities following a succession of misfortunes in Kyōto. Today, the festival features a procession of hundreds of people dressed as Heian-era courtiers walking through Kyōto. The procession begins at 10:30 at the Imperial Palace, heads for Shimogamo Shrine, and finally ends at Kamigamo Shrine at approximately 15:30. Seats may be reserved at the Imperial Palace and both shrines. Those who do not reserve seats should go early in order to see the procession go through any of those points.

Seika Growth Watchじんこう うご  
人口の動き

Population as of April 1st:

(Number in parentheses is change from last month)

<b>Total:</b>	<b>36,965 (-18)</b>
<b>Male:</b>	<b>17,836 (-16)</b>
<b>Female:</b>	<b>19,129 (-2)</b>
<b>Households:</b>	<b>13,820 (+25)</b>

Ichigo Corner

いちごコーナー

The Ichigo Corner is a place for readers to express their opinions on Seika, life in Japan, or anything else.

Submissions may be sent in by either mail or e-mail.

Ichigo's Aim

いちごの目的

Since the advent of the Kansai Science City, the town of Seika, along with its foreign population, has been growing rapidly. In an effort to make the lives of foreign residents easier, the Seika Town Office produces this monthly newsletter. The newsletter's name, "Ichigo," means "strawberry," Seika's most famous product.

かんさいぶんかがくじゅつけんきゅうとし けんせつ  
関西文化学術研究都市の建設  
すす せいかわちょう ひと ふ  
が進み、精華町にすむ人が増  
え、その中で外国人の人口も増  
えています。精華町内に住む  
がいにくじん みな く  
外国人の皆さんが暮らしやす  
いように、精華町は毎月この  
じょうほうし はっこう  
情報紙を発行しています。この  
じょうほうし  
情報紙のニックネーム「いち  
ご」(いちご せいかわちょう いちばんゆうめい  
ご) (莓、精華町の一番有名な  
もの)は、みんながわかるよう  
にひらがなでつけました。

Ichigo on the Internet<http://www-e.town.seika.kyoto.jp/h>