



いちご

No. 202

Seika Town News and Events Guide

February 2012

2

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Seika-cho, Soraku-gun, Kyoto-fu

せいかちょうやくばそうむぶきかくちょうせい
精華町役場総務部企画調整課

〒619-0285

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2012 Economic Census for Business Activity

ねん けいざい かつどうちようさ 2012年の経済センサス・活動調査

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Kyoto prefecture, and Seika are conducting the “2012 Economic Census for Business Activity” with February 1st as a reference date.

This is the only survey that will allow us to completely grasp economic activities in all the manufacturing fields. As all businesses and offices are requested to participate, you could call it “the national census of the economy”

We hope that the results of this survey will be used not only as the underlying data for national administrative policies, academic research, development of regional industries, and invigoration of commercial districts, but that business owners can also use it as a reference material to help their company grow.

Additionally, as we will be able to understand the effects of the earthquake on all industries and regions, this survey specifically will become a very important document in examining the reconstruction situation in affected areas.

The contents of the survey will be confidential in accordance with the statistics laws, and will never be used outside of the survey’s intended purposes (taxation materials, etc.).

Please fill out and turn in the materials sent to you at the end of January. We will take the greatest care with your form, and it will be turned into recycled paper.

We ask you to understand the purpose and necessity of this survey, and to please cooperate.

QUESTIONS:

Seika town office, Planning and Coordinating Division, Planning Section

せいかちょうやくばきかくちょうせい
精華町役場企画調整課企画係

TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971

Important Information

おもなじょうほう

Pay your Taxes at a Convenience Store

ちょうぜいのうふ
町税コンビニ納付

Starting from April of this year, you will be able to pay certain taxes at convenience stores. The taxes must have a barcode on the payment slip (*noufusho*) and be one of the following taxes:

1. Town and prefectural residence tax
2. Fixed property tax
3. City planning tax
4. Light motor vehicle tax
5. National Health insurance tax

You may also pay your taxes through your bank at the teller or through automatic withdrawals. If you have any questions, please see the guide enclosed in your tax forms, or contact the number below.

QUESTIONS:

Tax Division, Revenue Promotion Section せいむかすいとうすいしんがかり 税務課収納推進係 TEL:0774-95-1916 TAX:0774-95-3974



To all Special Permanent Residents

とくべつえいじゅうしかた
特別永住者の方へ

On July 9th of this year, the new residency management system will start, and your alien registration certificate will be replaced with a special permanent residence certificate.

Following the introduction of the new system, your current “alien registration certificates” will be considered a “special permanent residence certificate,” so it is not necessary to immediately renew them.

For those who would like to quickly replace their “alien registration certificates,” apply at the general services division (そうごうまどぐちか 総合窓口課) at the Seika town office. After you apply you should receive your “special permanent residence certificate” sometime in August.

QUESTIONS: General Services Division, Family Registry Section そうごうまどぐちかこせきじゅうみんがかり 総合窓口課戸籍住民係

TEL: 0774-95-1915 FAX: 0774-95-3974

The International Exchange Volunteer Bank

こくさいこうりゅうじんさい
国際交流の人材バンク

Ever have a problem with life in Japan and don't know where to turn? Confused by Japanese language or customs you don't understand? Wish there was someone who could help answer some of your questions? The International Exchange Volunteer Bank is here to help!

Run by Seika Global Network, the International Exchange Volunteer Bank aims to help all foreign residents with any problems they may have with life in Japan. Additionally, if you would like to join the International Exchange Volunteer Bank, please call the number below.

Their activities include:

- Teaching Japanese language classes
- Translating and interpreting for foreign residents
- Introducing and teaching elements of Japanese culture
- Volunteering at international events and programs in Seika

QUESTIONS: Seika Global Network (Inside the Planning and Coordinating

Division) じむきょく せいかがローバルネット事務局 (精華町企画調整課内)

TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971 E-mail: kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp



General Information

くらしのじょうほう

February

Date	Time	What	Where
8 (Wed)	13:30-15:30	Parenting Class (Childbirth)	Health Center
15 (Wed)	13:00 ~	Health Check-up for 3 and a half year olds	Health Center
17 (Fri)	13:00 ~	Health Check-up for 1 and a half year olds	Health Center
20 (Mon)	13:00 ~	Dental Check-up for 2 year olds	Health Center
“	13:30 - 15:00	Training Room Orientation	Mukunoki Center
21 (Tue)	13:00 ~	Health Check-up for 9 to 10 month olds	Health Center
22 (Wed)	13:00 ~	Health Check-up for 3 to 4 month olds	Health Center
“	13:15 - 14:15	BCG Vaccination	Health Center
26 (Sun)	9:00 - 12:00	Smile Sports Arena	Mukunoki Center

March

1 (Thu)		Fire Prevention Day	
4 (Sun)	9:30-10:30, 11:00-12:00	Parent Child Arts and Crafts Class	Seika town library
“		7th Annual Sports Sunday	
6 (Tue)	13:30 - 15:30	Parenting Class (Child Raising)	Health Center
9 (Fri)	13:00 ~	Health Check-up for 1 and a half year olds	Health Center

What to do if...

You have a question about something in Ichigo:

Call Kai Wiesner-Hanks, 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.

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 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 Kai Wiesner-Hanks, 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 Kyoto Prefectural International Center, located on the 9th floor of Kyoto Station, offer advice and consolation on Visa issues and general problems. Visa consultations are available on the 4th Sunday of every month, from 13:00-17:00. Please make a reservation beforehand through phone or from the center's homepage. General counseling is available from 13:00 to 17:00, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The center also offers Japanese language courses and culture courses for interested residents.

TEL: 075-342-5000 Homepage: <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/index.html>



Upcoming Events

こんげつのイベント

7th Annual Sports for All Sunday

第7回 みんなのスポーツサンデー

The 7th "Sports for All" Day will be held on Sunday, March 4th at the Mukunoki Center. The event will run from 9:30a.m to 4:00p.m., and is free besides participation in the Dodgebee Tournament. This is a great event for families, as well as those who just want to get out and get some exercise.

New Sports Corner

-An area where you can freely try different kinds of sports.

SPORTS: Curolling, Unicurl, Kin-ball, Mini Volleyball, Short tennis, Sport Blowguns and others.

Open Training Room

For those think about starting to workout, the training room is supplied mainly with aerobic equipment and is great for the middle-aged and the elderly.

TIME: 9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.
1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.

*Open to anyone over grade 5 in elementary school.

Health counseling corner

Come to the health counseling to learn more about good workout habits. Open to elementary-schoolers and older.

TIME: 9:30a.m. to 12:00p.m.,
1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.

5th Annual Dodgebee (Frisbee Dodgeball) Tournament

TIME: 12:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.

FEE: 1 person ¥200

DIVISIONS: Elementary students (Grades 1-3)
Elementary students (Grades 4-6)
General (Middle school students and above)

APPLY: Fill out an application form and bring it to the Mukunoki center by Monday, February 13th. Forms are available at the Mukunoki Center, and downloadable from the town homepage.

Other information

- Please bring clothes and shoes you can exercise in
- *Sport specific equipment will be provided
- Information will be passed out to elementary students
- The Mukunoki Center will close at 17:00 the day of.

QUESTIONS: Seika Town Physical Education Association Office (In the Mukunoki Center), 精華町体育協会事務局 (むくのきセンター内) TEL: 98-0200 FAX: 98-0118 E-mail: y-taiiku@tao.town.seika.kyoto.jp

Strawberry Picking**イチゴ狩り****Hanayagi Tourist Farm**

華やぎ観光農園

① Jan. 15th(Sun) -Feb. 29th(Wed) -Wed, Sat, and Sun.
10:30a.m. and 1:00p.m.

② March 1st(Thu) -May 6th (Sun) Tues, Wed, Sat, and Sun only. 10:00a.m., 12:30p.m., and 2:30p.m.

③ May 7th (Mon) -31st (Thu) Days and times same as ②
FEE:

① Adults ¥1500 Children (elem. students) ¥1300
Toddlers (ages 3 - 5) 1000

② Adults ¥1300 Children (elem. students) ¥1200
Toddlers (ages 3 - 5) ¥1000

③ Adults ¥1100 Children (elem. students) ¥1000
Toddlers (ages 3 - 5) ¥800

Groups of 20 or larger qualify for a 10% discount.

You may make reservations up to one month in advance

INQUIRIES/RESERVATIONS: TEL: 93-4811, FAX: 93-4822

WEB: <http://www.hanayagifarm.com/>

Kawanishi Strawberry Gardens

精華町川西観光苺園

WHEN: January 21st(Sat) -February 19th(Sun)

-Open Saturdays and Sundays

February 25th(Sat) -May 27th (Sun)

-Open Everyday

HOURS: 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

FEE: Adults (middle school and above)¥1100

Children (elem. students) ¥900

Toddlers (ages 3 - 5) ¥600

Extra ¥200 fee on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Groups of 20 or more qualify for a 10% discount.

INQUIRIES/RESERVATIONS:

TEL: 0774-94-2568 (Until February 17th)

TEL: 0774-94-5230, FAX: 94-5260 (From Feb 18th)



Keihanna Commemorative Park Upcoming Events and Activities

けいはんな記念公園の催し物

The 6th Annual Commemorative Park Photo Show ★第6回 公園の写真展

WHEN: Feb. 4th (Sat)-26th (Sun) 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Tsukinoniwa Gallery 水景園 観月楼
ギャラリー 月の庭 WHAT: A photography show, with pictures of the 4 seasons in the Keihanna Commemorative park taken by professional and amateur photographers on display.

Hina Dolls ★ひな人形のしつらい

WHEN: Feb. 4th (Sat)-March 3rd (Sat) 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsuro 水景園 観月楼
WHAT: Hina dolls will be on display in the Kangetsuro

The Enchanted Mebuki Forest - Baumkuchen Cake ★あつまれ! 芽ぶきの森のこびとたち 冬の森でバームクーヘンづくり

WHEN: Feb. 5th (Sun) 1:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Mebuki Forest 水景園 芽ぶきの森 FEE: ¥800
WHAT: Bring your kids and have fun making a fire and baking your own Baumkuchen layer cake. Open to kids in elem. school and above, and their parents.

Suikeien Ikebana Classroom ★水景園のいけばな教室

WHEN: Feb. 9th (Thu) , 23rd (Thu) 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsuro 水景園 観月楼 FEE:
¥2000(includes park entrance fee) WHAT: Study the ancient art of Ikebana, flower arranging in our Japanese garden area. (Please contact the Keihanna Commemorative Park Management Office at least two days prior)

Picking Fuki Plants ★フキノウ摘み

WHEN: Feb. 11th (Sat)(Moved to the 12th in case of rain) ① From 10:00 a.m. ② From 1:00p.m. WHERE:
Suikeien FEE: ¥800 WHAT: Learn how to pick and prepare the stems from Fuki plants on this early spring forest tour. Open to elem. schoolers and above. Reservations necessary, limited to first 20 people.

Valentine's Day Concert: Saxophone Quarter ★バレンタインコンサート〜サクソカルテットの調べ〜

WHEN: Feb. 12th (Sun) 2:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsuro 水景園 観月楼
WHAT: A performance by the saxophone quartet "Precious sax ensemble"

The 37th Great Flower Operation - Preparing Logs for Shiitake Mushrooms ★第37回花いっぱい大作戦 きのこもいっぱい大作戦〜しいたけのほだ木づくり〜

WHEN: Feb. 18th (Sat)(25th on case of rain) 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Mebuki Forest
水景園 芽ぶきの森 WHAT: Help make the park even more beautiful by preparing logs on which to grow shiitake mushrooms. Reservations necessary, limited to first 30 people.

Baked Sweet Potato Bonfire ★たき火で焼き芋を焼こう

WHEN: Feb. 19th (Sun)(26th on case of rain) 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien Yamatanada
水景園 山棚田 WHAT: Come roast sweet potatoes at this popular event. Reservations necessary, limit 100.
FEE: ¥500 (Free for those under 3, but no potato will be given)



(Continued from page 5)

Japanese Festival Series: The Season of Plums ★**けいはんな日本の行事シリーズ 桃の節句**

WHEN: March 3rd(Sat) 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. WHERE:
 Suikeien Kangetsuro 水景園 観月楼

WHAT: Celebrate the plum festival by making origami princess dolls. (limit 100) A tea ceremony event will also be held. (¥500, limit 20 people. Call the number below at least 2 days prior to reserve a seat)

Gardening Class "Technique!"-Pruning and Planting**Trees in your Garden ★****第19回庭園講座(技術編) 庭木の剪定・手入れ**

WHEN: March 3rd(Sat)(Moved to the 4th in case of rain) 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. WHERE: Suikeien 水景園

FEE: ¥2000 WHAT: A course on technique from the landscaper who cares for the Suikeien.

※ The Saganaka Cotton Goods Museum will be closed from December to February.

PARK INFORMATION: Entrance to Suikeien and Shizenrin: Adults: ¥200, Middle and E.S. students: ¥100 (Discount for groups of 25 and over.)

HOURS: 9:00 - 17:00

QUESTIONS: Keihanna Commemorative Park Mgmt. Office 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催し物

Keihanna Movies けいはんな映画劇場**My S.O. has depression!**

ツレがうつになりまして

(2011, Japan)

When her husband Tsure starts to suffer from depression, young manga artist Haru (Miyazaki Aoi) tries her best to support. But as the depression drags on, the strain starts to wear on their marriage. Can they overcome this incredible hurdle?



WHEN: February 17th (Fri) 10:30, 14:00, 19:00
 February 18th (Sat), 10:30, 13:15, 16:00
 February 19th (Sun) 10:30, 13:15, 16:00

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, けいはんなコンベンション事業部

TEL: 0774-95-5115

Seika Town Exchange Hall Concert 精華町交流ホールコンサート**9th PAT Krangel Concert****Enjoy the Wonderful Sounds of Opera!**

This will be an opera concert to remember, as professional singers will perform together with residents from Seika in a distinct harmony of expertise and passion. The concert is free to attend and all are welcome!

Time: Sunday, March 18th. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., Concert starts at 3:00p.m.

Location: Seika Town Exchange Hall (Town office, 2nd floor) (Limit 100 people)

Application Period: Until Friday, February 17th. (Postmarked by the 17th)

How to apply: Send your name, address, phone number, and the names of all attendees on a reply paid postcard (往復はがき) to the address below. (One person can apply for five people)

Questions・Applications: 〒619-0285 精華町役場 企画調整課 企画係

〒619-0285 Seika Town Office, Planning and Coordinating Division, Planning Section

TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971



Cooking

クッキング

Cabbage Wrapped Pork Rolls

1. Cut off the thick part of the cabbage, boil the leaves, and reconstitute the kanpyou.
2. Lay out the leaves with the thick end facing towards you. Cover with katakuriko then place the pork strip on top and cover with katakuriko again. Roll up from the thick end and tie together with the kanpyou.
3. Add the flavourings to a pot of water over heat. Put in the roll and bring to a boil. Then let it set on a medium to weak flame for roughly 10 minutes. While cooking, use paper towels to clean up the film that forms.
4. Cut one leaf into 4 sections, place out on a plate. After thickening the soup with katakuriko, pour it on.

Ingredients-

(2 servings)

Chinese
 Cabbage.....160g
 Pork Roast...100g
 Kanpyou.....4g
 Dark Soy Sauce9g
 Hon Mirin.....4.5g
 Sake.....3.8g
 Katakuriko.....4.5g



Yojjukugo Corner 四字熟語コーナー

Howdy everyone and welcome to the Yojjukugo Corner! Yojjukugo are Japanese idioms made up of four Kanji.

四字熟語



手前味噌

てまえみそ



“Tooting your own horn/ being boastful”

We all know that it's not good to praise yourself too highly. Though you can be proud of what you do, no one likes a braggart. The phrase literally means, “my miso,” and brings to mind someone boasting of how the miso they made is the most delicious. Remember the difference between pride and vanity!

Transportation to Kansai Airport かんさいくこうまでのこうつう

Kansai Airport Bus

かんさいくこう
 関西空港エアポートリムジンバス

You can take the Nara Kotsuu Airport Bus to Kansai International Airport from Keihanna Plaza, available seven days a week (one way fare ¥2000). Bookings are available. See the telephone number below to reserve a seat:

Departing	Arriving
5:50	7:30
6:50	8:25
7:50	9:30
9:50	11:30
10:50	12:30
11:50	13:30

Departing	Arriving
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 Kotsuu Bus Reservation Center

ならこうつうバス予約センター

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

Note From the Editor へんしゅうしゃのことば

Winter is still dragging on in Kyoto, and I'm sure everyone else is just as tired of it as I am. Although the temperature can't really compare to places like Hokkaido, it still has a way of rattling your bones.

But this past year, with the March 11th disaster and following problems at the nuclear power plants, people are more concerned than ever with conserving energy. So that means that we should try to find other ways of keeping warm.

Personally, I've found trips to nearby onsen and bathhouses to be a great way to warm up, and hopefully you out there have your own methods.

- Kai



I have a blog about my life in Seika that everyone should check out!

<http://seikalife.blogspot.co>



Festivals and National Holidays **さいじつ・ぎょうじ****Setsubun**せつぶん
節分**February 3rd**

Though the term *Setsubun* technically refers to the day before the beginning of each new season, it has come to be most closely associated with the beginning of spring. The festival has become famous for the practice of *mamemaki*, or bean throwing. Families throw roasted soybeans at someone dressed as an *oni* (demon), while shouting “*Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!*” meaning, “Demons out! Luck in!” Family members then eat the number of beans corresponding to their age. Though traditionally it was only the head of the household who threw the beans, the practice has become very popular with children, and nowadays one family member wears an *oni* mask and the rest of the family throws the beans.

National Foundation Dayけんこくきねん ひ
建国記念の日**February 11th**

National Foundation Day celebrates the founding of the Japanese nation. First established in 1966, National Foundation Day was based off of an older practice that celebrated the ascension of the first emperor of Japan to throne in 660 BC. The older holiday was officially designated “Empire Day” (紀元節) in the Meiji Period, and set on February 11th. The holiday was a very important event pre 1945, but was banned after 1946. However, it was brought back as National Foundation Day in 1966. Today the holiday no longer holds as much prestige as before, but there are still parades and celebrations held throughout Japan.

St. Valentine's Day

バレンタイン・デー

February 14th

Valentine's Day, the Western holiday of love, has become incredibly popular in Japan, although there are some notable differences. Valentine's Day in Japan is distinct for the fact that it is almost only women who give gifts, and the gift of choice is chocolate. The chocolate is generally divided into non-romantic or *giri-choco*, literally “obligation chocolate” and romantic, *honmei-choco*, Giving chocolate to friends, or *tomo-choco*, has also become very popular. Although in recent years men have begun to give gifts, women are still the primary gift givers, and most will give at least *giri-choco* to male coworkers, classmates, and friends. Women get their turn too though, as a month later on “White Day,” men are expected to give something in return to the women who gave them presents.

Seika Population Growthじんこう うご
人口の動き**Population as of January 1st:****(Number in brackets is change from last month)**

Total:	36,913 (+10)
Male:	17,820 (+12)
Female:	19,093 (-2)
Households:	13,614 (+11)

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 anyone wishes to say.

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

Ichigo's Aim

いちごの目的

Since the advent of 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 newsletter monthly. 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 せいけいちょう ひと ふ
が進み、精華町にすむ人が 増
え、そのなかで外国人の人口も増
えています。せいけいちょうない す
外国人の皆さんが暮らしやすい
ように、せいけいちょう まいつき
情報紙を発行しています。この
情報紙のニックネーム「いちご」
（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/ht
mls/english.html](http://www-e.town.seika.kyoto.jp/htmls/english.html)

