

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter **KOHO HIKONE**



February 2026

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[Official Hikone Website] **[New Facebook Page]**

Contact Info	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall	0749-22-1411 (Switch Board)
Human Rights Policy Division (To Speak to Our English Interpreter, Please Call the Number on the Right.)	0749-30-6113
FACEBOOK	http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng

You can talk to our English interpreter by phone at the given number above or in person at Hikone City Hall.

This English Version of *Koho Hikone* Is Issued Monthly.

This Foreign-Language Community Newsletter Is Available At:

- Hikone Fukushi Center
- Hikone Bunka Plaza
- Hikone City Library
- Hikone City Hall (1F)
- AEON TOWN Hikone
- Nakachiku Kominkan
- Inae Branch Office
- “Gyomuyou Super” (Toga-cho)
- Beisia Hikone
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital
- Hello Work Hikone

Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese)

Onsite Foreign-Language Interpreting Services Are Available At Hikone City Hall!

*Please say “eigo tsuuyaku onegai shimasu” at the information desk of the city hall.

“えいご つうやく おねがいます”

City Hall Operating Schedule: Weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

*Please note that the availability of our English interpreter is subject to change.



***Please Contact Each School Before Attending.**

Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Cost
Saturday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Naka-chiku Community Center (Oyabu-cho, 2610)	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE Katsurada-San Tel: 090-5156-6916	100 yen per lesson
Monday to Friday *Closed on holidays	① 9:30 AM to 10:50 AM ② 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM ③ 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM ④ 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM ⑤ Online Classes	Innovation Office Nayashichi (Shiro-machi 1-7-16)	SMILE Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
1st, 3rd, 4th Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	*This class is available for children only! Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	Free

Public Notices & Information

Tax Return Season for Municipal and Prefectural Inhabitant Taxes

[Opening Calendar for Tax Return Season for Municipal and Prefectural Inhabitant Taxes]

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb	15	16 City Hall	17 City Hall	18 City Hall	19 Mizuho	20 Mizuho	21
	22	23	24 City Hall	25 City Hall	26 City Hall	27 Takamiya	28
Mar	1	2 City Hall	3 City Hall	4 City Hall	5 City Hall	6 City Hall, Toriimoto	7
	8	9 City Hall	10 City Hall	11 City Hall	12 City Hall	13 City Hall	14
	15	16 City Hall					

- Hikone City Hall: 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM (Max 50), 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Max 50)
- Mizuho Bunka Center: 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM (Max 90), 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Max 80)
- Takamiya Bunka Center: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM (Max 50), 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Max 50)
- Toriimoto District Community Hall: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Max 50)

[Schedule Your Tax Return Visit Through LINE]

Please scan the QR code to schedule your visit in advance.

When scheduling through LINE, please note that you can make only one appointment per person.



[Important Points about Tax Returns for Municipal and Prefectural Inhabitant Taxes]

- Those who plan to file an income tax return do not need to file a separate inhabitant tax return.
- Tax returns filed by pensioners and simple tax returns are also accepted at each tax return site.

[If any of the following applies to you, please file your tax return through the e-Tax system or at the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry (4th floor)]

- Those who wish to claim a special tax deduction for a home mortgage.
- Those who earned income from the transfer of property.
- Those who need to file a so-called blue return (self-employed or high-income earners).
- Those who need to file a tax return for their own businesses for the first time.
- Those who wish to claim special tax deductions for earthquake-resistant home reinforcement, accessibility-related home modifications, or energy-efficient home improvements.
- Those who need to file a tax return on behalf of someone who has recently passed away.
- Those who wish to file tax returns for previous years (up to 5 years retrospectively).
- Those who received pension payments under the inherited pension benefit payment system.
- Those who wish to claim a tax deduction for casualty losses due to disasters, etc.

[Please Prepare the Following Documents in Advance, If Necessary]

- Detailed Statement of Earnings and Expenses
- Detailed Statement of Medical Expenses for a Tax Deduction

[What to Bring with You]

- Proof of your total income for 2025 (pay stubs, withholding tax slips, etc.).
- Documents related to the tax deductions you wish to claim, such as detailed statements for medical expenses, casualty losses, life insurance, earthquake insurance, national health insurance, national pension, long-term care insurance, donations, etc.
- Documents showing your spouse's income, if you wish to claim a spousal deduction.
- A disability handbook, if you wish to claim a tax deduction for a person with disabilities.
- A form of identification.
- A My Number Card or a document showing your 12-digit Individual Number.

Contact Information: Hikone Tax Division, Tel. 0749-30-6140

Tax Return for Income Tax, etc. at Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[Tax Return Period]

February 16 (Mon) to March 16 (Mon), 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the weekdays

[Location]

Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry (4th Floor)

[Things to Bring]

Smartphone and My Number Card

[Important Notes]

- The Hikone Tax Office is not a place for filing tax returns during the tax return season.
- Depending on how crowded the tax return site becomes, the site may close earlier than the listed closing time.
- A waiting number slip will be distributed at the entrance of the site.
- Parking at the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry is not free.
- You can file your tax return through the national e-Tax system from the comfort of your home.



- The Special One-Stop Tax Return Program does not apply to those who filed their Furusato Nozei (hometown tax donation) through the Furusato Nozei One-Stop Special Program. Please contact the tax office for more details.
- The submission of withholding tax slips or other third-party-issued documents related to a tax return is no longer mandatory. Instead, you are required to enter all necessary information on the tax return form.
- Qualified invoice-issuing businesses must file a consumption tax return. For more detailed information, please contact the Invoice Call Center at 0120-205-553 (weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or scan the QR code to submit inquiries online.



Contact Information: National Tax Agency, Tel. 0570-005901

Change of Kei-Car and Motorbike Ownership by the End of March

Kei-car (light vehicle) tax is levied annually on Kei-car owners as of April 1. For this reason, all Kei-car and motorbike owners are reminded to complete the necessary procedures to change ownership of a Kei-car or motorbike, or to deregister (scrap) it by the end of March.

*Please note that procedures vary depending on the vehicle type. Be sure to contact one of the following authorities if you have any questions at your earliest convenience.



Contact Information

- **Regular-size vehicles and motorbikes 126cc or bigger: Shiga, Kinki Unrin Kyoku Tel: 050-5540-2064**
- **Kei-cars: Shiga Office, Kei Jidousha Association Tel: 050-3816-1843**
- **Motorbikes 125cc or smaller, and special small vehicles: Hikone Tax Division Tel: 0749-30-6140**

Temporary Suspension of Certificates Issued at Convenience Stores

During the following periods, the issuance of government-issued certificates at convenience stores will be temporarily suspended due to scheduled maintenance.

- February 20 – 23, starting at 11:00 PM: Issuance of Koseki (family register) certificates will be unavailable.
- February 23 – March 10, starting at 11:00 PM: Issuance of all types of government-issued certificates will be unavailable.

Contact Information: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6111

Sunday Opening of Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: March 15 (Sun), 9:30 – 12:30

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

Note: You can make an appointment in advance online (please scan the QR code) or by phone.

Contact Information: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel. 0749-30-6151

ICOCA and Other IC Smart Card Systems To Be Implemented on Ohmi Railway

The ICOCA system is set to be introduced on Ohmi Railway on March 1, Sunday. This will enable Ohmi Railway users to use contactless IC smart cards for public transportation.

Please scan the QR code to check more details on this announcement by the Ohmi Rail Corporation.



Contact Information: Ohmi Railway Corporation, Tel: 0749-22-3303

Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste: How to Dispose of Tires

Tires used for bicycles, vehicles, and motorbikes must be disposed of through different processes.

Please refer to the following information when you need to dispose of tires.

[Tires of Cars, Motorbikes, and Agricultural Vehicles]

The Hikone Seiso (Garbage Incineration and Recycling Plant) Center cannot dispose of any tires used for these cars, motorbikes, and agricultural vehicles.

[Tires of Bicycles, Monocycles, and Hand-Pulled Carts]

- As a Whole (no parts removed): Can Be Disposed of as Bulky Waste at the Hikone Seiso Center
- Tires and Wheels: Can Be Disposed of as Bulky Waste at the Hikone Seiso Center
- Only Tires: Must be Disposed of as Landfill Waste



*Cut tires into pieces smaller than 30 cm, if possible, and take them to the garbage collection spot in your neighborhood or bring them to the Koyagi Chukey Kichi Base. Be sure to check your area's garbage collection and use a city-designated garbage bag when taking them to the collection spot.

Adult Guardianship System for Adults Who Lack Decision-Making Capacity




The adult guardianship system, called *Seinen Koken Seido* in Japan, is the system where a court appoints someone to make decisions for an adult who lacks sufficient decision-making abilities for various reasons.

The system is divided into three categories - “Guardian”, “Conservator”, and “Assistant” - depending on the decision-making capacity of the person who needs support.

The following information will help you understand the basics of the system.

[Overview of the Adult Guardianship System]

Depending on the current and expected level or capacity to make proper decisions, adults who need support can access one of the following types of assistance under this system.

- Guardian: For those unable to make decisions in any capacity.
→ All processes and contracts are handled by a person legally appointed by a court. 
- Conservator: For those who lack crucial abilities of decision making.
→ Important processes and contracts related to individual finances and assets are handled by a person legally appointed by a court. 
- Assistant/Supporter:
→ Processes and contracts considered important are handled by a person legally appointed by a court. 

[Important Point]

This system is also available to adults who are worried about their decision-making capacity in the future.

If you wish to learn more about this system, please feel free to contact the Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities or Hikone Welfare Promotion Division for Seniors.

**Contact Information: Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities, Tel: 0749-27-9981
Hikone Welfare Promotion Division for Seniors, Tel: 0749-23-9660**

Upcoming Events & Fun News

Reilac Shiga FC To Play In J3 League from the 2026 Season

Reilac Shiga FC, a Japanese football club based in Hikone City, is set to compete in J3 Japanese League starting this February. Details on match schedules at HATO Stadium for the upcoming 2026 season will be provided through their official website and Hikone’s monthly community newsletter.

Hikone Morning Market

February 15 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

With the three key elements of ‘Food Safety,’ ‘Local Production for Local Consumption,’ and ‘Handmade,’ you can find and buy locally grown produce, tofu, fish dishes, handmade accessories, and more at the Hikone Morning Market!

Hikone Castle Light-up for World Cancer Day

February 4 is recognized as World Cancer Day by the Union for International Cancer Control.

As part of this campaign, Hikone Castle will be lit up in blue and orange that are symbolic colors for cancer awareness.

Contact Information: UICC Japan Committee Office, Tel: 03-3570-0435

Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	February 27 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from Feb 18.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
Akiya Bank (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	Akiya Bank Office	0749-23-2123
Consultation for Recovery from Cancer	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 16:00 *Priority given to people who have an appointment.	Municipal Hospital Cancer Support Center	0749-22-6050
Consultation for Working During Cancer Treatment	[Support for Finding a Job] February 4 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] February 18 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only.		
Child Development (Disability) Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.	Development Support Center (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.		
Traffic Accident Consultation	Tue · Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building	0749-27-2230
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Human Rights Consultation for Foreigners	9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays		0570-090-911
Bullying Hotline	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00	School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Division	0749-24-7977
Consultation for Children and Adolescents (Social Withdrawal, Abuse, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays	Hikone Children and Family Center “Hikomaru”	0749-26-0994
Consultation for Women (Domestic Violence, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays		0749-49-2251

Health and Wellness Information

Hikone Health Promotion Div. Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

Healthy Lifestyle and Cancer Prevention

It is difficult to eliminate the possibility of developing cancer. However, improving your lifestyle can reduce your risk.

It is also important to regularly get screened for cancer, which can lead you to early detection and treatment.

Here are some practical actions you can take to improve your lifestyle!

- No Smoking
- Regular Physical Exercise
- Moderate Alcohol Consumption
- Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight
- Balanced Diet



Please also be informed that the Shiga Prefecture Cancer Awareness Campaign will run from February 4 to February 10.

As part of this campaign, the Hikone City Library will set up a booth for cancer awareness through February 10.



Contact Information: Hikone Health Promotion Division, Tel. 0749-24-0816

March Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting in April 2024, appointments for health check-ups for infants and young children must be made in advance through the mobile app 'Boshi Mo (母子モ).' If you visit the Kusunoki Center without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.



March

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	18 (Tue)	Children born between 2025, April 21 and May 15.
1 and ½ years olds	6 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, August.
	13 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	12 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, August.
	19 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	9 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, August.
	16 (Mon)	

Contact Info: Hikone Mother and Child Welfare Division, Tel. 0749-24-3931