

広報ひこね (英語版)

Community Newsletter

KOHO HIKONE



November 2023

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(Hikone English Facebook Page)



(Official Hikone Website)

Contact Us	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 via phone at the given number above or in person at the Hikone city hall.

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

This Foreign-Language Community Newsletter Is Available At:

- Hikone Fukushi Centre
- Hikone Bunka Plaza
- Hikone City Library
- Hikone City Hall 1F
- AEON TOWN Hikone
- Nakachiku Kominkan
- Shiga Bank (Ohyabu Branch)
- “Gyomuyou Super” (Toga-cho)
- Beisia Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital
- TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Inaechiku Kominkan

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

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

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

“えいご つうやく おねがいします”

City Hall Opening Hours: Weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

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

(Facebook) <http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng>



***Please Contact Each School Before You Attend.**

Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Cost
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Kokusai Kouryu SALON 	Hikone International Friendship Association Tel: (0749)-22-5931 E-mail: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp	2,000 yen (Total 10 Classes) <u>*Ticket System</u>
Friday	2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		*Japanese classes we offer are suitable for those who have never studied Japanese before and beginners. <u>*To check our opening schedule, please scan the QR code on the left or contact us by phone or email directly.</u>	
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Naka-chiku Kouminkan	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE Katsurada-San Tel: 090-5156-6916	100 yen per lesson
Monday to Friday *closed on holidays	①9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. ②11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. ③1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. ④3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. ⑤Online Classes	Innovation Office NAYASHICHI, Shiro-machi1, 7-16	Smile Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Higashi Chiku Community Center	Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	Free

Information

★Traffic Control Goes Into Effect During Ebisuko Festival – Nov 18 and 19

[Traffic Restricted Areas and Hours]

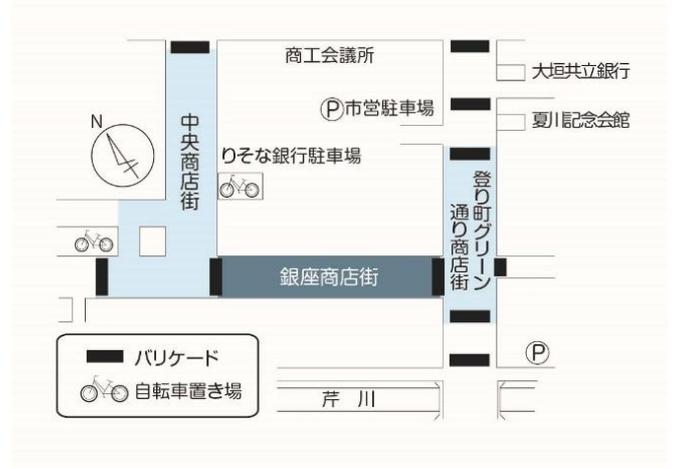
①Ginza Shopping Street:

On the 18th from 10:30 AM until 5:30 PM,

On the 19th from 10:30 AM until 7:00 PM

②Chuo-cho Shopping Street & Nobori-cho Green Shopping Street:

On both the 18th and 19th from 10:30 AM until 5:00 PM



*Using the parking lot of the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry is prohibited.

*Certain public bus lines will take a detour to go round the venue of the Ebisuko Festival.

Inquiries: Hikone Shopping Street Committee Office, Tel:0749-22-7303

★Hikone City Library's Temporary Closure - Nov 20 Until Dec 11

Due to the upcoming bathroom renovation project, the city library is scheduled to remain temporarily closed as follows.

Please note that the whole library is set to close only while its existing bathroom is being dismantled. Temporarily bathrooms will be constructed during the renovation project near the entrance of the library. For further details please, visit the Hikone official website or get in touch with the division responsible for the city library's bathroom renovation project.

- Total City Library Closure Period: Nov 20 (Mon) – Dec 11 (Mon)
- Renovation Construction Period: Nov 13 (Mon) – End of March, 2024

Inquiries: Hikone City Library, Tel: 0749-22-0649

★Minimum Wage in Shiga Prefecture

Starting October 1 (Sun), Shiga's minimum wage is set to rise to 967 yen per hour regardless of employment status (for example, a part-time worker, full-time worker, or contract worker). Please note that this minimum-wage hike applies to anyone working in Shiga Prefecture, no matter what line of work they are in.

Inquiries: Hikone Labour Standards Inspection Office, Tel: 0749-22-0654



★Sunday My Number Card Issuance

Date and Time: November 12 and 26, 9:30 – 12:30

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

Inquiries: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6151

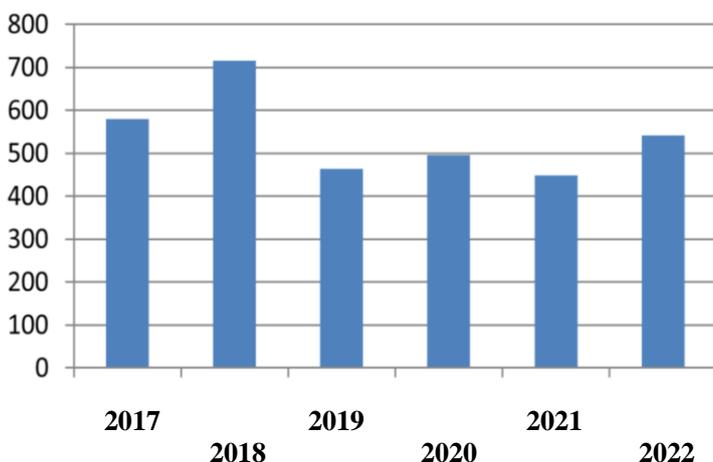
★Make the Most of Consumer Affairs Center!

Purchasing goods and services is part of day-to-day activities we all do oftentimes without thinking twice; however, a whole range of issues are lurking behind consumer services. A couple of consumer complaints used as examples actually did happen and were handled by the Hikone City Consumer Affairs Center! So please be encouraged to read on in order to gain an understanding of what to do if you fall victim to an unfair business practice.

[Wow! Over 10,000 Troubles Occur Between Consumers And Businesses In Hikone City Alone Each Year!]

During the previous fiscal year (2022) only, out of over 10,000 consumer-related troubles, 541 cases wound up requiring intervention by the Hikone City Consumer Affairs Center (more or less 4% of all estimated consumer-related issues that happened in that fiscal year).

A Total Number of Consumer Complaints at The Center



Financial Damage Ranges from A Few Thousand JPY (a few tens of US dollars) to More Than Ten Million JPY (about 67,000 US dollars).

*Not only do those who trust someone too easily but also people who are overly confident that they will not fall for any scams are more likely to become a victim of fraudulent business practices.

If you have got into trouble as a consumer...

Do Not Hesitate To Seek Advice At The Consumer Affairs Center!

• What Kind Of Consumer Help Can I Ask For?

You can seek help to resolve consumer-related issues such as fake invoices, unethical business practices, multiple debts, and the like in addition to advice on the national cooling-off system. Even before signing a contract for consumer goods or services, if you see anything nebulous or are wary about it, please do not hesitate to ask for advice from consumer affairs consultants at the center.

• What Will Happen Next After Talking To A Consumer Affairs Consultant?

After having a consultation with a consumer in need of help, a consumer affairs consultant can act as a mediator between the consumer and a business or provide helpful information to resolve problems. If the Consumer Affairs Center determines that more specialized support is required, you will be referred to a different organization specializing in certain consumer conflicts.

• What Information Should I Bring In On The Day Of A Consultation At The Consumer Affairs Center?

Any information related to a service/good you have purchased, such as a contract, an application form, a screen shot of your order history, a receipt, a confirmation email, etc., will be of great help to a consumer affairs consultant to suss out what to do with your trouble.

[Consultation Case No.1]

A person who dropped by the center to ask for help recently got into trouble after trusting an online advertisement touting how easy making a lot of money was through the advised side job. The person was initially told to buy a textbook for a small amount of money as a first step but was charged an absurd amount of money later on.



[Tips Not To Fall For This Type Of Misleading Ads]

Be aware that there is no easy way to make a lot of money. If you are told to pay even a small amount of money for a textbook, registration fee, handling fee, etc., immediately cancel the process.

[Consultation Case No.2]

A person who had a consultation at the center received an unexpected sales call from an insistent sales person forcing the person to buy some sea food items. The sales person was persistent so much so giving in to the pressure was the only option to get off the unpleasant phone call.



[Tips To Fend Off Forceful Sales Calls, etc.]

Please note that even if you are forced to buy a particular product, the cooling-off system can apply within a set period of time. You can also call a business provider to cancel your purchase and can refuse to receive a package mailed by that business provider upon delivery.



Five Important Points To Not Get Into Consumer Trouble



- No Such Sweet Offers As “Only Today”, “Only You”, And “Only Now” Exist!
- Never Let Your Guard Down Even If A Door-To-Door Sales Person Makes You Feel Warm Fuzzy!
- Never Disclose Your Or Your Family’s Savings, Bank Card Numbers, Birth Dates Or Other Personal Information!
- Have Courage To Say No To A Seller If Something You Do Not Want Is Being Offered!
- Do Not Go It Alone! Talk To Your Family And/Or Friends, Or Seek Help From The Consumer Affairs Center!

Inquiries: Hikone Consumer Affairs Center, Tel: 0749-30-6114

Opening Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Address: Hikone, Moto-machi, Hikone City Hall, 2F

☆Expansion Of Medical Welfare Subsidy Program For Children As An Outpatient

Starting April 2024, the Medical Welfare Subsidy Program for children, generally called *Marufuku* in Japanese, is set to be expanded to cover outpatient expenses for children until they graduate from junior-high school. To be exact, outpatient expenses of all qualifying children can be waived under the Medical Welfare Subsidy Program until the first March 31 after turning 15.



[Parents/Guardians Who Are Required To Apply]

Around mid-January 2024, an application form will be mailed out to the following households.

- Their children will be a 1st grader next spring
 - *Born between 2017 April 2 and 2018 April 1
- Their children will be a 8th or 9th grader next spring
 - *Born between 2009 April 2 and 2011 April 1

[Parents/Guardians Who Are Not Required To Apply]

Around mid-March next year, a new certificate of the Medical Welfare Subsidy Program will be mailed out to families with their children who were born between 2011 April 2 and 2017 April 1.

[Note]

This coverage expansion will not apply to single-parent households, families living under the Livelihood Protection program, and families of a child with severe mental or physical disabilities.

Inquiries: Hikone Insurance And Pension Division, Tel: 0749-30-6136

☆National Autumn Fire Prevention Week: Nov 9 – 15

Autumn is a cool, dry, windy season, and home fires generally begin to increase around this time of year.

The primary aim of this annual autumn fire prevention week is to remind each and every one of us of the importance of fire prevention so that deaths, property loss, etc. by fire can be reduced to zero. Please be careful handling a heat source!

[November 9 is “119” Day]

Since November is the 11th month of the year, November 9 – 11.9 – is designated as 119 Day. 119 is the emergency telephone number in Japan to call for a fire brigade or ambulance.

[Telephone Emergency Information Service]

Starting November 1, please call 050-5536-6958 to access the latest emergency information.

Please note this service is only available in Japanese.



Inquiries: Hikone Fire Department, Tel: 0749-22-0119

★Kindergarten And Kodomo-en Application For Fiscal 2024 Begins

[Target Age Groups]

- Three Years Old: Children born between 2020 April 2 and 2021 April 1
- Four Years Old: Children born between 2019 April 2 and 2020 April 1
- Five Years Old: Children born between 2018 April 2 and 2019 April 1



[Eligibility]

Parents/guardians living in Hikone City whose children are in one of the above age groups

*Those who are absolutely certain that they will be living in Hikone as a resident by April, 2024 are also included.

[Kindergarten/Kodomo-en Information Leaflet]

The information leaflet containing a list of kindergartens and Kodomo-ens in Hikone, details of how to apply, etc. will be available at each public kindergarten and Kodomo-en, Hikone Early Childhood Division, and more locations. Please scan the QR code to see where you can pick up the information leaflet.

[Application Period]

November 13(Mon) through 23 (Thu)

[How To Apply]

In principle, an application for a kindergarten or Kodomo-en is required to be made online. That said, if you have difficulty completing the online application as it is only available in Japanese, please visit the Hikone Early Childhood Division to complete the necessary paperwork in person.



[A List of Kindergartens/Kodomo-ens]

Facility Name	Vacant Status		
	Three-Year Olds	Four-Year Olds	Five-Year Olds
Hikone Kindergarten	25	20	A Few
Takamiya Kindergarten	25	15	
Inae Higashi Kindergarten	20	15	
Asahinomori Kindergarten	35	20	
Johoku Kindergarten	20	10	
Sawayamak Kindergarten	25	20	
Joyo Kindergarten	25	15	
Hirata Kodomo-en	30	10	

[Important Notes]

- If you wish to enroll more than one child, you are required to make an application per each child.
- If you want to apply for a nursery school, please read the October issue of Hikone Community Newsletter.

Inquiries: Hikone Early Childhood Division, Tel: 0749-23-9597

Event

☆Children's Class – Original Christmas Candle Making!

Participating children will be making their own Christmas candles!

Date and Time: December 9 (Sat) 10:00 – 11:30

Target Age Group: Children in elementary and junior-high school

Elementary schoolers must be accompanied by their parents/guardians.

Capacity: 10

Fee: 400 JPY

Application Period: Nov 17 (Fri) – 23 (Thu)

Inquiries: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel: 0749-28-3645

☆Afterschool Playground Project Hosted by Shiga University

Participating children will be playing soccer, tag, frisbee, etc. with university students.

Date and Time: September 14 (Thu), 17:00 – 18:00 September 28 (Thu), 17:00 – 18:00

Location: Shiga University Hikone Campus (Hikone, Baba-cho, 1-chome)

Target Age: Children in Elementary School

*Pre-school children can join the project on the condition that their parents/guardians accompany them.

Capacity: 30 *first come, first served

How to Apply: Please scan the QR code and apply online by September 10 (Sun).

Inquiries: Shiga University, Tel: 0749-27-1047

☆29th Kofu Festival

There will be a flea market, food stalls, and other events. Please go to the festival with your family and friends!

Date and Time: Nov 4 (Sat) – 5 (Sun) , 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Location: University of Shiga Prefecture

Inquiries: University of Shiga Prefecture, Tel: 0749-28-8218

☆Welfare Job Fair In Hikone City

Job seekers who are interested in welfare-related career can meet employers and recruiters from welfare service businesses to find more about job openings.

Date and Time: November 16 (Thu) 13:30 – 16:00

Location: Proceed Area Hikone

Tel: 0749-35-8117

Consultation

Legal Consultation	November 24 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 ※5500 yen per consultation (Reservations available from November 15)	Hikone Community Development Division	0749-30-6117
<i>Akiya Bank</i> (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	<i>Akiya Bank</i> 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 November 1 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only) Support for Continuing to Work November 15 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only)		
Child and Family Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15	Consultation Room for Children (Welfare Centre)	0749-23-7838
Child Development (Disability) Consultation	Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)	Development Support Division (<i>Hirata-cho</i>)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)		
Human Rights Consultation in Foreign Languages	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00		0570-090-911
Bullying Consultation Hotline	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00	School Support • Human Rights • Anti-Bullying Measures Division	0749-24-7977
General Consultation for Children and Youths (social withdrawal, etc.)	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15	Child and Youth Consultation Desk (Hikone Welfare Centre)	0749-26-6880
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ①9:00 – 12:00, ②13:00 – 16:15	Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Road Accident Consultation	Tue & Thu ①9:00 – 12:00, ②13:00 – 16:00	Traffic Accident Consultation Center, Hikone Office	0749-27-2230

★National Women's Human Rights Awareness Week

During this women's human rights awareness week, the Hotline will be open for women suffering from sexual harassment, domestic violence, stalking, and so on to consult with a human rights committee and Otsu legal affairs bureau.
[Women's Human Rights Hotline]

Tel: 0570-070-810

Date: Nov 15 (Wed) – Nov 21 (Tue)

Available Hours: Weekday- 8:30 AM until 7:00 PM, Weekend – 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM

★Domestic Violence Awareness

If you are suffering from domestic violence and other forms of abuse or you know someone in that kind of situation, please do not go it alone, and seek help by call the hotline or the police in an emergency.

- Domestic Violence Hotline, Tel: 0749-23-7838 ***In case of an emergency, call 110 (police)!**

★November is Child Abuse Prevention Month

If you are witnessing a child being abused or suspect someone is abusing a child, do not hesitate to call either authorities to report potential child abuse.

- Child Protection Agency: 189 (24/7 available)
- Hikone Child Rearing Support Division: 0749-26-0994

Information from the Hikone Health Promotion Division

Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

★December Health Check-ups for Infants and Young Children

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

December

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
4 months olds	To have a 4-month-old baby checked, parents are required to do so at a medical facility. Please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division for more details.	
10 months olds	12 (Tue)	Children born between February 1 and 15, 2023
	20 (Wed)	Children born between February 16 and 28, 2023
1 and ½ years olds	15 (Fri)	Children born between May 1 and 19, 2022
	22 (Fri)	Children born between May 20 and 31, 2022
2 and ½ years olds	14 (Thu)	Children born between May 1 and 15, 2021
	21 (Thu)	Children born between May 16 and 31, 2021
3 and ½ years olds	11 (Mon)	Children born between April 22 and May 11, 2020
	18 (Mon)	Children born between May 12 and 26, 2020

Notes

- * No reminder will be mailed. Therefore, make sure to check further details on the website of Hikone City.
- * As a general rule, only one parent/guardian is permitted to accompany the baby/child during the check-up.
- * For 3 and a half years olds, a urine test will be conducted. For this, do not forget to take a urine sample on the morning of the checkup and bring it in a sanitized glass container, etc.

Inquiries: Hikone Health Promotion Division, Tel: 0749-24-0816

★Cancer Screening Tests

Passing on the opportunity to get screened for cancer may lead to jeopardy of detecting cancer early and receiving proper treatment. It is, therefore, important to get screened for cancer on a regular basis. In Hikone, there are health facilities where you can go through colorectal cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer screening tests.

[Cancer Screening Available Periods]

- Colorectal Cancer: Until December 20 *A container for a stool sample can be provided until Nov 30.
- Breast Cancer: Until March 31, 2024
- Cervical Cancer: Until March 31, 2024

Inquiries: Hikone health Promotion Division, Tel: 0749-24-0816

★Hepatitis Testing

[Testing Availability] Until November 30 (Wed)

[Eligibility] Hikone residents who can meet either “condition ①” or “condition ②” specified below.

①40-, 45-, 50-, 55- or 60-year-olds who have not got tested for hepatitis in the past.

②41 years old and above who have not got tested for hepatitis in the past.

[Fee] • Free of charge for those who can meet the condition ①.

- 1,300 JPY for those who can meet the condition ②.

[Note] If you want to know which health facility you can get tested for hepatitis, whether you need to schedule your appointment in advance and so on, please get in touch with the Hikone Health Promotion Division at 0749-24-0816.

★COVID-19 Vaccination (Publicly Funded)

It has been reported that co-administration of a flu shot and a COVID-19 shot is possible at the same visit and will not wane the effectiveness and safety of both vaccines. It is suggested, however, at least 13 days should be spaced between a flu shot and another vaccine. If you are not sure about your vaccination schedule, please talk to your primary doctor. Please note that in order to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a COVID-19 vaccination ticket is required. For further details, please call the Hikone COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Center.



Inquiries: COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Center, Tel: 0120-152-811 (Weekdays, 8:30 until 5:00)