

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



June 2025

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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 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
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital

Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and 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 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 You Attend.**

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
1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	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

[New City Mayor Inaugurated! Profile and Message to Residents]



• Brief Profile

Name: Tajima Issei

Age: 62

Political Career: Former Member of Hikone City Assembly, Shiga Prefecture Assembly, and the House of Representatives (four terms), served as Vice Minister of the Environment

• Message from the New Mayor of Hikone

First, I must say that I cannot thank every single resident of Hikone enough for the unwavering support I have received throughout my political career. It is truly an honor to be inaugurated as Mayor of Hikone City, and I am deeply committed to repaying this trust and gratitude through my service.

At the same time, I feel a profound sense of responsibility as I take on the challenge of guiding our city through its current financial hardships. I will do so while listening to and addressing the expectations and hopes of our residents. My primary mission is to build a local government that values mutual understanding and a healthy relationship between the administration and the community. I hope to make Hikone a city where both current and former residents can proudly say, “I’m from Hikone.”

I am fully aware of the serious budgetary difficulties our city is facing, and there is no shortage of issues that need attention. To tackle these challenges one by one, I will place great emphasis on communication—not just within the city administration, but also with the people of Hikone.

True communication is not just about expressing one’s own views, nor is it simply about listening to others. It’s about finding the right balance between speaking and listening. I believe that this balanced approach will help us navigate these difficult times. It may take time, but I am convinced that communication is the key.

Safe and Organized Evacuation Shelters

Evacuation shelters are commonly called “Hinanjo” and spelled “避難所” in Japanese, and they are designed to temporarily accommodate evacuees and people who have lost their homes due to natural disasters and other emergencies. Evacuation shelters remain open until temporary housing units become available for all evacuees.

It is considered to be indispensable for local residents and local government employees to actively get involved in the management of evacuation shelters with the aim of realizing the smooth and organized operation of an evacuation shelter. At an evacuation shelter, there tend to be various issues arising from anxiety, fear, and unfamiliarity. Therefore, it is essential to be aware of differences in local areas beforehand in order to operate and manage an evacuation shelter effectively.

[When and How to Open and Close an Evacuation Shelter]

1. Soon After a Disaster Occurs:

Local government employees in charge begin opening evacuation shelters in cooperation with local residents.

In some case, local residents may be required to begin preparing the opening of their local evacuation shelters on their own.



2. For the First Three to Seven Days:

Food and essential supplies begin to be distributed to evacuees. It is expected that some evacuees' health conditions, as well as sanitary conditions at the shelter, may start to deteriorate.

3. Between One to Two Weeks After the Opening of an Evacuation Shelter:

Disaster aid and support start to arrive more actively, and the number of evacuees starts to decrease at a faster pace.

4. For the Next Several Weeks:

The speed of infrastructure restoration and the construction of temporary housing units begins to accelerate, and more evacuees leave the shelter – eventually leading to the closure of the shelter when it is no longer necessary.

[Helpful Information]

• Disaster Prevention Manual

This manual, created by Hikone City, provides potentially life-saving information, such as the locations of evacuation shelters throughout Hikone and maps of areas that are prone to flooding and other natural disasters.



• Hikone Official LINE Account

You can use this service to find the nearest evacuation shelter from your workplace or home and check hazard maps of Hikone City on your smartphone or tablet.



Must-Know Bike Rules and Traffic Laws in Japan!

[Bike Rules]

Wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle is strongly recommended for safety regardless of age under the revised law.

[Common but Serious Criminal Offences for Cyclists]

It is illegal to use your smartphone and other portable electronic devices, including talking with someone over the phone, while riding a bicycle (max 300,000 yen fine or max one-year prison time).

It goes without saying that riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol is a serious crime (max 500,000 fine or max three-year prison time), and not only a bicyclist but also those who have provided alcohol and let the bicyclist consume alcohol may be held accountable.

[A Check List of Riding an Electric Scooter]

Electric scooters, commonly called a “kick board” in Japan, do not require a license, as opposed to an e-bike called “Moped” that requires a driver’s license. However, there are the following rules set for the use of an electric scooter in Japan, and if you violate the traffic law knowingly or unknowingly, you will be held legally responsible for your actions.

- It is illegal for children under 16 years old to ride an electric scooter.
- It is strongly recommended to wear a helmet while riding an electric scooter.
- It is illegal to ride an electric scooter on the sidewalk.
- Riding an electric scooter under the influence of alcohol is a serious crime.
- Regularly inspect and maintain an electric scooter.

Applications for City-Run Affordable Housing Begin

[Available City-Run Apartments]

- Hida Danchi, Room No. 6
- Higashinonami Danchi, Room No. 5 (available for a family only)
- Wadahigashi Danchi, Room No. 206 (available for a family only)

[Application Period]

June 5 (Thu) until 19 (Thu) *Applications must be filed in person to the relevant division by the deadline.

[Important Notes]

- Eligibility criteria may vary from applicant to applicant. For specific details on whether you qualify for city-run affordable housing units, please contact the relevant division.
- Applications can be submitted either by the applicant themselves or by a family member who will be moving into the apartment if accepted.
- Please note that if accepted, you can expect to move into one of the apartments around late August, 2025.

Contact Information: Hikone Housing Division, Tel. 0749-30-6123

Financial Assistance for Newlyweds in Hikone

To couples who have recently married and bought a house, 300,000 yen of financial assistance can be provided by Hikone City. The application period is available until 2026, February 28.

Terms and conditions – total household annual income must be under five million yen, and a husband and wife must be 39 years and younger – apply to each applicant. For this, please contact the responsible division of Hikone City Hall by phone or in person.

Contact Information: Hikone Planning Division, Tel. 0749-30-6101

Be Sure To Enroll In The National Pension After Turning 20

It is compulsory for everyone aged 20 to 60 living in Japan, regardless of nationality, to enroll in the National Pension System. A notice of national pension enrollment will be mailed from the Japan Pension Service to all individuals who have recently turned 20.

[Pension Contribution Exemption for Students]

Students whose previous year's income was below a certain threshold can apply for an exemption from monthly pension contributions. If approved, pension contributions from April of the current year through March of the following year will be waived. Applications for this exemption can be submitted retroactively for up to two years and one month. Please visit the Pension Office, the Hikone Insurance and Pension Division, or any city hall branch office to complete the necessary paperwork. Be sure to bring your student ID card or certificate of enrollment when applying for this exemption.

Contact: Hikone Insurance and Pension Division, Tel. 0749-30-6136, Fax. 0749-22-1398

Paper National Insurance Card to Be Discontinued

Once your current national insurance card expires, you have to present either your My Number card or health insurance verification certificate at a medical facility. Please note that you need to integrate your My Number card with your health insurance coverage. If you still do not have your own My Number card, a health insurance verification certificate in your name will be mailed by the city before your current health insurance card becomes invalid. For more details, please contact the relevant division by phone or in person.

Contact Information: Hikone Insurance and Pension Division, Tel. 0749-30-6112

Saturday Disposal for Bulky Waste and Small Appliances at Hikone Seiso Center

Date and Time: June 21 (Sat), 8:00 – 11:00

[Important Notes]

- Please have your photo ID ready and present it at the gate to prove you are a Hikone resident.
- Only bulky waste and small appliances will be accepted.
- Bulky waste can be dropped off for a fee, while appliances smaller than one meter in length, width, or depth can be disposed of free of charge.
- Unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs can also be disposed of.
- Certain appliances, such as televisions, cannot be disposed of at the center under the Japan Recycling Act.
- Do not park on the roadside or wait on the road for the center to open.

Contact Information: Hikone Seiso Center (Garbage Incineration Plant), Tel. 0749-22-2734

Sunday Opening for My Number Card Procedures

The city hall will be open as follows for certain My-Number-related services, such as picking up a My Number card, updating a My Number card, resetting passwords, and so on.



Date and Time: June 8 (Sun), 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: 1F, Hikone City Hall

Notes: • You can make a reservation to pick up your My Number card by phone or online (please scan the QR code).
• If you would like to know what to bring (a photo ID is required), please inquire with the relevant division at the number below.

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

Upcoming Events & Fun News

Children's Class: Let's Make a Little Wooden Chair!

Date and Time: July 12 (Sat), 10:00 – 11:30

Target Age Group: Elementary and junior high school students

*Elementary school students must be accompanied by a parent.

Capacity: 15 participants

*If the number of children exceeds its capacity, participants will be selected by raffle.

Fee: 500 yen

Application Period: June 27 (Fri) to July 5 (Sat)

Contact Information: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel. 0749-28-3645

Children's Class: The Strange World of Micro—Through a Microscope!

Let's take a peek at the world of micro using a real microscope and magnifying glass!

Date and Time: June 21 (Sat), 10:00 – 11:30

Target Age Group: Elementary and junior high school students

*Elementary school students must be accompanied by a parent.

Capacity: 15 participants (first come, first served)

Fee: 200 yen

Application Period: June 6 (Fri) to 14 (Sat)

Contact Information: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel. 0749-28-3645

Release of the Official Hikonyan Trading Card Game!

The Hikonyan Trading Card Game has been officially released by Ainz Corp. and is now on sale at authorized stores in Hikone. For further clarification, please contact the responsible division.



Contact Information: Hikone Entertainment Division, Tel. 0749-30-6153

Free Soccer Matches at Hiwado HATO Stadium

[Details]

- June 15 (Sunday), 1:00 PM – Reilac Shiga FC vs Briobecca Urayasu Ichikawa
- June 28 (Sunday), 6:00 PM – Reilac Shiga FC vs Okinawa SV



*Please scan the QR code to get your free ticket to the matches!

Hikone Bunka Festival 2025 at Hikone Bunka Plaza

[Exhibition of Works]

- June 6 (Fri) to June 8 (Sun)
- 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- Works will be displayed in the Message Hall, Seminar Room, and other areas.

[Live Performances]

- June 8 (Sun)
- The venue (Eco Hall) will open at 12:30 PM, and performances will begin at 1:00 PM.
- Admission is free.

Contact Information: Hikone Bunka Promotion Division, Tel. 0749-23-7810

Hikone Eco-Market (Flea Market) - Yumebatake

Date and Time: June 15 (Sun), 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Otemae 2nd Preserved Field (Hikone, Konki-cho)

Hikone Morning Market

June 15 (Sun) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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 Afternoon & Evening Market!

Hikonyan-Themed Sunscreen Now on Sale!



Hikone City and The Omi Brotherhood, LTD. have collaborated to create a new Hikonyan-themed sunscreen under the concept of caring for the skin. This sunscreen is free from additives and gentle on the skin.

Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	June 27 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per consultation *Reservations available from June 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 June 4 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. Support for Continuing to Work June 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 Division (Hirata-cho)	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
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144

Health and Wellness Information

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

July Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)



Starting with health check-ups for infants and young children from April 2024, you are required to make an appointment in advance via the mobile app “母子モ (Boshi Mo).” If you come to the Kusunoki Center for your child’s check-up without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.

July

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	9 (Wed)	Children born between 2024 August 16 and 31
	22 (Tue)	Children born between 2024 September 1 and 15
1 and ½ years olds	11 (Fri)	Children born in 2023 December.
2 and ½ years olds	10 (Thu)	Children born in 2022 December.
3 and ½ years olds	14 (Mon)	Children born in 2021 December.
	28 (Mon)	

Painless MRI Breast Cancer Screening

An MRI machine that has recently been introduced to Hikone City Hospital can offer a painless breast cancer screening test, unlike a conventional mammogram. Women who meet all the following criteria can get screened for breast cancer with this MRI machine at no cost.

[Eligibility Criteria]

- A Hikone resident aged 40 and above on the day of a cancer screening test.
- Women who did not get screened for breast cancer last year.
- Women who are not currently under medical treatment or follow-up care due to breast gland diseases, including breast cancer.
- Not experiencing any subjective symptoms.

[Application Methods]

Please call the Health Screening Center of Hikone City Hospital at 0749-22-6058 or visit the center in person between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

Precautions Against Heat-Related Illnesses!

As Japan’s hot and humid season approaches, it’s important to take precautions to stay safe and healthy. Here are some simple but effective tips to help you get through the heat this summer.

- Keep yourself hydrated by drinking plenty of water, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Stay away from direct sunlight. Wear a hat/cap, and use an UV-blocking umbrella.
- Take regular short breaks when spending time outside.
- Wear clothes made from breathable materials to stay comfortable.

[Heatwave Alert System]

If extreme heat is forecast for the following day and there's a risk of heatstroke, a heatwave warning will be issued by each prefecture. Please refrain from going outside for non-essential reasons once a heatwave warning is in effect.

You can check up-to-date heatwave warnings across Japan by scanning the QR code (provided by the Ministry of the Environment).