

The city where everyone wants to live

広報 ひこね (英訳版)

Community

Newsletter

Koho

HIKONE

No.1395 - 1396

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Multicultural Coexistence

Human Rights Policy Division

Hikone City Hall

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Human Rights Policy Division



2018.04

FEATURES

- About Developmental Disabilities (P4)
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(Abridged Edition) <http://www.city.hikone.shiga.jp/english/index.html>

Name of Division	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall (Representation)	0749-22-1411 (Main Number)
Hikone City Hall (JINKEN SEISAKU KA) 彦根市役所 (人権政策課)	0749-30-6113 (Direct Number) 直通番号

You can ask English Interpreter Service at the reception in Hikone City Hall.

Please say "English Interpreter please" in Japanese, "EIGO TSUUYAKU ONEGAI SHIMASU".

●Koho Hikone “foreign language version” is issued every month.

This newsletter is available at:

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Shiga University               | * Welfare Center                 |
| * University of Shiga Prefecture | * Shiga Bank (Oyabu Branch)      |
| * Seisen University              | * “Gyomu Super Market”(Toga-cho) |
| * Hikone City Hall 3F            | * Beisia Hikone                  |
| * AEON TOWN Hikone               | * Hikone City Hospital           |

## Various Services

●Interpreters are available if you request this service at the reception desk.

Please say this Japanese sentence “*eigo-tsuyaku-onegai-shimasu.*”

(It means “please get me an English interpreter”.) **えいご つうやく おねがいします。**

We might change the interpreter’s availability.

Hikone City Hall: Weekdays **8:30 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.**



## Japanese Language Classes



Day	Hour	Location, Place	Organization Name to Contact	Cost
Wednesday <b>すいようび</b>	7:00 p.m.to 8:30 p.m.	Shimin kaikan <b>市民会館</b>	Hikoneshi Kokusai Kyoukai <b>彦根市国際協会</b> Tel (0749)-22-5931 (Not available from Dec. to Feb.)	100yen / lesson 100 <b>円</b> / 1 <b>回</b>
Saturday <b>土ようび</b>	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Naka-chiku Kouminkan <b>中地区公民館</b>	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE <b>ひこね国際交流会 VOICE</b> <b>なえむらさん(NAEMURA)</b> Tel 090-7118-5250	100yen / lesson 100 <b>円</b> / 1 <b>回</b>
Sunday <b>にちようび</b>	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Nishi-chiku Kouminkan <b>西地区公民館</b>	Volunteer Nihongo Kyoushitsu SMILE <b>ボランティア日本語教室スマイル</b> <b>よしおかさん (YOSHIOKA)</b> Tel (0749)-24-7241	100yen / lesson 100 <b>円</b> / 1 <b>回</b>
Monday~ Friday (Except for holidays) <b>げつようび~きんようび</b>	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.	Innovation Office “NAYASHICHI” Shiro-machi1-7-16	“Smile s Satellite”(Weekday Class) NAYASHICHI Tel.(0749)-46-5377 or <b>みずのさん(MIZUNO)</b> Tel 070-5661-7345	200yen / lesson 200 <b>円</b> / 1 <b>回</b>

【Hikone International Lounge News】

Computer use is free in the Hikone International Lounge. We are waiting for your use!!

# INFORMATION

## **☆National Pension Premium for 2018 was Revised to ¥ 16,340 a Month**

From April, 2018 to March, 2019, the National Pension Premium is to be ¥ 16,340 a month. (Until March this year it was ¥ 16,490 a month) You can get a discount by advance payment in cash. The deadline is Monday, May 1.

- ▶Advanced payment for two years: ¥ 378,580 (¥14,420 discount)
- ▶Advance payment for a year: ¥ 192,600 (¥ 3,480 discount)
- ▶Advance payment for half a year: ¥97,240 (¥ 800 discount)

In Japan, all citizens aged 20 to 60, including foreign residents, should join the National Pension system and pay the premium. Also, in the following cases, you have to report to Hikone *Nenkin-jimusho* the City *Hoken Nenkin-ka* or its branches. Be careful if you fail to report, you may receive a lower amount of pension or sometimes you may not have your pension.

- ▶When you become 20 years old. (Procedure is accepted from the day before your birthday.) 2nd number insured person is excluded.
- ▶When you quit working. If you have a dependent spouse, you have to report for the spouse, too.
- ▶When you are no longer a dependent family member of 2<sup>nd</sup> number insured person. For example, if you get a larger income or if you become divorced.

## **◆Payment of additional pension insurance premiums**

If you add 400yen and pay it, you can receive a lot of money than normal in a future.

If you want to apply, please make a procedure at Hikone *Nenkin-jimusho* or Nation Health Insurance office or Pension Division or branch offices.

### **Important point**

- ▶A member of Farmers' Pension must pay an additional pension insurance premiums
- ▶A member of National Pension Fund can not pay an additional pension insurance premiums

## **◆There are three kinds of insured persons in the National Pension system.**

- ▶1<sup>st</sup> number insured person: a citizen aged 20 to 60 who lives in Japan such as a self-employed business owner, an agriculturist, a fisher, a student and so on.
- ▶2<sup>nd</sup> number insured person: a member of the social security pension for office workers or civil servant and is younger than 65 years old.
- ▶3<sup>rd</sup> number insured person: the spouse who is a dependent on the 2<sup>nd</sup> number insured person and is aged 20 to 60.

**Inquiries:** *Kokumin-nenkin-ka*, Hikone *Nenkin-jimusho* Tel 0749-23-1114 Fax 0749-23-9038

## **☆Expand The Outpatient Targeted Age in Child Medical Support System**

The outpatient targeted age was expanded from preschool student to the third grade student in elementary school effected in April ( until March 31 after reaching age of 9) To receive this subsidy, you need the certification of welfare medical expenses receipts ticket (child medical care) We send welfare medical expenses receipts ticket on April 1 to those who submit the application forms. Please apply the form if you have not applied yet. Please contact us for further information.

\* When you see a doctor in medical institutions in Shiga prefecture after April 1, please show them welfare medical expenses receipts tickets along with health insurance. When you take medical treatment in other prefectures, paying medical expenses not covered by medical insurance will be refunded you after you apply for it at municipal office.

\* The subsidy for hospital charges is paid you back after applying for refund at municipal office as is conventionally done.

[Things you need to refund]

Receipt, a seal(hanko), a bankbook transferred into, health insurance certificate for the targeted person

(Only the subsidy for hospital charges for the fourth grade elementary school student and older to the third grade junior high school student), a letter (only person concerned for expensive medical changes or others)

Apply & Inquires Health Insurance and Pension Division

Tel 0749-30-6136 Fax 0749-22-1398

**☆Notification of National Health Insurance Coverage and Information on Generic Drugs**

Anyone who is covered under National Health Insurance (NHI) or Latter Stage Elderly Healthcare will receive a notification regarding your NHI coverage and available generic drugs. This notification is mailed with the aim to remind the insured of how much NHI covers your medical expenses in last four months and to promote the appropriate use of medical facilities.

Among all members of NHI and Latter Stage Elderly Healthcare, people who are regularly prescribed medication will be informed how much money you could save by switching brand-name drugs to generic drugs in the notification.

If you have private health insurances other than NHI or Employees' Health Insurance, please contact a private health insurance company for the information mentioned above.

**Inquiries: National Health Insurance & Pension Division Tel 0749-30-6112, Fax 0749-22-1398  
Shiga Prefectural Latter Stage Elderly Healthcare Association Tel 077-522-3013, Fax 077-522-3023**

**☆Insurance Premium for Late-stage Elderly (2018, 2019 Fiscal Year)**

Taking into account the sever environment for elderly person, the rate of insurance will be changed from April. Hikone city will send eligible person the information about insurance premium in middle July.

The amount of income percent rate of premium from April

	Current FY2016,FY2017	Revised FY2018,FY2019
The amount of per capital rate	45,242yen	43,727yen
Income percent rate	8.94%	8.26%
Maximum limit	570,000yen	620,000yen

Insurance premiums reduced rate

	Current	From April
The rate of insured person	70%	50%
The rate of low-income person	20%	0%

For details, please ask **Hikone City Insurance Division**

Tel:0749-30-6145 fax:0749-21-2220

**Association responsible for operation on the health-care system for the elderly aged 75 and older**

Tel: 077-522-3013

**☆Information from the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department at Hikone Municipal Hospital**

Outpatients medical treatment on Thursday completely needs appointments from April. Due to this change, outpatients medical treatment on Wednesday doesn't need appointment.

Inquiries: Obstetrics & Gynecology Department at Hikone Municipal Hospital (6 block)

Tel. 0749-22-6050 (ext. 2602)

**☆Subsidy for Taxi Fare or Gasoline Fee**

--for active life of the challenged people/ children--

The tickets, either for taxi fare or gasoline fee, will be subsidized by the City. Application is required.

A Taxi Fare: ¥12,000/ year (¥500 x 24 tickets)

B Gasoline Fee: ¥3,000 (¥300 x 10 tickets): April ~ September

¥3,000 (¥300 x 10 tickets): October ~ March

For detailed information please inquire at the Challenged People's Welfare Division:

Tel 0749-27-9981, Fax 0749-26-1767

Application will be accepted from Monday, April 2

## ☆Support Centre for People with Disabilities

Starting in April, the Rehabilitation Centre and Developmental Support Office are going to be combined into “the Support Centre for People with Disabilities”, and it is scheduled to be opened. This new support centre offers the following services to help people with developmental disabilities to live without anxiety.

### • Counselling Services Regarding Developmental Disabilities

We offer counselling services for general matters of developmental disabilities and child development.

### • Counselling Services Regarding Speech Delay and Language Disorder

We counsel parents with a preschool child(ren) on concerns of their child(ren)’s speech, pronunciation, etc.

### • Rehabilitation Classes (Asunaro Class)

Preschool children with developmental delay and their parents come to classes to encourage the children through plays and so on.

### • Paediatric Rehabilitation and Parents Classes “Tsubomi”

Preschool children with developmental delay and their parents come to classes to encourage the children through plays and so on.

### • Counselling Support Group “Mebae”

The group offers the planning of government services granted under the Child Welfare Act and consultation services.

### • Venues for Seminars About Developmental Disabilities

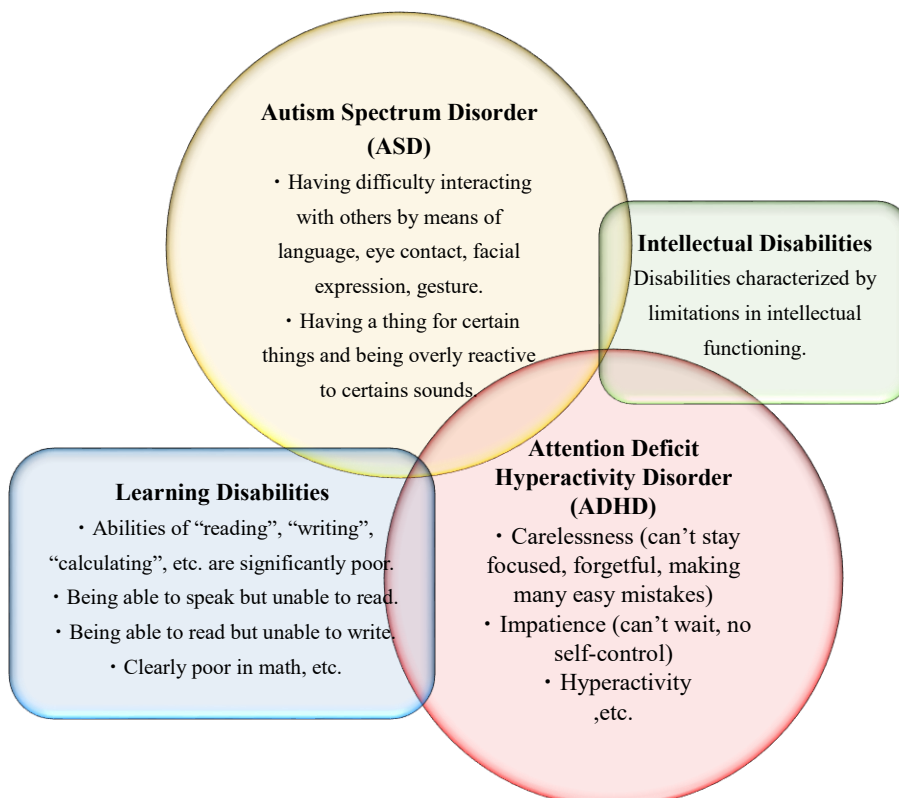
The support centre is used to host seminars for civilians in the time of Developmental Disabilities Promotion Week (from April 2<sup>nd</sup> until 8<sup>th</sup>), etc. For more information, please get in touch with us at the number specified at the bottom.

### Please learn more about developmental disabilities.

“Developmental disabilities” mean inborn uniqueness (personal traits) and individuals who have some degree of difficulty doing day-to-day tasks.

What causes developmental disabilities are still unknown, but it is said that dysfunction of brains is the main culprit; neither the way parents raise children nor lack of individual effort. Additionally, developmental disorders are not only confined to children. Characteristics of every development disorder are different in many ways, and for this reason, it is key to make a different support plan for each person with developmental disabilities.

## Venn Diagram of Developmental Disorders



**Inquiries: Support Centre for People with Developmental Disabilities (Hirata-cho 597-1)**

**☆School Expense Subsidies System**

School expense subsidies are provided for families: Guardians who have financial difficulties. The subsidies are to be used for a part of lunch and school supplies.

Target: Those who have a Resident's Certificate in Hikone City and their children are attending municipal elementary school or guardians listed below.

- ▶Those who are exempt from taxation or qualified for reduced taxation.
- ▶Those who are provided with "Allowance for Single Parents"(jido fuyo teate) not "Children's Allowance"(jido teate)
- ▶If the guardian " Social Welfare/Livelihood Protection" is stopped or has expired.
- ▶Others: Those that the Board of Education admits are eligible for it.

Content: School subsidies, School lunch, School trip expenses, etc.

How to apply: The application form is available at each elementary school, junior high school and the Board of Education (Civic Center 2F) Please fill in the forms and apply for the subsidy at each school.

- \* For families who did not live in Hikone City as of January 1, 2018, the Income Certificate ( such as Tax Certificate of 2018 which shows the income of 2017) needs to be attached the application form.
- \* You can apply in the middle of the fiscal year, subsidies are provided monthly after the application is accepted.
- \* If You apply at school between the 16th and the end of the month, subsidies are provided from next month.

Inquiries: School Education Division, the Board of Education

Tel 0749-24-7973 Fax 0749-23-9190

**☆Notification of Special Child Welfare Allowance,**

**Special Benefits for the Challenged and Benefits for Children with Disabilities**

“Special Child Welfare Allowance” is granted to its eligible beneficiaries on a quarterly basis (April, August, December) and has the aim to promote the children’s welfare. “Benefits for the Challenged” and “Benefits for Children with Disabilities” are granted to the eligible four times a year in the hopes of easing the financial burden.

**• Amount of Benefits**

Under the existing law, the amount of benefits is determined. Please refer to the table below.

	Until March	From April
Special Child Welfare Allowance	1 <sup>st</sup> class (severe disabilities) ¥51,450	1 <sup>st</sup> class ¥51,700
	2 <sup>nd</sup> class (medium disabilities) ¥34,270	2 <sup>nd</sup> class ¥34,430
Special Benefits for the Challenged	¥26,810	¥26,940
Benefits for Children with Disabilities	¥14,580	¥14,650
Welfare Allowance	¥14,580	¥14,650

**• Who’s Eligible?**

**Special Child Welfare Allowance:** Parents or legal guardians who are taking care of a child under 20 years old with class 1 to 3 or class A to B1 disabilities at home. (No longer eligible to receive benefits once the challenged get accepted to a day-care facility for people with disabilities)

**Special Benefits for the Challenged:** Persons over 20 or older with severe cases of physical or mental disabilities, who are required constant care. (Not eligible for persons who stay in hospital for more than 3 months or who are taken care of at a daycare facility.)

**Benefits for Children with Disabilities:** Persons under 20 or younger with severe cases of physical or mental disabilities, who are required contact care. (Not eligible for persons who stay in hospital for more than 3 months or who are taken care of at a daycare facility.)

\*Note: When there are any changes in disability levels written in one’s disability handbook, please check which benefits a person with disabilities are eligible for or not.

**• How to Apply for the Benefits**

Please file either a medical certificate or disability handbook and required documents of an applicant’s to the Challenged People’s Welfare Division. All required documents are available at the same division. After screening of all applications and documents, there is a chance you might not become eligible for any benefits. Therefore, please contact the division in charge at your earliest convenience.

**• Income Limitation**

**Special Child Welfare Allowance:** Earnings of parents/guardians of a child with disabilities and all members living under the same household need to stay within the income bracket for the eligibility of Special Child Welfare Allowance.

**Special Benefits for the Challenged & Benefits for Children with Disabilities:** Earnings of an applicant, person with obligations to support and spouse household need to stay within the income bracket for the eligibility of benefits.

\*Every August, the city surveys all eligible members on their income status to renew each beneficiary’s entitlement.

**Inquiries: The Challenged People’s Welfare Division**  
Tel 0749-27-9981, Fax 0749-26-1767

**Nationwide Traffic Safety Campaign in Spring April 6 ~April 15**

**Let's keep traffic rules! Let's spread a circle of consideration!**

**April 10 is the day to aim for zero traffic accident**

**Inquiries: Traffic Administration Division Tel 0749-30-6134, Fax 0749-24-5211**

**☆Registration and Prevention Injections Against Rabies for Your Dog**

It is the owner's responsibility to register your dog and to get your dog injected. Be sure to get your dog injected once every year.

**• Dogs that need this injection:**

Any dog that is 91-days-old and over

**• Charge:** Registered dog ¥3,400

Unregistered dog ¥6,400

※Disabled persons' aid dogs are exempt from the charge.

※Please bring exact change.

**“Important Notes before you bring your dog” ..**

- 1) Bring the invitation postcard (fill out a questioning spaces) and your dog registration card with you
- 2) If you have an unregistered dog, bring a memo with the owner's name, address, phone number, the dog's name, kind, date of birth, and sex.
- 3) The dog must be accompanied by a person who is able to control it.
- 4) Please bathe the dog before coming to the Center.
- 5) If your dog can not get this injection at the designated place unfortunately, be sure to get it from a family veterinarian
- 6) Please clean up if your dog has a bowel movement.
- 7) Be sure to attach a leash to your dog's collar, unless it is a guide dog.

★Be sure to put a dog tag which proves a previous injection, on the collar

★When the owner changes their address or your dog has passed away, please notify it Consumer Affairs and Environment Division. You can download a notification form from Japanese Hikone Website.

**Inquiries:**

Consumer Affairs and Environment Division  
Tel 0749-30-6116 Fax 0749-27-0395



**Schedule**

	Date	Time	Place
April	9 (Mon)	11:00 ~ 11:30	Shingai-cho Community Center
		13:00 ~ 13:30	Inae Brnch
		14:15 ~ 14:45	Honjyo-cho Community Center
	11 (Wed)	9:30 ~ 10:30	Naka-chiku Community Center
		11:00 ~ 11:30	Prefectural Hikone Stadium
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Toriimoto Community Center
	13 (Fri)	10:00 ~ 11:00	City Health & Welfare Center
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Green Pea Hikone
	16 (Mon)	9:30 ~ 10:00	Hikone City Hall Bicycle Parking Lot (north side)
		11:00 ~ 11:30	Koto Health & Welfare Center (Hikone Health Center)
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Higashi-nonami Hall
	18 (Wed)	10:00 ~ 10:30	Minami Community Center
		11:30 ~ 12:00	Hikone San Palace
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Martial Arts Training Hall (Kyou-machi)
	20 (Fri)	10:00 ~ 10:30	Inabe-cho Community Center
		11:00 ~ 11:30	Kameyama Branch
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Human Rights & Welfare Exchange Hall (Inukata-cho)
	23 (Mon)	10:00 ~ 10:45	Takamiya District Culture Center
		13:30 ~ 14:15	Asahinomori Community Center
	May	15 (Tue)	10:00 ~ 10:30
11:00 ~ 11:30			Kawase Branch
13:30 ~ 14:00			Hikone City Hall Bicycle Parking Lot (north side)
17 (Thu)		10:00 ~ 10:30	Hara-cho-nishi Meeting Place
		11:15 ~ 11:45	City Health & Welfare Center
		13:30 ~ 14:00	Inae Branch

## **☆Amount of Household Waste**

The amount of garbage produced by households in Hikone has been on the decline since 2013, and the average amount per person was recorded as 895 grams per day in 2016. Notwithstanding, the number is still higher as opposed to the one in other parts of Shiga Prefecture.

In light of this fact, this fiscal year, we looked into what types of garbage were commonly produced in the hope to latch on to the actual situation of waste management and food loss at home and to make the best use of the results for our waste reduction schemes.

When we categorized household waste into 12 different types, wet kitchen refuse accounted the most – 40%, followed by plastic and cardboard containers (empty snack boxes, etc.).

To dissect the result in more detail, we sorted the wet kitchen refuse out into six types and found out that cooking scraps, leftovers and expired food were responsible for 40% of the total amount. Throwing out leftovers and untouched food items that have passed expiration dates is a primary contributor to food loss.

The main takeaway from this probe is there are basically two types of household garbage – garbage can be reduced by proper disposal, like plastic containers, wrappers, etc., and “*Mottainai*” (wasteful) garbage comprises a great deal of food loss.

Speaking of combustible waste, it can be cut down by means of proper waste disposal practices. For example, when you separate garbage, you can throw away plastic containers with food stains as combustibles, but if you just rinse the stains out of the containers, they can be recycled, thereby increasing the amount of recyclable resources. This is true of paper waste, such as magazines, and so on.

In order to curb the amount of waste, it is important to avoid overshopping and reduce leftovers. The way that each of us separates garbage can lead to either increase or decrease in the amount of garbage, so please bear the aforementioned in mind when you dispose of household waste.

**Inquiries: Living Environment Division  
Tel 0749-30-6116, Fax 0749-27-0395**

## **☆Checklist Before Signing a Contract**

The new fiscal year is the time for us, the Japanese, oftentimes to take a whack at something new such as lessons, sports clubs, and so on. It is important to think twice and take a good look at terms and conditions of contracts before signing up for any. Once you make a contract, in principle you are required to obey terms and conditions of the contract, and it is difficult to cancel the contract out of the blue. The checklists below will come in handy when you want to sign a new contract with a store, etc.

### **Basic Checking Points**

- Are you sure what kind of services you will be given, or how many products you will purchase?
- Precisely how much will you be charged for the contract? Are there any additional fees you will have to pay for?  
In the case of instalment payment, how much will the total amount of payment be?
- Are verbal explanations and promises you were given are clearly written in the contract?
- Are there clauses related to the contract? Are clauses in regard to fines and damages mentioned in the contract?
- In the case of online shopping, can you return products within a certain period of time?  
If yes, what is the condition for returning purchases?
- Are a company's name, address, contact number and representative's name shown in the contract?

### **Checking Points for a Long-term Contract**

- Does the contract allow you to cancel the contract halfway?
- Are any conditions on the cancellation of the contract specified?
- Have you checked terms and conditions regarding additional fees and how to fulfil the payment upon the cancellation of the contract?

If you have any problems regarding consumer products, contracts, etc., feel free to contact the numbers below for help.

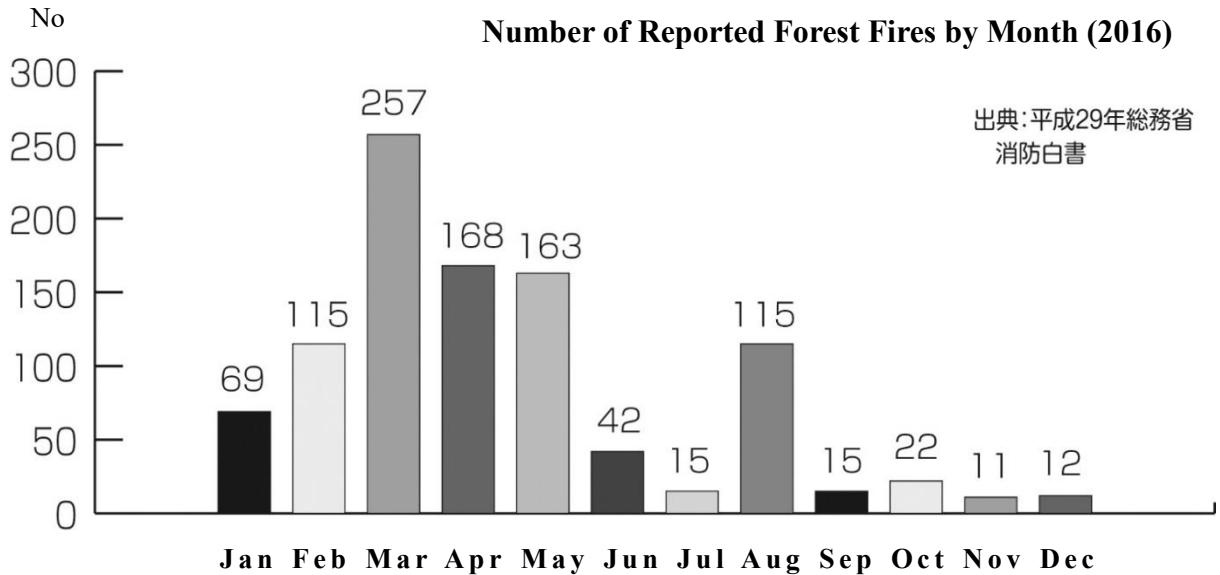
**Consumers Hotline “188” (Enter your post code after you hear Interactive Voice Response.)**

**Consumers Affairs' Centre Tel 0749-30-6144 (Weekdays 900 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:15)**



## ☆Protect Precious Trees from Forest Fires

Spring is the time of the season when forest fires occur more frequently as opposed to other seasons. Fallen leaves pile up on the dry ground of mountains in the spring. The favourable conditions for possibility of forest fires are met with low precipitation, dry air and the monsoon. Making matters worse, it is believed that the number of forest fires rises as rice fields are deliberately put on fire; called stubble burning, and more and more people hike up mountains for trekking, edible wild plants, etc.



### Many Cases of Forest Fires Are Caused by Human Errors.

Of all wild fires that occurred in 2017, the cause of 309 cases, accounting around 30%, was “bonfires”. Cigarette ends and arson were also responsible for the forest fires recorded in 2017, which suggests that a lot of forest fires are man-made.

#### Six Key Measures to Prevent Forest Fires from Happening

- ① Do not start a bonfire at a place where dried leaves and tree twigs have piled up.
- ② Smoke cigarettes only at a designated smoking area, make sure to put out the smouldering fire of cigarettes and do not drop cigarette ends.
- ③ When you use a fire for a BBQ or other purposes, ensure to make a fire only at a designated area, and put out a fire completely.
- ④ As for personal garbage, either bring it back home or leave it at a designated garbage collection place.
- ⑤ When you need to use a fire, pay attention to soundings and keep water to extinguish a fire nearby.
- ⑥ When the air is dry or the wind is strong, do not start a bonfire or use a fire.

Forests are precious natural resources that absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and supply oxygen invaluable for lives. Once trees are lost to fire, it takes the tremendous amount of time to recover. We can forestall forest fires with individual caution. In order to protect trees as well as lives and properties, please handle fire in a forest with extra caution.

**Inquiries: Hikone Fire Headquarters Prevention Section**

**Tel 0749-22-0332, Fax 0749-22-9427**

## ☆Smoke detector

Have you placed smoke detectors in your house?  
It is required that every houses should place smoke detectors.  
Please put them in your house to protect your family members.  
When you already have smoke detector, please check and maintain them.  
Please replace smoke detector in about ten years.

### 〈The place to be put smoke detector〉

Bedroom

At the top of stairs (when bed room is upstairs)

### 〈Location〉

Wall, Ceiling

For details, please check the instruction manuals.

## ☆Renewal of Hikone Disaster Prevention Manual

The city has upgraded the Hikone Disaster Prevention Manual published and distributed to all households in Hikone in 2006. The newly upgraded Hikone Disaster Prevention Manual is scheduled to be distributed to all households later in March, so please read through the manual and keep it safe.

What's New?

- **Estimated damage of various natural disasters based on the latest research are printed.**  
All necessary information in case of emergency is in the manual.
- **"My Disaster Prevention Map" that can be drawn up by your family or local community is enclosed.**  
Let's make your original disaster prevention map by writing down the condition of your neighbourhood, routes to evacuation shelters, etc. on an attached hazard map.
- **Relevant documents are also in this manual.**  
Various hazard maps are inserted in this manual, and all maps are easy to keep at hand.
- **Others**  
Information on snow damage and nuclear plant disasters is included in the manual.



(Previous Manual)



(New Manual)

Inquiries: Disaster and Crisis Management Office

Tel 0749-30-6150, Fax 0749-23-1777

## ☆Renewal of Drivers' License of Elderly People

In case the elderly people, 75 years old and more, renew the driver's license they are supposed to take the lecture and also "the Dementia Test".

Hikone City is supporting a senior driver who returns his/her license by granting coupon tickets (for ¥9,000) to be used for local buses and *ainori* taxi.

If you returned your driver's license in or after October 2017, please apply at the Traffic Administration Division in one year after your return. The coupon tickets are granted only once.

Inquiries: Traffic Administration Division: Tel 0749-30-6134, Fax 0749-24-5211

# EVENTS

## ★Hikone Castle Sakura Festival Sunday, April 1 ~ Friday, April 20

During the period, you can enjoy night viewing of illuminated cherry blossoms from sunset to 21:00. The period might be changed depending on the state of blooming. Please visit our website, <http://www.hikoneshi.com> (Hikone Sightseeing Association)

### \* Notice for Traffic Regulation

Please come to the castle by public transportation in order to avoid traffic congestion. Do not park on the streets. We will strictly enforce the traffic regulation in the castle area to prevent accidents.

### \*Traffic Regulation Area & Time

The north intersection of the stable ~ *Kuromon* gate Everyday 9:00 ~ 22:00 (the pedestrians-only street)

*Irohamatu* pine tree avenue ~ Hikone Higashi High School

When the cherry blossoms are in full bloom 9:00 ~ 18:00 (the pedestrians-only street)

- Inquiries: Hikone Sightseeing Association Tel 0749-23-0001 Fax 0749-26-1919  
Tourism Planning Division Tel 0749-30-6120 Fax 0749-24-9676



## ★The Main Castle Tower of Hikone Castle Will Be Lit Up with Blue Light

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day

Developmental Difficulty Awareness Week is April 2 ~ April 8

April 2 had been established as World Autism Awareness Day at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007. In memory of the day, the representative buildings, etc. in all parts of Japan will be lit up with blue light. We will get to grips with awareness of right knowledge about developmental difficulty, such as autism etc.

The main castle tower of Hikone Castle will take part in the event this year, too.

Inquiries: World Autism Awareness Day in 2018

Shiga Prefecture Blue Light Up Executive Committee Office Tel 0748-72-7810

## ★Events at The Children's Center

### ◆Let's Make a Slime from Starch and Play with It

Date & Time: Sat. April 21 1:30 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Capacity: 20 students of elementary school or Jr. high school (first come, first served)

\* Elementary school students should be accompanied by their guardians.

Participation Fee: ¥300

What to bring: An empty plastic bottle or nylon bag if you take your slime home.

Application Period: Sat. April 7 ~ Wed. April 18 at the Children's Center window or by phone

Application & Inquiries: The Children's Center Tel 0749-28-3645 Fax 0749-28-3646



## ★Stall for Rent ---- Hikone Eco (Ecological) Market "YUMEBATAKE" ----

"YUMEBATAKE" is a flea market for selling unwanted household goods and handmade goods

Date & Time: Friday(Holiday), May 4 10:0~15:00

Place: Mt.Kojin Park In the event of Mt. Kojin Park Spring Festival

Capacity: 70 stalls (first come, first served)

Stall Fee: 500 yen for each stall.

Application Period: Monday, April 2 ~Friday, April 20

**How to apply:** Please send a double postcard to "The Living Environment Division"  
(〒522-0074 2-28 Daito-cho Hikone)

- ① The initial half of the double postcard-----①Your Address, ②Name, ③Phone number④Item for sale

- ⑤The number of participants
- ⑥The license number of the vehicle used for unloading
- ⑦Desired date of stall

- ② On the return part of the double postcard, please write: ①Your Zip code, ②Address, ③Name

Inquiries: The executive committee of "YUMEBATAKE" Tel. 090-2357-9296





# Consultation

	Date & Time	Place	Contents
Human-Rights Counseling	April 4& 18 ( Wed) 13:00 ~ 15:00	Consultation Room (AL PLAZA Hikone 4F)	Counseling about bullying and all acts of discrimination Tel 0749-22-0242
Law Consultation	April 27 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 16:00 (by reservation)	Community Relations Division (AL PLAZA Hikone 3F)	*Consultation fee: 5400 yen per 30 minute session (Please pay on the consultation day) *The first 6 people from 8:30 on April 18 *Only those who live or work in Hikone Tel 0749-30-6117 Fax 0749-22-1398
Human-Rights for Everyone, Dial 110	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 8:30 ~ 17:15		Consultation telephone about human-rights trouble Tel 0570-003-110
Human-Rights Counseling by Multiple Language	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 9:00 ~17:00	Otsu Regional Legal Affairs Bureau	Consulting telephone for the trouble of human rights Exclusive telephone for consultation: 0570-090-911
Child・Family Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 8:30 ~ 17:15	Consultation Room for Children (Welfare center)	Consultation for Child care issues, child abuse, domestic violence etc Tel 0749-23-7838 Fax 0749-26-1768
Developmental Disorder Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 16:00 (by reservation)	Development Support Division	4 years old and older person who has a developmental disorder or feels uneasy about it or it's family. Only person living in Hikone. Tel 0749-26-8282 ※Health Promotion Division advises for a child who is 3years old or younger Tel 0749-24-0816
Consumer Life Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays ) ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 16:15	City life Environment Division (AL PLAZA Hikone 3F )	Consultation about the trouble of consumer life, contracts, etc Tel 0749-30-6144
Consultation for Bullying/Hot Line	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 9:00 ~ 17:00	School Support/ Bullying Measures Room	The experienced person in the education advises you *You can consult on the municipal government website Exclusive telephone for consultation: 0749-24-7977
Synthetic Consultation for Child & the Young	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 17:00	Child & the Young Consultation Center (Welfare center)	Consultation for person 39 years old and younger who has troubles in social life (neet or unsociable person etc). Tel 0749-47-3001 Fax 0749-26-1768
Traffic Accident Consultation	Every Tue. & Thu. ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building 2F	Consultation by telephone is also available from Monday to Friday except holiday Tel 0749-27-2230
Worries Counselor's Office	Every Wed. & Fri. (except second Wed. & holidays) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Welfare Center (Hirata-cho)	Consultation about various worries in your life Exclusive telephone for consultation: 0749-22-0294
	Second Wed. of even month (except holidays ) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Northern Elderly Welfare Center (Baba-cho)	
	Second Wed. of odd month (except holidays ) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Southern Elderly Welfare Center (Tawara-cho)	

**★Health Check-ups for Infants**

**April**

*Kusunoki Center 1F(Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital )/ 13:00~14:00*

4-Month-Old Babies	17(Tue)	Born between Dec 1 and 15, 2017
	24(Tue)	Born between Dec 16 and 31, 2017
10-Month-Old Babies	11(Wed)	Born between June 1 and 15, 2017
	18(Wed)	Born between June 16 and 30, 2017

*Kusunoki Center 1F( Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital ) / 13:00~14:00*

18-Month-Old Babies	13 (Fri)	Born between Sep 1 and 15, 2016
	20 (Fri)	Born between Sep 16 and 30, 2016
2-Year & 6-Month-Old Children	12(Thu)	Born between Sep 1 and 15, 2015
	19 (Thu)	Born between Sep16 and 30, 2015
3-Year & 6-Month-Old Children	9(Mon)	Born between Sep 1 and 15, 2014
	16 (Mon)	Born between Sep 16 and 30, 2014

\*As individual notification of Health Check-ups is for 4 month-old babies only, please check the Suku-Suku book for what contents and items to bring.

\*For Health Check-ups for 18- month-old-babies, a toothbrush is necessary. There will be a class on the correct way of brushing your child's teeth.

\*For Health Check-ups for 2-years & 6-month –old children, please fill out the result of hearing test to the questionnaire.

\*For Health Check-ups for 3-years& 6 –month-old children, there is a urinalysis. Please bring a first morning urine sample in a clean bottle.

\* If you are unable to come on the date specified or if you have any questions about the Health check for infants, contact The Health Promotion Division Tel: 0749-24-0816、 Fax: 0749-24-5870

**★Rakuraku Kin-en (Quit Smoking Easily ) Consultation**

A smoking habit is nicotine dependence. If you try to quit smoking, we support your challenge.

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 11 9:00~ 10:00~ 11:00~

Place: Kusunoki Center 2F (Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)

Capacity: 1 person / each time slot (Reserved)

Contents: • Check for your lung's contamination (Measure the carbon monoxide density in your exhalation.)

• Check for your addiction to cigarettes (Measure nicotine density in your urine)

• Consultation on how to quit smoking

Inquiry: The Health Promotion Division Tel: 0749-24-0816 Fax: 0749-24-5870

**☆Breast cancer checkup and urine cancer checkup**

《Breast Cancer checkup》

☆**eligibility:** women aged 40 and over as of March 31 2019 who live in Hikone city

**Time limit:** March 30(Sat) 2019

\* Interview and 2way-mammography check for 40~49year-olds.

\* Interview and 1way-mammography check for 50year-olds and over  
the check of see and touch do not carry out

How to take a medical examination

1. Please appointment a medical institution.
2. Please go to a medical institution with checkup fee(500yen)

Hospital	Telephone	Reservation
Hikone Municipal Hospital Checkup Center (hassaka-cho)	0749-22-6058	need
Toyosato Hospital (inukami-gun)	0749-35-3001	need
KKC wellness Hikone physical checkup Clinic	050-3541-2265	need

※Please ask for details. Tel 0749-24-0816 Fax0749- 24-5870

《Uterine Cancer checkup》

☆**eligibility:** women aged 20 over as of March 31 2017 who live in Hikone

☆**date:** until March 31(Fri) 2017

☆ **Fee:** ¥500

☆please go to the following clinic directly with the check-up fee (500yen).

Some clinics might require a reservation. Please inquire at the clinic for more information.

Hospital	Reservation	Hospital	Reservation
Adachi OB/GYN Clinic (sawa-cho) Tel 0749-22-2155	No need	HayashiOB/GYN (take-ga-hana-cho) Tel 0749-26-0528	No need
Jinno OB/GYN clinic (chuo-cho) Tel 0749-22-6216	No need	Yamashita Clinic (nagasone-cho) Tel 0749-24-5290	Need
Jinno OB/GYN clinic Alice (hassaka-cho) Tel 0749- 29-9025	No need	Hikone Chuo Hospital (nishiima-cho)Tel0749-23-1211	Need
Jinno OB/GYN clinic Sophia (kawasebaba-cho) Tel 0749- 25-5566	No need	Hikone Municipal Hospital (hassaka-cho) Tel0749- 22-6058	Need

KKC wellness Hikone physical checkup Clinic(hurusawa-cyo) Tel 050-3541-2265	Need		
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The check-up is available not only at the above-mentioned clinics but at any OB/GYN clinics in Shiga prefecture.

※Please ask for details. Tel 0749-24-0816 Fax0749- 24-5870 The Health Promotion Division

**The medical checkup fee for the following people will be free.**

- 1 Those from the household with exemption from the inhabitant tax.
- 2 Those from the household with livelihood protection
- 3 Those who are eligible for medical service of the elderly (65~69years old).
- 4 Those who have a free coupon of cancer medical checkups
- 5 Those who are 70 years old or older on the completed years on the checkup day.

- ※This breast cancer check-up and uterine cancer check-up are not suitable for those who are pregnant or may be pregnant.
- ※This breast cancer check-up is not suitable for those who are nursing, or have had a pacemaker inserted or have had breast enlargement surgery.
- ※This uterine cancer check-up is inadequate for those who are during their menstrual period or have had the uterus removed.
- ※ Those who have subjective symptoms or go to hospital regularly, please ask the clinic directly.
- ※Once every two years for breast and uterine cancer checkup.

Those who have checked for breast and uterine cancer from April 1 2015 to March 31 2016 cannot have a checkup.

**Those who have a Hikone-issued free coupon this fiscal year are eligible for it even if they had a checkup last year.**

**☆NYUYOJI KOBETSU SODAN(Individual consultant for infants)**

Please bring your Maternal and Child Health Handbook,

●Date & Time : Thursday, April 10 & 26 9:30~11:00

Place: *Kusunoki* Center 1F ( Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital )

\*Consultation by a nutritionist is available on Thursday, April 26

**☆Weaning Period Consultation**

\* Let's give food twice a day.

Date & Time: Friday, April 6 10:00~11:30 (Acceptance 9:45~10:00)

Place: *Kusunoki* Center 2F ( Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital )

Eligibility: 7~8 months old infant & their guardians

Things to bring: your Maternal and Child Health Handbook

**Circles of Friends**



Have you thought what the Japanese will do when they want to make friends with more people? It appears that many of them opt to take part in club activities, start taking lessons or do some local volunteer activities. Joining activities like these of their own volition enables them to expand opportunities to meet and form a new friendship with complete strangers.

On the other hand, in Brazil, we are more likely to broaden existing bonds of friendship rather than make friends with others we have never met before from scratch, which I came to notice after coming to Japan.

The Japanese usually hang out with different groups of people from a school, workplace, home town, and so on. It appears to be common for them to mingle with those different groups of people separately as opposed to how we, Brazilians, normally hang out to see others. For instance, if there is an outing with school friends, Brazilians casually invite people who have never met any of those school friends before. It is also flat-out normal to give a shout to colleagues, friends, etc. that we are planning to have a party with the family, and of course, we ask a husband/wife to come to a get-together with friends or colleagues. In this way, we have a great many opportunities to get to know someone you would never meet otherwise. There is no doubt that Japanese people introduce friends to other friends too, especially on certain conditions, but nonetheless, it somewhat differs from our way since Brazilians do such a thing under no circumstances.

On top of it, there are regularly organized gatherings where people in common get together, such as “residents’ association”, “school reunions”, to name a few. In actual fact, there are relatively few similar gatherings in Brazil. This, in a sense, alludes that the Japanese people cherish the collective consciousness by nature.

Given that the concept of social structures is distinct in many ways from country to country, because the way you communicate and etiquette you gained while growing up in foreign countries do not make sense to the Japanese, I assume that some foreign residents are missing out chances to get to know others. This is true of some Japanese people who failed to make friends overseas.

All in all, if you can become flexible with your attitude, it will come in handy to understand differences in how to meet people. We all need each other and cannot live without others, so it is always nice to see circles of friends become bigger and bigger.

“Natalia’s Room” is a monthly column published in the Japanese version of Koho Hikone Newsletter since June 2014. Natalia is from Brazil and has been working as Coordinator of International Relations of Hikone since coming to Japan in 2014. This column features topics related to multicultural coexistence, such as differences in cultures and living in Japan as a foreigner.

