

The city where everyone wants to live

広報 ひこね (英訳版)

Community

Newsletter

Koho

HIKONE

No.1414-1415

Date: February 1st, 2019

Published by:

Multicultural Coexistence

Human Rights Policy Division

Hikone City Hall

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0749-30-6113

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2019.02

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

(Abridged Edition) <http://www.city.hikone.shiga.jp/english/index.html>

Contact Us	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall	0749-22-1411 (Switch Board)
Human Rights Policy Division (For English Interpretation Services)	0749-30-6113 (Direct Number)
FACEBOOK	http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng

You Can Ask for English Interpreter Services at the Reception Desk at the Hikone City Hall and Via Phone (use the contact number given above.)

Please Say "EIGO TSUYAKU ONEGAI SHIMASU (English Interpreter Please)"

● The Foreign Language Version of Koho Hikone 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 |

Interpretation Services

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

Please say this Japanese sentence “*eigo-tsuyiyaku-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.

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



Japanese Language Classes



Day	Hour	Location, Place	Organization Name to Contact	Cost
Wednesday すいようび	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Shimin kaikan 市民会館	Hikoneshi Kokusai Kyoukai 彦根市国際協会 Tel (0749)-22-5931 (Not available from Dec. to Feb.)	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Saturday 土ようび	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Naka-chiku Kouminkan 中地区公民館	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE ひこね国際交流会 VOICE かつらだ(KATSURADA) Tel 090-7118-5250	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Sunday にちようび	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Nishi-chiku Kouminkan 西地区公民館	Volunteer Nihongo Kyoshitsu SMILE ボランティア日本語教室スマイル よしおかさん (YOSHIOKA) Tel (0749)-24-7241	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Monday – Friday (Except for holidays) げつようび～きんようび	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 Satellite”(Weekday Class) NAYASHICHI Tel.(0749)-46-5377 or みずのさん(MIZUNO) Tel 070-5661-7345	200yen / lesson 200 円 / 1 回
Tuesday Wednesday Friday	8:30 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.	Asahinomori- Chiku Kouminkan	Smile Tel: 070-5661-7345	200yen / lesson 200 円 / 1 回
Thursday	5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.			

【Hikone International Lounge News】

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

INFORMATION

★Tax Return Season – February 18th to March 15th

○Municipal and Prefectural Tax

If there is a need for you to file your municipal and prefectural tax return, you will receive a notice from the Hikone Tax Division before the tax return season starts. Necessary forms are available at the Hikone Tax Division during the tax return season. If you want the forms beforehand, please visit the Hikone Tax Division. During the tax return season, you can come to the city office of Hikone and ask for its interpretation services to file your tax return.

What You Need When Filing Your Tax Return.

- Notice
- Inkan (Personal Name Seal)
- Income Slips or Something That Shows Your 2018 Income
- All Documents Sent in the Mail by the Tax Office for Your Tax Return
- Relevant Documents Needed for Your Income Tax Deduction Process
- Documents That Show Income Details of Your Dependent(s) if You Want to Claim a Dependent Income Tax Deduction
- Disability Handbook, etc. if Necessary
- My Number Card
- Identification

*Note that if the 2018 tax return will be your first one after you started your own business, or if you want to claim a special tax deduction for a seismic retrofit, barrier-free renovation, etc. on your house, please file your tax return during its season.

About a Tax Deduction for the National Pension

You will be required to show your tax deduction certificate. Should your certificate be not mailed to you by the beginning of the tax return season, please visit or contact the Hikone Pension Office at 0749-23-1114.

About a Tax Deduction for Medical Expenses

When claiming a tax deduction for medical expense, you need to attach all the receipts of medical sending to an application form. Please complete necessary forms before filing your tax return.

Date	Venue	Opening Hours
Feb 22	①Takamiya Chiiki Bunka Centre	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Feb 26 - 28	②Inae Branch Office	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Mar 6	③Kameyama Branch Office	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Mar 8	④Kawase Community Centre	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Mar 12	⑤Torimoto Community Centre	1:00-4:00
Mar 13	②Inae Branch Office	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Feb 18 – Mar 15	Tax Division (Hikone City Hall)	9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00



Income Tax

As for your income tax return, you need to go to the 4th floor of the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry or the city hall of Hikone (Depending on your tax situation, you may be told to go to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.)

Opening Days and Hours: February 18th to March 15th Except Weekends, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Hikone Tax Office only accepts and processes complete tax return forms. The office offers no assistance to fill out tax return forms.

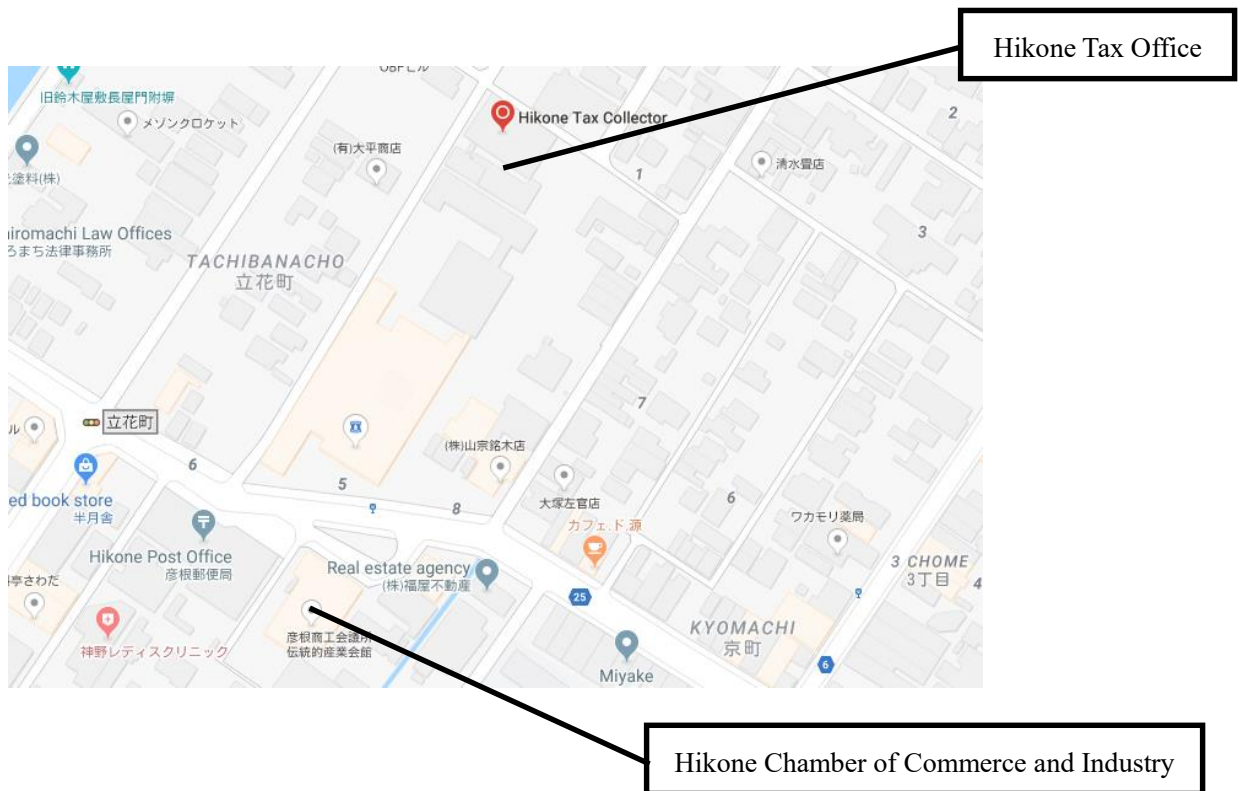
About the Amendment of the Dependent Tax Deduction Law

The amount of your dependent tax deduction changes depending on how much you earned last year and a total amount of income you and your dependent(s) actually made.

For more info, visit the website of National Tax Agency - <https://www.nta.go.jp/m/taxanswer/english/gaikoku301.htm>.

About a Tax Deduction for Medical Expenses

Effective 2017, all receipts of medical expenses need to be attached to a form upon filing a tax deduction for medical spending.



Inquiries: Hikone Tax Division TEL 0749-30-6140
Hikone Tax Office (Tachibana-cho): TEL 0749-22-7640

☆Hurry Up to Apply for the Advance Payment

using a Transfer System from a Bank or Credit Card

Object: National Health Insurance and Pension

Deadline: Thursday, February 28

A For the citizens who have already paid in advance using a transfer system, unnecessary for another application.

Application is necessary for changing the system, such as the advance period (from one year to two years), etc.

B Citizens who are exempted a part of payment cannot utilize the advance payment system, transferring from the account.

C In case of applications by mail, sooner mailing is appreciated since the postal service takes time.

Inquiries: Hikone Pension Office Tel 0749-23-1114, Fax 0749-23-9033

☆Some of the Elderly May be Able to Qualify for Disability Deduction

Those who meet all of the conditions can qualify for disability deduction.

Conditions of recognition

1. Those who live in Hikone city and are aged 65 and over
2. Those who have certification that they are in need of long term care
3. Those who are diagnosed with middle stage dementia, or need support and assistance in daily life

How to apply

Please apply to Nursing Care Public Welfare Division with your long term care insurance card and HANKO

Inquiry: Nursing Care Public Welfare Division

Tel: 0749-23-9660 fax: 0749-26-1768

☆The Closing Schedule of the City Library

The Hikone City Library is scheduled to close between February 20th and 28th.

When you want to return books during this closing period, all you have to do is to drop books into the return box set at the entrance of the library.

Inquiries: City Library TEL 0749-22-0649, FAX 0749-26-0300

☆Understanding and Cooperation Towards Emergency Vehicles

It is vital for emergency vehicles to reach emergency sites quickly to put out a fire, to mitigate damage, rescue and take the injured/sick to hospital, and so on and so forth. For this, all emergency vehicles are permitted by the law to break traffic rules such as driving through an intersection when the traffic light is red, or exceeding the speed limit.

Having said that, cooperation and understanding of other drivers and pedestrians are also indispensable for emergency vehicles to drive safely on the road. So, when you see an emergency vehicle approaching, please take the following steps.

• At Intersections

Pull over your car on the left side of the road and make way for an emergency vehicle.

• On Regular Roads

Pull over your car on the left side of the road and make way for an emergency vehicle.

• On Narrow Roads

Help an emergency vehicle accordingly to drive through a narrow road.

• On Highways

If an emergency vehicle tries to move to the main lane of the highway, please cooperate and let it go first.

• When Riding a Bike or Walking

Stop and let an emergency vehicle pass.

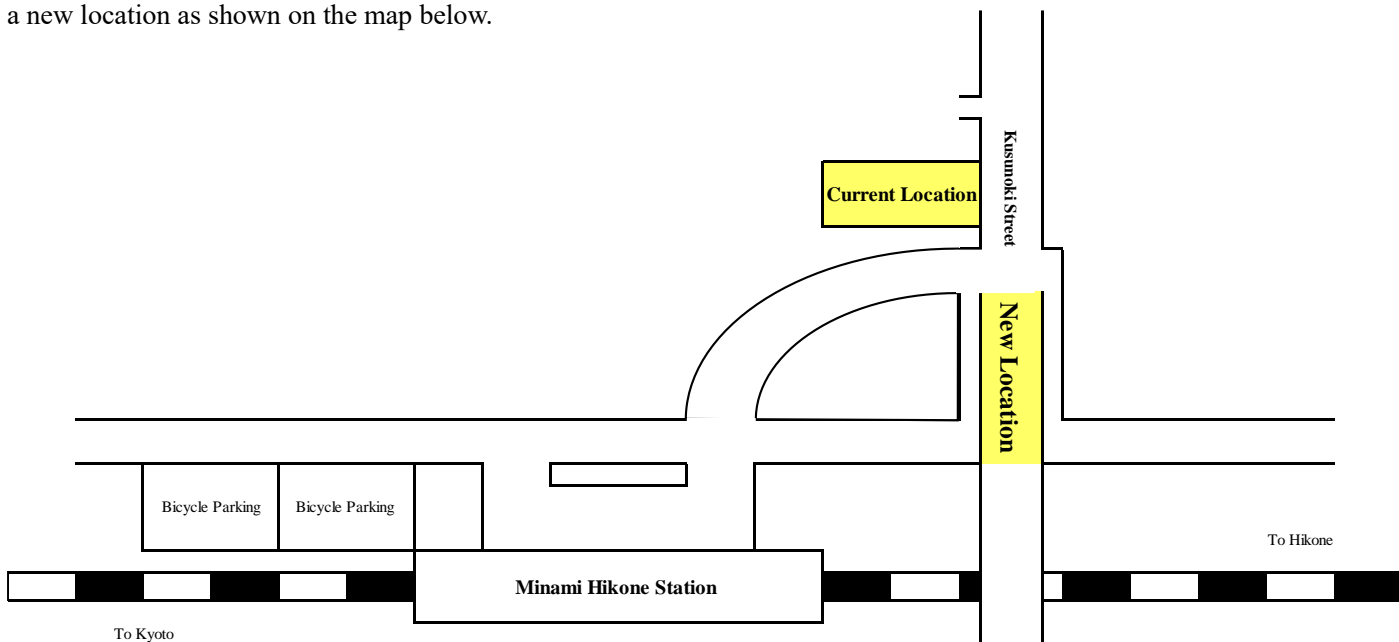
All emergency vehicles are mandated to use sirens by the law, and are thereby unable to stop the use of sirens even in the middle of the night.

Please understand the use of sirens and help emergency vehicles to reach their destinations as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Inquiries: Hikone Fire Department TEL 0749-22-0332, FAX 0749-22-9427

★Relocation of the Place Where Abandoned Bicycles and Motorbikes Are Stored

Effective March 1st Friday, the place where abandoned bikes and motorbikes are stored will move to a new location as shown on the map below.



Opening Hours & Dates

- March 1st – 31st: Tuesdays, Fridays, Sundays 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- From April 1st: Weekdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Closed on National Holidays)

*Please note that, after April 1st, you need to let the Hikone Traffic Management Division know when you want to pick up your abandoned bike/motorbike in advance via phone.

Things Needed to Pick up Your Bike

1. Your ID (Driver's Licence, Residence Card, etc.)
2. The Key of Your Abandoned Bike/Motorbike
3. Handling Fees (Bicycles: 2,570 JPY per bicycle, Motorbikes: 3,800 JPY per motorbike)

Inquiries: Hikone Traffic Management Division: TEL 0749-30-6134, FAX 0749-24-5211

Bike Parking Management Office: TEL 0749-27-0267

★Garbage Collection on the Public Holiday of February 11

The city will collect only glass bottles at the garbage collection areas on the holiday, Monday, February 11.

There is no collection of burnable waste or plastic wraps / containers.

Each time the city collects recyclable wastes, cans and glass bottles, the blue collection box will be changed.

Do not attach the name tags or wheels to the bottom of the collection box.

- Please take out household garbage to the designated area by 8:00 a.m.
- Direct waste drop-off to the Sanitation Center is not accepted.

Inquiries: Hikone Sanitation Center Tel: 0749-22-2734 Fax: 0749-24-7787

☆Start Zero Shopping Waste

The number of stores within Shiga Prefecture that stopped offering customers plastic bags for free stands at 196 (as of the end of March, 2018). According to the survey, 89.6 percent of the customers who shop at these stores do not ask for plastic bags, which indicates that the prevalence of bringing reusable shopping bags has become commonplace among many shoppers.

This small action which every one of us can take when shopping can play an important role in the reduction of waste. The following are some tips you can put into practice easily for the reduction of waste.

- **Get Your Own Shopping Bag**
- **Choose Items Sold in Small Packages or by Weight**
- **Buy Items Displayed in the Front Row**
- **Decline Unnecessary Wrapping Services**
- **Buy Refill Products**

Inquiries: Living Environment Division TEL 0749-30-6116, FAX 0749-27-0395

☆Shiga Prefecture ‘Promoting Awareness of Cancer’ Week

Monday, February 4 - Sunday, February 1

‘Having little knowledge about cancer is a dangerous thing.’

*Prevent a cancer

One of two people suffers from a cancer, and one of three people dies from a cancer. Early detection and cure often can lead a complete recovery from cancer. Therefore, keep in mind healthy lifestyle and before developing symptoms, you should receive a cancer check regularly.

*Five habits to prevent a cancer

1. No smoking
2. Moderate drinking
3. Balanced diet
4. Moderate exercise
5. Keep proper weight

Inquiries: City Health Promotion Division Tel. 0749-24-0816 / Fax. 0749-24-5870

EVENTS

☆“HIKONE DE ASAICHI” (The Fresh Morning Market in Hikone)

Selling local fresh vegetables, bean curd, local lake sea foods, local *SAKE*, and handcrafted general goods,---under the concepts of "Safety food" "Local production for local consumption" and "Handmade".

Date & Time: Sunday, February 17 8:00~12:00

Place: GOKOKU- *JINJYA* (shrine) (Osue- cho)

Inquiries: “HIKONE DE ASAICHI” Executive Committee Tel 0749-24-4461 hikonedeasaichi55@gmail.com

☆Information From The Children’s Center

Let’s Make A Simple Kaleidoscope

Content: Let’s make a colorful and original kaleidoscope

Date: Sunday, February 24 13:30~15:00

Target: Elementary school students and Junior high school students

Capacity: First 10

Cost: ¥300

Application date: Saturday, February 9~Wednesday, February 20

* Please apply by phone or at the counter directly.

Inquiries: Children’s Center Tel 0749-28-3645 Fax 0749-28-3646

☆Anything Consulting for Elderly and Challenged People in Koto District

Lawyer or judicial scrivener or social worker provides advice.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 9 13:30~16:30 (Acceptance is until 16:00)

Place: Challenged People’s Welfare Center (*Hirata-cho*)

※Acceptance of reservation starts from February 12 (If it is within time on the day, it can be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis)

Inquiries: Hikone Social Welfare Council Tel 0749-22-2821 Fax 0749-22-2841

☆Vaccination about Pneumococcal Disease for the Elderly

This vaccination will be finished on Sunday March 31, 2019.

※Elderly People (over 65years old) be able to have the vaccination one time by the public money furtherance at the recommended age.(between Oct, 2014 –the fiscal year 2018)

Only the people aged 65years old be able to have the vaccination one time by the public money after the fiscal year 2019.

Qualification for the fiscal year 2018

①People aged 65,70,75,80,85,90,95,100 years old (From April 2, 2018 to April 1, 2019)

②People aged 60~64 who have defect on heart, kidney or respiratory, or who have defect on a function of immunity by human immunodeficiency virus.

※ Hikone City already sent the questionnaire sheets to receive the vaccination to the eligible people on April 2018.

Please make a reservation for receive the vaccination to medical institution.

Those who lost the questionnaire or become residents of Hikone City after last April, please ask the City Health Promotion Division.

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

☆Natalia's Room (No.55)

Failure Is An Option

Three years ago, when I travelled back to Brazil, I spent some time with my teachers and friends from a Japanese language school for dinner. While having meals together, we started to talk about one of our classmates.

The student, who shall remain unnamed, was very intelligent and picked up the Japanese language very quickly. He also went to one of the prestigious schools while studying Japanese, so everyone had no doubt that he would get accepted to a university like a Brazilian version of an Ivy League or Tokyo University. Against our expectations, he actually made up his mind not to study in any universities in Brazil, but to immigrate to Japan.

Back at our dinner table, my friends and teachers were saying mostly critiques about his decision like “I can't wrap my head around why he took such a risk. He could've been an engineer or doctor by now.” or “He probably doesn't really give a crap about his future much.” There was one person, however, who told us, “He'll be alright. Even he fails, he still has a second chance, doesn't he?”

These words hit me hard because the concept that failure is not an option was growing stronger and stronger within myself since I arrived in Japan. Given that I belong to a minority group in Japan, I always wanted to be a perfect model for others as a foreigner. On top of it, living away from my family, I was constantly worried who would lend me a hand when I made the wrong decision.

I bet that this kind of feeling may resonate with some. Unlike myself, there are a great many migrants who neither speak nor write the Japanese language well enough to communicate with the Japanese. Of course, there must be Japanese people who are quietly facing personal struggles just like the foreign migrants living in Japan.

Now I am fully aware how important it is to be a person who can forgive oneself when things do not turn out the way you hoped. In this day and age of the highly competitive world, forgiving past mistakes may be a true form of “kindness” and “compassion” for yourself and others.

In a couple of months or so, the new fiscal year will come. Some may be feeling uneasy about what the new fiscal year is going to be like, but remember when things are not looking so good, there is always a chance for you to turn the table around for the better. Anyway, I sincerely hope that the up-coming new fiscal year will be a productive one for you all.

“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 difference of cultures and living in Japan as a foreigner.