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WEB PAGE

HIRO

Hiro C.D.Center

Hiro Community News Letter

"Buddhist Flower Festival", celebrates Buddha's Birthday

The season of spring has arrived, bringing with it a delightful warmth, and the time has come for the cherry blossoms to bloom in full splendor. We hope that this season will bring new Challenges and Joys to the people of the **Hiro** area as well. On April 8th, a Buddhist ceremony called "**Hana Matsuri**" (Flower Festival) will take place across Japan to celebrate the birthday of Shakyamuni. For Buddhists, this is an incredibly significant day to honor the birth of "**Shakyamuni**" (Gautama Siddhartha). The festival's origins lie in India's "**Kanbutsue**" (the Buddha's birthday festival), where it is said that flowers rained down from the heavens at the moment of **Shakyamuni's** birth, and the tradition of celebrating with flowers began.

In Japan, in the year 752 A.D. during the **Nara** period, the Great Buddha's "**Opening of the Eyes Ceremony**" was held at **Todai-ji**, marking a significant moment in the rise of Buddhism. This event also led to the spread of the custom of celebrating the Flower Festival. Over time, this tradition evolved through the **Heian** period and has continued to the present day, with the festival taking place annually on April 8th. In Japan, **Hana Matsuri** has developed into a blend of Buddhist rituals & community events that celebrate the arrival of spring. The most symbolic ceremony during the festival is the "**Pouring of Sweet Tea**." Known to be 200 times sweeter than sugar, it symbolizes "**Purity**" and "**Compassion**" in Buddhism. The legend tells of nine dragons pouring pure water from the sky, and when the newborn Buddha took his first seven

steps, he pointed to the sky with his right hand and to the earth with his left, declaring, "**Above earth, under heaven, I alone am worthy of honor.**"—a phrase symbolizing that every person has an important mission in life, and that humanity is equal and dignified because of the weight of that mission. Additionally, it is said that when **Shakyamuni** was born, the stars shone especially brightly, marking a celestial blessing, and from that, the significance of stars and astronomical phenomena in Buddhist tradition emerged. If you're interested in Buddhism, experiencing the **Hana Matsuri** on April 8th may be a wonderful way to connect with the teachings of **Shakyamuni** and the essence of Japan's spring season.

Director Hosokawa



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Population of HIRO (at the end of Jan.)

(in comparison to Dec.)

Population 42,666 (-48)

●M E N 20,651 (-11)

●WOMEN 22,015 (-37)



Conquer anger by not allowing yourself to get angry. Overcome evil with goodness. Triumph over the greediness of yourself by giving. Defeat lies with truth. Do not be bound by the past. Waiting for the future is not enough. Focus solely on the present moment. Stop relying only on others carve your own path. **Siddhartha Gautama**

Information from Hiro C.D.C.

Registration for Regular Courses 2025

Registration opens on Saturday, March 1st.

For courses that have not yet reached full capacity, applications will continue to be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note, any courses with fewer than eight applicants as of Thursday, March 20th (holiday) will be canceled.



Registration Starts on April 20th (Sun.)

Healthy Cooking

Get Calcium! Bone-Strengthening Dishes

Target: 18 years and older

Date & Time: Wed, May 21, 10:00 – 13:00

Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6F 603

Fee: ¥1,700 (includes materials cost)

Capacity: First 16 applicants



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

Poster Exhibition Introducing the Activities of Citizen Groups

A poster exhibition showcasing the activities of registered civic volunteer organizations in Kure City will be held.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the various activities these organizations are involved in.

Dates: May 20th (Tue) – June 3rd (Tue)

Location: Hiro Civic Center, 1st Floor, **Citizens Gallery**

Inquiries: Hiro Collaboration Center
☎ 71-0321 (Closed on Wednesdays)



Guidance from the Federation of Cultural Organizations

88th Hiro District Spring Cultural Festival 2025

Stage Presentation <3rd Floor Hall>

April 12th (Sat)

12:00-12:40 Japan Music **Zuifukai / Tatsumeikai**

12:40-12:50 Japanese Dance **Yojiro no Kai**

12:50-13:30 Japanese Dance **Rishokai**

13:30-14:00 Japanese Folk Song **Nene no Kai**

14:00-14:30 Japanese Dance **Shoseikai**

14:30-15:00 Japanese Dance **Rihou Kai**

15:00-15:10 Japanese Dance **Shijufuku no Kai**

April 13th (Sun)

12:00-12:40 Western Dance **STUDIO E.M.I**

12:40-13:20 Percussion **Ondo Kiyomori Taikokai**

13:20-14:00 Western Dance **Kyushu Hawaiian**

Kyokai Hiroshima

14:00-14:30 Handicrafts **Enjoy Kimono Dokokai**

14:30-15:30 Western Dance **WORKOUT STUDIO**

Exhibition <5th Floor Room 501>

<Day 1> **April 12th (Sat)** 10:00-17:00

<Day 2> **April 13th (Sun)** 10:00-16:00

Ikebana (Flower Arrangement)

Sogetsuryu / Sagagoryu Hirobikai / Shokoryu /

Senchadou Sankitei Baicharyu

Exhibition <5th Floor Room 503>

April 13th (Sun) 10:00-15:00

Tea Ceremony <Tea Ticket ¥500/person>

Enshuryu-Sado Hiro Branch

We welcome you with heartfelt hospitality.

Please feel free to visit.

Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM

☞ Closed on Thursdays and Public Holidays

April Closed Dates: 3th (Thu), 10th (Thu), 17th (Thu)

24th (Thu), 29th (Tue, *Showa Day)

☆ **Babar's Storybook Event**

Date: April 26th (Sat) 10:30 AM to 11:10 AM

Location: Hiro Civic Center 6F Room 604

Inquiries: Hiro Library ☎ 71-7470



Introduction of Short Courses of Hiro C.D.C.

This time, we're introducing two kids' courses held in December: "**Christmas Cooking for Kids with a Veggie Sommelier**" and "**Handmade Bread Class: Let's Make a Christmas Wreath Bread**". Cooking isn't just about preparing meals—it's about bringing joy to others and learning the fun of creating something with heart. Everyone starts as a beginner, so what's important is having a joyful attitude and a desire to improve little by little. Now, let's hear the kids' thoughts.

"I really enjoyed making the dishes!" "Now I know how to cook!" "I loved being able to prepare and eat delicious food." "It was great to enjoy a full meal I made myself." "I learned to appreciate the natural colors and flavors of vegetables through the soup." "They gave us the recipes, so I'm excited to try making these dishes at home."

"Understanding how to cook step by step was really helpful." "It was tricky when the eggs stuck to the pan, but the result was so delicious that I felt really happy." "Now I know how to make omurice!" "I was amazed at how much flavor you can get just from vegetables." "Cooking with my friends and working together made it even more fun." This festive cooking class was not only an opportunity for kids to learn new skills but also a celebration of teamwork, creativity, and the joy of healthy, home-cooked meals.

"I was so glad to learn how to make bread!" "Instructor was kind and explained everything so clearly—it was really helpful." "It was a lot of fun to try unique things like making parfaits and turning bread into a wreath instead of just regular loaves." "Being able to make and enjoy parfaits was a great bonus." "I now understand how to knead bread properly."

"I've discovered just how delicious homemade bread can be." "Thanks to the teacher's clear instructions, I was able to enjoy making bread and feel more confident about it." The class wasn't just about learning a skill—it was about creativity, enjoying the process, and experiencing the joy of sharing delicious food.

Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Next : Mon. 28th Apr.

Information from Hiro Sports Association Schedule of Hiro Sports Association 2025

1. Town People Athletic Meet

- 〈1〉 **45th HIRO Town People Grand Golf Competition**
Tue. May 13th, 8:30~ Hiro Park Ground
- 〈2〉 **67th HIRO Town People OB Softball-Tournament**
Sun. May 18th, 8:30~ Nijimura Park Multipurpose Ground
- 〈3〉 **56th HIRO & Suburbs Town People Table Tennis Match**
Mon. July 21st, 9:00~ SHISHINYO OAK- ARENA
- 〈4〉 **56th HIRO Town People Junior Soft-Tennis Match**
Sun. Aug. 10th, 9:00~ Tennis court of Kure Natl. Coll. of Technology
- 〈5〉 **37th HIRO Town People Badminton Match**
Sun. Aug. 10th, 9:00~ SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA
- 〈6〉 **31st HIRO Town People Japanese Archery Match**
Sun. Aug. 24th, 9:00~ Kure Municipal Kyudo Court
- 〈7〉 **57th HIRO Town People & Hiro Suburbs People Women' Volleyball Match 2024**

- Sun. Sep. 23rd, 9:00~ SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA
- 〈8〉 **66th HIRO Town People Softball-Match**
Sun. Oct. 5th, 8:30~ Nijimura Ball Park
- 〈9〉 **23rd HIRO Town People Mini-Basketball Match**
Sun. Oct. 12th, 9:00~ SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA
- 〈10〉 **46th HIRO Town People Ground Golf Match**
Tue. Nov. 4th, 8:30~ Hiro Park Ground
- 〈11〉 **60th Hiroshima-Prf. Soft-Tennis Match**
Sun. Dec. 7th, 9:00~ Tennis court of Kure Natl. Coll. of Technology
- 〈12〉 **1st Hiro Town Citizen's Smiling(Niko-Niko) Marathon**
Sun. Dec. 7th 9:00~
Kure City Comprehensive Sports Center (Track and Field Stadium)
- 〈13〉 **10th HIRO & Suburbs Town People Soft Volleyball Exchange Match**
Fri. Mar. 20th, 9:00~ SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA

2. 77th Commemorative Project of Educational Festival in Hiro

- 〈1〉 **66th HIRO Town People Martial Arts Judo Match**
Sun. Nov. 16th, 10:00~, SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA Martial Arts Room
- 〈2〉 **66th HIRO Town People Martial Arts Kendo Match**
Sun. Nov. 23rd 9:30~, SHISHINYO OAK-ARENA Sub Arena

3. Sport Lectures ☞ Details Undecided

4. 72nd Kure Sports Festival

Sun. Oct. 26th, Kure City Comprehensive Sports Center & other

5. Awards Ceremony

Sports Achievement Award Ceremony

Sun. Nov. 23rd at Hiro Community Development Center

Honors and Gratitude Award Presentation Ceremony

Fri. Dec. 5th at Hiro Station Hotel.

Contact: HIRO Sport Association ☎ 71-2151

How about Walking with us?

- ◎ **Event Date:** Tue April 15, 2025
- ◎ **Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center
- ◎ **Meeting Time:** 9:00AM

Course: **Marino Bridge Walk: 7km**
Hiro Civic Center → Marino Bridge → Nobusaki
Elementary School → Hiro Civic Center

※The event may be canceled or the course may change due to weather or other circumstances.
※Sign up at the registration desk for recreation insurance.

Notice from the Eastern Regional Comprehensive Support Center "Stay Strong Strengthening Class"

This course, held over four sessions, offers a comprehensive approach to the basics of exercise, oral care, and nutrition (cooking) as part of a preventative care program.

Target: Residents of Kure City aged 65 and above

Dates: June 6, 13, 20, & 27 (Fri), from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Location: Hiro Community Development Center, 6F & 7F

Capacity: Approximately 20 participants (First-come, first-served)

Fee: Only the cost of ingredients for cooking practice

Registration Period: Thu, Apr 10, until full capacity is reached

Inquiries: Eastern Regional Senior Consultation Office
(Comprehensive Support Center)

Hiro Community Center, 2nd Floor ☎ 76-3333

Notice from the Elderly Support Division "Body Strengthening Class for Preventative Care"

This is a class aimed at improving muscle strength through exercises and stretching.

Target: Residents of Kure City aged 65 and above

※Note: Participation may not be possible depending on your health status, for safety reasons.

Dates: Fridays from May 23 to Sep 5, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (12)

Location: Eastern Health Center, Multipurpose Room

Capacity: 25 participants **Fee:** Free

Registration: Please register directly at any of the following locations from Mon, Mar 10 to Wed, Apr 2: **Hiro, Aga, NiKata,** or **Gohara** Community Centers, the Elderly Support Division, or any regional comprehensive support centers in Kure City. People in Hiro area, visit the Eastern Regional Comprehensive Support Center, 2nd floor of the Hiro Civic Center.

※Registration forms are required, and phone applications are not accepted. If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, selection may be made. ☞ **Note: Registration will not be accepted at the Hiro Community Development Center.**

Inquiries: Elderly Support Division ☎ 25-3104