

Some Japanese people think that chestnuts are called "marron" in English, influenced by Western sweets like Mont Blanc. However, "marron" is French — in English, the correct word is "chestnut".



<https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/> ※Illustrations created by Microsoft Copilot & いらすとや

Web Site

Hiro Community Development Center

KOHO HIRO

Hiro Community News Letter

October

Savoring the Spirit of Japanese Autumn


As autumn's breeze brushes gently against the skin, nature deepens its palette, offering a quiet spectacle of transformation. At this time of year, one particular delight captures the Japanese spirit of seasonal appreciation: the **chestnut**. In Japan, chestnuts peak from September to October, offering subtle sweetness and notable nutritional value—rich in carbohydrates, vitamin C, and fiber. Archaeological findings show they were a vital food source as far back as the *Jōmon* period, making them one of the oldest staples in the Japanese diet. One poetic tradition surrounding this humble nut is *Kuri Meigetsu*, or **Chestnut Moon**, observed during the waxing moon of mid-autumn. Families offer chestnuts to the moon in quiet reverence—a custom that reflects the Japanese sensibility of finding meaning in nature's rhythms.

This graceful ritual reminds us that seasonal change is not merely meteorological, but also emotional and cultural. Chestnuts also feature in the global culinary lexicon—most famously in Mont Blanc, the dessert named for the snow-capped Alpine peak and cherished for its delicate chestnut purée. In Japan, Mont Blanc has evolved into new forms, often golden from syrup-preserved chestnuts. Recent versions made with purple sweet potato or pumpkin show the Japanese flair for seasonal adaptation and culinary artistry. Autumn, it seems, is the perfect time to enjoy chestnuts—through tradition, flavor, or innovation. Now, shifting gears—did you know that October 10th is recognized as “*Sento Day*” in Japan? The date is a clever play on numbers: 10/10 can be read as *sen-tō*, or public bath. It also commemorates the opening of the 1964 *Tokyo* Olympics, symbolizing the link between modern health ideals and traditional wellness practices. Designated by the *Tokyo* Public Bath Association, this unofficial holiday celebrates a uniquely Japanese institution: the communal bathhouse. Japanese bathing culture traces back to the 6th century, when Buddhist monks brought the custom from China as a purification rite. Over time, *sentō* became a part of daily life, especially during the *Edo* period. Today, a warm bath after physical activity remains an essential practice—boosting circulation and easing fatigue. On a crisp autumn night, few pleasures match the quiet renewal of a hot bath. As steam rises and cool air brushes your face, a deep sense of release invites rest. In those moments, one feels not only physically restored, but also gently connected to Japan's cultural heritage. As the season unfolds, may you find joy in its flavors and rest in its rituals. Let autumn's abundance nourish both body and spirit.

— Director Hosokawa



2025



Published monthly on the 10th No 345 Population of HIRO

【Editorial and Publishing Office】 As of the end of July,

Hiro Community Development Center compared to June


〒737-0112 Total 42,194 (-50)

2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai Kure-City ●M E N 20,451 (+3)

☎ 71-2151 📠 73-5034 ●WOMEN 21,743 (-50)

Don't expect a different harvest from what you plant. You reap what you sow. To help someone grow, teach, praise, and correct them in balance. Big goals start with small tasks. Ignoring small duties while worrying about big dreams is foolish. Small steps lead to great results.

Sontoku (Kintaro) Ninomiya



Notice from Hiro C. D. Center

Registration begins on Monday, October 20

Let's Make Handmade New Year's Cards Using Woodblock Printing

Target: 10 years and over

Date & Time: Sun, Nov 30, 1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Venue: Hiro Civic Center 606

Fee: 400 JPY **Capacity:** 15 participants



Create a Christmas Swag with Winter Forest Greens

Create a One-of-a-Kind Holiday Swag with Forest Scent and Festive Sparkle

Target: 18 years and over

Date & Time: Wed, Dec 3, 10:00AM–12:00 PM

Venue: Hiro Civic Center 606

Fee: 2,700 JPY **Capacity:** 12 participants



Beginner's Guide to Soba Noodle Making

Learn to Make Soba Noodles No Special Equipment

Target: 18 years and over

Date & Time: Mon, Dec 8, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Venue: Hiro Civic Center 603

Fee: 1,200 JPY **Capacity:** 12 participants

Make two servings by yourself



Enrollment Fees for Second-Term Regular Courses

The enrollment fees for the Second-Term of Regular Courses are now being accepted. Participants from the First-Term will enjoy seamless continuation without the need for additional procedures. Kindly ensure the payment of fees **by the end of September**.

Tel: 71-2151

Notice from Hiro Community Development Promotion Council

Invitation to "Hiro District Coming-of-Age Ceremony"

Date & Time: Mon, Jan 12, 2026, at 11:00 AM

Venue: 3rd Floor Hall, Hiro Civic Center

※This January, we look forward to welcoming the young adults of the Hiro community to mark an important life milestone. Invitations will be mailed in early December to those eligible individuals **born between April 2, 2005, and April 1, 2006, who currently reside in the Hiro district**. If you do not receive an invitation or if you reside outside the Hiro district due to school or work (but are a graduate of a local elementary or junior high school), we would be happy to include you. If so, please reach out to the Hiro Civic Center (Tel: 73-7191) to request an invitation. We invite you to celebrate this meaningful transition with the community that helped shape your journey.



Looking for Coming-of-Age Oath Speakers!

As part of the upcoming Coming of Age Ceremony, we are seeking one young man and one young woman to represent the new adult generation by delivering the ceremonial Coming of Age Pledge. If you feel inspired to speak on behalf of your peers and share your hopes for the future, we warmly invite you to step forward. To be considered, please contact the Hiro Civic Center at 73-7191 by Wednesday, November 19, 2025.



Notice from Hiro Library

Library Hours: 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Closed: Thursdays and Public Holidays

Closed days: October 1, 2, 9, 13, 16, 23, and 30

Special Maintenance Closure – Kure City Libraries



All Kure City Libraries will be closed **from Thu, Sep 25 to Thu, Oct 2** for a collection inspection. During the closure, please return books using the return box located at the entrance of the Hiro Civic Center. ※Kindly avoid returning **large picture books** in the return box. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



Event: 'Babar Baby Picture Book Gathering'

Date & Time: Tue, Oct 28 10:30 AM - 11:10 AM

Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6th Floor

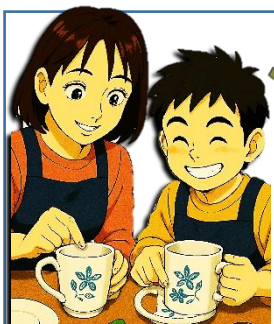
Contact: Hiro Library Tel: 71-7470

Kure Library 100th Anniversary



Ninomiya Kintaro, later known as Sontoku, lived in the Edo period. Despite growing up poor he worked hard, kept studying, and later helped improve the lives of struggling villages.

A decal is soaked in water, which makes it slide off the backing paper and stick to surfaces like ceramic, glass, or metal. When the water dries, the decal stays in place and looks nice.



Short-term Course Report Porcelain Art

Recently, I participated in a porcelain art workshop with my son. Porcelain art is a type of handcraft in which decorative transfer sheets are applied to glass ware or white ceramic dishes and then kiln-fired to create permanent designs.

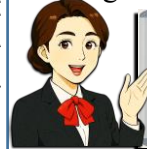
This was the very first time such a class had been offered at the Hiro Community Development Center, and it was also my own first experience with the craft — I was a little nervous. Our instructor, Ms. **Ueki**, runs a home-based salon in Hiro and frequently participates in local art events. Her gentle demeanor quickly eased my nerves, and we were able to begin with a calm and open mindset.

A variety of items had been prepared for us to choose from: several kinds of flat plates and cups, rice bowls, a bear-shaped plate, wind chimes, glass containers, and spray bottles suitable for holding things like perfume. The first step was to choose the item we wanted to work on. My son and I selected a cup and a small glass container. Next, we chose our transfer sheets. With so many designs



to pick from, it was hard to decide. Once selected, the transfer sheet is soaked in water for a short time until the decal separates easily from the backing with just a gentle touch. The decal is then carefully placed on the chosen item, and we smoothed out any air bubbles and excess water while adjusting its position. Because the decal can be re-wetted and repositioned, the process feels forgiving — there's no need to rush, and it encourages a focused, meditative pace. My son remained engaged throughout and, to my surprise, managed to apply the designs quite skillfully. When working with straight-edged decals on curved surfaces, Ms. **Ueki** advised us, "It helps to gently stretch decal as you apply it to the curve." This advice was immensely helpful. My son chose several of his favorite patterns and covered his cup with them, filling the entire surface.

The two-hour session passed in what felt like no time at all. Afterward, Ms. **Ueki** took our pieces home to fire them in a special kiln. Once fired, the finished items are as durable as any standard tableware — even dishwasher safe and perfectly suitable for daily use. Two weeks later, Ms. **Ueki** returned with our finished pieces. I was amazed at how polished they looked — it was hard to believe we had applied the designs ourselves. My son loved his creation so much that he now uses that cup every single day. With porcelain art, you can create entirely original tableware featuring your favorite designs. Add a name or a birthday, and you have a **one-of-a-kind** gift that's perfect for special occasions. Whether for daily use or as a heartfelt present, porcelain art offers a deeply personal and creative experience. Make a unique piece that exists nowhere else — I encourage everyone to try porcelain art!



Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Next: Monday, October 27



Notice from HIRO Sports Association Results of 36th Hiro Town Badminton Tournament

Held on Sunday, August 10, 2025,
at Shishinyo Oak Arena 32 players

※ Doubles A Class

1st : Haruhiro Mizoguchi

Masahiko Shitamukai

2nd : Mitsumasa Hara

Shuichi Inudo

3rd : Katsuhiro Shirakura

Ryuji Kudo

※ Doubles B Class

1st : Yukimi Tomishima

Motoko Fujiwara

2nd : Miyuki Hara

Natsuki Inudo

3rd : Kazuki Takei

Kiyoko Yoshida



※ Junior Singles

1st : Aoki Kamise

2nd : Masaki Kamise

3rd : Ru Fujiwara

46th HIRO Town People Ground Golf Competition

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Meeting Time: 8:30 AM

RAIN OUT!

Games will begin after the opening ceremony.

In case of rain, the event will be postponed to Wednesday, November 5.

Location: Hiro Park Ground (*Hiro-Oshingai*)

Eligibility: Residents of Hiro or members of Hiro GG clubs

Fee: 500 JPY per person. Please submit the payment as a group by club on the day of the event.

Registration Deadline: Friday,

October 10, 2025

Send Registration to: Hiro Sports Association

Office (Fax: 73-5034)

Contact: Mitsunori Onji Tel: 73-0485

Nomination Guidelines for 'Hiro Sports Association Award

Each year, during the annual Hiro District Education Festival, the Hiro Sports Association Honors individuals and organizations who reside in or are based within the Hiro District and who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the field of sports. These honors are conferred in the form of the Sports Achievement Award.

Athletes or teams who placed in **international** or **national** competitions, or who placed within the top three in **Chugoku** regional competitions between November 1, 2024 (Reiwa 6) and October 31, 2025 (Reiwa 7), are eligible. Notably, educational organizations are also eligible, and their achievements need not be limited to school-based extracurricular activities. In addition to nominations submitted by affiliated organizations, individual nominations are also welcome, including self-nominations or those submitted by family members or community supporters. Please note that not all nominations may result in an award, as final decisions are made based on the selection committee's evaluation. The deadline for submitting nominations is Thursday, October 23, 2025 (Reiwa 7).

For inquiries, please contact: **Hiro Sports Association Office** (Hiro Community Development Center) Phone: (0823) -71-2151



How about Walking with us?

※ **Event Date:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025

※ **Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center ※ **Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM

Course: **Aki no Kosuma - 10 km** **Return Transportation Timetable**

Hiro Civic Center → Nagahama → Kotsubo →
Aki no Kosuma → JR Nigata Station (Dismissal)

	Nigata Station	Hiro Civic Center	Hiro Station	Shir-Hiro Station
→	11:29	→ 11:42	11:31	→ 11:34
←	11:59	→ 12:12	13:00	→ 13:04

Note: The event may be canceled or the course changed due to weather or other circumstances.

Contact: Hori ☎ 080-1919-6088

RAIN OUT!

Please sign in at the reception for recreation insurance coverage.

In case **Heatstroke Alert** is issued, the event will be canceled.

Notice from Hiro Collaboration Center

Poster Exhibition: Activities of Nonprofit and Volunteer Groups

We are pleased to announce a poster exhibition highlighting the work of citizen nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups registered in Kure City. Covering a wide range of fields—from environmental initiatives to community support and cultural projects—this exhibition offers a chance to discover and connect with these inspiring local efforts.



Dates: Tuesday, October 7 – Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Venue: 1st Floor Gallery, Hiro Civic Center

Inquiries: **Hiro Collaboration Center**, Hiro Civic Center 4th Floor

(Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) **Tel: (0823)-71-0321**

Organizer: Kure Collaboration Center

※ **Note:** Closed on Wednesdays (or the following day if Wednesday falls on a national holiday).

Editorial Note The Quiet Luxury of Reading a Book

As autumn's insect chorus hums and a chill wind stirs the curtains, we are quietly drawn to the companionship of books. A Chinese idiom, coined by Tang dynasty scholar **Han Yu**, captures this seasonal mood beautifully: **tōka kashin** (灯火可親), or "By lamplight, one finds companionship." In pre-electric eras, this was no mere metaphor. Reading by firelight or oil lamp demanded intention—precious and deliberate. In **Edo**-period Japan, rapeseed oil for lanterns was an expensive luxury. For farming families and townsfolk, light came at a cost; some could only afford enough oil to read a single line each night. Yet, for students hungry for knowledge, that flickering flame was as cherished as the words it illuminated. Today, artificial light floods our world—fluorescent, LED, the pale glow of screens. Perhaps that is why **tōka kashin** resonates still. Amid constant stimulation, the act of setting down a steaming cup of tea, dimming the noise, and immersing oneself in a book feels quietly transformative. This return to stillness rekindles not just the pursuit of knowledge, but a deeper warmth—a light for the mind, and perhaps the spirit. So... what book shall we begin tonight?

