

Hanamizuki is called "dogwood" in English. Its wood is very hard, so long ago it was used for sword and spear handles. The name comes from "dog," meaning a short sword. It is not related to dogs.

<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 Newsletter April

Dogwood quietly blooming, swaying in the spring breeze,

It is now the season when the spring sunlight feels gentle. When you walk around town, you may notice white and light pink **dogwood (Hanamizuki)** flowers quietly starting to bloom along the streets and in parks. Unlike cherry blossoms, which bloom all at once in a spectacular display, dogwoods are modest and gentle, and their quiet beauty can make your heart feel calm. You may even want to stop for a moment to watch the branches sway in the wind or see the flowers slowly opening. By the way, many people have long thought that the white and pink parts of the dogwood are the **flowers**. In fact, these are called **sohohen**(bracts), which are modified leaves. The real flowers are the small yellow-green buds in the center. Usually, they are not very noticeable, but if you look closely, you can see the tiny flowers hidden among the bracts. Their subtle appearance shows a little playful touch of nature. In spring, people often notice cherry blossoms or the strong scent of roses. We tend to pay attention to what is most striking. But dogwoods, though modest, stand quietly in the same place year after year, watching over our happy and sad moments. They may not be the most celebrated flowers, but they are flowers that stay until the very end. Their presence reminds us of the small comforts and quiet support that nature provides in our everyday lives. This spring, if you see a dogwood along a street or on a hill, try stopping for a moment. You might notice a small, hidden discovery in your daily life or appreciate the quiet but certain beauty of the flower. It could be called a "little spring discovery." Incidentally, most of the dogwoods commonly seen in Japan were planted by people as street or garden trees and are not what would be considered a native species of Japan.

The **Hiro** Community Development Center staff will continue working hard this year to make our center a place where everyone can meet, learn, and enjoy themselves, supported by the smiles of **Hiro** residents. We look forward to seeing you. —**Director Hosokawa**



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Population of HIRO
 At the end of January,
 compared to December
 Total 41,978 (-23)
 ●M E N 20,371 (+3)
 ●WOMEN 21,607 (-29)



This is an image for reference. **You are my enemy. I cannot heed the words of an enemy. Stay true to your own convictions. Moreover, you are neglecting both scholarship and martial training, the two things of greatest importance. If you do not correct this, the country will surely fall.** *Imagawa Yoshimoto*

Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Monday, April 20th *Delicious & Fun Medicinal Cuisine Dietary Care for a Healthy Spring

For ages 18 and up
When: Wed, May 20, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Where: Room 603, 6F-Hiro Civic Center
Fee: 1,900 JPY **Capacity:** 16



*Hands-On Baking for Kids Try Using a Piping Bag! First Melon-Pan Baking

For elementary and junior high school students.
 *Children up to 3rd grade must be with an adult.
When: Sun, May 31 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Where: Room 603, 6F-Hiro Civic Center
Fee: 1,600 JPY **Capacity:** 12 kids
 (no additional fee for guardian participation)



Notice from the Elderly Support Division Genki (Stay Active) Physical Fitness Class (East Health Center) Genki (Stay Active) Physical Fitness Class for Preventive Care

Join us for a series of exercise and stretching sessions designed to improve muscle strength and help prevent the need for long-term care. **Eligibility:** Residents aged 65 and older who are registered in Kure City. **Participation may not be permitted depending on health condition for safety reasons.**
Schedule: Fridays, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (12 sessions total), May 8 – August 28 **Venue:** Higashi Health Center (Multipurpose Room, 2F of Hiro Civic Center) **Capacity:** 25 participants **Fee:** Free of charge
Application Period: Tue, March 10 – Wed, April 1
How to Apply: Apply in person at **Hiro, Aga, Nigata,** or **Gohara** Civic Centers, the Elderly Support Division, or any Community General Support Center in Kure City. ※Application form required. No phone inquiries. ※If applications exceed capacity, participants will be selected.
Inquiry: Elderly Support Division Tel: 0823-25-3104
Note: Applications are not accepted at the Hiro Machizukuri Center.



Notice from the Hiro Cultural Organizations Federation The 90th Hiro District Spring Cultural Festival 2026

Stage Performances, 3rd Floor Hall
Saturday, April 11
 1. 13:00 – 13:25 Japanese Traditional Music Zuifukai
 2. 13:25 – 13:40 Japanese Dance Yojironokai
 3. 13:40 – 14:15 Japanese Dance Shoseikai
 4. 14:15 – 14:55 Japanese Dance Rishokai
 5. 14:55 – 15:30 Japanese Dance Rihokai
 6. 15:30 – 15:45 Japanese Dance Shijufukunokai

Sunday, April 12
 1. 13:00 – 13:40 Percussion Performance
 Ondo Kiyomori Taiko Preservation Society
 2. 13:40 – 14:10 Western Dance
 Kyushu Hawaiian Association Hiroshima
 3. 14:10 – 14:40 Handicrafts
 Enjoy Kimono Club
 4. 14:40 – 15:20 Western Dance
 STUDIO E.M.I

Art Exhibitions 5th Floor, Room 501
Sat, April 11: 10:00 – 17:00 &
Sun, April 12: 10:00 – 16:00
Exhibits include:
Flower Arrangement (Ikebana) : Sogetsu School / Saga Goryu Hiromi-kai / Seiko School
Tea Ceremony 5th Floor, Room 503
Sunday, April 12: 10:00 – 15:00
Japanese Tea Ceremony :
 <Tea Ticket: 500 JPY per ticket>
 Art Tea Sencha Sanki-tei Baicha School
 Please come and enjoy our heartfelt hospitality.

Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Closed: Thursdays and National Holidays
April Holiday Closure: 29(Showa Day / Wed)
April Thursday Closures: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 ☆ **Babar Picture Book Reading Session**
Date & Time: Sat, April 25, 10:30 AM – 11:10 AM
Venue: Room 604, 6th Floor Hiro Civic Center ☎ 71-7470



Imagawa Yoshimoto was a smart leader in Japan's Warring States period. He ruled the area around Shizuoka and made it safe. He died in the Battle of Oketazama against the young Oda Nobunaga.

The interior swag is a simple plant arrangement made by bundling flowers or greenery and hanging it on a wall or door. It adds a natural, seasonal touch, and its appeal includes watching it dry over time.

Thank You for Your Feedback Creating a Winter Forest Christmas Swag

* I learned the basics, like the types of materials and the proper lengths. I feel like I can make a swag on my own next time. * I joined because I was attracted to the phrase "bundling the winter forest." The designer's sense of style is wonderful! The actual swag really felt like a little winter forest, and I was amazed at how beautiful the Christmas swag turned out. * I enjoyed it because I was able to improve a little compared to last time. * I love making swags, so I was really looking forward to it. Surrounded by the lovely scent, I struggled a bit, but I was happy with how it turned out. * I was worried at first about whether I could do it well, but it turned out cute, and I am very satisfied! It makes my front door look so cheerful. * The teacher was wonderful, and her explanations were very easy to understand. I really enjoyed participating! It was my first time in a workshop like this, and the time passed by so quickly. Thank you very much. * It was my first time making a swag, and it was a lot of fun. * This is my second time taking the class. When the materials change, it feels completely different. Adding ornaments gives it a seasonal feeling and makes it very enjoyable. * When I enter the room, the scent makes me feel relaxed, and the experience is really fun. The teacher helped me a lot, and now my house feels full of Christmas spirit.



Let's Make Handmade New Year's Cards

* I learned tips for making woodblock prints, and it was fun! * Even though this is my third time, I forgot some things from three years ago. I'm thankful to the instructor. * It was nice to focus and carve without thinking about anything else. I'm happy with how it turned out! * I enjoyed having time to concentrate. * I come every year, and my friends enjoy it too. I hope it will be held again next year. I wish the teacher a long life! * I look forward to this every year. * I'm glad I was able to make a New Year's card.



**Announcement of Scheduled Closure
Monday, April 27**

Information from HIRO Sports Association Hiro Sports Association Event Schedule 2026



1 Town Sports Events (Hosted by the Hiro Town)

- (1) **The 68th Hiro Town OB Softball Tournament**
May 10 (Sun), from 8:30 AM at Nijimura Park, Multi-Purpose Field
- (2) **The 47th Hiro Town Ground Golf Tournament**
May 12 (Tue), from 8:30 AM at Hiro Park Ground
- (3) **The 57th Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament**
June 14 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at Kure Kosen
- (4) **The 57th Hiro & Nearby Area Table Tennis Tournament**
July 20 (Holiday), from 9:00 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (5) **The 38th Hiro Town Badminton Tournament**
August 2 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (6) **The 58th Hiro Open Women's Volleyball Tournament**
August 11 (Holiday), from 9:00 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (7) **The 32nd Hiro Town Kyudo (Japanese Archery) Tournament**
August 23 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at City Archery Range (Short Distance)
- (8) **The 67th Hiro Town Softball Tournament**
October 4 (Sun), from 8:30 AM at Nijimura Park, Multi-Purpose Field
- (9) **The 24th Hiro Town Mini Basketball Tournament**
October 4 (Sun), from 9:40 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (10) **The 48th Hiro Town Ground Golf Tournament**
November 4 (Wed), from 8:30 AM at Hiro Park Ground
- (11) **The 61st Prefectural Open Soft Tennis Tournament**
November 15 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at Kure Kosen
- (12) **The 11th Hiro Open Soft Volleyball Tournament**
March 7 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium



2 The 78th Hiro District Education Festival – Special Events

- (1) **The 67th Hiro Town Martial Arts Tournament (Judo Division)**
November 15 (Sun), from 10:00 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (2) **The 67th Hiro Town Martial Arts Tournament (Kendo Division)**
November 23 (Holiday), from 9:30 AM at Kure City General Gymnasium
- (3) **The 2nd Hiro Distance Challenge**
December 6 (Sun), from 9:00 AM at Kure City General Sports Center

3 Training Workshops Schedule: To be decided

4 The 73rd Kure City Sports Festival

October 25 (Sun) at Kure City General Sports Center & other venues

5. Award Ceremonies

Sports Achievement Award Ceremony

November 23 (Holiday) at Hiro Community Development Center

Certificate of Appreciation Ceremony for Distinguished Service

December 4 (Fri) at Hiro Station Hotel



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center Poster Exhibition Introducing Community Group Activities

We will hold a **Poster Exhibition** introducing the activities of civic public-interest groups (volunteer organizations) registered with Kure City. We invite you to take this opportunity to learn about the wide range of activities they are engaged in. (Closed on Wednesdays)
Dates: Tuesday, May 12 – Tuesday, May 19
Venue: 1st Floor Civic Gallery, Hiro Civic Center
Inquiries: Hiro Collaborative Center ☎ 71-0321



Community Walking Excursion

Event Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Place: Hiro Civic Center
Meeting Time: 9:00 AM
Course: **Hiro Central Loop Course 5 km**
Hiro Civic Center → Oak Arena
→ Kuimoto & Yoshimatsu → Bentenbashi Park
→ Kokusai-Daigaku Street → Hiro Civic Center



Please note: ※The event may be canceled or the course may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.
※For participation in the recreational insurance, please register your name at the reception. *For inquiries regarding either announcement, please contact **Hori, 080-1919-6088**
***This event is supported by a grant from Kure City.**

Editorial Note The excitement of the Winter Olympics

The Milan Winter Olympics, full of intense competition, concluded leaving many memorable moments. Japanese athletes made their presence felt in every event, setting a new record for the number of medals won. Among them, the performance of the figure skating pair Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara, known as "Rikuryu," was particularly impressive. Beyond the success or failure of their big moves, the trust they showed in each other while skating revealed the depth of the time and bonds they had built together. The efforts of athletes in other events also brought great inspiration. It was a winter festival that reminded us that sports create a series of moments that move the heart, beyond just the results. In the lingering memory of this winter, I found myself reflecting on whether I truly cherish the small encounters and the trust I share in my everyday life.

