

In the song Chatsumi, the red color of "akane-dasuki" had special meanings. People believed red could protect them from evil. It also showed festive clothing and the happy feeling of the new tea-picking season.

<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 May



## Dogwood quietly blooming, swaying in the spring breeze,

As the greenery deepens in May, just taking a walk outside makes us feel that the season is shifting toward early summer. The familiar line, ♪ "Summer is near, the 88th night..." ♪ from the traditional song "Chatsumi" (Tea Picking) brings a sense of nostalgia. The '88th Night' refers to the 88th day after *Risshun*, which marks the beginning of spring in the 24 solar terms of the traditional Japanese calendar. In 2026, it falls on Saturday, May 2.



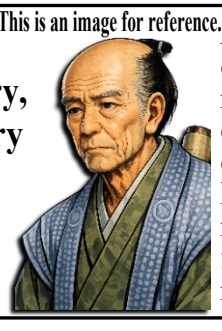
For people in the past, this day marked the end of frost and served as an important sign to begin agricultural work. The number "eight" (八) is considered auspicious in Japanese culture, and when combined as "eighty-eight" (八十八), it resembles the character for "rice" (米), symbolizing a wish for a bountiful harvest.

The sensitivity of people who lived closely with nature is beautifully reflected in these seasonal expressions. Tea leaves picked around this time are called *shincha*, or "new tea." These young leaves, having endured the winter and absorbed the gentle spring sunlight, are rich in flavor and aroma. Known for their fresh and delicate taste, it's said that "drinking new tea on the 88th night brings long life"—a belief that reflects a deep appreciation for the blessings of the season. The song paints a cheerful scene of lush green hills and people calling out to one another as they pick tea leaves. Though it was hard work, it was also a joyful time to welcome the season together. In modern life, we may not pay much attention to the traditional calendar, but in those moments when we notice the pleasant May breeze or the dazzling new leaves, we too can feel connected to the rhythm of the seasons. During this time of year, why not take a quiet moment with a warm cup of tea and reflect on the meaning of the "88th Night"? It might just make an ordinary day feel a little more special. *Director Hosokawa*



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Population of HIRO  
 At the end of February,  
 compared to January  
 Total 41,980 (+2)  
 ● M E N 20370 (-1)  
 ● WOMEN 21,610 (+3)



This is an image for reference. As long as one walks forward with a dream, there is no need to speak of 'the rest of life.' It's not about when you start chasing a dream, but whether you choose to chase it. Keep walking. Perseverance is what matters. By focusing your mind, you'll find interest in study and work—and reach your best results. —Ino Tadataka

## Information from Hiro C.D.C.

### Registration Opens on Wednesday, May 20

#### 1. Let's Improve Your Handwriting! Brush Pen Workshop

Why not try writing gift envelopes and seasonal greetings with a brush pen?

**Eligibility:** Ages 18 and over (Both sessions required.)  
**Dates & Time:** June 23 & June 30 (Tue),  
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hiro Civic Center, Room 601  
**Fee:** 1,300 JPY **Capacity:** 15  
**Notes:** Ballpoint pens are also acceptable.



#### 2. Let's Try Making Insect Specimens!

Create summer insect specimens—beetles and grasshoppers for real scientific discovery.

**Eligibility:** Elementary and middle school students  
 (Grade 3 and under must be accompanied by a guardian.)  
**Date & Time:** July 11 (Sat)  
 Group① 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 Group② 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hiro Civic Center, Room 606  
**Fee:** 400 JPY \*The lecture content is the same.  
**Capacity:** Both groups have a capacity of 10.



#### 3. A long-lasting swag made with preserved and dried flowers

**Eligibility:** Ages 18 and over  
**Date & Time:** July 1 (Wed)  
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hiro Civic Center, Room 606  
**Fee:** 2,600 JPY **Capacity:** 10



## Notice from Hiro Town Development Council

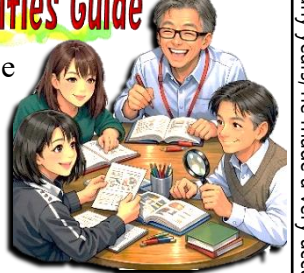
### The 53rd Hiro Children's Festival

**Date & Time:** Sun, May 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m.  
**Venue:** Hiro Park Multi-Purpose Plaza  
**Program:**  
**Crime & Traffic Safety Parade:** 10:00 – 10:40  
**Route:** Tokufu Kindergarten  
 → Hiro Shopping Street  
 → Hiro Park Multi-Purpose Plaza  
**Opening Ceremony:** 10:40 – 10:55  
**Play Area in Hiro Park:** 11:00 – 14:00  
 \* **Challenge Corner:** Daruma-Otoshi, Kendama, Otedama, Bamboo Stilts  
 \* **Marche & Workshop Corner:** Bamboo Cup, Bamboo Stilts, Creative Origami  
 \* **Kure-Shi Slider** \* **Food Truck Corner** \* **Working Vehicles Corner**  
**For inquiries:** Hiro Children's Festival Executive Committee  
 (Hiro Civic Center) Tel: 73-7191



## Join a Circle! 2026 Community Activities Guide

If you are interested in any of the circle activities listed below, please contact the Hiro Community Development Center. Our staff will confirm with the group representative and get back to you.  
 Tel: 71-2151



Group Name	Room	Meeting Date	Meeting Time
Hiro Dance Sports Club	702	3 times/month, Mon or Tue	9:30-11:30
English Conversation	605	2 times/month, 2nd & 4th Thu	8:30-11:30
Manabi Ballet	702	4 times/month, Saturdays	18:00-20:00
Sports Wellness Fukiya	702	2 times/month, 2nd & 4th Sat	13:00-15:00
Aki Tsubaki Branch			
Ikebana Saga Goryu Gyokukai	504	1 time/month, 2nd Tue	9:00-12:00
Ball Exercise Class	602	2 times/month, 1st & 3rd Tue	14:00-16:00
Himawari Club	703	4 times/month, Wednesdays	9:30-11:30
Wisteria Craft	605	2 times/month, 2nd & 4th Thu	13:00-15:00
Etegami Circle Hiro Classroom	504	2 times/month, 1st & 3rd Sat	9:30-12:30
Enjoy Painting	606	2 times/month, 1st & 3rd Wed	18:00-20:00

Ino Tadataka lived in the Edo period. He walked all over Japan and carefully measured distances and directions. After many years, he made a very accurate map of Japan that surprised many people.

Yakuzen is a kind of healthy cooking based on the idea of "shokko-dogen," which means food and medicine come from the same source. By choosing foods for the season and your body, it helps keep you healthy and prevent illness.

## Thank You for Your Feedback A Fun and Delicious Medicinal Cooking Class

元気に春を迎えるための良養生  
おいしー薬膳料理  
和菓薬膳食匠  
三上 智馬



\* This was my first time participating in a medicinal cooking class, and it was both enjoyable and educational. I tend to think of this kind of cooking as difficult, but I realized that it can be good for the body even when using everyday ingredients and familiar recipes. The dishes could be prepared in a short time, and I would like to add them to my family's menu. Thank you very much. \* There were some items missing, such as measuring cups, chopsticks, and a pot, which caused a bit of trouble. We borrowed a pot

from an unused table. Perhaps the previous group did not return things properly...? \* I had thought medicinal cooking was difficult, but the ingredients are easy to obtain, so I would like to incorporate it into my daily meals. It was fun. \* The explanations were easy to understand, and we were able to cook together in a friendly atmosphere and enjoy the delicious food. \* I have participated in various cooking classes, but this one was the most meaningful and educational. \* It was my first time attending, and I had a very enjoyable time. Thank you very much. \* I am looking forward to hearing more about the Five Elements theory. \* It was very informative.

\* The food was very delicious, but slightly smaller portions would have been fine. \* This was my first time participating. The menu was perfect for winter and really warmed me up. It seems easy to incorporate into everyday life, and I would like to try it at home. \* I had wanted to learn medicinal cooking, so this was very worthwhile. I couldn't remember all the details, but I understood that choosing ingredients carefully is important. I feel that by attending

repeatedly I will be able to make it part of my own practice, so I would like to join again. \* I'm glad I had the chance to learn about medicinal cooking in such an enjoyable way. 9 participants



be prepared in a short time, and I would like to add them to my family's menu. Thank you very much. \* There were some items missing, such as measuring cups, chopsticks, and a pot, which caused a bit of trouble. We borrowed a pot



## Announcement of Scheduled Closure Monday, May 25

## Information from HIRO Sports Association



### The 68th Hiro Town Residents' OB Softball Tournament

**Date & Time:** Sun, May 10, from 8:30 a.m.

Games start after opening ceremony.

Event will be canceled in case of rain.

**Venue:** Nijimura Park Multi-Purpose Ground

**Eligibility:** Men and women aged 40+ living in Hiro

**Entry Fee:** 2,500 JPY per team, pay on application.

**Application Period:** From Fri, Apr 17 to Wed, Apr 29, by 5:00 p.m. Submit applications to the Hiro Sports Association Office. Deadline strictly enforced.

**Managers' Meeting:** Thu, May 7, 18:30, Hiro Civic Center 501

**Inquiries:** Hiro Sports Association Office Tel: 71-2151



### The 47th Hiro Town Residents' Ground Golf Tournament

**Date & Time:** Tue, May 12 – Gather at 8:30 a.m.

Games start after opening ceremony. In case of rain, the event will be postponed to Wed, May 13.

**Venue:** Hiro Park Ground (Hiro-Oshingai, Kure City)

**Eligibility:** Residents of the Hiro district and members ground golf (GG) clubs based in the Hiro district

**Application Deadline:** By Fri, Apr 17 Submit to the Hiro Sports Association Office (Fax accepted: 73-5034)

**Participation Fee:** 500 JPY per person, pay on game day.

**Inquiries:** Mitsunori Onji Tel: 73-0485



## Information from Hiro Library

**Opening Hours:** 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Closed:** Thursdays and National Holidays

**Closed Days in May:**

3, 4, 5, 7, 14, 21, 28

**Note:** There will be no Storytime sessions held in May.



## No Entry or Stopping/Parking in the Bus-Only Lane!!



The bus lane is a designated space for buses to turn, arrive, and depart safely. Please note that entry, crossing, stopping, or parking by private vehicles is prohibited for visitors to the Hiro Civic Center and the Hiro Community Development Center. Pedestrians excluded.

## Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

At the Hiro Collaboration Center, we regularly post volunteer recruitment notices and information on volunteer, community-building, and local events.



The display area also offers local newsletters, organization bulletins, and maps of communities in Kure City. If you'd like to learn more about volunteer activities or community information, feel free to visit the center on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center. **Inquiries:** Tel: 71-0321  
**Opening Hours:** 9:00 a.m. – 17:00 p.m. **Closed:** Wednesdays

## Community Walking Excursion

**Event Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026

**Meeting Place:** JR Nigata Station

**Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM **Shimokamagari 8 km**

**Course:** JR Nigata Station → Akinada Bridge → San-nose → Shimokamagari Civic Center (dismissal on site)

The event may be canceled or the course changed due to weather or other circumstances. Please sign in at reception for recreation insurance enrollment.

**Contact:** Hori (for all inquiries): 080-1919-6088

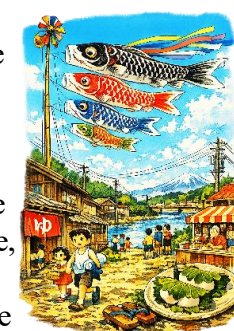
*This programs are carried out with financial support from Kure City.*

<b>(Outbound)</b> JR Kure Line			<b>(Return)</b> Bus to Rosai Hospital	
Shin-Hiro	Hiro	Nigata	San-nose 11:15 → Rosai Hospital	11:45
8:49	8:55	8:58	San-nose 12:25 → Rosai Hospital	12:55

## Editorial Note May Skies & Memories of Carp Streamers

When I look up at the sky in May, something deep in my chest still grows a little warm. In the towns of the *Showa* era, whenever the wind picked up, carp streamers could be seen swimming proudly from the eaves of houses.

I imagine parents casting their wishes into the sky—"Be strong, be resilient." At the same time, those wishes must also have encouraged the adults themselves as they pressed on through the difficult years after the war. The height marks carved on pillars covered with stickers of *Tetsujin 28-go* and *Astro Boy*, the sweet smell of *kashiwa-mochi*, the evening glow on the way home from the public bath... Like the legend of the carp that climbs a waterfall and becomes a dragon, we all passed through many swift currents in those days and walked our way to where we are now. Whenever I look up at the carp streamers swimming in the May wind, I cannot help feeling that those wishes must still be quietly alive somewhere in our hearts. I'm still a *Showa* man. (b)



"Toriyumon" means passing a difficult test and becoming successful. At some Tenmangu shrines for the scholar Michizane Sugawara, such as Osaka Tenmangu and Hofu Tenmangu, there is a gate called "Toriyumon."