



When Autumn Whispers, Open a Book: The Joy of Knowing

By October, the signs of autumn grow stronger with each passing day. The cool morning and evening breezes, the clear blue sky, the sound of insects calling from somewhere nearby... Even in our everyday lives, there are moments when we notice the changing season. In the past, people paid even closer attention to such subtle changes in nature.

The sounds of insects, the arrival of wild geese, and the blooming of chrysanthemums—such *signs of nature* were regarded as markers of the seasons and recorded in the Japanese traditional calendar as the "Seventy-two Seasonal Divisions," or "Shichijūni-kō".

If we take a closer look at the world around us, we may find that many quiet signs of the season are hidden in our everyday scenery.

Autumn is also known as *the season of reading*. One reason for this tradition is Reading Week, which began in 1947, soon after the war, with the hope of "building a peaceful cultural nation through reading." Today, from October 27 to November 9, libraries and bookstores throughout Japan hold various events to encourage people to discover the pleasure of books. A book is a vehicle that can take us on wondrous journeys. It can carry us into the past, the future, or distant lands. No ticket or reservation is required for such a journey. All we need is a little time to open a book and a desire to discover a world we do not yet know.

We live in a convenient age when smartphones give us instant access to information from around the world. Yet obtaining information and gaining knowledge that remains deeply in our hearts may not be quite the same thing. "Knowing is a pleasure, and having a wealth of knowledge makes life all the more enjoyable," said former NHK announcer **Kenji Suzuki** in the memorable opening of *Quiz Omoshiroi Seminar*. It was a program that brought us the joy of learning through familiar questions and surprising facts. Reading, too, opens the door to new discoveries. A book is the beginning of a journey to unfamiliar times and places, and into the hearts and minds of others. As you turn the pages on a long autumn evening, what kind of "Aha!" moments will you discover? Just as we notice the subtle changes of the season, why not open a book and take a glimpse into a world you have yet to discover? Among the shelves of the **Hiro Library**, you are sure to find a book that sparks your curiosity.

Director Hosokawa



Information from Hiro C.D.C.

Short Courses: Registration Opens Tuesday, October 20

① 'Healthy Traditional Cuisine' Workshop Delicious and Fun Medicinal Cuisine – Eating for Good Health in Autumn

Eligibility: Ages 18 and over
Date & Time: Wednesday, December 2,
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Location: Hiro Civic Center,
6th Floor, Room 603
Fee: ¥1,900 (materials included)
Capacity: 16 participants (first come, first served)



Adult Course

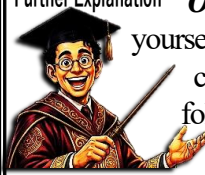
② "Onoresho" Make Your Own New Year's Cards Onoresho is a new style of calligraphy in which you freely move the brush as you wish, expressing your own unique world in a fun and creative way.

Eligibility: Ages 18 and over
Date & Time: Friday, December 4,
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: Hiro Civic Center,
6th Floor, Room 606
Fee: ¥900 (materials included)
Capacity: 10 participants (first come, first served)



Adult Course

Further Explanation *Onoresho* is a style of calligraphy that values expressing yourself freely through letters and drawings rather than writing characters perfectly. Unlike traditional calligraphy, which follows rules regarding the shape of characters and brush techniques, *Onoresho* has very few rules about how things should be written. Using a brush pen, for example, you can deliberately make characters rounded, vary their size, or combine them with drawings and colors to express your individuality. The appeal of *Onoresho* is that it allows you to express yourself in your own unique way without worrying about how good your handwriting is.



Published monthly on the 10th No.357
【Editorial and Publishing Office】
Hiro Community Development Center
2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai, Kure City,
Hiroshima 737-0112
☎ 71-2151 ☎ 73-5034

Population of HIRO
At the end of July,
compared to June
Total 41,827(−19)
● M E N 20,330(−6)
● WOMEN 21,497(−13)

This is an image for reference.



A parent's love is higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest sea. It is a timeless truth. Reading is not only good for the mind; it also helps us become better people. If you're not sure what kind of book to read, go to a bookstore and browse the titles on the shelves. You're sure to find at least one book you'll want to buy. Kenji Suzuki

Notice from the Hiro District Federation of Neighborhood Associations HIRO District Coming-of-Age Ceremony

Date & Time: Monday, January 11, 2027 (National Holiday), 11:00 a.m. **Venue:** Main Hall, 3rd Floor, Hiro Civic Center ✕Invitations will be sent in early December to eligible residents of the Hiro district—those born between April 2, 2006 and April 1, 2007.
✕If you do not receive an invitation, or if you attended elementary or junior high school in the Hiro district but now live elsewhere due to school or work and wish to attend, please apply by Monday, November 30 by scanning the 2D code and applying via LINE, or contact Hiro Civic Center (☎ 73-7191)



Information from Hiro Library

Library Hours & Closures
Opening Hours: 9:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Closed: Thursdays and national holidays
October Closures: October 1, 8, 12 (National Holiday), 15, 22, and 29

Special Closure for Collection Inventory
Kure City Library will be closed from Thursday, September 24 through Thursday, October 1 for a collection inventory. If you wish to return books during this period, please use the book return slot at the entrance of Hiro Civic Center. Please note that oversized picture books should not be returned through the slot. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your kind understanding.

***Babar's First Steps: Picture Book Storytime**
Date: Tuesday, October 27
Time: 10:30 a.m.–11:10 a.m.
Venue: Room 604 (Japanese-style room),
6th Floor, Hiro Civic Center



Inquiries: ☎71-7470



Thank You for Your Feedback!

Brush Pen Calligraphy Course



* The instructor was very kind, and I was grateful for that. I also feel sorry that such expensive materials were used for us. The instructor was kind



and explained everything carefully. * I learned a great deal and gained many new insights. * The atmosphere was wonderful, and I enjoyed talking with the other participants while learning. Thank you very much. The instructor explained everything clearly, making it very easy to understand. I learned so much. * The instructor was kind and explained everything in a very easy-to-understand way. * The instructor taught us very carefully and even provided us with many supplies. * I feel grateful and somewhat sorry for receiving so much. Thank you very much. * Two sessions were not quite enough. I would have liked to learn more. * I always look forward to this instructor's classes. I hope they will teach another course in the future. * I learned a great deal. I rarely use a brush pen and have never studied calligraphy before, so I found the course both enjoyable and fascinating. * Thank you very much. Everyone else was so skilled that I felt a little embarrassed by my own lack of ability.

Information from HIRO Sports Association Nomination for the Hiro Sports Association Sports Achievement Award

The Hiro Sports Association is inviting nominations for the **Hiro Sports Achievement Award**, which recognizes athletes and teams connected with the Hiro District for outstanding achievements in international, national, and regional competitions over the past year. Athletes from school teams, community clubs, and individual competitors are all eligible. If you know someone who has achieved outstanding results, we encourage you to submit a nomination. **Eligibility** Teams based in the Hiro District Individuals residing in the Hiro District **Eligible Results** (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026) ① **International/National competitions:** Prize winners, ② **Chugoku Regional competitions:** Top 3 finishers **Nominations** Sports organizations, individuals, self-nominations, and third-party nominations are all welcome. **Deadline** Thursday, October 22, 2026 *If your competition is scheduled to take place between October 23 and October 31, 2026, please contact us in advance. Award recipients will be selected through a review process.

For details and application procedures, please contact the **Sports Association Office** ☎ 71-2151.



**Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Monday, October 26**

57th Hiro & Surrounding Area Table Tennis Tournament Results

Date & Time: Monday, July 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena–Main Arena
Participants: 86 (50 students and 36 adults)
Organized by: Hiro Sports Association and Hiro Community Development Promotion Council **Supported by:** Kure City

Boys (Junior High School & Younger)

1st : **Kensei Yashiro** (Shiratake J. H. S.)
2nd : **Naoki Iwaishi** (Shiratake J. H. S.)
3rd : **Subaru Takechi** (Hiro Table Tennis Club)

Girls (Junior High School & Younger)

1st : **Mei Nishihira** (Hiro Table Tennis Club)
2nd : **Moeha Isomoto** (Hiro Table Tennis Club)
3rd : **Nana Takeda** (Kuimoto Club)

Men's Open Division

1st : **Teppei Yamashita** (Kure Yume TTC)
2nd : **Yoshiyuki Koyama** (Hiro Table Tennis Club)
3rd : **Junichi Omori** (Nigata Sports Association)

Men's 60 and Over

1st : **Yasunori Yamane** (Nigata Sports Association)
2nd : **Hiroshi Miyaji** (Nigata Sports Association)
3rd : **Minoru Okada**

Women's 60 and Over

1st : **Hitomi Hiraune** (Nigata Machi-Sen)
2nd : **Kuniko Takei** (Nigata Machi-Sen)
3rd : **Yuko Norimatsu** (Kure Veterans)



38th Hiro Community Badminton Tournament Results

Date & Time: Sunday, August 2, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena, Sub Arena
Participants: 52
Organized by: Hiro Sports Association and Hiro Community Development Promotion Council **Supported by:** Kure City



*General Doubles-Division 1

1st: **Koshin Fujiwara**
Yukimi Tomishima
2nd: **Tatsuya Arima**
Haruki Kagawa
3rd: **Haruhiro Mizoguchi**
Takashi Kamise

*General Doubles-Division 2

1st: **Rio Segawa**
Keishun Kumano
2nd: **Yosuke Yamada**
Noriko Kataoka
3rd: **Momoka Yamanaka**
Kokomi Okuhara

*General Doubles-Division 3

1st: **Shinobu Nakayama**
Marin Yamamoto
2nd: **Aoto Matsumoto**
Honoka Jo
3rd: **Kimi Ikemoto**
Yoko Yamaguchi

The 48th Hiro Community Ground Golf Tournament

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 **Assembly Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Play will begin immediately after the opening ceremony. In the event of rain, the tournament will be postponed to Thursday, November 5, 2026.

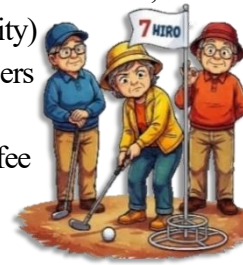
Venue: Hiro Park Ground (Hiro Ōshinkai, Kure City)

Eligibility: Residents of the **Hiro** district and members of **Ground Golf Clubs** located in the **Hiro** district.

Entry Fee: ¥500 per person *Please pay the entry fee as a club on the day of the tournament.

Registration: Please submit your application to the **Hiro Sports Association Office** by Saturday, October 10, 2026.

☎ 71-2151 Fax 73-5034 **Inquiries:** **Mitsunori Onji** ☎ 73-0485



Community Walking Excursion

Event Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Place: Hiro Civic Center

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Course:

Yokoro & Obiro 6km

Hiro Civic Center → Hinode Bridge → Yokoro & Obiro → Shinkoji Temple → Bentenbashi Park → Hiro Civic Center

Please note: ※The event may be canceled or the route may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.

※Please sign in at the reception desk for recreational accident insurance purposes. **Inquiries:** **Hori**, ☎ 080-1919-6088



News from the HIRO Collaboration Center Kure City Civic and Community Activity Organizations: Poster Exhibition

Kure City Civic and Community Activity Organizations Poster Exhibition. We are holding a poster exhibition introducing the activities of civic and community organizations registered with **Kure City**.

The exhibition features organizations working in a wide range of fields. We hope you will take the opportunity to learn more about their activities and visit the exhibition.

Date: Tuesday, October 6 – Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Venue: Civic Gallery, 1st Floor, **Hiro Civic Center**

Inquiries: **Hiro Collaborative Center** (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)

Organized by: **Kure City Civic Collaboration Center**

Closed: Wednesdays *If a Wednesday is a national holiday, the center will be closed the following day.* ☎ 71-0321



Editorial Note The Joy of Knowing—and Buying Books

“Looks interesting!” I always think when I buy a book.

it becomes, “I’ll read it tonight,” “I’ll read it this or weekend,” “I’ll read it when I have more time.”

Somehow, that day never comes. “I already have plenty of unread books,” I tell myself. Yet somehow, I find myself browsing books online again. Then I spot words like “Bestseller” or “#1,” and before I know it, I’m clicking “Buy.” “This looks interesting!” And just like that, another book joins my growing pile of unread books. Strangely enough, so does my sense that I’m somehow an avid reader. I feel accomplished simply because I’ve bought a book. In Japan, there’s even a word for this:

tsundoku (積読, つんどく)—buying books and letting them pile up unread. And tomorrow, two more books I recently ordered will arrive. I’m definitely going to read them... Probably. Maybe. I think I will. ㊦

