

広まづくりセンター
Hiro Community Development Center <https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/>

Website **HIRO**
HIRO C.D.Center
Hiro Community Newsletter

Purification Ceremony & God of the Year

Time flies, and the year is almost coming to an end. December is known for "year-end cleaning," but at *Shinto* shrines across Japan, a purification ceremony called "*Oharae*" held every June and December. The December ceremony, known as the "Year-End *Oharae*," is a ritual for people to cleanse their bodies and minds in preparation for the New Year. The practice originates from the myth of *Izanagi*, who purified himself at a sacred spot in what is now *Miyazaki* Prefecture, after escaping the land of the dead. This act of purification, called "*misogi*," gave birth to the term we use today.

During the Japanese New Year, homes are prepared to welcome the *Toshigami* (New Year deity) who brings blessings. Here are a few key traditions: *Kadomatsu* (pine decoration): Placed at the entrance, it serves as a guidepost for the *Toshigami*. Pine, a symbol of longevity and vitality, is considered sacred alongside bamboo. *Kagami Mochi*. A stack of two round rice cakes, symbolizing the sun and moon, represents hopes for a bountiful harvest and family prosperity. The orange on top, called "*daidai*," symbolizes family continuity across generations. In Japanese, the words for "orange" (*daidai*) and "for generations" (*daidai*) are pronounced the same.

Shimenawa (sacred rope): Hung at entrances to indicate a purified space where the deity will enter. *Osechi Ryori*. Special New Year's dishes prepared as offerings to the *Toshigami*, God of the Year, later shared by the family to receive the deity's blessings. Each dish has its own meaning, often related to health and prosperity. It's believed that the *Toshigami* stays in homes until around January 7, and during this time, families are encouraged to show respect and give thanks to the deity, putting aside the hustle of daily life. At *Hiro Community Development Center*, we remain committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and engaging space for everyone in the *Hiro* community. As we move into the new year, we look forward to continuing to connect and support you through learning and shared experiences. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Director *Hosokawa*

Izanagi

Kadomatsu

Kagamimochi

Osechi

2024
December

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Population of HIRO at the end of Sep
(in comparison to Aug)
Total 42,804 (-36)
M E N 20,705 (-43)
WOMEN 22,099 (+7)

Education is the greatest treasure. Women must possess an independent personality. Education is not merely about imparting knowledge; it is about cultivating the heart. Unless women receive a true education, they cannot become truly excellent wives or mothers. I have accomplished nothing, but future generations will accomplish much.
Umeko Tsuda

Information from Hiro Civic Center The Event will be held on November 23rd 2024

Opening Event (9:00-9:10, Entrance) **Lemonchi Dance**
Performance by Nada Preschool (Certified *Kodomoen*)
Calligraphy Demonstration (10:00-10:15, 1F Gallery)
*Participating Schools:
Kure Commercial H. S. & Kure Municipal H. S.
Historical Lecture (12:40-13:40, 3F Hall)
Topic: "The Life of Hiro Village's Father, *Shizuo Fujita*, First Village Mayor"
Subtitle: From the Most Challenging Village in the Prefecture to a Model for the Nation
Lecturer: *Ryohei Kamigouchi* (Hiro Community Learning Committee)
New Hiro Dance Performance (13:40-13:50, 3F Hall)
Performed by Hiro District Women's Association
Hiro District Education Merit Awards Ceremony (13:50-14:30, 3F Hall)
Cultural Lecture (15:00-16:30, 3F Hall)
Guest Speaker: *Soya Kagaya* (Comedian from Hiro, of Kagaya Duo)
Topic: "We All Want to Smile Every Day, Right? But How Do We Do It?" *Kagaya History 2024 Complete Edition: A 31-Year Reflection*
Note: Admission ticket required. Tickets, ¥500/person, are available at the Hiro Civic Center (1F).

Announcement from Hiro Collaboration Center

At the Hiro Collaboration Center, we regularly post information about volunteer opportunities and community-building events. Our display space features local newsletters, group bulletins, and maps of the Kure area.

If you're interested in learning more about local events, feel free to visit us on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center.
Opening Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed: Wednesdays



Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Dec. 20th (Fri)

Children's Sweets Course
Let's Make Gugelhupf Mini Cake
Eligibility: 1st-6th graders (3rd grade and below must be accompanied by a parent)
Date & Time: Feb. 1st (Sat) 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Fee: ¥1,800 **Capacity:** 14 participants (first-come, first-served)

Only old 1,000 yen notes can be used.
New Banknotes not Accepted
Please note that the parking lot attached to Hiro Civic Center does not accept the new banknotes.

Information from Hiro Library

Library Hours: 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM
Closed on Thursdays and public holidays
December Closure Dates: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th (Thu)
***Year End & New Year's holiday closures:**
from Dec. 28th (Sat) to Jan. 4th (Sta)
*Will be open from Jan. 5th (Sun) in the new year
For inquiries: Kure City Hiro Library ☎ 71-7470
© **Babar's Christmas Picture Book Storytelling**
Date & time: December 14th (Sat) 10:30AM - 11:10AM
Location: Hiro Community Development Center, 6F 604
*You need to register in advance to participate.
Details will be posted in the museum and announced on Facebook as soon as they are decided.



Stamp cookies are a fun treat where you press patterns or messages onto the dough, making them visually enjoyable and delicious. They're perfect as gifts for friends and family.

Impressions Short-Term Course

⑨Let's Make Stamp Cookies



On Saturday, August 31st, we held a short-term class, "Let's Make Stamp Cookies," with 15 children participating. Here are some of the highlights shared by participants:



From the Children: ○There were so many cookie cutters! I got the recipe. ○I learned how to make cookies. I got to connect with my friends. ○It

was great to work together with friends in the class. We worked together and helped each other to make everything go smoothly. ○I was happy to make sweets.

○I learned how to make cookies!

○I was able to make cookies, and it was fun. ○I want to do it again!

○I want to come back and make more cookies.



From the Parents: ○I was happy to see my child working hard to make the cookies. ○It was a great memory to make cookies together with my child during the summer vacation.



We plan to continue offering fun, hands-on experiences like this for children, so please join us in the future. Stay tuned for the next course!

Information from HIRO Sports Association

Results of 36th Hiro Town Badminton Tournament

Held on Sun, Aug 25th & Participants 25 players

※Doubles A Class

1st: Koji Fujiwara,

Reon Saijo

2nd: Haruhiro Mizoguchi,

Takashi Kamise

3rd: Katsuhiro Shirakura,

Ryuji Miyahigashi

※Doubles B Class

1st: Kimie Mitogawa,

Yasuhiro Takahata

2nd: Kiyoko Yoshida,

Kotone Uehara

3rd: Sae Hamamoto,

Ruri Kagawa



※Junior Singles

1st: Yurino Shimosako

2nd: Aoki Uese

3rd: Minato Saijo

Parent & Child Sports Bowling Class 2024

Join us for a fun and engaging sports bowling class aimed at promoting family health and communication through bowling, a sport anyone can enjoy regardless of experience. This event also seeks to discover and nurture junior athletes for bowling, a National Sports Festival event.

Instructors: Professional bowler **Yoshimi Takemoto**
Instructor **Junko Nishi**

Date & Time: Sun, Dec 15th, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Venue: Kure Marine Bowl (Marine Building, 3F, 4-21 Takaramachi, Kure)

Eligibility: 1-9 graders from Hiro and their Guardians

Fee: ¥500 / person (to be collected at reception on the day of the event)

Application Information: Please submit the designated application form to the Hiro Sports Association Office (located within the Hiro Community Development Center). **Capacity:** First 60 people

Please submit the designated application form (either in person or by fax). FAX ☎: (0823) 73-5034



For inquiries, please call this number



Deadline: Mon, Dec. 9th, 2024, 5:00 PM

Other: In case of injury during the class, first aid will be provided.

However, the organizers will also enroll participants in a one-day injury insurance plan.

Organized by Hiro Sports Association & Hiro Town Development Promotion Council



<https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/oyakodebouringu.html>



details



application form

If you need an application form, you can download it from Hiro Community Development Center's website.



Results of 65th Hiro Town Softball Tournament

Held on Sun, Oct 15th Participating teams: 12 & 239 players

A Block

Champion: Kitafuru Shinkai Neighborhood Association

Runner-up: Nishiyokoji Neighborhood Association

B Block

Champion: Nakazako-Mitsuashi Neighborhood Association

Runner-up: Nakashinkai Neighborhood Association



How about Walking with us?

Date: December 17th Tue, 2024

Meeting Place: JR Nigata Station

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Course: **Nigata & Hori Kannondo Walk 7km**

JR Nigata Station → Yaiwabana Shrine → Hori Kannon-do → Yoshimatsu Pass → Bentenbashi Park (Finish)

Please note that the course may change due to weather or other circumstances.

Inquiries: ☎ **Hori:** 080-1919-6088

JRShin-Hiro	8:48
JRHiro	8:54

Editorial Note Story of "Toshikoshi Soba"

One of Japan's traditional customs is eating "Toshikoshi Soba" (year-crossing *soba*) on New Year's Eve. This practice is believed to have spread during the Edo period, with a few interesting theories about its origins: The most common belief is that it symbolizes the wish for a long life, as *soba* noodles are thin and long. Another theory stems from *soba*'s tendency to break easily, representing the desire to cut away the misfortunes of the past year and start the new one with a fresh mindset. A third explanation relates to the goldsmiths of the Edo period, who used *soba* flour to collect gold dust, leading to the belief that *soba* can bring financial fortune. Each of these ideas is compelling. As we enjoy *Toshikoshi Soba* this year, let's reflect on these rich traditions and meanings. Moreover, it's worth noting that *soba* flour, the main ingredient in these noodles, is highly nutritious, something people from the past must have appreciated. Enjoy your *Toshikoshi Soba* with these thoughts in mind this New Year's Eve!

As an alternative to Toshikoshi Soba noodles, it is characterized by Udon noodles, and some people eat it with the wish to "Live Thick and Robust."

Year-End & New-Year Holidays
From Sat. Dec. 28th 2024
To Fri. Jan. 3rd 2025