

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**

## Plum Blossom Viewing (Umehanami)

Happy New Year to all members of the community! As the cold weather becomes more intense, I hope this message finds you well. As we move forward, we will continue to recognize the importance of our center's role as a place where community members can gather, learn together, and support one another. We are committed to carrying out our daily activities with this in mind. Now, with February comes the plum blossom, and today I'd like to take a deeper look at the tradition of "ume-mi," or plum viewing. In Japan during the Heian period, the culture of flower appreciation was thriving, and particularly, cherry and plum blossoms were seen as symbols of flowers. The imperial court would even hold "plum blossom banquets" and "plum blossom viewing ceremonies." By the Edo period, this tradition spread among the common people, and it became a popular practice to enjoy the blooming plum blossoms. The term "ume-mi" (plum blossom viewing) started to be used at this time. Plum blossoms bloom earlier than cherry blossoms, with flowers that are relatively modest in color, ranging from white to red. While cherry blossoms often bloom all at once in full splendor, plum blossoms open gradually, even in large numbers, giving them a quieter, more serene appearance. For this reason, ume-mi tends to be a calm and peaceful activity. The plum blossom's distinctive fragrance is another key feature. The scent of plum blossoms can be stronger than that of cherry blossoms, adding to their unique charm.

As for Setsubun, which marks the day before the start of spring, it holds special significance because plum blossoms are a symbol of early spring. It's common for both plum viewing and Setsubun to take place around the same time. The blooming of the plum blossoms signals the end of winter and the approach of the warm spring days, and with Setsubun's tradition of driving away evil spirits, it's seen as a way to prepare for the new spring. Though the weather is cold, I sincerely wish for your good health and happiness. Looking ahead, we are committed to further enriching our activities and striving to remain an indispensable part of community. Sincerely,  
Director Hosokawa

**2025**  
**February**

Published every month on 10<sup>th</sup> No 337  
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Population of HIRO (at the end of Nov.)  
(in comparison to Oct.)  
Population 42,740(-25)  
● M E N 20,670(-29)  
● WOMEN 22,070(+ 4)



"One cannot succeed in this world solely based on one's ability. Even if one rises to prominence, they are no different from a machine. A person must possess 'virtue' alongside their abilities."  
Noguchi Hideyo

## Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> (Thu.)

### ① Let's Make Jam Cookies!

**Target Children:** Elementary school students (1 & 2 graders must be accompanied by a guardian)  
**Date:** 26/Mar. (Wed) 10:00-13:00  
**Location:** 6F Room 603,  
**Fee:** ¥1,500 (no fee for accompanying guardians)  
**Capacity:** Limited to the first 16

For KIDS



### ② Two Types of SAKURAMOCCHI\*

**Target Children:** aged 4 & up (accompanied by a guardian for children in 2nd grade or younger)  
**Date:** 20/Mar. (Thu) 10:00-12:00  
**Location:** 6F Room 603,  
**Fee:** ¥1,200 (no fee for accompanying guardians)  
**Capacity:** Limited to the first 12

For KIDS



### ③ Senchado (Ogasawara-Ryu)

**Target:** 18 years or older  
**Dates:** 11/Apr., 9/May, 13/June, 11/July (All Fridays)  
**Time:** 13:00-15:00 **Location:** 6F Room 605  
**Fee:** ¥4,800 **Capacity:** Limited to the first 15



### ④ Community Building, Making Friends YOSAKOI Dance & Recreational Dance

Let's Build Health & Energy Together! Activities for Parents & Children to Enjoy

**Target:** Junior high school students and above (elementary school students can attend with companions)  
**Dates:** 19-26/Apr. 10-24/May 14-28/June (6 sessions in total) **Time:** 19:00-21:00  
**Location:** 7F Room 701 **Fee:** ¥2,400  
**Capacity:** Limited to the first 20



Please note that for items ③ and ④, registration will begin on February 20, as the event is scheduled for April. However, payment will be required in April.

## How about Walking with us?

◎ **Date:** Tue. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
◎ **Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center  
◎ **Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Course:** Aga School Zone Walk 4km

RAIN OUT!



Hiro Civic Center ~ Nijimura Bridge ~ Aga School Zone ~ Hiro Bridge ~ Hiro Civic Center

\*The event may be canceled or the course may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.  
\*Please sign up for recreational insurance at the reception.  
\*For inquiries, contact Mr. Hori at 080-1919-6088.

## Information from Hiro Library

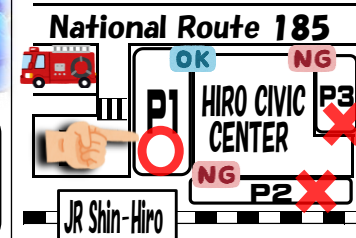
**Opening Hours:** 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM  
**Closed:** Thursdays & National holidays  
**February Closures**

**System updates:** Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> (Mon) - Feb 8<sup>th</sup> (Fri)  
**Thursdays:** 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>  
**National holidays:** 11<sup>th</sup> (Tue) & 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sun)  
**\*Babar's Picture Book Session**  
**Date & Time:** Feb 15<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 10:30AM-11:10 AM  
**Location:** Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 604



## Notice & Apology Regarding Air Conditioning Work & Parking Restrictions

From **Wed Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** to **Fri Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** 2025, Air Conditioning Work will be carried out in the 3F Hall and 1F Library. During this period, heating system will not be available in the hall and library. Additionally, from **Mon Jan 20<sup>th</sup>** to **Fri Jan 24<sup>th</sup>**, construction vehicles will be entering the premises for the work, and only "Parking Lot 1" will be available for parking. We anticipate congestion during this period and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We appreciate your understanding, thank you.





\* Sakuramochi is a traditional Japanese sweet. It's a yummy treat that many people in Japan eat while enjoying the beautiful flowers and celebrating the season!

## Information from HIRO Sports Association

### Results of the 65th Hiro Town Students Judo Match



**Date & Time:** Sun. Nov. 24, 2024 10:00 a.m. onwards  
**Venue:** Shishinyo Oak Arena(Kure City General Sports Center)

**[Preschool Division]**  
1st:**Ryoma Koh** (Hiro Judo Class) 2nd:**Koki Ishigaki** (Kodokan)  
3rd:**Keiichi Terakawa** (Kodokan) 3rd:**Sumika Terakawa** (Kodokan)  
3rd:**Tsumugi Tokumatsu** (Hiro Judo Class) 3rd:**Hirotake Uematsu** (Hiro Judo Class)  
3rd:**Mizuki Hora** (Kodokan) 1st:**Soichiro Nakaishi** (Kodokan)  
**[1st Grade Division]** 2nd:**Sota Shibasaki** (Kodokan)  
1st:**Yuto Shiota** (Kodokan) 3rd:**Arisa Kawashige** (Hiro Judo Class)  
2nd:**Tooya Ishii** (Hiro Judo Class) **[5th Grade Division]**  
3rd:**Takumi Sakimoto** (Hiro Judo Class) 1st:**Ryosei Yoshimoto** (Kodokan)  
**[2nd Grade Division]** 2nd:**Yuka Terakawa** (Kodokan)  
1st:**Saito Fujihara** (Hiro Judo Class) 3rd:**Takumi Ishigaki** (Kodokan)  
2nd:**Kanna Hora** (Kodokan) **[6th Grade Division]**  
3rd:**Hirotaka Demizu** (Hiro Judo Class) 1st:**Kiyoshiro Kamigaki** (Kure-Rensei)  
3rd:**Akane Kubo** (Kodokan) 2nd:**Ayumu Nakamura** (Kure-Rensei)  
**[3rd Grade Division]** 3rd:**Nana Shibasaki** (Kodokan)  
1st:**Yusei Nakashita** (Hiro Judo Class) 3rd:**Ryota Kubo** (Kodokan)

### Results of the 65th Hiro Town Citizens Kendo Match



**Date & Time:** Sun. Nov. 24, 2024 9:30 a.m. onwards  
**Venue:** Shishinyo Oak Arena (Kure City General Sports Center)

**[1st Grader Division]**  
1st:**Ouga Nakagome** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Hajime Yamaoka** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Mizuki Kado** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Hikaru Ikeda** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[2nd Grader Division]**  
1st:**Mikuto Yamaguchi** (Hiro Seikikai)  
2nd:**Toshiyuki Ishida** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[3rd Grader Division]**  
1st:**Ea Kihara** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Honoka Masumoto** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Soma Kawaguchi** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Genzo Tashiro** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[4th Grader Division]**  
1st:**Ryuko Kajiyama** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Haruse Kimura** (Hiro Seikikai)  
3rd:**Ruito Yamaguchi** (Hiro Seikikai)  
3rd:**Haruto Yamaoka** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
**[5th Grader Division]**  
1st:**Kayato Masumoto** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Atsuto Ikeda** (Hiro Seikikai)  
3rd:**Eru Tsukuda** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[6th Grader Division]**  
1st:**Yuushin Kihara** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Airuto Kajiyama** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Takumi Masuda** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Subaru Takechi** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
**[7th & 8th Grader Division]**  
1st:**Shoma Sato** (Hiro Seikikai)  
2nd:**Naoto Aihara** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Nobuhiro Shimono** (Hiro Seikikai)  
3rd:**Yuto Satomura** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[Girls Junior High Division]**  
1st:**Seiran Masumoto** (Hiro Seikikai)  
2nd:**Nene Wakasa** (Hiro Seikikai)  
3rd:**Rei Sakakita** (Hiro Seikikai)  
**[High School Division]**  
1st:**Kazuki Oyama** (Hiro Seikikai)  
2nd:**Sosuke Ogata** (Kuresho H. S.)  
3rd:**Raimu Yashio** (Kuresho H. S.)  
**[Open Division]**  
1st:**Takashi Matsumura** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
2nd:**Kazuya Ishida** (Hiro Kenseikai)  
3rd:**Takashi Kihara** (Fire Department)  
3rd:**Masayuki Sakakita** (Hiro Seikikai)

## Application for Regular Course in 2025

### List of Regular Courses 2025 at Hiro C. D. Center

Course Name	Course Frequency	Time	Instructor
☆Children (from 4 to 6 years old)			
1 Kids Dance	2nd & 4th Saturdays	10:00~	Emi Hatasaka
☆ Children (from 4 to 12 years old)			
1 Classical Ballet	4/a month, Tuesdays	18:00~	Yukie Furue
☆Adults(General)			
1 Healthy Hula	1st & 3rd Mondays	10:00~	Kazue Minami
2 Calligraphy	4/a month, Tuesdays	9:30~	Kofu Shmizu
3 Calligraphy	4/a month, Tuesdays	18:00~	Sofu Iwata
4 Calligraphy	4/a month, Thursdays	9:30~	Enpu Matsuoka
5 Tea Ceremony (Urasenke)	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	9:30~	Sugako Nakano
6 Japanese Dance (Fujima)	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	13:00~	Rishou Fujima
7 Painting (oil, watercolor, pastel)	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	18:00~	Mitsuru Nakashio
8 Japanese Painting(4-hour course)	1st & 3rd Thursdays	13:00~	Shuncho Hirata
9 Haiku	2nd Thursdays	10:00~	Yuriko Ishimoto
10 3B Exercise	4/a month Thursdays	9:30~	Miyori Fuji
11 Tai Chi	4/a month Thursdays	13:00~	Miki Kurushima
12 Let's Learn Chinese!	4/a month Thursdays	18:00~	Takashi Aimoto
13 Go(Igo)	4/a month Thursdays	18:00~	Yoshiki Adachi
14 Vegetable Smoothie for Gut Health Cooking	2nd & 4th Fridays	10:00~	Nozomi Okamura
15 Yoga 1	4/a month Fridays	9:00~	Miyuki Tamai
16 Yoga 2	4/a month Fridays	11:00~	Miyuki Tamai
17 W Stimulus: Brain & Foot Reflexology	3/a month Mondays	10:00~	Mitsue Yabuki
☆Women			
1 Flower Arrangement (Saga Goryu)	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	9:30~	Yuho Motonaka
2 Table Tennis 1	4/a month, Wednesdays	10:00~	Mayumi Omosako
3 Table Tennis 2	4/a month, Wednesdays	13:00~	Mayumi Omosako
4 Gentle Aerobics	4/a month, Tuesdays	19:00~	Naoko Oda
5 Flower Arrangement (Ikenobo)	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	9:30~	Sugako Nakano
6 Easy Western-style Sewing (Basics)	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9:30~	Shihomi Hamaguchi
7 Let's Enjoy Japanese Culture!	1st & 3rd Thursdays	10:00~	Yuko Aida
8 Introduction to Kimono Dressin	1st & 3rd Thursdays	13:30~	Fumiyo Takeda
9 Relaxing Ballet Stretching	1st & 3rd Fridays	14:00~	Mariko Ebisu
☆Elderly (60 years and older)			
1 Silver Cheerful Exercise 1	4/a month, Tuesdays	13:30~	Ayako Watanabe
2 Silver Cheerful Exercise 2	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	10:00~	Ayako Watanabe
3 Lively Health Exercise:	4/a month, Thursdays	10:00~	Mitsue Yabuki

We are pleased to announce the schedule for next year's regular courses. Detailed information about each course will be included in the application guidelines, set to be published in early February.

Application Period and Process

#### ○Priority Enrollment:

**Date & Time:** Saturday, March 1st, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Eligibility:** Open only to those who did not take the same course last year, including mid-year enrollees.

#### ○General Enrollment:

**Date & Time:** Sunday, March 2nd, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Please note that applications are not processed on a first-come, first-served basis for both priority and general enrollment. Selection Process If the number of applications exceeds the course capacity, participants will be selected by lottery. The lottery will be conducted after the application period closes at 5:00 PM.

**Only those who are not selected will be notified.** If you do not receive a notification, you are enrolled the course.



## Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

### 'Let's Talk About what you want to do & about Kure City.'

Interested in getting more involved in your community?

If you have ideas or are unsure where to start, why not share your thoughts? Talking it through might help you find a new perspective or clue. This casual discussion session is open to everyone, so we encourage you to join us.

**Date and Time:** Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Fri, 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Note:** You are welcome to join late or leave early.

**Location:** Hiro Collaborative Center (Hiro Civic Center, 4F)

**Eligibility:** Open to Kure residents

**Participation Fee:** Free No Registration Required

**Inquiries:** Kure Collaborative Center

**Operating Hours:** Tue to Sat, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM;

Sunday and public holidays, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Closed on Mondays;**closed on the following day after a public holiday.



## Correction of Article Content in the Jan Issue Koho-Hiro



### 71st Kure City Sports Festival Results (Hiro)

**1st Place:** Overall Scores for All Competition, Men's & Women's T&F, Men's T&F, Women's T&F, Softball Block I, Table Tennis, Tennis, Golf  
**2nd Place:** Badminton, Bowling  
**3rd Place:** Basketball, Kyudo  
**4th Place:** Kendo  
**Cancelled:** Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Handball

**Correction and Apology:** In January issue of our news letter, Koho Hiro, under the section "Results of the 71st Kure City Sports Festival (Hiro District)," it was incorrectly stated that the "Kendo" event placed 4th. The correct position is **3rd**. We apologize for the error and offer this correction.

## Editorial Note~Enduring Snow, Plum Blossom Beautiful~

The phrase "Enduring the snow, the plum blossom is beautiful" is a reflection of the philosophy and worldview of Saigo Takamori. It likens the plum blossom, which blooms after enduring the harsh winter cold, to the idea that true beauty and value are found only after overcoming difficulties.

It is a well-known story that former **Hiroshima Toyo Carp** pitcher **Hiroki Kuroda** had **Kuroda's** personal motto printed on matching T-shirts worn by his teammates during the post-game ceremony following his 200th career win in Japan and the U.S. on July 23, 2016, in a game against **Hanshin Tigers** at **Mazda Stadium**. Translate the following English sentences into Japanese as a native Japanese speaker would say them. This phrase is one I would offer as encouragement to those who have been working tirelessly for a long time, those relentlessly pursuing their goals, and those who continue to move forward with mental strength and perseverance in the face of adversity.

**We are closed on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

Hiroki Kuroda was a standout pitcher in Major League Baseball in the United States, and later returned to play for his former team, the Hiroshima Carp, to close out his career.