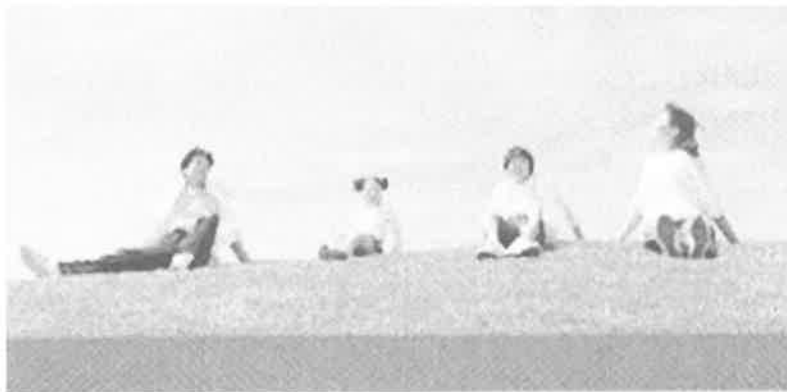


# THE OSMONET

March 2024 (Vol.320)

*The following articles are taken mainly from "Koho Ashiya" – the bulletin of Ashiya City (March issue). It is, of course, a Japanese edition, and translated into English by a voluntary group from the Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association.*

*Please understand that some phone numbers listed under the various events are staffed by people who may not speak English.*



## - Making Ashiya an easy city to raise children

In order to support the healthy growth of all children who will lead Ashiya in the future. Subsidy for children's medical expenses will be extended to high school students from July 2024. The number of those eligible for support will be greatly expanded, about 2.1 times the previous number. We need the cooperation of all citizens to promote this system. To maintain pediatric medical care system and prevent the increase of medical cost, we ask that you see a doctor only when necessary. We will continue our efforts to create an environment where people can raise their children free from worry.

Takashima Ryosuke, Mayor

## Subsidies for Medical Expenses for Infants and Children

- Income limit will be eliminated and extended to high school students -

Until June 30, the subsidy is available to third-year junior high school students below the income standard. There is no income limit for zero year olds.

Those who are newly eligible for this scheme.

- 1 year old to junior high school students above the income standard. From the month following the first birthday to the third year of junior high school students.
- High school Students



Those who are from aged 15 on April 1<sup>st</sup> to those aged 18 on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Attendance at high school is not required.

- ◇ **Income limit:** There is no income limit.
  - ※ Those above the income standard and high school students are charged a partial copayment for outpatient services.
- ◇ **Application:** Application is required for those eligible. Application forms will be sent about the middle of March. Please submit the application documents in the application period (until April 22).
- ◇ **Subsidies are available for outpatient and inpatient medical expenses from July.**
  - ※ The following are not covered by subsidies.
    - Expenses not covered by health insurance (medical examination, preventive inoculation, dietary treatment expenses at the time of hospitalization)
    - Eligible for the Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit System by Japan Sport Council.

This system cannot be used at the counter when you visit medical institutions outside of the prefecture, however, you can apply for refund later. In this case, the original receipt is required.

### If you have a concern for your child's symptoms

Children's Medical Consultation Service set up by Hyogo Prefecture is available.

**# 8000 or 078-304-8899**

Weekdays and Saturdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Sundays and National Holidays: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

It would be good to register these phone numbers in your cell phone in advance.



## Request for Proper Consultation at Medical Institutions and Pharmacies

-4 points to maintain the welfare medical expense subsidy system -

### ① Review your holiday and evening consultations

Emergency medical institutions that are open on holidays and during the night receive emergency patients. A surcharge is added for medical services on holidays and at night. If you are planning to see a doctor on a holiday or at night, consider whether you can see a doctor on a weekday.



### ② Bring your medication handbook and be careful to take too much medicine.



If you have surplus medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist. By keeping a medication handbook, you can prevent side effect caused by duplicate or unfavorable combination of medications even if you change the medical institution.

### ③ Make use of generic drug.

Generic drugs are recognized by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare as having the same active ingredients and efficacy as new drugs. Development cost is kept low, which helps control medical costs.



### ④ Have a family doctor to consult about your concerns.



A family doctor who is familiar with your daily condition, will be more likely to notice even the slightest change in your health. This makes it possible to prevent illness and detect a disease in its early stages or early treatment.

Inquiries: Community Welfare Section (Phone: 0797-38-2076)

## Monthly First-Aid Training Class

- ◇ Date and Time: Sun., March 24                      9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- ◇ Place: Main Fire Department
- ◇ Contents: AED cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency aids
- ◇ Capacity: 20 people
- ◇ Eligibility: Those who live, work, and study in Ashiya  
                  ※Certificates will be given to participants.
- ◇ Application: Contact us at 2D code on the official website,  
                  or at the number below by 5:30 p.m. on March 22.



Inquiries: Fire Department Headquarters, Emergency Section (Phone: 0797-32-2345)



— Ashiya Municipal Hospital —

**Let us Introduce our Pediatric Department** (abridged)



We are working at the only inpatient medical facility for children in Ashiya city. We work in collaboration with local clinics, and wish for good health and a bright future for children !

■ Inquiries: Ashiya Municipal Hospital (Phone: 0797-31-2156) (39-1 Asahigaoka-cho)

★ **Inpatient care is possible**

This is the only pediatrics in Ashiya city that can provide inpatient care. A small-scale pediatrics with only two full-time doctors. As a consultation window for child disease, we are piloting diagnosis, treatment, etc.




Dr.Isono (left) and Dr.Morita (right)

■ **Outpatient care**

- General outpatient (Reservation unnecessary): Weekday morning and Tue./Thu. afternoon
- Specialized outpatient (Reservation required):

Various specialized outpatients are scheduled in afternoon as follows:

<p><b><u>Outpatient Neurology</u></b> The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Consultation and examination on development or neurological disorder such as Epilepsv. etc.</p>	<p><b><u>Outpatient Nephrology</u></b> Monday and Tuesday Consultation and Examination on Urinary abnormalities, Bed-wetting, etc.</p>
<p><b><u>Outpatient Allergy</u></b> Friday Consultation and Examination on Asthma, Atopic dermatitis, Food allergy, etc.</p>	<p><b><u>Immunization</u></b> Mon., Wed. and Friday Only on Wednesday for Influenza vaccination</p> 

\* Counseling for pediatric psychology is also scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoon.

■ **Be careful in these situations** (abridged):

- Temperature of 38°C and above for a baby under 3 months or fever lasting more than 5 days → High risk of serious disease or bacterial infection
- Frequent vomiting, especially unable to take liquids → Possibility of dehydration
- Convulsion associated with fever (especially in the case of the first time) → It is necessary to know whether it is serious condition.
- Wheezing and breathing with shoulders and stomach → Possible respiratory failure
- Pale and Limp → Possibly poor in general condition.
- Baby's bloody feces, especially with vomiting when the baby is upset → Possible intestinal congestion



■ **Doctor's advice for a smooth medical examination** (Outline)

- (1) Usually consult well your family physician about disease or care.
- (2) A child, and even if a junior high student, should be accompanied to a hospital or clinic by an adult who knows the child well.
- (3) If you find your child unwell, take him/her to see a doctor as soon as possible.

If you are not sure whether you should see a doctor soon or not, please call **Pediatric Emergency Consultation (#8000)** or use the 2D code written on the right which will lead you to the webpage of Japan Pediatric Society.



## City Planning Meeting 2023 Report

The annual City Planning Meeting was held on November 10, 2023 arranged by Federation of Ashiya Neighborhood Association. 41 citizens attended the meeting and exchanged opinions and made suggestions on issues selected beforehand. Further details are available at Community Union's website.

Major issues: School and community relations

School-commuting roads and traffic rules

Non-attendance at school

Review of elementary school districts

Improvement of restrooms at parks



### <Questions and Answers>

**Q:** I would like a general overview of the School Management Council.

**A:** The School Management Council is an organizational structure that links school education, home education and social education. Committee members from each community are to participate and to share their ideas on how to raise children and what kind of school they want to be.

**Q:** It is necessary to take care of children who have stopped attending school. I think it is also necessary to take care of their mothers. Is there a place where mothers can ask for advice?

**A:** Consultation with the homeroom teacher, school nurse, school counselor at each school and school social worker are available on consultation days. We can connect you to the place you need to go, so please contact us first if you have any concerns. If a parent or guardian cannot go for a consultation, we ask for the cooperation of the community members to go and talk to them or consult on their behalf.

Inquiries: Federation of Ashiya Neighborhood Association  
c/o Promotion of Citizen Participation and Collaboration Office (Phone: 0797-38-2007)

## The 67<sup>th</sup> Ashiya City Exhibition

The "Audience Award" will be voted on by visitors.

✧ Term: March 5 - 24

✧ Critique Session: Photo - March 10 (Sun.) 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
Plain Figures - March 17 (Sun.) 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Inquiries: Museum of Art and History (Phone: 0797-38-5432)





## Victims of Bank-transfer Fraud are on the Rise

The number of cases and amount of financial damage from bank-transfer fraud in Ashiya city

Year	Numbers of cases recognized	Amount of damage (approximately)
2021	37 cases	42,860,000 yen
2022	38 cases	76,830,000 yen
2023	39 cases	51,540,000 yen

(\* Amounts in 2023: Preliminary figures)



Incoming calls to the landline phone at home are the trigger for the bank-transfer fraud in many cases. Take measures against crimes on the landline phone at your home !

- Telephones with security features / Setting of answer phone / Usage of Number display
- Also be careful of international phone number (numbers beginning with +1, +44, etc.)

Subsidy (up to 10,000 yen) will start from April for Ashiya citizens, 65 years and up, who purchased a telephone with “Automatic recording function” or “Automatic warning function before incoming call” on or after December 13, 2023.

Details will be given in Koho Ashiya (April issue) and on City’s webpage.



\* Not applicable for purchase using HABATAN Pay + or purchase on flea market site, etc.

■ Inquiries: Roads and Parks Section (Phone: 0797-38-2480)

### Opening Events at Renovated UCHIBUN

Uchide Educational and Cultural Center, Uchide Branch Library and Uchide Park will reopen in April with the nickname of *UCHIBUN*, after the renovation work done to create a familiar space for community gathering.

- Date and Time: Sun., March 31, 10:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
- Place/Content: *UCHIBUN* / Stage performance, Coffee tasting, etc.
- Inquiries: Promotion of DX Administrative Reform Section (Phone: 0797-38-2172)

### Water Color Painting Trial Class

- Date/Time Tue., March 26
  - (1) 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (2) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (3) 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Content: (1) / (3) Mt. Fuji snowy view
  - (2) Lower graders: Image painting with crayons or water colors
  - Higher graders: Preparatory drawing with pencils and water colors
- Eligibility/Capacity: (1) 18 years old and up (2) Elementary school students
  - (3) Junior high school students and up / 8 persons for each of (1), (2) and (3)
- Cost: 1,500 yen (Lending available, 2,200 yen / Lending unavailable for (2) )
- Place /Application / Inquiries: Gymnasium and Youth Center (Phone: 0797-31-8228)





**- For Those Who Have a Light Vehicle or a Moped-  
Procedure of Light Vehicle Tax**

Light vehicle tax is imposed on any person who has a light vehicle (including a moped) on April 1 of each year. If you have scrapped, handed over the vehicle, had it stolen or if you move from Ashiya City or leave Japan, you are required to go through the cancellation procedure at the places written below. (If you leave your registration intact, you will be taxed continuously.)

\* Furthermore, even if you cancel a light vehicle halfway through the fiscal year, there is no refund system.

Class	Place for cancellation procedure
[Ashiya city number] Moped 125 cc or smaller / Small special car / Minicar / Specific small Moped	Management Subsection, Taxation Section Counter No.30 2F City Hall North Wing, 7-6 Seido-cho, Ashiya city 659-8501 (Phone: 0797-38-2015)
[Kobe number] Two-wheeled light vehicle over 125 cc and under 250 cc / Two-wheeled small car over 250 cc	Kobe Transportation Comptroller Division 34-2 Uozaki-Hama-cho, Higashinada-ku, Kobe City 658-0024 (Phone: 050-5540-2066)
[Kobe number] Light vehicle (with three or four wheels)	Hyogo Office of Light Vehicle Inspection Society 1-5-5 Mikage-Honmachi, Higashinada-ku, Kobe City 658-0046 (Phone: 050-3816-1847)

■ Inquiries: Taxation Section (Phone: 0797-38-2015)

**High-priced Nursing /Medical Care Cost Totaling System**

This is a system to lighten the burden of households where copayment (cost of individual payment) of both medical and nursing care insurance becomes expensive.



- ◆ Eligibility: Households whose total copayment of medical and nursing care insurance between Aug. 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023 becomes expensive, and who were insured by National Health Insurance/Medical Care for the Elderly at the time July 31, 2023.
- ◆ How to Apply: Information and application forms will be sent to the eligible households in mid-March. When you receive it, be sure to complete the application form and mail it back.

<For those eligible who have not received the information >

Those who changed insurance during the eligible period may not have received the information. Please ask the medical insurance you had been insured during the eligible period.

- ◆ Inquiries: Insurance Subsection, Insurance Section (Phone: 0797-38-2035)  
Medical Care for the Elderly Subsection (Phone: 0797-38-2037)



## Notify the Citizens' Section at House-Moving



### [Those who move out of Ashiya city]

Make a moving-out notification at the Citizens' Section before moving out.

\* Notification of moving-out through mailing or Myna Portal is admitted.

### [Those who move within Ashiya city]

Make a notification of moving within 14 days from the day you start living at your new address.

### [Those who move into Ashiya city]

Make a moving-in notification together with moving-out certificate within 14 days from the day you start living in Ashiya. (My Number Card is necessary for special moving-in.)

\* Together with the moving-in or address change, you should change the address of the following cards or certificate.

My Number Card (Individual Number Card) / Basic Resident Register Card / Residence Card / Special Permanent Resident Certificate.

■ Inquiries: Citizens' Section (Phone: 0797-38-2119)



**New Name for Gymnasium and Youth Center / Kawanishi Sports Ground:  
"SHINKO SPORTS Gymnasium and Youth Center" /  
"SHINKO SPORTS Ground"**

SHINKO SPORTS CO. LTD. (Hyogo Branch) has been chosen as the naming partner for the both facilities.

The new name of the facilities from April 1 will be:

**"SHINKO SPORTS Gymnasium and Youth Center"**

**"SHINKO SPORTS Ground"**

Please refer to City's webpage for details.

□ Inquiries: Promotion of DX Administrative Reform Section  
(Phone: 0797-38-2172)



## Hyogo Pref. Citizens'

### "Cheers for Kobelco Kobe Steelers Official Match" Day



Why not watch the game against Hanazono Kintetsu Liners of NTT Japan Rugby League One in the free seating area ?

- ◆ Date/Time: Sun., March 24 2:30 p.m. ~
- ◆ Place: *Universiade* Memorial Stadium, Kobe Sports Park (Suma Ward, Kobe city)
- ◆ Capacity: 4,000 persons (Selected through Lottery)
- ◆ Spectator Fee: 150 yen (excluding other charges, which will be collected separately)
- ◆ Application: Apply by Sun., March 10 using the 2-Dimension code  
(Up to 10 people can apply for one unit.)
- ◆ Inquiries: Sports Promotion Section, Hyogo Pref.

(Phone: 078-362-9438 / Fax: 078-362-4022)





## Relief Benefit Focused on Surging Energy and Food Costs

(電力・ガス・食料品等価格高騰重点支援給付金 *denryoku gasu shokuryohin-to kakaku koto jutten shien kyufu-kin*)

**《Application Deadline: Fri., March 29, 2024》**

- ◇ **Eligibility:** Households that are registered as residents in Ashiya City as of the base date (December 1, 2023) and all members of the household are exempt from resident tax (per capita basis) for the 2023 fiscal year. However, households where all members are dependents under the tax law of a person who is subject to resident tax are not eligible.
- ※ If you are in evacuation from domestic violence or similar circumstances, please contact us.
- ◇ **Payment Amount:** 70,000 yen per household
- ◇ **Application:** Information regarding the relief benefit is being sent to eligible households. When you receive the confirmation letter and application form, please fill out the required information and return them by the deadline.
- ◇ **Inquiries:** *Rinji Kyufu-kin Tanto*, Community Welfare Section  
Mail to: 〒659-8501 (no address necessary)  
Call Center: 0797-38-2053 (weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)



## Relief Benefit Focused on Soaring Cost of Living

(物価高騰重点支援給付金 *bukka koto jutten shien kyufu-kin*)

In light of the increased burden caused by soaring prices, relief benefits will be provided to households that are only taxed for residential tax on a per capita basis and to low-income households with children under the age of 18.

### ◇ Relief Benefits:

- ① Benefits for households taxed only on per capita levy of resident tax
- ② Benefits for households with children under the age of 18

※ For details, please refer to the Ashiya City website.

### ◇ Eligibility:

- For both ① and ②: Registered residents of Ashiya City as of the base date (December 1, 2023)

- ① Households taxed only on per capita levy of resident tax for the fiscal year 2023
- ② Households with children under the age of 18 among the recipients of households ① or households exempt from resident tax

※ If you are in evacuation from domestic violence or similar circumstances, please contact us.

### ◇ Payment Amount:

- ① 100,000 yen per household                      ② 50,000 yen per child

◇ **Application:** For both ① and ②, information regarding the relief benefit is being sent to eligible households. When you receive the confirmation letter and application form, please fill out the required information and return them by the deadline.

- ◇ **Inquiries:** *Rinji Kyufu-kin Tanto*, Community Welfare Section  
Mail to: 〒659-8501 (no address necessary)  
Call Center: 0797-38-2053 (weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)



## File your Tax Return Early

Deadlines for filing and paying taxes are as below.

▶ Income Tax and Gift Tax: Fri., March 15, 2024

▶ Consumption Tax: Mon., April 1, 2024

※ Please note that the tax office will not be sending any kind of tax payment notifications.

◇ **Inquiries:** Telephone Consultation Center (Phone: 0570-00-5901)

Ashiya Tax Office (Phone: 0798-31-2131)



## Tax Payments at Financial Institutions

Starting April 1, 2024, Mitsubishi UFJ Bank and Mizuho Bank will no longer accept over-the-counter in-person payments with Ashiya City tax payment slips.

However, other payment methods will continue to be accepted such as bank transfers (please refer to individual notices for details) and using tax payment slips with a unified local tax 2-dimensional code.

For a list of financial institutions where payments can be made, please visit the Ashiya City website.



◇ **Inquiries:** Accounting Section

(Phone: 0798-38-2002)

## Request from the Kobe District Transport Bureau

Please complete the inspection and registration procedures for your vehicle by the middle of March, when it is relatively less crowded. Periodic inspections can be scheduled starting one month before the expiration date of the vehicle inspection certificate.

Internet Reservation System for Vehicle Inspections



◇ **Inquiries:** Hyogo Land Transport Department, Kobe District Transport Bureau

(Phone: 050-5540-2066)

## Drop Box for Illicit Publications

White Post or “Shiro Post” (白ポスト) drop boxes are available at six locations in the city for the disposal of adult content magazines, DVDs, etc.

- ◇ **Place:**
- ① Northern premises of City Hall
  - ② South side of JR Ashiya Station
  - ③ North side of JR Ashiya Station (2nd-floor pedestrian deck)
  - ④ North side of Hanshin Uchide Station
  - ⑤ East side of Gourmet City Ashiya-hama (north of the bus stop)
  - ⑥ North open space of Hankyu Ashiyagawa Station



◇ **Inquiries:** Youth Protection Center

(Phone: 0797-31-8229)



## Doctors on Call for Emergencies on Sundays and Holidays



● Evening Medical Care Rotation *8:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m. on Friday		
March 1	Ueda Internal Medicine Clinic (Internal Medicine)	☎ 0797-34-1878
March 8	Matsuba Clinic (Internal Medicine)	☎ 0797-22-1641
March 15	Ashiya St. Maria Clinic (Surgery/Internal Medicine/Orthopedics)	☎ 0797-23-1771
March 22	Otani Orthopedics & Eye Clinic (Orthopedics)	☎ 0797-34-7077
March 29	Sawada Clinic (Internal Medicine)	☎ 0797-23-7117

- Be sure to wear a mask when you visit a doctor or a hospital.
- First make a call when you have a fever.

■ Emergency Relief Center ☎ #7119 (24/7) ※IPS Phone: 078-331-7119

■ Designated Emergency Hospital

Ashiya Municipal Hospital (Surgery/Internal Medicine) ☎ 0797-31-2156

Minami-Ashiyahama Hospital (Surgery/Internal Medicine) ☎ 0797-22-4040

Ashiya St. Maria Hospital (Orthopedics/Surgery/Internal Medicine) ☎ 0797-23-1771

■ Holiday Emergency Clinic (Internal Medicine/Pediatrics) ☎ 0797-21-2782

(5-13 Kimmitsu-cho, Ashiya City) (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. on Sundays, public holidays, during the year-end and New Year's holidays)

■ Amagasaki Health Medical Care Foundation Holiday/Night Emergency Medical Care (Ear, Nose and Throat) ☎ 06-6436-8701

(3-15-20 Mizudo-cho, Amagasaki City)

(9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. on Sundays and public holidays / 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. on Saturdays)

(9:00 a.m.–5:30 a.m. the next morning during the year-end and New Year's holidays)

■ Amagasaki Health Medical Care Foundation Holiday/Night Emergency Medical Care (Ophthalmology–Eye Department) ☎ 06-6436-8701

(3-15-20 Mizudo-cho, Amagasaki City)

(9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. on Sundays and public holidays)

(9:00 a.m.–5:30 a.m. the next morning during the year-end and New Year's holidays)

■ Kobe Children's Primary Emergency Medical Center (Pediatrics) ☎ 078-891-3999  
(In HAT Kobe)

Consultation Days	Reception Hours
Monday–Friday	7:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m. the next morning
Saturday	2:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m. the next morning
Sunday & public holiday The year-end/New Year's holidays	8:30 a.m.–6:30 a.m. the next morning

■ **Dental Center** (14-9 Kurekawa-cho, Ashiya City) ☎ **0797-31-0658**  
(9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on Sundays, public holidays, during the year-end/New Year's holidays)

### Ashiya Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Festival

- ◆ **Date and Time:** Sun., April 7 10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Place:** Ashiyagawa River east side road (Taisho Bridge~Narihira Bridge),  
Matsunouchi Green Space
- ◆ **Content:** Stalls, Special stage in Matsunouchi Green Space, Light-up of cherry blossoms from sunset (late March to early April (planned))



※ We are looking for volunteers who can help with cleaning, etc. on the day.

• **Application:** Go to the 2D code on the right.

• **Inquiries regarding volunteering:** *Leed Ashiya* (Phone: 0797-26-6452)



- ◆ **Inquiries:** **Ashiya Sakura Festival Council Secretariat (Promotion of Citizen Participation and Collaboration Section)** (Phone: 0797-38-2007)

### Oyako (Parent and Child) Hiroba “さんさんひろば”

- Date and Time:** Starting from April 16, April 18 10:30-11:40 a.m. (held once a week)
- Place:** Municipal Kindergartens
- 【Tue. Class.】** Kozuchi Kindergarten, Nishiyama Kindergarten
- 【Thu. Class.】** Miyagawa Kindergarten, Iwazono Kindergarten, Shiomi Kindergarten
- Eligibility:** 3-year-olds and their guardians
- Inquiries:** **Health and Safety/Special Support Education Section**  
(Phone: 0797-38-2144)



### We Are Accepting Donations for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

We are collecting donations to support those affected by the disaster. We would appreciate your generous support.

■ **Donation period:** Tue., April 30

#### **【Donation Box Locations】**

Main Office North Wing Reception, Community Welfare Section, Citizens' Activity Center (*Leed Ashiya*), Gymnasium and Youth Center, Ashiya Municipal Hospital, Laporte Citizens' Service Corner, Health and Welfare Center, Ashiya citizens' Center, Main Municipal Library, Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center, Museum of Art and History, Tanizaki Junichiro Memorial Museum of Literature

※ Receipts cannot be issued for donations made to our donation boxes.

■ **Inquiries:** **2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Hyogo Prefecture Donation Collection Committee Secretariat:** (Phone: 078-362-9814)  
**Community Welfare Section:** (0797-38-2153)

## Information about the COVID-19 Vaccination (As of Feb. 16)



Temporary vaccinations for COVID-19 (free of charge) will end at the end of March, 2024. Please consider receiving vaccination as soon as possible.

※The COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness in preventing severe disease has been reported to last for more than a year. The main purpose of the vaccinations starting in the fall of 2023 and the regular vaccinations starting in 2024 is to prevent the disease from becoming more serious.

### Vaccination Starting in Autumn 2023

Vaccinations will end on March 31, 2024.

■Period: Sept. 20, 2023–March 31, 2024 ※Once per person during the period

### The Initial Vaccinations

Vaccinations will end on March 31, 2024.

### Medical institutions that offer vaccination services

Reservations are now being accepted at the following medical institutions.

- ▶ **For those aged 12 and over:** Ashiya St. Maria Clinic
- ▶ **For children aged 11 and under:** Medical institutions that can offer vaccinations for children and infants

※ Please check the city's website for medical institutions that can offer vaccinations for children and infants.

※ The vaccination rollout period is until Sun., March 31, 2024, but be careful of different opening times of medical institutions, etc. If you are considering receiving vaccination, please contact your medical institutions as soon as possible.

### Vaccinations in FY 2024

Vaccinations fully funded by public funds will end on March 31, 2024, and vaccinations starting in and after April, 2024 will in principle require a fee.

#### ■Regular Vaccination

※The following is current information at this time. Details will be given on the city's website and newsletter as soon as they are finalized.

Starting in 2024, the COVID-19 vaccine will be subject to regular vaccinations.

【Purpose】 Prevention of severe symptoms

【Target Persons】・People aged 65 or older

・People who are between 60 and 64 years old and meet the following medical conditions

※Those aged 60–64 who have heart, kidney, or respiratory dysfunction that severely restricts their daily activities, and who have a disorder in the immune system due to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and are almost unable to carry out daily activities.

【Vaccination Period】 Autumn and winter

【Cost】 Partial self-payment required

## ■ Voluntary Vaccination

Those who wish to receive vaccination other than regular vaccination after April 1, 2024 can receive the vaccination as a voluntary vaccination.

【Cost】 Full self-payment

■ Inquiries: Section in charge of the Covid-19 vaccine (Phone: 0797-31-0655)

Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (excluding 12:00 noon to 0:45)

## Vaccinations for Children Week: March 1-7

Vaccinations can prevent serious diseases and save the lives of children, so make sure to get your children inoculated.

■ What to bring: The Maternal and Child Health Handbook

■ Where to apply: Medical institutions in Ashiya City

■ Inquiries: Children and Family Health Center (Phone: 0797-31-1586)



## Let's Cook and Eat International Food (China Edition)

□ Date & Time: Mon., March 18 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

□ Place: Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center, Cooking Room

□ Menu: Seaweed soup with scallops, Chinese-style stir-fried mushrooms, Stir-fried broccoli with oyster sauce, Seafood grilled rice noodles and spring rolls with sweetened red beans

□ Instructor: Ms. Jianwei Wu from China

□ Capacity & Fee: 25 people/2,800 yen (reservation required)

\* Cancellation fee will be charged from March 12.

□ What to bring: Dish cloth, apron, mask, triangular kerchief, writing utensils

□ Application: Apply by email no later than Sun. March 10.

※ If there are too many applications, a lottery will be held.

□ Inquiries: Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center (Phone: 0797-25-0511)

E-mail: [cooking-aca@npo-aca.jp](mailto:cooking-aca@npo-aca.jp)



## Citizens' Trekking

■ Date and Time: Sun., March 10 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Will be carried out in small rain.)

■ Meeting Place: In front of ticket gate of JR Ashiya Station

■ Course: Kami-kiryu bus stop → Kitamine Traverse branch → Tengu-iwa Rock → Shiraishi Pass → Ryuoizan → Rindo (Forest road) Komasa Junction → Kami-Kiryu bus stop → (by bus) JR Kusatsu Station (Disperse)

■ Cost: 500 yen (excluding transportation expenses) ■ What to bring: Lunch, Rain wear, etc.

■ Application: Call by Sat., March 9. (Phone: 0797-32-6999)

■ Inquiries: Ashiya Mountaineering Society (Phone: 0797-38-5255)



## Ashiya School Lunch Recipes

### ■ Curry Udon

#### □ Ingredients (Serves 4)

400 g *udon* noodles  
80 g thinly sliced beef  
200 g onion  
60 g carrot  
20 g green onions (garnish)  
40 g *hiraten* (flat fish cake)  
900 ml Japanese *dashi* broth

#### ► For the Curry Roux

3 Tbsp+1 tsp flour  
25 g butter  
2 tsp curry powder  
1 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> dark-colored *koikuchi*  
soy sauce  
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp salt



#### □ Directions:

1. Slice the onion into 5 mm thick slices, cut the carrot into bar rectangles, chop the green onions into 5 mm pieces, and cut the flat *hiraten* fish cakes in half and then into 5 mm wide strips.
2. Add the carrots and onions to the *dashi* broth and cook until softened. Add the beef and fish cake and simmer.
3. Prepare the roux. Heat butter in a frying pan and when it starts to melt, add flour. Heat over low heat until the mixture turns light brown, then remove from heat.
4. Add seasonings to the roux and mix well.
5. Add some of the broth from step 2, a little at a time, mixing well until thickened and smooth.
6. Add the curry roux from step 5 to the broth with meat and vegetables from step 2 and season to taste.
7. Simmer for a while.
8. Heat the *udon* noodles, place them in serving bowls, pour over the curry from step 7, and garnish with chopped green onions. Serve hot.



## Seeking Volunteer Fire Corps

- ◇ **Responsibilities:** Periodic training and drills, duties in times of disaster, public relations work, and instructing disaster prevention and preparedness drills, etc.
- ◇ **Qualification:** 18 to 49-year-olds living or working in Ashiya City.
- ◇ **Compensation:** Pay according to city ordinance, allowances for disaster response and training, uniform rentals, and occupational accident compensation.
- ◇ **Inquiries:** General Affairs Section, Fire Department Headquarters



(Phone: 0797-38-2095)

## ♪ Concert at Entrance Hall, Welfare Center, Part 126 ♪

- ◇ Date and Time: Sun., March 24 2:00 p.m. ~
- ◇ Place: Health and Welfare Center
- ◇ Program: Etude Op.10 No.3: for the left hand alone by Chopin=  
Godowsky Nocturne for the left hand by Scriabin, etc.
- ◇ Performer: Maeda Miwa piano
- ◇ Application: Please come to the venue on the day



Inquiries and Mailing address: Welfare Center (Phone: 0797-31-0612)  
〒659-0051 Kurekawa-cho 14-9



## ♪ Kominkan Concert ♪

- Sound of the forest, sound of human life - Tidings from Poland

- ◇ Date and Time: Saturday May 11 2:00 p.m. The door opens at 1:30 p.m.
- ◇ Place: Citizens' Center, music room
- ◇ Capacity: 100 people
- ◇ Program: Scherzo No.4 Op.54 by Chopin,  
Les Roses et les Epines, by Juliusz Zarebski  
Earth by Muramastu Takatsugu, etc.
- ◇ Performers: Minatoya Ayumi, piano, Yoshimura Maiko, flute
- ◇ Fee: 500 yen
- ◇ Application: Please apply by a reply-paid postcard, 2D code,  
or E-mail [kouminkan-tenji@outlook.jp](mailto:kouminkan-tenji@outlook.jp) with your name, address, and phone  
number and the number of participants ( up to two) no later than April 19 ( Fri.)



Inquiries: Citizens' Center, In charge of May 11 Concert (Phone: 0797-35-0700)  
〒659-0068 Narihira-cho 8-24

## When repainting the exterior wall

Application is required when repainting the exterior wall. The entire Ashiya City is designated as the Ashiya Landscape District or the Ashiyagawa River Landscape District.



In order to preserve a good landscape, color standard for the exterior walls and roofs of a detached house have been established. To repaint the exterior walls as remodeling, inspection is also required. It takes about one week to complete the examination. No fee is required.

Inquiries: Town Development Division (Phone: 0797-38-2109)



**Kominkan Gallery**  
**Exhibition of Rare Paintings from Ashiya University Library**



“Shishu Shinkei” by  
WATANABE Kazan  
「四州真景」  
渡辺崋山 (画)

「四州真景」渡辺崋山(画)

- Exhibition Period and Time: March 14 – 24 (Closed on Tuesday)  
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Weekdays and Sat.)  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sunday and Holiday)
- Content: Enjoy admiring Japanese *Bunjinga* (literary and artistic paintings after the Southern School of Chinese paintings) through the rare books and paintings in the collection of Ashiya University Library.
- Place: Citizens' Center
- Inquiries: *Kominkan* (Community Learning Center) (Phone: 0797-35-0700)

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Ashiya City Brass Band Federation Regular Concert**

Anyone can appreciate without reservation.

- ◆ Date/Time: Sun., March 31 12:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.
- ◆ Place: Renaissance Classics Ashiya Luna Hall (Large Hall)  
(Hall opens at Noon.)
- ◆ Performers: Shiomi KOMISUKU Brass Band/Brass Band Club of  
Seido, Yamate and Shiomi Junior High School, etc.
- ◆ Inquiries: School Support Section (Phone: 0797-38-2143 / Fax: 0797-38-2089)



**A Place for Children: “Himitsukichi (a Secret Base)”**

- Date/Time/Content:
  - (1) Fri., March 1 4:00~6:00 p.m. “Warai Yoga”
  - (2) Fri., March 8 4:00~6:00 p.m. “Science lab”
  - (3) Fri., March 15 4:00~6:00 p.m. “Secret Base Theater”
  - (4) Fri., March 22 4:00~6:00 p.m. “Mysterious Device VIDEO Special”
- Application: Come to the site directly on the day
- Place: Takahama-cho Life-support Station
- Capacity: 20 (for each class; participation of adults admitted)
- Place/Inquiries: Takahama-cho Life-Support Station (Phone: 0797-23-1616)





## Gardening Classes at Ashiya Grand Park (Sogo Koen)

Content (Class name)	Date/Time	Cost	Application Deadline
(1) "Let's enjoy growing vegetables"	Thu., March 14 10:30 a.m.- Noon	500 yen	5:00 p.m. Thu., March 7
(2) "Assorted planting of pretty spring flowers"	Mon., March 18 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	2,500 yen	5:00 p.m. Mon., March 11
(3) "Making an Easter flower arrangement"	Thu., March 21 10:30 a.m.- Noon	2,500 yen	5:00 p.m. Thu., March 14
(4) "Assorted planting of jewel-like succulents"	Sat., March 23 10:30 a.m.- Noon	2,000 yen	5:00 p.m. Sat., March 16
(5) "Making an easily movable herb garden"	Sat., March 30 10:30 a.m.- Noon	2,000 yen	5:00 p.m. Sat., March 23

✿ Capacity: First 15 people for each class

✿ What to bring: Writing materials and a large bag to carry the work home.

✿ How to apply: Visit, call/fax or E-mail to Ashiya Grand Park

✿ Place and Inquiries: Ashiya Grand Park (*Sogo Koen*)

(Phone: 0797-38-2103 / Fax: 0797-25-2026 / E-mail: [ashiyasogo@mizuno.co.jp](mailto:ashiyasogo@mizuno.co.jp))



### CYCLE COMPOST Seminar

◆ Date /Time: Fri., March 15 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

◆ Content: Making compost with bamboo powder and a cloth bag, with the theme of "Turning food waste into compost".

◆ Capacity: 30 persons

◆ Cost: 1,500 yen (for 5 kg bamboo powder and 2 cloth bags, etc.)

◆ What to Bring: Chopped food peels, about 500 grams, etc.,

\* Come in clothes that can get dirty.

◆ Place/Inquiries: Leed Ashiya (Phone: 0797-26-6452)

(E-mail: [aia@ashiyampo.jp](mailto:aia@ashiyampo.jp))



### Consultation Service for Foreign Residents (Immigration Bureau)

■ Date/Time/Place: Mon., April 8 1:00-4:00 p.m. 3F City Hall North Wing

■ Content: You can ask Immigration Bureau staff about the procedures for changing status of residence, etc. (Up to 5 persons)

■ How to Apply: Email to the address below

■ Inquiries: Public Relation and International Exchange Section

(Phone: 0797-38-2008 / E-mail: [kokusai@city.ashiya.lg.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.ashiya.lg.jp))



### "Utage Kissa" (Singing Café)

◇ Date/Time/Place/Capacity: Wed., March 13 9:50-11:30 a.m. Citizens' Center 30

◇ Application/Inquiries: Hosoyama (Phone: 0797-38-5658)



## Recruiting Students for Kids Tennis School (TENISH®)

Date and Time: Every Sunday from April 14 (First-timer to Beginner, 10 lessons)

(1) Bambi Class: 9:45–10:35 a.m. (2) Sampa Class: 10:45–11:35 a.m.

Place: Ashiya Park Tennis Courts  Instructor: A Canadian coach

Eligibility & Capacity: (1) 4-year-olds to 1<sup>st</sup> grade elementary school students/  
16 people

(2) 2nd to 4th grade elementary school students/16 people

Fee: 20,000 yen for 10 lessons

Things to bring: Comfortable clothing, sport shoes, a cap, a water bottle, a towel

※Tennis rackets are available at the site.

Application: Fill out the application form (which can be downloaded from the website)  
and fax or submit it to the reception counter indicated below between  
March 1 and 20.

※If there are too many applications, a drawing will be held.

Inquiries: Ashiya Park Tennis Courts (Phone: 0797-34-8886/Fax: 0797-34-8884)



## Tennis School at Ashiya Park Tennis Courts

<Practical Course> Every Tuesday from April 2- (90 min./12 lessons)

(1) Pre-intermediate Class 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m./20 people

(2) Intermediate Class 1:20–2:50 p.m./10 people

(3) Advanced Class 3:00–4:30 p.m./10 people

<Basic Course> Every Thursday from April 4- (90 min./12 lessons)

(4) Basic Class A 9:30–11:00 a.m./20 people

(5) Intermediate Class 11:10 a.m.–12:40 p.m./20 people

(6) First-timer Class 1:30–3:00 p.m./10 people

(7) Basic Class B 1:30–3:00 p.m./10 people

<Senior Course> Every Friday from April 5- (90 min./12 lessons)

(8) Enjoy Class 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m./10 people

■ Place: Ashiya Park Tennis Courts

■ Fee: 19,200 yen for 12 lessons

■ Application: Fill out the designated application form and fax or submit it to the office  
or apply by using the entry form between March 1 and 20. Forms can be  
downloaded from its website.

※If there are too many applications, a lottery will be held.

■ Inquiries: Ashiya Park Tennis Courts (Phone: 0797-34-8886 /Fax: 0797-34-8884)



## Soccer & Challenge Sports Session

Choose between soccer lessons and challenge sports.

【Soccer Class】 Basic practice, games

【Challenge Sports】 Basic exercises such as running, various ball games

□Date and Time: Sat., March 16 (1) 3:10–4:00 p.m. (2) 3:50–4:50 p.m.

□Place: Kawanishi Athletic Grounds

□Eligibility: (1) 3 to 6 years old (2) 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> elementary school students

□Capacity: 25 people each □Fee: 500 yen

□What to bring: Comfortable clothes, shoes, drinks

□Application: Please register at the counter indicated below with the course fee.

□Inquiries: Gymnasium and Youth Center (Phone: 0797-31-8228)



## Tennis Experience Class for Elementary School Students

◇Date and Time: Mon., April 1 1:30 p.m.–

◇Place: Nishihama Park Tennis Courts

◇Content: Basic practice, games (beginners allowed)

◇Eligibility and Capacity: Elementary school students/10 people

◇Fee: 1,500 yen

◇What to bring: Tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, a drink, tennis rackets (can be rented)

◇Application: Apply by phone or at the counter

◇Inquiries: Gymnasium and Youth Center (Phone: 0797-31-8228)



### Lively Cinema Salon: “Hello, Mom.” (Japan 2023, 110 min.)

This film is the culmination of the “Mother” trilogy by the famous actress Sayuri Yoshinaga, following “Haha bee” and “Haha to Kuraseba.” Yo Oizumi plays the son. Mei Nagano, Satoshi Terao, and other talented actors, old and new, provide a solid supporting cast.

■Date and Time: Sat., March 16 (1) 10:30 a.m.– (2) 1:30 p.m.– (3) 4:30 p.m.–

※Tickets are available 30 minutes before each screening time. (No advance tickets)

■Place: Renaissance Classics Ashiya Luna Hall

■Capacity: 600 people each screening

■Fee: 1,000 yen for junior high school students and older  
500 yen for elementary school students

\* If you bring the article (*Koho Ashiya* vol. 1311) with you, junior high school students and older are eligible (up to 3 people) to have a discount of 200 yen.

\* Preschoolers are not allowed.

■Inquiries: Community Learning Center (Phone: 0797-35-0700)



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**ASHIYA TRIANGLE, Ashiya Public Relations TV Program (CH11 / 15 min.)**

Broadcast Time: ①9:00 a.m. ②12:00 noon ③4:00 p.m. ④8:00 p.m. ⑤10:00 p.m.

※ Updated on the 1st and 16th of every month. You can also watch it on YouTube if you miss the broadcast.



**Water Leak and Water Supply Pipe Repairs**

- Weekdays during the daytime ▶ **Waterworks Customer Service Center** ☎0797-38-2082
- Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, and during the night ▶ **City Hall** ☎0797-31-2121



**To the Readers of the COSMONET**

This is the final issue of the COSMONET.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since the 1<sup>st</sup> issue in July 1997.

We would like to thank the many people who supported us during that time.

Thank you very much.

Volunteers and ACA office staff

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