

HIGASHIHIROSHIMA

Monthly City Newsletter March 2017

2017年3月号 広報東広島・英語版



March 2017 main contents:

Jike Station: p2

School expenses: p2

Water supply: p3

Events: p3

Applications for the one-off welfare payment (economic measures)

- ・臨時給付金（経済対策分）
- ・の申請受付を開始します

The system of one-off welfare payments (economic measures) is designed to offset any financial difficulties for those with low incomes caused by the rise in Consumption Tax from April 2014. The payments are provided to low income earners as provisional/temporary support, until the introduction of an institutional system. In order to receive the payment(s), it is necessary to apply to the municipality where your registered address was as of January 1st, 2016. Application documents will be sent to those who may be eligible to receive the one-off welfare payment. These documents will be sent out in a cream envelope, starting from Tuesday February 28th.

Please check the conditions for eligibility, and if you are eligible to receive the payment, please fill out the application form, sign or stamp it, and submit it with any necessary documents by the application deadline. If the form is filled out incorrectly, if there is missing information, or if necessary documents have not been included, your application will not be able to be assessed. Please check your application carefully before submitting it.

Applications will be accepted between Wednesday March 1st and Thursday August 31st. Applications postmarked August 31st will also be accepted.

It is possible to submit applications by post, or applications can be submitted in person, as follows:

- At the temporary counter, 1F, Higashihiroshima City Office (until March 17th)
- At the one-off Welfare Payments Office, 4F, Higashihiroshima City Office (from March 21st)
- At Branch Offices/Sub-branch Offices of the City Office

Business hours: from 8:30 to 17:15, Mondays to Fridays (National Holidays excepted)

Conditions for eligibility:

Those whose registered address was in Higashihiroshima City as of January 1st, 2016, and who were not subject to municipal tax (per-capita part) for the 2016-17 financial year, are eligible. However, dependent relatives of a breadwinner who is subject to municipal tax (per-capita part) for the 2016-17 financial year, and those receiving welfare payments, are not eligible.

The payment amount is 15,000 yen per eligible person (a one-time payment). Payments will start to be made from the end of April.

Contact: Higashihiroshima City One-off Welfare Payments Office, tel.: 082-420-0943.

Changes to the National Pension Scheme

- ・国民年金のお知らせ
- ・
- ・

From August 1st 2017, the period needed before national pension payments can be claimed will be reduced from 25 years to 10 years. Because of this change, increased numbers of people will be able to receive pension payments, and an individual's pension contributions will be linked much more closely to the payments they receive.

However, the amount of each pension payment is based on the amount of pension contributions made, so the shorter the period of contributions made, the lower the level of the pension payments, and the longer the period of contributions made, the higher the level of the pension payments that can be received.

Special arrangements for students, and periods where exemptions from contributions have been granted, are included in the period needed before national pension payments can be claimed. If you are having trouble making contributions (or while you are a student), please do not forget to apply for an exemption from contributions.

Also, when foreign residents of Japan return to their home countries without fulfilling the conditions for receiving pension payments, there is a system where a lump-sum withdrawal payment can be claimed. If you have made national pension scheme contributions for at least six months, or you have been enrolled in a welfare pension for at least six months, and you claim within two years of returning to your home country, you can receive the lump-sum payment. Those who have not made contributions to the national pension scheme cannot apply for the lump-sum withdrawal payment.

Contact: National Health Insurance and Pension Division, tel.: 082-420-0933.

Be sure to complete formalities for light vehicles and motorcycles before the end of March!

- 軽自動車税の廃車手続きは
お済みですか

Light Vehicle and Motorcycle Tax (keijidosha-zei, 軽自動車税) is levied on persons who are the owners of a light vehicle (a car of 660cc or below) or a motorcycle) as of April 1st each year. If you are planning to sell or dispose of your light vehicle or motorcycle, please ensure that the necessary formalities (cancellation of registration) are completed by the end of March. If the formalities are not completed by the end of March, then you will be subject to tax even if you sell or dispose of your vehicle after April 1st.

Please enquire at a vehicle or motorcycle dealer, or at one of the offices below, regarding the necessary formalities:

Type of vehicle/ motorcycle	Office	Telephone number
Mopeds and motorcycles of 125cc or under	Higashiroshima City Municipal Tax Division (Shimin-zei-ka, 市民税課). Formalities can also be completed at branch offices or sub-branch offices. You will need the number plate and the owner's seal (personal stamp).	082-420-0910
Motorcycles between 126cc and 250cc	Hiroshima Prefecture Light Vehicle Association Ken Keijidosha Kyokai (県軽自動車協会)	082-532-5507
Motorcycles over 250cc	Chugoku District Transport Bureau, Hiroshima Branch Office Hiroshima Unyu-shikyoku (広島運輸支局)	050-5540-2068
Light vehicles of 660cc or below	Light Motor Vehicle Inspection Organization Keijidosha Kensa-kyokai (軽自動車検査協会)	050-3816-3080

Contact: Municipal Tax Division (Shimin-zei-ka, 市民税課), tel.: 082-420-0910.

JR Jike Station

- JR寺家駅が開業します

In conjunction with the new spring JR timetable, Jike Station will be opening on Saturday March 4th. It is situated on the Sanyo Line between Saijo Station and Hachihonmatsu Station, and will be served by all-station-stopping trains only.

Jike Station is an elevated station, and the north and south sides are connected through the station building. There is also a slope, so that bicycles can be pushed through the station building in order to cross the tracks. Buses will depart towards both Hachihonmatsu and Saijo, and to Higashiroshima Medical Center, from the bus stop on the south side of the station. Using Jike Station, it will be more convenient to get to Higashiroshima Medical Center. There will also be bicycle parking space to the side of the bus stop.

Contact: Policy Promotion Division, tel.: 082-420-0401.

A Vietnamese-language version of the Living Guide is now available

- ベトナム語版生活ガイド
ブックができました

A Vietnamese-language version of the Higashiroshima City Living Guide for Foreign Residents is now available, free of charge, from the City Office (1F), the Communication Corner, etc. The guide can also be downloaded from the City website, at the following URL, or by using the QR Code on the right:

<http://www.city.higashiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/seisakukikaku/1/2/1/3/8333.html>



School expenses subsidies

- 就学援助制度

School expenses (school supplies, school lunches, etc.) for children in municipal elementary and junior high schools can be subsidized in cases where it is difficult financially to send a child to school. In order to be able to apply, parents or guardians must be one of the following:

- Receiving welfare payments (seikatsu hogo, 生活保護)
- Exempted from municipal tax (shimin-zei hikazei, 市民税非課税)
- Fully or partially exempted from municipal tax (shimin-zei genmen, 市民税減免)
- Fully or partially exempted from fixed assets tax (kotei-shisan-zei genmen, 固定資産税減免)
- Exempted from paying premiums for the national pension program (kokumin nenkin hoken-ryo no menjo, 国民年金保険料の免除)
- Fully or partially exempted from paying premiums for the national health insurance program (kokumin kenko-hoken-zei genmen, 国民健康保険税減免)
- Receiving child rearing allowance (jido-fuyo-teate, 児童扶養手当)

Other economic reasons may also mean that parents or guardians are eligible to apply. Applications can be accepted at any time. Please contact your child's school, or the School Affairs Division (Gakuji-ka, 学事課), tel.: 082-420-0975.

Formalities for terminating and starting water supply

- ・水道の中止および開始の手続き

When moving house, etc., please contact the Waterworks Department in advance to terminate water supply to your residence. The formalities can be completed by phone, on the internet (from the City website), or at the Waterworks Bureau. If you do not complete the formalities, you will be liable to pay water costs even after you have moved out of the address. Between Saturday March 18th and Monday March 20th, and on Saturday March 25th and Sunday March 26th, the Waterworks Department will be able to deal with applications for the termination of water supply by telephone. The service times on these dates will be 8:30 to 17:15.

When moving into a new residence, you should find paperwork (a postcard) for starting the water supply. Please complete the formalities as detailed. It is not possible to complete the formalities for starting water supply by phone or on the internet.

Contact: General Affairs Division, Waterworks Department (Suidokyoku gyomu-ka, 水道局業務課),
tel.: 082-423-6333.

Experience canoeing in a swimming pool

- ・プールでカヌー体験会

On Sunday March 26th, from 10:00 to 12:00, there will be an event in which participants can experience canoeing in a swimming pool. There will be also be the chance to learn about water safety, including how to swim with clothes on, how to use a life jacket, etc.

The event will take place in Kurose Indoor Pool, and is open to elementary school students and above. The event is limited to approximately 30 participants. Spectators are also welcome.

To apply to participate in the event, please send a postcard, fax or email, detailing the applicant's name, sex, date of birth, age, address, telephone number, and parent/guardian's name. The deadline for applications is Friday March 10th.

Contact: Higashihiroshima Foundation for Affairs of Culture and Education (Shi Kyoiku Bunka Shinko Jigyodan, 市教育文化振興事業団), tel./fax: 0823-82-7075, email: center02@diary.ocn.ne.jp
Address: 18-4 Narahara, Kurose-cho, Higashihiroshima-shi, 739-2613.

Sakagura-dori 'Akari no Sanpo-michi'

- ・西条酒蔵通り「あかりの散歩道」

On March 4th, 11th and 18th (all Saturdays), some of the buildings around Sakagura-dori Street will be illuminated between 18:00 and 21:00. There will be several related events in the same area, and lanterns will also be available for hire.

The chimneys of the sake breweries will be illuminated each night between Saturday March 4th and Monday March 20th.

Contact: Higashihiroshima City Tourism Association, tel.: 082-420-0310.



Saijo Sakagura Art Festival →Connect←2017

- ・西条酒蔵芸術祭

There will be a series of art displays by artists working in Hiroshima Prefecture. The displays will be held around Sakagura-dori Street. The opening hours for the exhibitions are 11:00 to 16:00, from Sunday March 12th to Monday March 20th. On Saturday March 18th, there will also be a concert in Mitate Shrine.

A 'Free Pass' ticket to all the displays will be available for 500 yen, and for an extra 500 yen, a sake tasting ticket can be added.

Contact: Saijo Sakagura Art Festival Planning Committee, tel.: 090-4806-5727.
Website: <https://www.saijo-artfest.com/event>

Art in Sakagura

- ・ART in 酒蔵

The 'Art in Sakagura' event will be held between Sunday March 12th and Monday March 20th, from 10:00 to 16:00. The event takes place around Sakagura-dori Street, and features works by students studying art in Hiroshima Prefecture. There are also workshops, etc.

Contact: Saijo Sakagura-dori Tourist Information Center (Saijo Sakagura-dori Kanko Annaijo, 西条酒蔵通り観光案内所), tel.: 082-421-2511.

Please make use of bank account transfer for paying municipal taxes!

- 市税の納付は、納め忘れのない口座振替が便利です!

It is possible to pay municipal taxes by bank account transfer. This is a convenient way of ensuring you do not forget to make a payment. Applications to make use of this service can be made at the service counters of the City Office, the Branch Offices, and the Sub-branch Offices. Alternatively, financial institutions with branches within Higashihiroshima City can handle applications. Once you set up a bank account transfer, the arrangement will be continued in subsequent financial years too. Please make use of this service!

Contact: Tax Collection Division (Shuno-ka, 収納課), tel.: 082-420-0912.

Consultation services for non-Japanese residents

外国人相談窓口

Consultation services for non-Japanese residents are available at the Communication Corner, in Sunsquare Higashihiroshima. English-speaking staff are available daily, at the following times: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: 9:00 to 17:00, Saturdays, Sundays: 9:00 to 13:00, Mondays, Fridays: 13:00 to 17:00.

Communication Corner website (English): <http://hhface.org/corner/en.html>

You can also access the Communication Corner website by using the upper QR code on the right.



Communication Corner website (English)

40-minute free legal consultations are available on Wednesday March 8th, at 13:00, 14:00, 15:00 and 16:00. From April, consultations will be available on Saturdays; the date for April is Saturday April 8th. English translation is available. **Please make an appointment at least one week in advance.**

Contact: Communication Corner (コミュニケーションコーナー), tel.: 082-423-1922.



Facebook page

Communication Corner Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Communication-Corner-544685425697277>

You can also access the Communication Corner Facebook page by using the lower QR code on the right.

Night-time and holiday hospitals

夜間休日当番医

Full information about night-time and holiday duty hospitals (Primary Emergency Medical Care Hospitals) within Higashihiroshima City is published in the Japanese-language version of the monthly city newsletter 'Higashihiroshima' (the page inside the back cover), and on the Higashihiroshima City website:

In Japanese: <http://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/kenko/iryu/3/11522.html>

In English: <http://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/kenko/iryu/3/11526.html>

The information is also available (in Japanese and automatically-translated English) on the 'Kyukyu Iryo Net Hiroshima' site (<http://www.qq.pref.hiroshima.jp>). You will be able to find information about which medical facility to go to, and what times the facilities are open. The information on the site may be subject to change at short notice, so please contact the medical facility to confirm the information.

About emergency medical treatment

In the case of an injury or a sudden fever or illness, where you cannot decide whether the symptoms are serious or not, first of all go to a 'Primary Emergency Medical Care Hospital'. If the symptoms are serious, and emergency surgery or hospitalization is required, the doctor will provide an introductory letter for a 'Secondary Emergency Medical Care Hospital'. If the symptoms are clearly serious, do not hesitate to go to a Secondary Emergency Medical Care Hospital, or call 119 to summon an ambulance.

For details of Secondary Emergency Medical Care hospitals, where patients with serious symptoms can be treated, contact Higashihiroshima City Fire Department (tel.: 082-422-0119).

Higashihiroshima City Holiday Clinic (Kyujitsu Shinryosho, 休日診療所) is a facility that can provide emergency treatment in the case of a sudden medical problem, for those who cannot get treatment anywhere else. Medical Departments: internal medicine, pediatrics and dentistry.

- Open: Sundays, holidays, year-end and New Year holidays (Dec. 30 - Jan. 3). Hours: 9:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00

Until Sunday March 12th, the internal medicine and pediatrics departments are open until 20:00.

On Sunday March 26th, the internal medicine and pediatrics departments are open until 22:00.

Call Center for Emergency First-aid for Children (Kodomo-kyukyu-denwa-sodan, こどもの救急電話相談), tel.: #8000 (from a normal phone or mobile phone) or 082-505-1399 (from an IP phone or hikari phone). Available 365 days a year, from 19:00 to 8:00 the following morning. Only in Japanese.

This newsletter contains selected information from the Monthly City Newsletter 'Koho Higashihiroshima'. This newsletter is available at the City Office and sub-branch offices, Hiroshima International Center, Communication Corner (Sunsquare Higashihiroshima, 1F), Hiroshima University, Kinki University, Hiroshima International University, Fuji Grand (Higashihiroshima store), Youme Town (Higashihiroshima, Gakuen, and Kurose stores), Shoji (Route 375 bypass and Toyosaka stores), Gyomu-yo Shokuhin Super (Saijo store), Manso (Hachihonmatsu and Takaya stores), Bankok Store, Higashihiroshima Catholic Church (Takamigaoka), Motonaga Hospital, and Hiroshima Bank (Saijo branch). A version is also available on the web site of the City Office: <http://www.city.higashihiroshima.hiroshima.jp/site/koho/koho-english.html>

Edited and published by Higashihiroshima City International Exchange Promotion Association, tel.: 082-420-0917

へんしゅう・はっこう ひがしひろしましこくさいかすいしんきょうざい
編集・発行 東広島市国際化推進協議会

Population of Higashihiroshima City: 185,794

Population of foreign residents: 5,812

As of the end of January, 2017