

## Wine Party 2017

Join us for a night of fun, prizes, and new friends! The Committee for International Friendship will be holding its annual 「Wine Party」 event on **December 2nd (Saturday)**.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

There will be food, various drinks, and games where you can win prizes. Many JICA participants and “Chikudai” international students will also be attending, making for an “multicultural” experience!

Be aware that this year’s

Wine Party will be taking place at a different venue from the last several years (Tokachi Kan). For those coming by car, please use the Obihiro City Hall South Parking Lot.

Please see the box below for more information regarding the party. We hope to see you there!



**What:** 43rd Annual Wine Party

**Where:** Tokachi Kan

(Obihiro City, West 7, South 6-2)

**When:** December 2nd, 6 PM - 8 PM

**Admission Fees:**

- Adults **2500 Yen**
- University Students **1500 Yen**
- Grade School Students **500 Yen**
- Children under 6 **Free**
- JICA Participants & Chikudai International Students **Free**

**Contact:**

- Tokachi International Relations Center  
TEL: 0155-34-0122
- International and Domestic Relations Section  
(Obihiro City Hall)  
TEL:0155-65-4133

## Contents:

Wine Party 2017	<b>1</b>
Events	<b>2</b>
Don't Drink and Drive!	<b>3</b>
Movie Schedule Flu Prevention	<b>4</b>



Events (pg 2-4)



Don't Drink and Drive!  
(pg 3)

Movies  
(pg 4)

# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
12/13 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
12/16 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Potluck Night (China)</b> Meet local and international Tokachi residents while enjoying a dish from abroad. This time, a CIR from Fujian, China will introduce you to Chinese-style Takikomi-gohan (rice dish).  Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring along a dish or drink for sharing. Organized by the Committee for improvement of the City	
12/3 (Sun) 10:00-11:00	<b>Fish Day</b> 魚の日 Every month in Hiroo town, there is "Fish Day" during which fish and other ingredients taken from the sea are used to make healthy dishes native to the north. A variety of products are on sale for the event.	Hiroo Town Fisheries Cooperative Food Division 広尾漁協食品部(広尾郡広尾町 会所前2丁目79番地先) 0155-82-3202
12/10 (Sun)	<b>Urahoro Product Fair</b> うらほろ物産フェア Local produce and other products will be on sale.	Urahoro Chuo Kouminkan 浦幌町中央公民館 015-576-2181
12/10 (Sun)	<b>48th Hiroo Hairy Crab Festival</b> 第48回広尾毛がにまつり Enjoy the fresh seafood of Hiroo Town. There will be a hairy crab eating contest, a prize raffle, and more.	Seaside Park Hiroo シーサイドパーク広尾 01558-2-0177 (Mon~Fri) 01558-2-2111 (Sat・Sun・Holiday) <a href="http://www.town.hiroo.lg.jp/">http://www.town.hiroo.lg.jp/</a>
12/23 (Sat)	<b>Ecology Park: Enjoy the Short Day</b> エコパ歳時記 短い日を楽しもう  Come and join the various activities held on this holiday:  Kadomatsu Making 10:00-12:00 Make traditional Japanese bamboo decorations for the New Year. Up to 20 Parent-child pairs may participate. Fee: 1000 Yen  Mochi (Rice cake) Pounding 11:00-12:00 Try your hand at pounding new year's mochi! Enjoy eating fresh pounded mochi with everyone. Fee: Free! (up to 100 participants)	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp">www.tokachi-ecopark.jp</a>

# Stop Drunk Driving!

As the year is coming to a close, many of us are out enjoying Christmas parties, year-end parties and more. While everyone wants to have a good time, everyone deserves to make it home safely! In this month's Obihiro Pioneer, we will go over some of Japan's laws on drinking (alcohol) and driving, as well as some things to keep in mind when you decide to go out.

## It only takes one drink

Generally, one's blood alcohol concentration will be determined by a breathalyzer. If you caught with a reading of .15 mg or more while driving, you are considered to be drunk driving 飲酒運転 *inshu unten*. But just how much is .15 mg? According to the Health and Medicine of Alcohol Association, the average male adult (weighing about 60 kg) after drinking a bottle of beer (500ml) can end up having as much as .2 mg of alcohol! There are many more factors that go into how much alcohol is in one's system, but better safe than sorry!

## You can "drive" a bicycle

While it doesn't have an engine, a bicycle is considered a vehicle. Therefore using a bicycle while under the influence of alcohol is also illegal. Depending on how much alcohol is found in the rider and location (each



jurisdiction enforces differently) there are cases of having to pay fines and even getting their driver's license revoked!

## "Taxis are so expensive!"

But not nearly as much the fees associated with drunk driving! For the least severe case (driving under the influence 酒気帯び運転 *shuki obi unten*) can be as high as 500,000 yen! That's on top of points taken off of your license and fees from remedial classes necessary to get your license back. For a more severe case (driving while intoxicated 酒酔い *sake yoi unten*) the fine can get as high as 1,000,000 yen!

## "But I drove to the bar!"

Leaving your car and taking a taxi may not be an option for some. This is where 代行 *daikou* is your best bet. After calling a *daikou* service, they will send out a car with 2 drivers to your location. Much like a taxi, they will drive you home but using your car! The *daikou* service car will follow your car until you and your car get home safely. Generally this service isn't much more expensive than a taxi ride home, and you don't have to pick up your car the next day!

Enjoy the last few weeks of 2017, but stay safe!

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)  
To confirm, call or check online at: [http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/\\_obihiro/movie.shtml](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Logan Lucky	English	Until 22nd
Justice League	English	All month
Fullmetal Alchemist	Japanese	All month
Murder on the Orient Express	English	From 8th
Star Wars: The Last Jedi	TBD	From 15th

## Don't Get Sick, Get the Shot!

The temperatures drop as we move deeper into winter. To shelter ourselves from the cold, many of us stay indoors much longer than in the summer. This leads to a higher chance of catching the cold, or worse, getting the flu. Let's make the most of the winter by taking some preventative actions from getting sick!

### Wash your hands frequently

Simple, but effective is to keep your hands clean! Everyone uses their hands to touch everything. Thoroughly washing your hands after using the restroom, sneezing, etc. will help prevent the spread of the flu virus.

### Get quality sleep

It's easy to stay in your nice and warm bed all day, but if your room is too cold, you won't be able to fall asleep very easily. Invest in an electric blanket, wear extra clothes, take a hot shower, to help you

get to sleep faster this winter. Getting a good 7-8 hours of sleep a night will help one from getting sick anytime of the year.



### Get the shot

By shot, we mean the preventative influenza shot インフルエンザ予防接種 *infuruenza yobou sesshu*. The standard flu shot will cost around 2000~3000 yen. There are discounts for senior citizens (age 65 and over), high-risk individuals between the ages of 60 and 65, and middle school 3rd and high school 3rd year students. Please inquire your town's health department for details.

Here in Hokkaido, winter can make up the majority of the year. Keep happy and healthy throughout the year!

**Obihiro Pioneer** can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on "Information for Foreigners")

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