

## New Plastic Bag Fee

## レジ袋有料化

Starting July 1st, stores all across Japan will be required to charge a fee to customers



who choose to use a plastic bag from the store. This initiative was started to reduce the use of plastic bags in hopes of also reducing plastic trash and the carbon emissions associated with plastic bag usage. Please be aware that some stores have chosen to begin charging for plastic bags before July 1st.

There are several types of shopping bags that are NOT affected by this initiative.

Plastic bags without handles and/or used for prizes and sample items are not included in the July 1st change. Bags made of paper or cloth are also not effected by this initiative.

While you are required to pay a fee to receive a plastic bag, you are free to decline the bag. Here are some phrases to use the next time you go shopping and don't need to purchase a plastic

bag:



### Store Clerk:

かいものぶくろをおつかいになりますか？  
買い物袋をお使いになりますか？

*Kaimono bukuro wo otsukai ni narimasuka?*

Will you be using a shopping bag?

### Responses to decline:

1. いいえ、自分の袋があります。

*lie, jibun no fukuro ga arimasu.*

No thank you, I have my own bag.

2. いいえ、大丈夫です。

*lie, daijoubu desu.*

No, I'm okay.

3. いいえ、結構です。

*lie, kekkou desu.*

No, I'm fine (polite).

If you do need a bag, just say:

はい、お願いします。

*Hai, onegai shimasu.*

Yes, please.

Save some money while saving the Earth. Don't forget to bring your own bag the next time you go shopping!

## Contents:

Safe Cycling	3
Events	2
Learn Nihongo!: Summer	3
Movies, Sports Day?	4



Safe Cycling  
(pg 3)



Events (pg 2)



Movies  
(pg 4)

# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

Please be aware that these events may be cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers.

When	What	Where/Contact
7/8 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> <b>国際ミニバレー・ナイト</b> Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
7/4-7/19 (Sat-Sun)	<b>Moor Hot Spring Firefly Viewing</b> <b>モール温泉夢ポタル鑑賞会</b> Make the most of the short summer and see the fireflies raised in the moor hot springs. Don't miss this chance to experience this rare sight!	Tokachigaoka Park Tokachigawa Onsen Tourism Association 0155-32-6633
7/11-12 (Sat-Sun) 7/11 10:00 - 7/12 11:00	<b>Boy Scout Experience: Spring Camp</b> <b>ボーイスカウト体験隊「春のキャンプ」</b> Work together with your comrades during this overnight experience. Participation Cost: 2000 yen per child (elementary school student) ※Please contact for 1-3 graders	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
7/23-26 (Thu-Sun) 9:30-15:00	<b>Ecopa Recycle Flea Market</b> <b>エコパリサイクルフリーマーケット</b> Recycle the items from your home that you aren't using anymore. Participation fee: 500 yen (for high schoolers and above)	
7/25-26 8/1-2 (Sat-Sun) 9:00-21:00	<b>Obihiro Zoo Night Zoo</b> <b>おびひろ動物園 よるの動物園</b> For just 2 weekends, the Obihiro Zoo will extend their operating hours until 21:00. See nocturnal animals during their active hours during this event.	Obihiro Zoo おびひろ動物園 0155-24-2437

## Safe Cycling 安全に自転車に乗りましょう

As warm sunny days continue here in Tokachi, we expect to see more people outside. This month, we will introduce some of the regulations for cycling out in Hokkaido.

Riding a bicycle is a great way to get around while also exercising. Most people know how to ride a bike and use it everyday to get around, but the majority of cyclists do not follow the rules properly! Here are the main 5 regulations set by the Hokkaido Government for riding a bicycle:

1. A bicycle should ride on the road, not the pedestrian sidewalk.
2. A bicycle must ride on the left side of the road.
3. If a bicycle must ride on the pedestrian



- sidewalk, it should ride slowly on the side closest to the road.
4. A bicycle must follow these safety rules:
    - Consuming alcohol and cycling, tandem riding, riding side by side is not allowed
    - A rider must have their light on at night
    - A rider must follow the traffic lights and stop at stop signs.
  5. Children must wear a helmet.

These are just the basic regulations for riding a bicycle in Hokkaido. Please take the appropriate safety precautions and practice common sense while on the road!



## Learn Nihongo!: Summer

Hokkaido's summer is finally here! Tokachi is surrounded by a range of mountains, causing it to be especially warm here. In this month's issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we will introduce some common words you might hear in conversation this summer.

夏 なつ *natsu*

Meaning: Summer

晴れる はれる *hareru*

Meaning: Clear weather

汗 あせ *ase*

Meaning: Sweat

脱水 だっすい *dassui*

Meaning: Dehydration



## にほんごをまなびましょう！ : 夏

熱中症 ねっちゅうしょう *necchuushou*

Meaning: Heatstroke

水分補給 すいぶんほきゅう *suibun hokyuu*

Meaning: Rehydrate

かき氷 かきごおり *kakigoori*

Meaning: Shaved ice, snow cone



冷たい〇〇 つめたい *tsumetai*

Meaning: Cold〇〇

Example: 冷たいうどん = Cold Udon Noodles

Make sure to do regular 水分補給 to avoid getting 熱中症 this 夏!

Due to COVID-19, release dates for new films have been postponed. Cinema Taiyo Obihiro will be showing past films at discounted rate. Please contact Cinema Taiyo directly for more details.

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
Doctor Dolittle	Jpn Dub	Until 30th
Sonic the Hedgehog	Jpn Dub	Until 30th
Rambo: Last Blood	Jpn Sub R15+	Until 30th
Cinderella	Jpn Sub	3rd-16th
Beauty and the Beast 美女と野獣 <i>bijo to yajuu</i>	Jpn Sub	3rd-16th

## What is “Sports Day”? スポーツの日とは？

If you’ve looked at your calendar recently, you might noticed something different in the July. This year is July 24th is “Sports Day” (スポーツの日) in Japan.

In this issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we will briefly introduce this “new” but also old holiday!

### 「体育の日」Health and Sports Day

If you have been living in Japan for a while, you might know of another holiday with a very similar name to the July 24th holiday. 体育の日 or Health and Sports Day was every year fell 2nd Monday of October every year. The very first 体育の日 was October 10th, 1966, 2 years after the first day of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Following the Olympics, the

holiday was set to occur on the 2nd Monday of October in order to make a 3 day weekend.

### 「スポーツの日」Sports Day

So, what is Sports Day?

If you take a look at this year’s October calendar, Health and Sports Day is gone! In time for this year’s planned Tokyo Olympics, Health and Sports Day was moved up to July and renamed “Sports Day”.



While the 2020 Tokyo Olympics has been postponed, Sports Day is still in the calendar! Enjoy the day off and play some sports!

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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