

October 2006



Number

163

What's Happening

in Obihiro?

English Newsletter



All Hallow's Eve

H, A, double L, O, W, double E, N spells Halloween! As the popular song goes. Halloween is an old holiday that transferred from Europe to America a long time ago. These days, Americans celebrate Halloween with costumes, candies, and jack 'o lanterns galore! But who cares about that? If you're reading this then you want to know what's happening in Obihiro, and that's exactly what I'm going to teach you now.

This October, we are going to throw a huge Halloween bash at the Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC).. The victims of this Halloween extravaganza are going to be mostly young children herded to their doom by unwitting guardians and parents. However, we can always use help when putting together events of this magnitude. In past years 100s of people from all around Obihiro, Tokachi have packed into the TIRC to get their pants scared off in the haunted house, eat some tasty treats, and of course, show off their sweet costumes!

What: Mori no Halloween! ("mori no" means " in the forest")

When: October 29th, 14:00-17:30

Where: Tokachi International Relations Center, which is located at West 20, South 6, in Obihiro City

Planned Activities: Costume Competition (cutest, scariest, etc), "Stretching" for Apples, Face Painting, a killer haunted house, and much much more! Did I also mention that you can finally wear that weird costume you hide in your closet, and for once, people will smile rather than give you strange looks!

Who: Our target audience is middle school kids and younger, but if you older enthusiasts could help us by volunteering we would be happy to have you!

How: RSVP anytime between 10/3 and 10/29

If You Can Help: Please see the volunteer information on the back page of this issue.



Under Construction! 募集义务志愿者

For the enrichment of the lives of all citizens of Obihiro, the Obihiro International Relations Section is currently constructing the following support apparatus!

Tokachi Living Guide: A comprehensive guide filled with endless amounts of information that foreigners need to survive here in Tokachi. Please contact us if you or someone you know is a native English speaker who could help correct errors in the English translation of the guidebook!

If you or someone you know might want to volunteer for this, contact GREGORY at 0155-24-4111, or by email at: international@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

ALSO, there are surveys for both the guide and the lecture, so if you haven't filled out one or any of them please contact me asap!

在十胜居住的各位中国人

十胜国际协会为了便于在十胜居住外国人的生活, 将用多种语言编写生活指南, 其中包括中文, 在编写过程中, 需要得到在十胜居住中国人的支持, 如有愿意参加编写的义务志愿者请与带广市国际交流课联系。咨询电话参考右方的表格。详细情况将有中国人进行解答。

电话: 0155-24-4111分机1173

电子信箱: international@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

在编写之前将进行民意调查, 如有愿意回答调查的各位请与上记电话联系。将有中国人进行回答

Please help us make these things happen! 请各位给与帮助 谢谢!



Tokachi Events

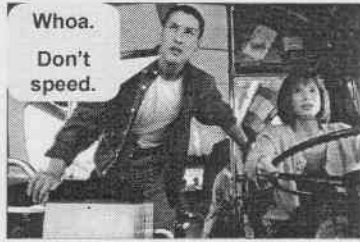
October 2006



When	What	Where/Contact #
10/1 (Sun) 9:50-14:00	Autumn Wine Matsuri: Come to the Ikeda Wine Castle and enjoy all the wine and food that you can fit in your stomach! They're going to roast an entire cow, have a wine guessing contest and a huge sausage eating contest as well, so come check it out! (Adult: 3800yen. Entrance closes @ 13:30!)	ワイン城横イベント広場 Ikeda Wine Castle 01557-2-2467
10/6 (Fri) 19:00 - 20:30	Water and Culture Lecture: The Zukosha company has invited a famous speaker to come in and talk about his underwater ocean photography. The pictures should be quite wonderful, so come take a peek.	とかちプラザ Tokachi Plaza 33-4400
10/7-8 (Sat-Sun) 10:00 - 15:00	Shikaoi Soba Festival: You haven't eaten soba until you've had Shikaoi soba. Learn how to cut your own soba, and then watch a stage lecture on how to cook them! A ¥1000 ticket get's you 3 dishes so eat up!	鹿追町民のホールの前 Shikaoi Citizen's Hall front parking lot (Higashi-cho 3 chome) 0156-66-2311
10/8 (Sun) 10:00 - 14:30	Iwanai Enchanted Gorge Autumn Festival: Journey deep into the enchanted woods where spirits are said to haunt the trees. There will be vegetable picking, a fresh vegetable market, and singing performances. Also come to enjoy the changing colors of the leaves while eating jingiskan and other tasty foods, yay!	岩内仙峡 Iwanai Gorge 0155-22-8600
10/15 (Sun) 17:00 - 19:00	Ohzora Trumpet Club Performance: Come see some Ohzora middle schoolers toot their own horns at the Tokachi Plaza. (Free Concert)	とかちプラザ Tokachi Plaza 0155-48-5089
10/21 (Sat) 14:00 - 15:00	Story Telling Around the World: This month's children's book is going to be from Brazil, read in both Brazilian and Japanese. We're going to play games and have fun while listening to a story from another land. Our target audience is children from 3 yrs. old to 2 nd grade elementary students.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center (in the library room) 0155-34-0122
10/15 (Sun) 10:00 - 13:30	Chuurui Dontokoi Festival: daiko Stage shows, a fresh produce market, and other food for sale. There will also be a "fishin' for beans" game. Then at 11am there will be the "Block of Cow BBQ", and special singing performances to follow!	忠類道の駅 Chuurui Visitor Center 01558-8-2111
10/29 (Sun) 15:00-19:00	Mori no Halloween Party!!!: Calling all Vampires Zombies and Bob Sapps! Come on down to the TIRC for some Halloween fun! There's going to be lots of fun games, face painting, and a haunted house. If you are older than middle school age, we could use your help as a volunteer! We can't say if you'll get a trick or a treat for your efforts though...	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center ***This party is for middle school kids or younger ***Remember to RSVP!!! (see front page) 0155-34-0122
10/31- 11/5 (Tue - Sun) 9:00-17:00	Obihiro Chrysanthemum Gala: There's going to be a flower bed made up of over 3000 chrysanthemums alongside flowers from our sister cities Tokushima and Oita. There's also going to be stage performances including traditional Japanese dancing and a koto concert. If you prefer more peaceful activities, come charge up your "wa" at the tea ceremony in the traditional Japanese garden area.	中央公園 Obihiro Central Park (two blocks East of City Hall) 0155-22-8600

Obihiro Survival Guide!

Driving You Crazy



The icy fingers of Old-Man Winter are slowly creeping across the Tokachi Plain, and soon heavy snows will cripple all traffic in and around Obihiro City. Before you go into a driving frenzy to beat the blizzards, take a look at this month's Survival Guide! It might ease your mind a little bit about what you can and can't do while cruising the hard streets of Obihiro City.

Just buying a car and getting all the necessary forms pushed through the Obihiro bureaucracy is a feat in itself. On top of that, once you finally get your car and you're all set to drive. There are quite a few rules you have to keep in mind that you may not have known about... Make sure you have your driver's license! In Japan, if you drive without a license, you not only run the risk of having to pay a huge fine, but you might also lose the privilege of driving in Japan for an entire year!

If you have an international driver's license, you'll be ok for a year. However, if you don't have a license or your license is about to expire, you should go to this webpage: <http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp> Then go to "Living Guide" and then go to "Driving". In that webpage you should find a fairly good explanation of how to get or renew a Japanese license, and there is also has a whole load of other useful advice to keep you on the road all year 'round. Including a very useful guide to the different types of street signs they use here. You know that a stop sign is a red triangle, right?

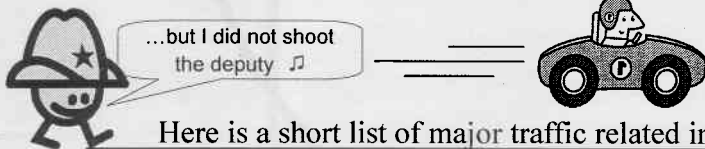
There are a few especially rough things I'd like to warn you about. If you are caught parking somewhere you're not supposed to, even once, you will most likely be fined 12,000 yen!

Obihiro is notorious for failing foreigners on their first try at getting a driver's license, so if you fail the first time, don't let it get you down.

Also, if you drink even one drop of alcohol and drive, you could get a fine of up to 300,000 yen. Yes, that's the equivalent of \$2,600!! You also get major points taken off your license, and even if you're completely drunk, the punishment is about the same. And remember, friends don't let friends drive drunk!

One more important note. It seems that "intentions" are quite important in Japan's courts. If the court feels that you were violating the law with bad intentions, your punishment will most definitely be the max.

However, if you can prove the opposite, your punishment may be minimized or even changed to something much easier to deal with.



Here is a short list of major traffic related infractions and their corresponding punishments.

Infraction	Points Taken	Max Punishment
Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol	25	3 years imprisonment ¥500,000 fine License revocation
Driving without a license	19	¥300,000 fine
Driving under the influence of a small amt. of alcohol	6 to 13	¥200,000 to ¥300,000 fine
Driving without a completed shaken (auto inspection)	6	n/a
Driving without insurance	6	n/a
Driving and using a cell phone	2	¥6,000 to ¥9,000 fine
Speeding 30-39kmh over	6	¥50,000 to ¥70,000 fine
Speeding 40-49kmh over	6	¥60,000 to ¥80,000 fine
Speeding 50-79kmh over	12	¥80,000 to ¥100,000 fine
Speeding 80kmh over and up	-	You will be put on trial!!
License Plates not visible	2	¥40,000 to ¥50,000 fine
Parking violation (even for just 30 sec. of parking!)	2	¥12,000 fine
Failure to wear a seatbelt	1	n/a

This October At Cinema Taiyo Obihiro



Times are subject to change.
To confirm, call or check
online at:

(Nishi 3, Minami 7) Tel: (0155) 20-1525

<http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/index.html>

Title	Language	Starts - Ends
Lady in the Water	English	Oct 1 - Nov
Guemuru (Korean monster movie!) 	Japanese	Oct 7 - Oct 20
Rainbow Song (Niji no Megami)	Japanese	Oct 28 - Nov
World Trade Center	English	Oct 7 - Nov
I Just Love You (Tada kimi wo aishiteru)	Japanese	Oct 28 - Nov
Namida So So	Japanese	Oct 1 - Nov
il Mare	English	Sep 23 - Nov
Ocean with no Exit (Deguchi no nai Umi)	Japanese	Oct 1 - Oct 20



Get on the Subway (Chikatetsu ni Notte)	Japanese	Oct 21 - Nov
Black Dahlia	English	Oct 14 - Nov
Night Picnic (Yoru no Pikunikku)	Japanese	Oct 1 - Oct 27
16 Blocks (16 Burokku)	English	Oct 14 - Nov
Wild Speed 3 (Tokyo Drift)	English	Sep 16 - Oct 20
Tales from Earthsea (Ghibli Studios)	Japanese	July 29 - Nov
Sugar & Spice	Japanese	Sep 16 - Oct 20
X-Men 3	English	Sep 9 - Oct 13
Miami Vice	English	Sep 2 - Oct 6

Volunteers Wanted!!!

Once again, this year's Halloween Party has grown bigger than we can handle, so we need your help! If you could volunteer to help decorate/make decorations, hand out candy, or help run a game or activity, we would be very grateful. Pretty much any kind of help is welcome, and you get to work in the uniform (costume) of your choice (just keep the children in mind, of course). We could use your skills and know-how when we carve a bunch o' pumpkins on Oct. 28th. Also, if you want to work in the haunted house scaring kiddies for a living, let us know right away! It's going to be lots of fun, and I promise I'll give you some candy if you help!

We would be very very happy to hear from you if you are interested in participating in this project!!!

So please contact us at the TIRC for more information.
Tel: 0155-34-0122 Email: tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
Or stop by @ Nishi 20, Minami 6 Obihiro-shi



Editor's Board

International Relations Section

Nishi 5, Minami 7-1

Obihiro, Japan, 080-0867

Phone: (0155) 24-4111

Fax: (0155) 23-0154

E-mail:

international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

Greg Hertel — Articles, Events, Movies

Carlos Katatani — Web manager

Norihiko Okada, Megumi Chiba, Naoko Yamada — General Advisory

What's Happening in Obihiro?

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, Joy English Academy and

online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

"WHIO?" Is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 24-4111 (ext. 1173) or send e-mail to WHIO Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.