

Spring Cleaning for the “New” Year

While spring weather is still far from coming to Hokkaido, many will transition into the next chapter of their life in April. April is the start of the Japanese fiscal year. Students start a new school year, and, for some adults, April is the beginning of a new job. Because of all of the change that happens this time of year, March is easily the most popular time of year to move. Whether or not you’re moving, we’ll introduce some information to help with cleaning out your closet this spring cleaning!

Recycle!

Especially towards the end of March, you might notice the trash stations filling up more than usual.

While it is easier to just bag up things you no longer need, don’t be wasteful and throw away usable items. In and around Obihiro there are second-hand shops which are commonly called *リサイクルショップ* *recycle shop*. You can sell things from old clothes to unused wet tissue packs! Give your items new life and maybe make some extra money from it.



Second-hand shops need to think about their space and profit, so they will only buy what they can sell. For everything else that wasn’t sold, think about donation! Some clothing stores will have a box labeled 回収 *kaishuu* “return” or 引き取り *hikitori* “accepting.” These boxes vary by store, but they often take old clothes to reuse as new material. This means, the clothes don’t need to be in wearable condition. Please check with the store’s conditions before dropping off your old clothes.

Reuse!

While you may no longer have a use for your old clothes, someone might! Here are two organizations in Obihiro that accept used clothing:

Chia Factory, Handicapped Support Service

障害福祉サービス自業所ちあファクトリー

Address: Nishi 5, Miniami 31, 1-9

Tel: 0155-66-7247

Chia factory accepts used clothing as well as bed sheets, towels, etc.

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
3/9, 3/23 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
3/9 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	52nd Kids Playground (Madagascar) Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. This month's theme is Madagascar. Faniry, a JICA Participant from Madagascar, will interact with children through songs, dances and arts and craft. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) For children 0-6 years old and their parents/guardians. Organized by the City of Obihiro	
3/13 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. Organized by Tokachi International Association	
3/16 (Sat) 18:30-20:00	72nd International Talk (Egypt) Learn more about the countries of the world. This month's sub-theme is "The Gift of the Nile". Our guest, an exchange student from Egypt, will introduce his country and share more about Egypt's culture and interesting facts about Egypt. Participants can interact with the guest through a quiz game and free conversation. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) For junior high school students and older. Organized by the City of Obihiro	
3/2 (Sat) 9:00-12:00	Ecology Park Event: Hina Matsuri (Girls' Day) エコパ歳時記「ひなまつり」 Make your very own Girls' Day doll! 500 yen per doll, options available. Parent/child pair participation OK. Call for more information.	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
3/9 (Sat) 9:45-11:00	Make Your Own Bird Call バードコール作りたい Make your very own bird whistle and try it out in the forest! In addition to making a bird whistle, you can learn about the birds found naturally in the area. 300 Yen participation fee, participates grade 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Max 15 participants	
3/17 (Sun) 10:00-11:00 14:00-15:00	Higashi Taisetsu Nature Center Back Yard Tour ひがし大雪自然館 バックヤードツアー Check out areas normally restricted to staff to learn the ins and outs of the nature center! Participation is free, registration is not required.	Higashi Taisetsu Nature Center 東大雪自然館 01564-4-2323

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Items that can be reused as is, are sent abroad or to local families who need it. Some items for children are redistributed to local families in need.

Other items that are not reused are recycled to make rags for cleaning. These rags are available for purchase.

Please note that winter clothes are not accepted as most of their items are sent abroad to countries that do not experience winter.

NPO Hotto•Puratto

NPO法人 ほっと・ぷらっと

Address: Nishi 4, Minami 7, 3-1

Tel: 0155-25-5004

This NPO brings together those with and without disabilities to work together in a open and friendly environment. Hotto Puratto also accepts old, but useable clothing. Please call for details on what items are acceptable.

※Please keep in mind that both organizations do not offer support in English.

“Reduce” the Right Way!

Ideally, your unwanted items should have been greatly reduced through the last two options. You might still have a mountain of things that just can't be given away or sold. Of course, putting them into their designated bags and dragging them out to the trash station is a common thing to do,

but your mountain might just be too much!

In that case, head to the Kuririn Center!

くりにんセンター

Address: Nishi 24, Kita 3, 1-5

Tel: 0155-37-3550

While you have to haul your own trash, going to the Kuririn Center lets you skip the bagging (you don't need to buy the designated bags, but you still need to bag loose items!) and even throw away large items, such as furniture. There is a fee of 170 yen per 10 kg of trash. While you don't have to wait to throw out your trash, there are some things are not accepted. Specialty items such as car batteries/tires, gas tanks, computers, refrigerators, etc. can not be disposed of at the Kuririn Center. ※Closed on Sundays and certain holidays.

For Specialty Items

Ask your local town hall about specific rules. Larger items such as tires can often be taken care of by the shop that sold it to you. Most people have their old tires disposed off at the same time as their new tire purchase. There may be a small fee to dispose of specialty items, due to the extra work necessary.

Don't just throw everything out to the curb, put some effort into keeping our Earth clean and happy this spring!

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

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



Title	Language	Dates
Aquaman	Jpn Sub	Until 21st
First Man	Jpn Sub	Until 21st
Alita Battle Angel	Jpn Sub	Until 28th
Captain Marvel	Jpn Sub	From 16th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
3/26-27 (Tue-Wed) 13:00-15:00	Spring Break "Waku Waku" Classroom 春休みわくわく教室 Make use of the long spring break and take your children to Obihiro's Children's Hall! They will have a chance to do some fun experiments, make crafts and more. Registration is required. Participation is free.	Obihiro Children's Hall 帯広市児童会館 0155-24-2434
3/24 (Sun)	Fish Day 魚の日 Every month in Hiroo town (twice in December!), 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(広尾郡広尾町会前2丁目79番地先) 0155-82-3202
1/26-3/21 (Sat-Thur)	Lake Shikaribetsu Kotan (Village) しかりべつ湖コタン "Kotan" is the Ainu word for "village." Seen only in the coldest time of year, you can come and experience an entire village made of snow and ice. Try dipping in a hot spring made of ice! Please refer to the homepage for more information.	Lake Shikaribetsu 然別湖 しかりべつ湖コタン実行委員会 0156-69-8181 http://www.nature-center.jp/kotan/index.html

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 (click on "Information for Foreigners")

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