

Teach about your homeland!

Becoming an International Guest Speaker

Japanese people want to know about your culture! There are various ways to introduce a culture, such as through presentations, cooking classes, games, and so forth. In Obihiro there are quite a lot of people who have never been abroad, but are interested in other cultures. This is not only true for adults, but for children as well. Obihiro has started to have children learn about foreign countries. Children are the best target for talking about new things because they have little prejudice and high adaptability. As the number of schools holding "international understanding classes" is increasing, the students' parents also have begun to realize that they have to get to know about the different cultures as well. So you can meet a wide variety of people in Obihiro; from young to old! ☺ Don't you think this is a great chance for you to talk about yourself and your homeland? Teaching one of these classes is a great way to make friends and feel like part of Japanese society. All of Obihiro will be sad if you keep your culture inside you. Your cooperation can help Obihiro become a more international city! This project's goal is to make a bridge between you and other Obihiro residents. The city will even pay you "thank you money". So you are officially a "teacher" during your presentation. Please let us know if you are interested in signing up for this fun job! Contact: Naoko in TIRC tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
TEL: 0155-34-0122



Mini-volleyball!

International Mini Volleyball Night

How do you spend your free-time on Wednesday night? On the second Wednesday of every month, hold a nice sport event at the Tokachi International Relations Center. It's called the "International Mini-Volleyball Night." This event started last year to create international exchange between local people and foreign people living in Tokachi. You've never played Mini-Volleyball? Don't worry. Many inexperienced people come to play every month. In addition, this game is similar to real volleyball but easier to play. The main purpose of this event is "international communication" through sports so all participants enjoy communicating with each other using Japanese, English, Spanish and other languages. However, when all else fails, the most useful language is body language. Even though you don't speak other languages fluently, you can get to know many new and fun people through Mini-Volleyball and body language! Join us and we'll all have a great time together!!

Day & Time: 7/9(Wed) 7pm-9pm

Place: Tokachi International Relation Center (TIRC)

TEL: 0155-34-0122

FEE: FREE (only during this event)

For more information: obicia07@yahoo.co.jp

Organized by the Tokachi International Association (TIA)

Supported by Northern Region Center (NRC), and

the Committee for Improvement of the City



Events in Tokachi and Obihiro

July

When	What	Where/Contact #
7/5 (Sat) 19:45~	The Whitesnake Goddess Festival: Come see this ancient Ainu legend performed by skilled dancers. The giant white snake costume comes to life in the flames of the surrounding torches. At the end of the night, float your wishes across the lake ...	然別湖畔 Shikaribetsu Lake lakeshore 01566-6-2311 (participation is FREE)
7/5 (Sat) 10:00-13:00	Free Concert and Photography Display: 9 different local bands from all around Tokachi will be playing live and free in the Tokachi Plaza atrium. The photo display is open from 14:00 to 20:00.	とかちプラザ Tokachi Plaza 0155-31-6037 (participation is FREE)
7/6 (Sun) 11:00 - 16:30	Pedestrian Paradise: Obihiro closes off some main streets downtown and creates a pedestrian paradise (hokoten) every Sunday from now to September! There will be food, performances, and shopping. A fun way to enjoy a sunny Sunday in Obihiro.	帯広市西2条南8丁目~南9丁目 West 2 South 8 to South 9 (near Fujimaru and Hirokoji) 0156-65-4164
7/13 (Sun) 9:00 Parade 10:45 Races! 13:30 Finals 15:30 The End	Tractor Bamba: The slogan: "Our agriculture. Our tomorrow. It's back again this year; Mecha Horsepower!" The event: Tractor Drag Racing! Come see these tractors blaze through the mud tracks to the finish line.	更別村ふるさと館周辺 Furusato Kan, Sarabetsumura (Head South on Hwy. 236 and it will be on your right in Sarabetsu) 0155-52-2010
7/13 (Sun) 10:00 Start 10:30 Games 13:30 Concerts 15:00 Closing	SEKAI NO TOMODACHI : This "Friends of the World" festival is going to have great food from all around the globe! There's going to be lots of fun games, as well as great live concerts etc, so definitely come on over!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center West 20 South 4 in Obihiro 0155-34-0122
7/26 (Sat) 14:00-15:00	Story Telling Around the World: This month we will be reading a children's book from the Vietnam in both Vietnamese and Japanese. We're going play some games and have a great time! (for children from 3 yrs. old to 2 nd grade elementary) RSVP by TEL, FAX, or email. →	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
7/27 (Sun) 12:00 - 21:00	Shoko Natsu Matsuri: Beer, fireworks, and a cool summer evening; what could be better? There will be games and fun for the kids too. Fireworks at 19:30	芽室公園 Memuro Park 0155-62-2339
7/27 (Sun) Actual race is From 9:00 to 11:00	River Raft Race: This is an 11km race down the Tokachi river, but it's really all about the raft design! See how far your latest contraption can make it down the River! The competition is one big popularity contest, so you have to win over the onlookers!	十勝川 Starts at Suzuran Ohashi Bridge (Otofuke side) and goes all the way to the bird viewing area near the Tokachigawa Onsen Bridge 0155-31-0835
8/4 - 8/7 (Mon - Thu) 10:00 - 21:00	Obihiro Tanabata Festival : There's going to be huge tanabata decorations in the shape of all your favorite Japanese characters and more. There will be lots of good food, fun festival games, and it's a great way to enjoy the summer in Obihiro. Come out and have some fun with us!	帯広市 広小路 The festival centers around the Hirokoji Covered Arcade in downtown Obihiro 0155-23-5675

Did you know?

Applying for City Housing

In areas of Japan with large populations of foreign students, foreign workers, etc., foreigners renting apartments is an everyday thing and landlords and real estate companies are used to renting out to foreigners. Foreigners in these areas can usually get an apartment easily if they simply find a guarantor.

However, in areas where there are few foreigners and landlords and companies are not used to renting out to foreigners, things can be more difficult. There are still many places that turn potential tenants down simply because of their nationality.

Since the government can't turn people down simply because of nationality, applications for city housing are increasing. If a foreigner meets all the requirements they can apply for various kinds of public housing. However, the application process can be complicated and foreigners often struggle to apply.

What is city housing?

City housing is public housing built for people with low income according to the Public Housing Law. City housing is built and maintained using the rent money and city tax money.

City housing is the precious property of Obihiro citizens so tenants are obliged to pay their rent on time and clean the apartment well to keep the housing in good condition.

Types of housing

In addition to housing for normal households, there is city housing for lone tenants, people in wheelchairs, the elderly, single mothers, etc. If you have a family you would fall under the "normal household" category.

Rent

The rent you pay, the size of your housing and the date your apartment was constructed etc. will depend on your household's status and monthly income and rent will change every year. To find out more about specific rent amounts refer to the pamphlet handed out when the city is taking applications for public housing called *shi'ei jyutaku boshu annai*.

Deciding who gets housing

Applications for city housing are open to the public. In Obihiro they decide who gets housing by raffle or by order of application.

Current City Housing Application Period July 1st to July 7th Apply now!



How the raffle works

Application information forms

On the 25th of the month before the raffle (raffle = 3 times a year in July, November, and March) the Housing Section (5th fl., Obihiro City Hall) and other government offices begin to hand out a guide with details about city housing (*shi'ei jyutaku boshu annai*). The information is also available on the Obihiro City Homepage.

How to apply

Obihiro accepts applications from the 1st to the 7th of July, November, and March. Applications must be submitted on the 10th floor of Obihiro City Hall. Obihiro does not accept applications at any other time.

Receiving your raffle number

The city will send you a raffle number within one week of the date you applied for city housing.

The raffle (attendance is not required)

Since 2004, applicants are not required to attend the raffle to be eligible for housing. Two witnesses push the button to start the raffle which then chooses who receives housing and who doesn't.

Raffle results

The results of the raffle are shown at city hall and on the city home page. They will show a list of the raffle numbers of people who will receive housing. Applicants who are to receive housing will receive a notice in the mail along with forms for being inspected/certified for housing. (Those who do not receive housing will not receive a notice)

For more details, please refer to the Obihiro City Homepage:

<http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/toshikensetsubu/juutakuka/a130101.jsp>

HOW TO APPLY

① Tenant raffle

The City of Obihiro takes applications for its city housing 3 times a year (in July, November, and March). The city takes applications from the 1st to the 7th of these three months (not on weekends or holidays) on the 10th floor of City Hall. On around the 15th of that month, they hold the raffle and tenants are decided. For a more detailed schedule, look at the Obihiro City Homepage or the city newsletter "Koho Obihiro".

On around the 25th of the month before the applications are accepted, the City of Obihiro provides a guide that tells what housing is available etc (*shi'ei jyutaku boshu annai*) on the city homepage, at the Public Housing Section on the 5th floor of City Hall, and at other government buildings.

② Order of Application

Housing in the agricultural areas of Obihiro (Taisho, Kawanishi, Kiyokawa, and Hirono) and housing for single mothers can be applied for at any time. Housing is provided depending on when the application was received.

③ Priority housing

A raffle for housing is held three times a year (in July, November, and March) for tax paying single parent households, disabled persons, and households with many children (not including households receiving livelihood protection money).

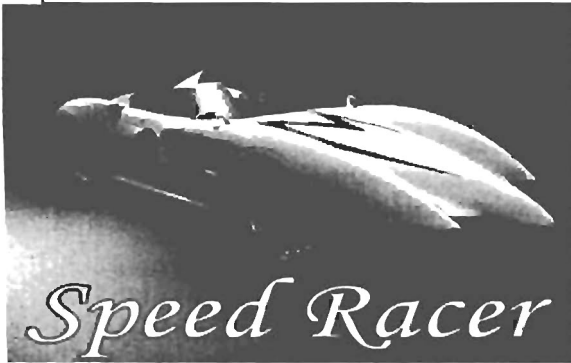
Housing Name	Location
Nanto	East 5 South 18
Koen Higashimachi	Koen Higashimachi 2
Hokko	West 14 South 1
Hakurindai	Hakurindai
Midorigaoka	West 14 South 17
Ryokuo	Midorigaoka Higashidori 27
Ryokunan	Minamimachi South 6-26
Wakaba	West 17 South 6
Meiwa	West 19 South 4
Shin-ryoku	West 21 South 4
Ohzora	Ohzora-cho
Center City 1	West 4 South 10
Woody 1	East 4 South 13
Wing 7	East 1 South 7
Center Park	West 5 South 5
Inada	West 15 South 36

Times are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml

July Movies At Cinema Taiyo, Obihiro

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

Title	Language	Starts - Ends
Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull	English	July 1 - August
Speed Racer (pic below)	English	July 5 - August
Juno (comedy about teen pregnancy...)	English	July 1 - July 11
The Happening (thriller by M. Night Shyamalan)	English	July 26 - August
August Rush (starring Keri Russel and Robin Williams)	English	May 21 - July 25
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian	English	May 24 - July 25
Gegege no Kitaro	Japanese	July 12 - August
Hana Yori Dango Final	Japanese	June 28 - August



Kung-fu Panda	Japanese	July 26 - August
Climbers' High	Japanese	July 5 - August
Ponyo on the cliff by the sea	Japanese	July 19 - August
Pokemon: Diamond and Pearl	Japanese	July 19- August
The Magic Hour	Japanese	June 7 - August
My Girlfriend is a Cyborg	Japanese	June 1 - July 25

We want to hear from you!

The City of Obihiro is trying to improve and increase participation in their free Japanese classes.

We want any and all people interested in taking Japanese classes to fill out our survey so that we can tailor our classes to Obihiro residents' needs. If you can't find the survey on a separate white sheet of paper in this issue of WHIO, please contact us (at right) so that we can hear your opinions.

Contact us or fill out the survey in this issue to participate!

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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, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

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