

# Ashiya Newsletter

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## Establishment of the "Charter for Urban Planning to Make Ashiya a Comfortable City to Live In"

In establishing the "Charter for Urban Planning to Make Ashiya a Comfortable City to Live In," Ashiya City has set forth both the basic and other necessary issues for maintaining and developing a living environment essential to a healthy and comfortable life and how to make these ideals a reality.

Until now, procedures based on related laws and regulations were enforced through administrative guidance when construction of buildings or development of residential areas took place in the city. For example, before applying for a Building Standard Law construction confirmation certificate, a report based on either the "housing development instruction outline" or "instruction outline related to making Ashiya a comfortable city" has been required. With the establishment of the Charter, urban planning is promoted as a joint project, with the city, housing developers, builders and citizens working cooperatively based on the principles of the Charter.

### Charter Content

- Basically, the Charter unifies the currently-enforced "housing development instruction outline" and "instruction outline related to making Ashiya a comfortable city," stipulating that the Charter should succeed the previous administrative guidance.
- The Charter establishes the Ashiya City Living Environment Dispute Mediating Committee and an intermediary system to

resolve disputes that neighboring residents may have with large-scale housing developers and builders.

- Concerning the facilitation of decision-making such as district planning as designated in the City Planning Law and the facilitation of finalizing cooperative construction agreements as designated in the Building Standard Law, the Charter establishes support programs such as those for technical support, partial financial support for the necessary cost of such activities and necessary support programs for businesses which promote a favorable living environment and city environment.
- The Charter makes it compulsory for reports related to housing development and building construction to be filed before the applications for development permits and for confirmation.
- The Charter sets forth disciplinary measures for violators of requirements based on this Charter, such as warnings and orders for failure to file the appropriate reports, and fines and/or punishment for those who do not follow the orders, issuance of public announcements, etc.

This Charter takes effect on May 1, 2000.

**Inquiries:** Development Instruction Section  
**Tel:** 38-2071

## Long-term Nursing Care Insurance System Has Started

The Long-term Nursing Care Insurance System begun in April reduces the burden on families caring for the elderly in order to prepare a system for our increasingly graying society in which society as a whole supports nursing care.

### Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Cards Have Been Sent Out

At the end of March, Ashiya City sent Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Cards to those who are 65 years of age or older (Category 1 Members) as well as to those who are 40 to 64 years of age (Category 2 Members) who received approval for nursing care.

You will need this card when taking advantage of nursing care services, so please take care not to lose or misplace it.

### Request — When You Receive Your Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Card —

- Make sure that the name, address and date of birth written on your card are correct.
- Write down the code and number of your card for your records in case you lose or misplace your card.
- Read the precautions on the back of the card carefully.

The cards of those who have already received approval for nursing care (a process which was implemented from October 1999) also have the level of nursing care need, valid period and maximum limit of services (cost and number of days) written on their card. However, the cards of those who have not received approval (those who do not need nursing care services) do not have this information written on the card.

### — When You Must Have Your Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Card —

- When you need nursing care and apply for approval.
- When you ask home nursing assistance firms to design a nursing care service plan (care plan) for you.
- When you take advantage of nursing care services.

When you take advantage of nursing care services, be sure to submit your Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Card at the counter of the institution providing the services.

When you take advantage of nursing care services at hospitals and nursing facilities for the elderly, please submit your elderly health handbook together with your Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Card.

### Collection of Insurance Premiums for Those 65 Years of Age or Older Starts from October

Insurance premiums for those who are 65 years of age or older (Category 1 Members) will be established according to level of income. However, as a means of facilitating a smooth introduction of the Long-term Nursing Care Insurance System, premiums will not be collected from April through September. From October 2000 to September 2001 Category 1 Members will be charged one-half of the cost of the premium.

In addition, insurance premiums for those who are 40 to 64 years of age (Category 2 Members) will vary, depending on the type of medical health insurance you subscribe to, such as the Employees' Health Insurance, Mutual Aid Association Insurance or National Health Insurance. Premiums for nursing insurance will be collected together with the medical health insurance premiums. Half of the insurance premiums will be covered by the employer or by the National Treasury.

**Inquiries:** Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Section  
**Tel:** 38-2046

# Ashiya's Seasons

Starting this month, we will take a look at the many plants and animals that live in Ashiya and the surrounding mountains. This article was adapted from an article written for the Japanese-language newsletter by Keiichi Furuichi of the Ashiya Environmental Planning and Promotion Council.



"Kobanogamazumi" (Vivurnum erosum)

## White Flowers

In late spring, the mountains are covered with a blanket of fresh green dotted here and there with white flowers.

The chokeberry, a three-meter-tall tree seen in the Mt. Shiroyama area and elsewhere, bears clusters of white flowers on its delicate branches. The chokeberry is a member of the rose family. The "kobanogamazumi" (Vivurnum erosum) common in the mountains and plains around Ashiya, also sports tiny white flowers that bloom in round clusters. "Kobanogamazumi" bear a red fruit that ripens in the fall and is used to make a fruit wine.

The several three to four-meter-tall "mushikari" (Viburnum frucatum) trees just behind the Royuhoden Gate also bloom every spring.



"Fusa akashia" (Silver wattle)

The most common flower in Ashiya's mountains in the month of May is the "maruba-aodamo" (Fraxinus Sieboldiana Blune). This large deciduous tree grows 15 meters tall. It is a member of the Oleaceae family, which also includes the ash, a hardwood used for baseball bats.

In the Asahigaoka-cho area and at the foot of Mt. Egeyama the air is perfumed by the clumps of white flowers on the "harien-ju" (false acacia) trees. For some reason, this tree is known in Japan by the name acacia, even though it is not the true acacia tree found in other parts of the world. The false



"Harienju" (False acacia)



"Mushikari" (Viburnum frucatum)

acacia is a native of North America, and it is commonly planted along city streets and elsewhere to prevent the shifting and blowing of sand. False acacia were also planted to reforest the Rokko Mountains.

Ashiya does have true acacias as well,

which are called "fusa akashia" (silver wattle) in Japanese. Acacia trees are planted along the bus route in front of Konan High School and they are covered with clusters of bright yellow flowers in March and April.



"Maruba-aodamo" (Fraxinus Sieboldiana Blune)

## FY2000 Large-Sized Garbage Collection Schedule

Town Name	May	June	July
Yama-ashiya-cho, Nishiyama-cho, Nishi-ashiya-cho	1, 29	26	24
Asahigaoka-cho	2, 30	27	25
Ise-cho, Takezono-cho, Hama-ashiya-cho, Matsuhama-cho	3, 31	28	26
Sanjo-cho, Tsukiwaka-cho, Hirata-cho, Okuike-cho, Okuike-minami-cho	4	1, 29	27
Chayano-cho, Omasu-cho, Kimimitsu-cho, Narihira-cho, Kami-miyagawa-cho	5	2, 30	28
Miyazuka-cho, Hirata-kita-machi	6	3	1, 29
Kusunoki-cho, Kasuga-cho	8	5	3, 31
Rokurokuso-cho, Iwazono-cho	9	6	4
Funado-cho, Matsunouchi-cho, Shimizu-cho, Maeda-cho	10	7	5
Yamate-cho, Okuyama, Sanjo-minami-cho	11	8	6
Higashiyama-cho, Higashi-ashiya-cho	12	9	7
Uchide-kozuchi-cho, Wakamiya-cho, Uchide-cho	13	10	8
Daito-cho, Kurekawa-cho	15	12	10
Midorigaoka-cho	16	13	11
Nangu-cho, Nishikura-cho	17	14	12
Ohara-cho, Shinnozuka-cho	18	15	13
Tsuji-cho, Kawanishi-cho, Seido-cho, Miyagawa-cho	19	16	14
Hama-cho	20	17	15
Takahama-cho 1 to 4	22	19	17
Takahama-cho 5 to 10	23	20	18
Wakaba-cho 1 to 3, Midori-cho	24	21	19
Wakaba-cho 4 to 7	25	22	20
Hamakaze-cho, Niihama-cho, Yoko-cho	26	23	21
Shiomi-cho	27	24	22

## Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center (Tel: 32-0707)

Program	Hours	May	June	July	Eligibility, Cost and Others
Healthy infants clinic	1:00 to 2:30 p.m.	15	29	13	Those eligible will be notified by mail.
Psychological checkups for 3-year-olds	from 9:00 a.m. from 10:15 a.m.	9 16	13 20	11 18	Advice on training and rearing children who are 3 years old.
Psychological consultations for 3-year-olds	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	9	13	11	Appointment required: Analysis of delayed language skills and social skills. Counseling by medical specialists.
Child-rearing consultations	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	8	12	10	Those eligible will be notified by mail. Counseling for child development by medical specialists.
Mental health counseling	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	16	20	18	Appointment required: Counseling for social rehabilitation, depression, neuroses and other conditions by medical specialists.
Consultations for senior citizens' health	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	24	7	5	Appointment required: Counseling for senile dementia, insomnia and other conditions by medical specialists.
General health consultations (fee charged), Company checkups (fee charged)	1:00 to 2:00 p.m.	19	2, 16	7, 21	Appointment required: Examination, urinalysis, blood test, x-ray, electrocardiogram, hearing acuity, body measurements, STD test etc.
HIV tests	2:00 to 2:30 p.m.	19	2, 16	7, 21	Confidential test possible, fee charged for test results certificate.
Stool test (fee charged) Water quality analysis (fee charged)	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon		Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays		Water quality analysis on special items; 1st and 3rd Mondays only.

# Ashiya Health Center

**Tel: 31-1586, Fax: 31-1018**

Program	Hours	Place	May	June	July	
Tuberculin skin tests, BCG vaccinations	1:30 ~ 2:30 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center	T. skin test	-	-	3
			BCG	-	-	5
Expectant mothers' classes (appointment required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	First period	30	6, 20	-
			Second period	9	-	4, 18
Health consultations for pregnant women	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	15	19	17	
Home visits to newborn babies	Anytime	Ashiya Health Center	Anytime			
Child-rearing consultations	9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	15	19	17	
Child-rearing classes	9:45 ~ 11:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	8	12	10	
Health checkups for 4-month-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center	10, 24	14, 28	12, 26	
Health checkups for 1-year-olds	Anytime	Designated medical facilities	Anytime at designated medical facilities			
Health checkups for 18-month-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center	18	15	13	
Health checkups for 3-year-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center	11	1	6	
Allergy consultations (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	22	26	24	
Free dental consultations and checkups	1:00 ~ 2:30 p.m.	Dentists Association Hall	17	21	19	
Home visit to those who are bedridden		Apply with Ashiya Health Center	Anytime			
Home visit for dental care to those who are bedridden						
Citizens' health checkups (lung cancer tests for those aged 40 or above)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	12	2, 13	7, 11	
Anemia tests						
Health checkups (appointment required)	9:15 a.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	2, 8	6, 12	4, 10	
Osteoporosis checkups (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	23	27	25	
Nutritional consultations (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	23	27	25	
Health consultations	1:00 ~ 3:00 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center	2, 16	6, 20	4, 18	
Stomach cancer tests (appointment required)	9:15 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center	Mondays and Thursdays			
Tests for uterine, cervical and breast cancer	Anytime	Designated medical facilities	Anytime at designated medical facilities			
Cancer of the large intestine tests	To be submitted in the morning	Ashiya Health Center	Tuesday mornings			
Nutritional instructions classes (reservation required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	24 to 26	28 to 30	-	
Health classes (reservation required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	-	-	28	

## Clinic Open during the Holidays

**Name:** Ashiya Municipal Holiday and Emergency Clinic

**Address:** 5-13 Kimmitsu-cho,  
Ashiya-shi

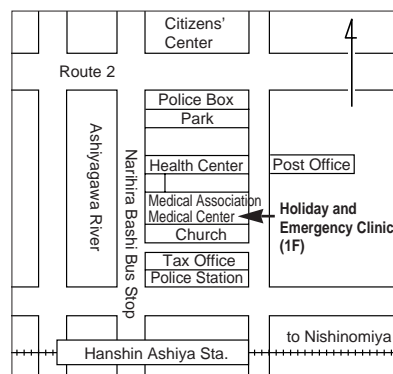
**Tel:** 21-2782

**Medical Departments:**  
Internal Medicine,  
Pediatrics

**Days:** Sundays and  
national holidays

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00  
p.m.

\* Evening/night services are available on a rotating basis. Please call the Fire Department (Tel: 32-2345) for the clinic on duty.



## Dentists (Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon)

	Clinic Name	Address	Tel.
May 3	Takada Dental Clinic	10-5 Hama-cho	31-2229
4	Tabata Dental Clinic	10-18 Funado-cho	21-5655
5	Makihata Dental Clinic	1-16 Uchide-cho	22-3233
7	Tsubouchi Dental Clinic	6-10-103 Seido-cho	22-1712
14	Toshima Dental Clinic	PCL Bldg. 2F, 7-13 Kusunoki-cho	35-2188
21	Niki Dental Clinic	10-9-1 Daito-cho	32-6544
28	Nishiki Dental Clinic	2-11-101 Hama-cho	23-6430
Jun 4	Masuda Dental Clinic	11-15 Shinnozuka-cho	22-5359
11	Hamamoto Dental Clinic	7-1 Seido-cho	21-2288
18	Hashitani Dental Clinic	10-19 Nangu-cho	23-8511
25	Hashimoto Dental Clinic	6-2 Chayano-cho	22-3393
Jul 2	Hasegawa Dental Clinic	7-11 Miyazuka-cho	34-0212
9	Hanaoka Dental Clinic	6-4 Takezono-cho	38-5533
16	Noji Dental Clinic	6-13 Nishi-ashiya-cho	32-3386
20	Harada Dental Clinic	3-7 Maeda-cho	31-3033
23	Hirose Dental Clinic	4-8-105 Nishiyama-cho	23-6420
30	Fujimoto Dental Clinic	5-2-202 Funado-cho	31-4193

## We Want Your Opinion!!

*Ashiya Newsletter* is designed to provide information that will enrich the lives of both foreign residents living in Japan for extended periods and those here on short stays. To improve the newsletter and pack it full of the information most desired by the foreign community, we solicit your requests, questions and comments via e-mail, fax or post.

**E-mail:** info@city.ashiya.hyogo.jp

**Fax:** 0797-38-2175

**Post:** Ashiya Newsletter Editing Staff, Ashiya City International and Cultural Section, La Mall Ashiya, 2-9 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi, 659-0092

# Events

## Citizens' Walking Get-Together

**Date and time:** Second Saturday of the month, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Place (Meet at):** Ashiya Chuo Park Baseball Field South Side Plaza

**Capacity:** 100 people (on a first-come, first-served basis)

**Admission:** Free of charge

\* Sports safety insurance fee (annual fee): ¥1,400

**Inquiries:** Sports and Youth Section

**Tel:** 22-7910

## Quarter Tennis Club Seeking Members

**Date and time:** Tuesdays, 12 noon to 2:45 p.m.

**Place:** Gymnasium and Youth Center

**Eligibility:** Adult men and women regardless of whether or not you live in the city

**Membership fee:** ¥1,500 (¥1,500 for enrollment)

**Inquiries and applications:** Administration Office

**Tel:** 38-0981, Ms. Yoshino Takahashi

## "Flowers and Greenery — A Moment of Relaxation" 36th Azalea Exhibit

**Date and time:** May 27 (Sat.) to 31 (Wed.), 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Opening Ceremony:** May 27 (Sat.), 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

**Closing Ceremony:** May 31 (Wed.), 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

**Place:** North side of JR Ashiya Station, at the plaza in front of La Porte (pedestrian deck)

# Classes

### Flowers and Greenery Classes

<Lecture on "Stylish Gardening": Container Gardens with Spring Bulbs>

**Date and time:** May 12 (Fri.), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Greenery Consultation Center

**Lecturer:** Greenery Consultant

**Fee:** ¥2,500

**Capacity:** 18 people (on a first-come, first-served basis)

**Deadline:** May 8 (Mon.)

<Lecture on Container Gardens with Herbs Potted Together>

**Date and time:** May 22 (Mon.), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Greenery Consultation Center

**Lecturer:** Greenery Consultant

**Fee:** ¥2,500

**Capacity:** 18 people (on a first-come, first-served basis)

**Deadline:** May 15 (Mon.)

<Lecture on Hanging Baskets Full of Early Summer Flowers>

**Date and time:** May 31 (Wed.), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Greenery Consultation Center

**Lecturer:** Ms. Yoko Shiba

**Fee:** ¥4,000

**Capacity:** 18 people (on a first-come, first-served basis)

**Deadline:** May 24 (Wed.)

**Inquiries:** City Maintenance Corporation Green Section

**Tel:** 38-2103

**Sponsor:** Ashiya City and the Ashiya Azalea Association

**Exhibition Program:**

(1) Bonsai Azalea Exhibit

(2) Exhibits of wild mountain grasses/herbs, orchids and more.

Vote for your favorite flower — the lucky winners of a drawing from among those who vote for the most popular flower will receive a potted azalea.

(10 winners)

**Inquiries:** Economic Affairs Section

**Tel:** 38-2033

## ACA

### ACA Twilight Concert

#### Cuban Music

Sing and dance the Cuban rumba. A romantic evening of a grand conga band with vocals, bass and keyboard as well as enchanting dance performances.

**Performance:** Ms. Isako Inoue and Mr. Kiyofumi Shimayama

**Program:** *Guaguancó*, *Colombia* and more.

**Date and time:** May 19 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** La Mall Ashiya 1F Plaza (Atrium)

**Admission:** Free of charge

#### ACA Seminar

"What Kind of Country Is Mexico — About Port Colima"

**Lecturer:** Ms. Esther Silva Rodriguez (Kobe University of Mercantile Marine graduate student)

**Date and time:** May 26 (Fri.), 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** ACA Meeting Room

**Admission:** Free of charge

**Capacity:** 30 people (Reservations required)



#### ACA Twilight Concert

"Enchanting and Unknown — Folk Music of the Siberian Tuvan People"

Folk music with ethnic Tuvan instruments and throat singing.

**Performance:** Mr. Masahiko Todoriki

**Program:** Melody of the grassy plains, lullaby, *khomus* (mouth-harp) melody, "Will We Spend the Night Freezing?," other.

**Date and time:** June 16 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** La Mall Ashiya 1F Plaza (Atrium)

**Admission:** Free of charge



**Application and inquiries:** Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA)

**Address:** La Mall Ashiya 2F, 2-6-209 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi 659-0092

**Tel.:** 34-6340 **Fax:** 34-6341

**E-mail:** aca@sannet.ne.jp **URL:** <http://www02.so-net.ne.jp/~aca/>