



# Ashiya Newsletter

Volume 26  
December 1, 2012 No.3

Published by: Ashiya City  
Home page: <http://www.city.ashiya.lg.jp/>

Address: 7-6 Seido-cho, Ashiya City

Phone: (0797)38-2008

E-mail address: [info@city.ashiya.hyogo.jp](mailto:info@city.ashiya.hyogo.jp)

## January 17 Ashiya Prayer and Pledge

**Inquiries: Secretariat Section, Tel. 38-2000**

18 years have passed since the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. A memorial ceremony for the victims will be held as follows:

■ **Date and time:** January 17 (Thu.) 2013,

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (rain-or-shine)

■ **Place:** In front of the Earthquake and Restoration Memorial in Ashiya Park

■ **Ceremony:** Signing the register and offering flowers

**Notes:** \* The flowers will be provided by City Hall.

\* Other flowers and offerings will not be accepted

\* Please use public transportation, as parking is not available for cars or bikes.



▲ Earthquake and Restoration Memorial (Ashiya Park)

### FY2012 Year-end/New-year's holidays

**Ashiya City Hall partially open on December 29th (Sat.)!**

■ At the end of the year, on December 29th (Sat.), services provided on the 1st Floor of Ashiya City Hall will be available until 5:30 p.m.. Please check the city's website for further details:  
[http://www.city.ashiya.lg.jp/sankaku/kokusai/dec\\_29.html](http://www.city.ashiya.lg.jp/sankaku/kokusai/dec_29.html)

※ For other sections, the last day of work will be December 28th (Fri.) until 5:30 p.m..

■ In the New Year, City Hall will resume normal working hours at 9:00 a.m. on January 4th (Fri.), 2013.

■ Please note that, even during New Year holidays you can apply for birth and death notifications at the City Hall's Security Office.

Applications accepted

## Hyogo Memorial Walk 2013

**Applications and inquiries:**

**Hyogo Safety Day Promotion Hyogo Prefecture Residents Association (Hyogo Prefecture Reconstruction Support Section), Tel. (078)362-9984**

The memorial walk is meant to keep alive the experience and lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, and encourage preparedness for a major disaster.

● **Date:** January 17 (Thu.), 2013

● **Applications:** Received at 8:00 a.m.,  
departure at 8:30 a.m.

● **Course:** 10-km course towards Kobe (there are other courses departing from outside Ashiya)  
※ **Goal:** HAT Kobe, where memorial and exchange events will be held.  
(10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

● **Meeting place:**  
Kawanishi Athletics Field

● **Fee:** No charge



## It's winter. Beware of infectious diseases!

**Inquiries: A.C.P. Health Center  
Tel. 31-1586**

The dry winter weather can trigger epidemics. Make sure to stick to the basics of contagion prevention: wash your hands often, gargle and live a regular lifestyle. If you have symptoms, see a doctor as soon as possible, and in case you cough or sneeze, make sure to put on a facemask and follow proper etiquette (cover your mouth and nose with tissue, etc.).

### Seasonal influenza (flu)

■ **Causes:** Influenza virus droplet infection, contact infection

■ **Symptoms:** Fever (38 degrees or over), headache, general malaise, muscle pain, articular pain, cough, nasal discharge

■ **Prevention:** Wash your hands often, gargle, etc. Even if infected, inoculation can lessen the effects of contagion.

### Infectious gastroenteritis

■ **Causes:** Norovirus, rotavirus oral infection, droplet infection, contact infection

■ **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, fever

■ **Prevention:** When disposing of vomited matter or changing diapers, make sure to first put on a facemask and use vinyl gloves, a wiping cloth, or paper towels. Chlorine disinfectant and boiling disinfection are effective in dealing with norovirus and rotavirus.



### Mycoplasma pneumoniae

■ **Causes:** Mycoplasma pneumoniae droplet infection, contact infection

■ **Symptoms:** Fever, nasal discharge, general malaise, headache, cough (may last 3 to 4 weeks if more than 3 days)

■ **Prevention:** Wash your hands often, gargle, etc.

## Beware of accidents and fire caused by Heating Appliances!

Inquiries: Consumers' Center, Tel. 38-2179

This year, energy-conscious people are using an increasing number of gas and kerosene stoves. Let's be careful as improper use of old stoves can lead to serious accidents such as carbon monoxide poisoning or sudden fires.

### ■Electric Stoves

- ① Make sure to turn them off and unplug them before going to bed or going out.
- ② Do not place them near flammable items like *futon* quilts and curtains.
- ③ Do not use them as driers, hanging laundry and clothes over them.
- ④ Make sure to read carefully the instructions and warnings in the manuals.

### ■Gas Stoves

- ① Do not use them as driers, hanging laundry and clothes over them.
- ② Do not place them near flammable items like curtains.
- ③ Make sure the hoses are firmly attached to the gas plugs.
- ④ Make sure to ventilate for about 1 minute every half hour.
- ⑤ Replace your old stoves with ones with a device for protection against incomplete burning.



### ■Electric Carpets and Electric Blankets

- ① When putting away, make sure not to wind the electric cords around the electric carpets or electric blankets.
- ② Do not pull or twist the electric cords.
- ③ Do not place on top of soft items like cushions.
- ④ Do not place heavy items such as tables on top of them.



## Notification from the Tax Section



### Municipal Taxes Due in December

#### Fixed Assets & City Planning Taxes (3rd period)

Inquiries: Tax Section Fixed Assets Tax Subsection, Tel. 38-2017

Deadline for payment: December 25 (Tue.), 2012

#### Municipal Corporate Tax and Business Facility Tax

(for those closing their fiscal year on October 31, 2012)

Inquiries: Tax Section Management Subsection, Tel. 38-2015

Deadline for filing and payment: January 4 (Fri.), 2013

### Municipal Taxes Due in January

#### Individual City & Prefecture Resident Taxes (4th period)

Inquiries: Tax Section Resident Tax Subsection, Tel. 38-2016

#### Municipal Corporate Tax and Business Facility Tax

(for those closing their fiscal year on November 30, 2012)

Inquiries: Tax Section Management Subsection, Tel. 38-2015

Deadline for filing and payment: January 31 (Thu.), 2013

### Municipal Taxes Due in February

#### Fixed Assets & City Planning Taxes (4th period)

Inquiries: Tax Section Fixed Assets Tax Subsection, Tel. 38-2017

#### Municipal Corporate Tax and Business Facility Tax

(for those closing their fiscal year on December 31, 2012)

Inquiries: Tax Section Management Subsection, Tel. 38-2015

Deadline for filing and payment: February 28 (Thu.), 2013

## Filing Individual City & Prefecture Resident Taxes

Inquiries: Tax Section Resident Tax Section, Tel. 38-2016

Starting from the Income Tax Report (*Kakutei Shinkoku*) for fiscal year 2011, individuals whose public pension amount of total receipts is 4 million yen or less, and whose income earned - apart from miscellaneous income pertaining to public pension - is 200 thousand yen or less, have no need to file tax returns to the tax office.

Note, however, that individuals who have no need to file tax returns may in some instances get a reduction in City & Prefecture Resident Taxes by filing the pertinent form.

### ■Examples

- ① In case of deduction for medical expenses
- ② In case of deduction for social insurance premium paid during fiscal year 2012, apart from social insurance premium deducted from pension
- ③ In case of deduction for life insurance and earthquake insurance
- ④ In case of deduction for dependents, physically disabled persons, and widows, apart from public pension carried in the certificate of income and withholding tax

\* Note, however, that tax deduction is not necessarily guaranteed in the cases above.

\* Individuals who have already filed income tax returns and City & Prefecture Resident Taxes, or do not fall into any of the 4 categories above or analogous cases, have no need to file tax returns.

### Sunday Consultation for Municipal Taxpayers

Inquiries: Tax Collection Section, Tel. 38-2014

Consultation is available for municipal taxpayers every last Sunday of the month. It is also possible to pay Municipal Taxes then.

Go to the Tax Collection Section counter after going through procedures at the security office on the first basement level of the North Wing.

■Dates: Dec. 23, Jan 27, and Feb. 24

■Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## Laporte Citizens' Service Corner

Inquiries: Laporte Citizens' Service Corner, Tel. 31-3130

### ■Office hours

Weekdays: Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### ■Closed from....

Year-end/New-year's holidays: Dec. 29, 2012-Jan. 3, 2013

Laporte business holidays: Feb. 20 (Wed.) and 21 (Thu.)

### ■Services

Issuance of copies of Certificates of Residence, Seal Registration, full or partial extract of Family Register, taxation of City & Prefecture Resident Taxes, Fixed Assets Tax Rolls, etc.

※ **Note:** For applications filed on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays, certificates of removal from family register, extracts of old family register, and tax related items will be issued at Ashiya City Hall on the following first business day.

\*Please go to the Citizens' Section for various notifications and registrations.

## Municipal Taxes Due before leaving Japan

Individual City & Prefecture Resident Taxes are assessed every year on individuals who were living in Ashiya City as of January 1, and Fixed Assets & City Planning Taxes are levied every year on those who owned fixed property in Ashiya (land, buildings or depreciative properties) as of January 1.

If you are planning to leave Japan, please contact the office on the right-hand side to find out how to arrange for a representative to handle your tax payments in your absence.

### ►Inquiries:

#### Individual City & Prefecture Resident Taxes:

Tax Section Resident Tax Subsection Tel. 38-2016

#### Fixed Assets & City Planning Taxes:

Tax Section Fixed Assets Subsection Tel. 38-2017

#### Tax filing consultation:

Tax Collection Section Tel. 38-2014

#### Information on account transfers:

Tax Section Management Subsection Tel. 38-2015

# FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

## Changes when enlisting in the National Health Insurance Scheme – as of July 9, 2012

Inquiries: Insurance & Medical Treatment Subsidy Section Insurance Subsection, Tel. 38-2035

### ■Requirements for listing in the National Health Insurance Scheme

As of July 9, 2012 (date of enforcement of the Amendment of the Basic Resident Registration Law), all foreigners with residence registration who have resided in Japan for over 3 months, who are not enrolled in company provided health insurance; Health Insurance Society (*Kenko Hoken Kumiai*), Japan Health Insurance Association (*Kyokai Kempo*), Mutual Aid Association (*Kyosai Kumiai*), National Health Insurance Society (*Kokumin Kenko Hoken Kumiai*), who do not receive Public Assistance, and who are aged less than 75 must join the National Health Insurance system of their local address.

Until the day before amendment, National Health Insurance was available for foreigners holding permit to stay in Japan longer than 1 year. With the implementation of the Amendment of the Basic Resident Registration Law, people who are holding permit more than 3 months must join the National Health Insurance system. Also, some people with holding permit less than 3 months can be named as insured if able to submit proper documentation.

People meeting the requirements above are asked to file an application.

Please note that foreigners with residence in Japan who hold stay permit of 3 months issued prior to the day before enforcement of the Amendment of the Basic Resident Registration Law, and are already enrolled in the National Health Insurance scheme maintain the status of insured persons after amendment.

### ■National Health Insurance Fees

As of July 9, 2012, National Health Insurance Fees may differ as they are now are calculated on the basis of household composition as carried on the Basic Resident Registration.

For further details, call Insurance & Medical Treatment Subsidy Section Insurance Subsection.

## Advertise in Ashiya Newsletter!

Corporate and organizational ads accepted.

Inquiries and applications: Ashiya City Hall (South Wing Floor B1)

International Exchange Subsection

Tel. (0797) 38-2008, Fax (0797) 38-2004

- **Ad rate:** 5,000 yen per issue
- **Ad size:** 9.3 cm high x 8.0 cm wide
- **Published 4 times a year:** March, July, October and December
- **Circulation:** 1,000 copies per issue
- **Deadline for application:** 60 days before publication (decided by lots if too many applications)
- **How to apply:** submit an application and ad draft (in Japanese)

## Do you know about the Amity Card?

Inquiries: International Exchange Subsection, Tel. 38-2008

Fill out and submit an Amity Card to receive monthly English information about Ashiya, such as Ashiya Newsletter and Cosmonet. The service is free of charge. If you are interested, contact Ashiya City Hall International Exchange Subsection or Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center.



## Ashiya English Guide Map is scheduled for publication in Feb. 2013.

Inquiries:  
International Exchange Subsection,  
Tel. 38-2008

Every 5 years, the International Exchange Subsection publishes an English edition of Ashiya Guide Map. The leaflet carries a full-map of the city, and lists of its main facilities and services. Due for printing in February 2013. Please contact the office above.



## Main Events at Municipal Schools (December 2012 to February 2013)

Inquiries: Ashiya City Board of Education School Education Section, Tel. 38-2087

Dec.	21 (Fri.)	School term closing ceremony	All kindergartens
	25 (Tue.)	School term closing ceremony	All elementary and junior high schools
Jan.	7 (Mon.)	School term opening ceremony	All kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools
	17 (Thu.)	Earthquake memorial events	All kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools
	24 (Thu.)	School health meet	Citizens' Center Room 401
	25 (Fri.)	Hanshin Japanese Language Education Meet	Seido Elementary School
	25 (Fri.) to 27 (Sun.)	Exhibitions	Iwazono & Asahigaoka Elementary Schools
	25 (Fri.) to 28 (Mon.)	Exhibitions	Miyagawa, Yamate and Shiomi Elementary Schools
Feb.	1 (Fri.)	Wakuwaku Thrilling Orchestra	Seido and Shiomi Junior High School
	6 (Wed.) to 23 (Sat.)	Calligraphy Exhibit	Uchide Educational Cultural Center
	8 (Fri.) to 12 (Tue.)	Exhibition	Seido Elementary School
	8 (Fri.) to 10 (Sun.)	Exhibition	Hamakaze Elementary School
	9 (Sat.)	Presentation of Results	All kindergartens
	23 (Sat.) to Mar. 3 (Sun.)	Plastic art education exhibition	Ashiya City Museum of Art and History



**Ashiya City Museum of Art and History**

Tel. 38-5432

◆Fees: Adults 300 yen, college and high school students 200 yen, free for junior high school students or younger

▷Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (admission closes at 4:30 p.m.)

▷The museum is closed on Mondays (open on Mondays that are public holidays, and closed on the subsequent Tuesdays)

**The Collection – Gutai Exhibit**

■From Jan. 5 (Sat.) to Feb. 17 (Sun.)

●Theme: With Jiro Yoshihara at the helm, the Gutai Art Association was started in Ashiya in 1954. The present exhibit follows the one held last year – The Birth of Gutai Art – and is the 2nd in a series that delves into the development of the Gutai Art Association.

**The Collection – Ashiya Art Schools & Ateliers Exhibit**

■From Jan. 5 (Sat.) to Feb. 17 (Sun.)

●Theme: Insights into the works of artists with roots in Ashiya, and the schools and ateliers they started, from an evolving art perspective.

**Ancient Lifestyles – Eating and Drinking: The Food Culture of our Ancestors Exhibit**

■From Jan. 5 (Sat.) to Mar. 3 (Sun.)



▲ Ashiya City Museum of Art and History Collection From left to right: Pedestaled Goblet (Kofun Period), Saucer (Showa Era), Masu Measuring Box (Taisho Era)

**EVENTS**

●Theme: It is a known fact that rice was grown in the mountains of Ashiya during the Yayoi Period (300 BC to 300 AD). You will have a chance to see how utensils for cooking, agriculture and fishing developed throughout time.

**The 30th Ashiya Plastic Arts Education Exhibit**

■From Feb. 23 (Sat.) to Mar. 3 (Sun.)

●Theme: The whole building becomes a venue for works of art by kindergarten, elementary and junior high schools students in Ashiya.

Sponsors: Ashiya City Board of Education, Ashiya City Plastic Arts Education Institute

**Ashiya Kirakuen Gallery**

Tel. 34-4351

◆Admission: free

▷Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(Closes at 3:00 p.m. on the last day)

**Group Kurepasu Exhibit**

■Dates: Dec. 2 (Sun.) to 12 (Wed.), 2012

**Christmas Exhibit**

■Dates: Dec. 15 (Sat.) to 22 (Sat.), 2012

**The 9th Iki-iki (Lively) Handmade Art Exhibit**

■Dates: Dec. 24 (Mon.), 2012 to Jan. 9 (Wed.), 2013

**Home Family Association Exhibit**

■Dates: Jan. 11 (Fri.) to 20 (Sun.), 2013

**Home Shioya 10th Saori Hand Weaving Exhibit**

■Dates: Jan. 23 (Wed.) to 31 (Thu.), 2013

**Watercolors Sketches and Picture Letters Group**

■Dates: Feb. 2 (Sat.) to 12 (Tue.), 2013

**The 5th Portraits of Centenarians**

– Serene Smiles –

■Dates: Feb. 14 (Thu.) to 28 (Thu.), 2013

**Friday Cinema Salon** Tel: 31-2301

◆Admission: free

●Starting Time: 1:30 p.m. (Doors open at 1:15 p.m.)

●Place: Ashiya Municipal Library, 2F Meeting Room

■December 7

**Paris When it Sizzles**

U.S.A., 1963, 1 hour 50 minutes

Director : Richard Quine

Starring : William Holden, Audrey Hepburn

■December 21

**Funny Face**

U.S.A., 1957, 1 hour 43 minutes

Director: Stanley Donen

Starring: Fred Astaire, Audrey Hepburn

■January 11

**Yukiguni (Snow Country)**

Japan, 1957, 2 hours 14 minutes

Director: Shiro Toyoda

Starring: Ryo Ikebe, Keiko Kishi

■January 25

**Dekigokoro (Passing Fancy)**

Japan, 1933, 1 hour 40 minutes

Director: Yasujiro Ozu

Starring: Takeshi Sakamoto, Nobuko Fushimi

■February 8

**To Sir, with Love**

Anglo-American, 1966, 1 hour 45 minutes

Director: James Clavell

Starring: Sidney Poitier, Christian Roberts

■February 22

**L'Innocente (The Innocent)**

Italy, 1976, 2 hours 9 minutes

Director: Luchino Visconti

Starring: Giancarlo Giannini, Laura Antonelli

※See page 3 for Main Events at Municipal Schools.



**Human Rights Theater** Tel. 22-9229

**Mo Iikai – Hansenbyo to Mitsu no Horitsu**

(Enough! Leprosy and 3 Laws)

◆Admission: free

■Day and time: Dec. 8 (Sat.), 1:30 p.m. (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

Director Takahashi will give a talk before screening.

●Place: Kami-miyagawa Cultural Center

Produced by: Noritae Ukumori Director: Ichiro Takahashi

**Junichiro Tanizaki Memorial Museum**

Tel.: 23-5852

◆Fees: Adults 300 yen (150 yen if aged 65 or over); college and high school students 200 yen, free for junior high school students or younger. (\*Please note that admission fees are different during the Autumn Special Exhibit, held through December 24.)

▷Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (admission closes at 4:30 p.m.)

▷The museum is closed on Mondays (open on Mondays that are public holidays, and closed on the subsequent Tuesdays); Dec. 25-Jan. 4

**[Exhibition Room] Permanent Display “Junichiro Tanizaki, the Man and His Literature”**

■From Jan. 5 (Sat.) to Mar. 24 (Sun.)

●Theme: The life and works of Junichiro Tanizaki: display of his books.

**[Lobby Gallery] Miyabi Ishii Calligraphy Exhibit**

■From Jan. 8 (Tue.) to Feb. 11 (Mon.)

●Theme: Display of various chillaxing works by calligrapher Miyabi Ishii

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