

Special
Feature

Shigaraki Ware Attracting Attention

Koka's Traditional Industries on Display at Osaka EXPO 2025!

甲賀の伝統産業が「大阪・関西万博」に出展中!

The EXPO is a major event that gathers people and things from all over the world.

The 2025 EXPO, which is being held in Japan for the first time in 20 years, opened in Osaka on April 13.

In this special feature, we will introduce the connection between Koka City and Osaka EXPO, as well as Koka's traditional industries that are on display.

● Inquiries : Shoko Rosei Ka

Tel 0748-69-2187 Fax 0748-63-4087

Seisaku Suishin Ka

Tel 0748-69-2105 Fax 0748-63-4554



What is an "EXPO"?

An Expo is an international exhibition in which countries from around the world participate. The purpose of an Expo is to promote international exchange, social development, and create a vision for the future.

Promoting Shigaraki Ware to the WORLD at Expo 2025!

To promote regional industries and product brands globally at the Expo, the Japanese government has selected 12 model regions to showcase their local specialties. Among them is Koka City, famous for its traditional **Shigaraki ware**, which will be on display at the Expo pavilions and booths.



Courtesy of The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition

EXPO Period April 13 (Sun) – October 13 (Mon, National Holiday)**Location** Yumeshima, Konohanasaku, Osaka CitySee the official website
for more information!EXPO 2025 Official Character
MYAKU-MYAKUEXPO 2025 Osaka-Kansai
Official Website

The KANSAI PAVILION

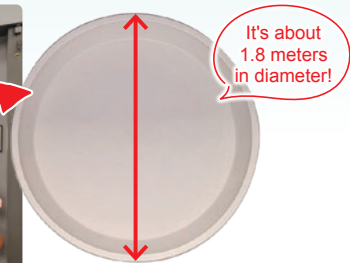
関西パビリオン

A Giant Shigaraki Ware Piece Welcomes Visitors at the Booth Entrance

A large, plate-shaped ceramic piece created by Tokiya Co., Ltd. (Shigaraki-cho) has been selected as the entrance **display screen** for the Shiga Prefecture booth, greeting visitors as they enter!



Shiga Prefecture Booth Entrance



Thematic Signature Pavilion

Thinking About Life Through Art, Digital Technology, Play, and Fun!

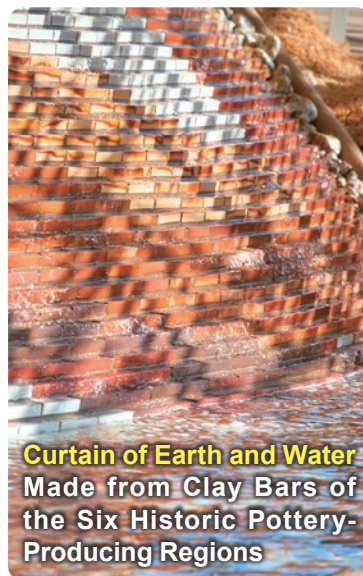
Playground of Life Jellyfish Pavilion

いのちの遊び場クラゲ館

Created by Shigaraki High School and Shigaraki Junior High School Students!!

Water Space Curtain of Earth and Water

The Curtain of Earth and Water, made from 3,205 clay bars—including 726 pieces of Shigaraki ware—highlight the unique textures and qualities of clay from Japan's six historic pottery-producing regions: Shigaraki, Echizen, Seto, Tokoname, Tamba, and Bizen. This impressive feature warmly welcomes visitors.



Curtain of Earth and Water
Made from Clay Bars of
the Six Historic Pottery-
Producing Regions

Ceramic chairs: Tonne

9 Tonne ceramic chairs, made from Shigaraki ware, are placed in the Jellyfish Pavilion as resting spots for visitors. They also function as musical instruments, producing beautiful sounds when tapped. Feel free to touch and tap them to experience the unique texture of Shigaraki ware!



What Are Clay Bars?

Clay bars are brick-like ceramic pieces made from high-quality clay using techniques and craftsmanship that have been passed down for over a thousand years.

Tonne Chairs in Koka City!!

You can find the same Tonne chairs at:

- JR Kibukawa Station Square
- Community Development Activity Center "maRoom"
- Toge no Mori (Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park)

A Work Where Mathematics, Life, and Art Intersect: Kaku-Mei

This piece was created using cypress wood tiles provided by the Shiga Prefecture Forestry Cooperative and processed by Kawayoshi Construction (Tsuchiyama-cho). As visitors approach, the work reacts to their movements, producing mysterious sounds along with patterns generated from “a formula that creates organic patterns of life.”



Information

No reservation is required to see Tonne chairs, the Curtain of Earth and Water, and Kaku-Mei.

Shigaraki Ware Attracting Attention Part 3

43 regions in Japan are promoting their attractions through 6 themes!

LOCAL JAPAN Exhibition

LOCAL JAPAN展

Exhibition Period July 28 (Mon) – July 31 (Thur)

Venue EXPO MESSE “WASSE”



More
information

This exhibition is a hands-on event where visitors can experience the “deep richness of Japan” using all five senses. Across 6 themes and 14 shared programs, 43 regions in Japan are working together, connecting cultures and generations to create special experiences.

Koka City Teams Up with Sanjo City in Niigata Prefecture!

Iron, Soil, and Fire

Under the theme “Craftsmanship from People, Nature, Materials, and Technology,” craftspeople from both cities will hold exhibitions and live demonstrations, allowing visitors to experience traditional manufacturing up close.



Koka City
Shigaraki
Ware



Niigata Prefecture
Sanjo City
Blacksmithing



Furigana Will Be Added to Family Registers

Check Your Postcard!

戸籍にフリガナが記載されます

Inquiries Shimin Ka ☎ 0748-69-2138 ☎ 0748-65-6338

Koka City website



A system for adding furigana characters to names in family registers began on May 26. For details, please check the city website.

You Will Receive a Notification Postcard

In late July, a postcard will be sent to residents with a registered domicile in Koka City, informing them of the furigana (phonetic spelling) to be entered in the family register.*

*If your registered domicile is outside Koka City, your municipality will send you a similar postcard.



If there are any errors* in the furigana, you must submit a correction!

*If the furigana is correct, no action is needed.



How to Submit a Correction

- Mynaportal App
- In person at the Shimin Ka at City Hall or any Chiiki Shimin Center

Submission Deadline Submissions Accepted Until May 25, 2026

Note: If no correction request is submitted by the deadline, the furigana written on the notification postcard will be entered into the family register as is.

A Hotline Service Is Now Available! /

For inquiries regarding submitting a correction, please contact the phone number on the right.

Furigana on Family Register Hotline

☎ 050-2018-1823 (8:30 – 17:15 on weekdays)

For National Health Insurance Members with Myna Hokencho You May Be Eligible to Obtain a Certificate of Eligibility

マイナ保険証をお持ちの国民健康保険加入者の方へ
資格確認書の交付申請ができる場合があります

Inquiries

Hoken Nenkin Ka

☎ 0748-69-2140

☎ 0748-63-4618

Koka City website



For inquiring on applying for a
My Number Card or registering
for Myna Hokencho
Shimin Ka

☎ 0748-69-2139

☎ 0748-65-6338

If you have a Myna Hokencho*¹, the city does not issue a “Shikaku Kakuninsho” (Certificate of Eligibility). However, if you meet the conditions below and wish to obtain one, you may apply for it. To apply*², please visit the Hoken Nenkin Ka or any Chiiki Shimin Center with identification documents.

*¹ Myna Hokencho is the new format of health insurance cards. It links your health insurance information to your My Number Card.

*² If someone from another household is handling the procedure, a letter of proxy is required.



Eligibility

- Those who have lost or returned their Myna Hokencho
- Those who are in the process of renewing their Myna Hokencho
- Those who have difficulty receiving medical treatment with their Myna Hokencho (Individuals who are currently staying at a facility or require assistance, etc.)

You can use your health insurance card until the expiration date indicated on it

Before the expiration date of your health insurance card, we will send you a “Shikaku Kakuninsho (Certificate of Eligibility)” or “Notice of Eligibility Information.”

Note: Those enrolled in Elderly Medical Care will receive a Shikaku Kakuninsho even if they have a Myna Hokencho.

2025 National Health Insurance Tax Amount Will Change

令和7年度国民健康保険税が変わります

Inquiries

Zeimu Ka

☎ 0748-69-2128

☎ 0748-63-4574



① Revised Tax Rates and Other Changes

The National Health Insurance tax rates for FY2025 will be revised to compensate for the shortfall in revenue in the National Health Insurance Special Account budget, due to a decrease in the number of insured persons and an increase in medical expenses.

② Revision Process

According to the policies of the national government and Shiga Prefecture, a standard insurance tax rate has been proposed with the aim of achieving a unified prefectural insurance tax rate by FY2027, ensuring a fairer distribution of costs among subscribers. We ask for your understanding, as tax rates will need to be revised in stages to achieve this unification.

Details of Insurance Tax Payments		FY2024	Fluctuation	FY2025	Difference
Medical Care (Medical Benefits)	Tax Rate on Income	7.0%	↗	7.35%	+0.35%
	Per Member Amount	24,500 yen	↗	25,700 yen	+1,200 yen
	Per Household Amount	20,000 yen	↗	20,800 yen	+800 yen
Support Payments (for Elderly Medical Care Support)	Tax Rate on Income	2.5%	↗	2.70%	+0.2%
	Per Member Amount	8,300 yen	↗	9,900 yen	+1,600 yen
	Per Household Amount	6,600 yen	↗	7,300 yen	+700 yen
Long-term Care (Long-term Care Benefits)	Tax Rate on Income	2.3%	↗	2.35%	+0.05%
	Per Member Amount	10,000 yen	↗	10,800 yen	+800 yen
	Per Household Amount	6,300 yen	↘	6,000 yen	-300 yen

Call for Participants in the 2025 Aino-Tsuchiyama Marathon

2025あいの土山マラソン出場者募集

Application Inquiries

Marathon Headquarters (Taikai Jimukyoku),
located in Tsuchiyama Gymnasium

*Closed on Mondays

☎ 0748-66-0091 ☎ 0748-66-1091

Shakai Kyoiku Sports Ka

☎ 0748-69-2249 ☎ 0748-69-2293

Aino-Tsuchiyama
Marathon
website



Date November 2 (Sun), rain or shine

Venue The Aino Tsuchiyama Marathon Course
is certified by the Japan Association of
Athletics Federations (JAAF)

Events Marathon and Half Marathon
-For both JAAF registered men and women, and non-registered men
and women

Eligible Persons Those born before April 1, 2007 (high school students and
those in wheelchairs are not allowed to participate)

Participation Fee 7,000 yen

Application Period RUNNET:
June 15 (Sun) - July 31 (Thur)

Furusato Nozei (Hometown Tax Donation Program):
June 15 (Sun) - July 20 (Sun)

*For more details, check the Aino-Tsuchiyama Marathon website!

The guest runner is
Yuriko KOBAYASHI



Simplified Renewal Process for Welfare Medical Expense Subsidy

福祉医療費助成の年度更新手続きが原則不要になります

Inquiries

Hoken Nenkin Ka

☎ 0748-69-2142

☎ 0748-63-4618

The city provides medical expense subsidies to reduce the financial burden on people with disabilities and single parent families. In previous years, renewal applications were required, but from August 2025, submitting a renewal application will generally no longer be necessary. However, if the city is unable to verify the required information for renewal, a notification will be sent, and you must complete the necessary procedures. After review, eligible individuals will receive a new benefit card or subsidy voucher in late July.



**Renewal
Procedure**

Until now

All Applicants

Renewal application



Simplified Procedure

From 2025

When Required Information Can Be Verified

No application necessary

When Required Information Cannot Be Verified

Submission of relevant documents and other procedures will be required

Note: A notification will be sent

Review



Late July

If Eligible

A new benefit card or subsidy voucher
will be sent, effective from August

If Not Eligible

A notice of non-eligibility will be sent

Note:

- If your disability certificate or other documents have expired, please renew them in advance.
- Income declarations are required for the subsidy recipient, their spouse, and all dependents.

If you believe you may newly qualify for benefits, please contact us.



June 6 is Hearing Aid Day Hearing Aid Purchase Subsidy Program for Seniors!

高齢者補聴器購入補助制度をご活用ください

Inquiries

Choju Fukushi Ka



0748-69-2164



0748-63-4085



Eligible Persons

Individuals aged 65 or older from resident tax-exempt households who have been recognized by a physician as needing a hearing aid.

Note: Excludes cases where hearing aid purchase costs are covered by other programs.

Subsidy Amount

One half of the cost of the hearing aid unit or ¥20,000, whichever is lower

Note:

- The costs associated with consulting a medical institution and obtaining a medical opinion are to be covered by the individual.
- Applications for the program will close when the budget limit is reached.
- Hearing aids must be purchased at a store that employs hearing aid specialists certified by the Association for Technical Aids.

Koka City
website



English Examination Fee Subsidies Available for Junior High School Students Living in Koka City

英語検定料を補助します

Inquiries Gakko Kyoiku Ka ☎ 0748-69-2243 📠 0748-69-2293

To increase students' interest in English and motivate them to study English on their own, the city subsidizes the fees for English examinations for junior high school students.

Eligible Persons Parents of junior high school students living in Koka City.

Note: Even if your child is not attending a municipal school in Koka, you can apply for the subsidy.

How to Apply [Koka Municipal School Students]

-Applications for subsidies to be handled by schools.

-The subsidy will be provided only for examinations taken at the school.

[Non-Koka Municipal School Students]

-Please apply directly to the School Education Section of City Hall.*

*Test applications must be made individually.

Application Deadline Within 30 days of taking the written test of the English Language Proficiency Test.

For more details, please check the city website.



Koka City website



Support for Students Entering High School or University: Koka City Scholarship System

甲賀市奨学資金給付制度

Inquiries Gakko Kyoiku Ka ☎ 0748-69-2243 📠 0748-69-2293

Koka City offers scholarships to students who have difficulty attending high school or university for financial reasons.

Households that have experienced a sudden change in financial circumstances (such as job loss) may also be eligible, depending on their most recent income status.

Eligible Persons Students who meet all of the following criteria ①, ② and ③.

①Students who are receiving a Shiga Prefecture Scholarship Loan, a Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarship Loan, or a scholarship loan equivalent to these.

②Students whose guardians have lived in the city for at least one year prior to the date of receipt of the scholarship loan mentioned in ① above.

③Students who belong to a household receiving public assistance under the Public Assistance Act or its equivalent.

Amount High schools and the high school division of special support schools ¥5,000 per month
University and college (excluding graduate schools) ¥15,000 per month

Application Period June 10 (Tue) - July 31 (Thur)

Note:

- Applications must be made every year. If you received the scholarship last year, please reapply.
- For details on how to apply and other important information, please check the city website.

Koka City website



Be Prepared for Natural Disasters

いつ起こるかかわからない災害に備えて

Inquiries

Kiki Kanri Ka

☎ 0748-69-2103

Fax 0748-63-4619



It has been 30 years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

You never know when a disaster will strike. It is important to create a disaster action plan with your family and community members, conduct evacuation drills, and prepare disaster prevention items.

When an Earthquake Occurs

Earthquake Event

1-2 minutes

3 minutes

5 minutes

10 minutes

a few hours

3 days

The First Strong Tremor Lasts About 1 Minute

Earthquake Warning Alert

TV, radio, and smart phones will notify you shortly before a strong earthquake (intensity 5 or higher) begins. However, if you are near the epicenter, **you may not receive notification before the shaking starts.**

What to Do After the Shaking Stops

First, check for fire outbreaks, make sure your family is safe, put on shoes, and locate your emergency kit.



Make Sure Everyone is Safe and Prevent Fires

Get Reliable Information from TV, Radio, and Other Sources



Assist with Fire Fighting, Rescue and Relief Efforts

Use water and food from your emergency stockpile, and stay informed about disaster conditions and damage.



Complete Your Own Evacuation Action Plan

The Koka City Disaster Prevention Map (2022 Edition), distributed to all households, provides information on the risks of disasters such as landslides and flooding in the city. It also provides information on emergency items to prepare and safety measures to take in case of disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons.

Use the Disaster Prevention Map to create your personal evacuation action plan (My Timeline) so you can take quick and effective action in an emergency.



◀ Koka City Disaster Prevention Map (2022 Edition)

Access the digital Disaster Prevention Map here



Install Earthquake-Safety Devices to Reduce Risk

Earthquake-Sensitive Circuit Breakers

More than half of fires caused by earthquakes start because of electrical issues. To help prevent these fires, install earthquake-sensitive circuit breakers, which detect shaking and automatically turn off the electricity to reduce fire risks.

Koka City website



Furniture Securing Equipment

Approximately 41% of the deaths in the Noto Peninsula earthquake were caused by being crushed. To prevent serious injury or death from falling furniture during an earthquake, secure heavy items in your home with appropriate safety measures.

Koka City website



Note: Koka City offers subsidies for the installation of earthquake-sensitive circuit breakers and furniture securing equipment for eligible residents. For more information, please visit the city website.

Online Certificate Request and Window Pickup Service Now Available

オンラインで請求した証明書の窓口受取りサービスがスタート

Inquiries Shimin Ka ☎ 0748-69-2137 ☎ 0748-63-6338



Koka City website



Starting in June, a new service allows you to apply and pay for certificates in advance using your My Number Card and smartphone. This makes picking up your certificates at the city hall smoother. Be sure to take advantage of it!

Where to Pick Up Certificates

Shimin Ka at Koka City Hall

Available Certificates

- Certificate of Residence (Juminhyo)
- Certificate of Entries Recorded in Resident Register (Juminhyo Kisaijiko Shomeisho)
- Family Register/Family Register Extract (Koseki Toshohon)

What You Need for Online Requests



- Smartphone (NFC smartphone compatible with My Number Card)
- My Number Card (with valid electronic certificate)
- 4-digit password (for entering information on the card)
- 6-digit or longer password (for electronic signature certificate)
- Credit card or PayPay App

For details on how to apply, please visit the city website.

Consultation Corner

June 15 to July 14

Consultation services are provided for free. Feel free to use them.

Consultation Topic/Contact Details	When	Available Times	Where/Other Information
Daily Life and Work Consultations (Life Support Desk)* Concerns about daily life, work, etc. *No application required. Support provided by: General support staff or employment support staff. Contact Seikatsu Shien Ka ☎ 0748-69-2158 ☎ 0748-63-4085	Monday to Friday (except national holidays)	8:30-17:15	Seikatsu Shien Ka 1st Floor, Koka City Hall
Consumer Affairs Consultations Advice about contracts, products, etc. in consumer affairs. Support provided by: Consumer Affairs Consultant Contact Shouhi Seikatsu Center ☎ 0748-69-2147 / Consumer Hotline 188 (no area code)	Monday to Friday (except national holidays)	9:00-17:00	Shohi Seikatsu Center 1st Floor, Koka City Hall
Pension Consultations Support provided by: Kusatsu Japan Pension Service employees *Reservations required. Appointments filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Appointments Kusatsu Japan Pension Service ☎ 077-567-2220 ☎ 077-562-9638	July 10 (Thu) *Held every other month	10:00-15:00	Kaigishitsu Room 202 2nd Floor, Koka City Hall
School Age Consultations For school-aged children (from elementary school to high school age), their parents, and their families. Contact Kosodate Seisaku Ka ☎ 0748-69-2176 ☎ 0748-69-2298	Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except for national holidays)	8:30-17:15	Kosodate Seisaku Ka 2nd Floor, Koka City Hall You can also make inquiries using the Child-Rearing Concierge Inquiry Form. 
Young Carers Consultations For young carers, the community and other involved persons regarding concerns and issues faced. Contact Kosodate Seisaku Ka ☎ 0748-69-2184 ☎ 0748-69-2298			
Child Development and Learning Consultations* For development and mental health issues. *Reservations by phone or fax are required. Age Children around 4 years old and older* *For children under 4 years old, please contact your local health center. Contact Appointments Hattatsu Shien Ka ☎ 0748-69-2178 ☎ 0748-69-2298 (Reception hours: 9:00-17:00)			Preschools, schools, city halls, etc.
Youth Consultations for Truancy or Social Withdrawal Counseling on social withdrawal and truancy for those who have completed compulsory education up to the age of 25 years old Contact Hattatsu Shien Ka ☎ 0748-69-2179 ☎ Reception hours: 9:00-17:00			
General Youth Issues* Counseling regarding truancy, bullying, delinquency, delinquent behavior, friendships, employment and school enrollment, etc. *From Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (except public holidays and end-of-year holidays). Consultations can also be made by phone and email.			Contact Shonen Center (in Minakuru Plaza) ☎ 0748-62-6010 ☎ 0748-63-3977 ✉ k-syonen@city.koka.lg.jp 

Monthly Tax Payments

今月の納税

**The due date for tax payments
this month is: June 30 (Mon)**

- Resident tax (1st term installment)
- National health insurance tax (1st term installment)
- User fees (Nursery school, kindergarten fees and nursery school lunch fees)
- Long-term care insurance premium (1st term installment)
- Water rates

**Direct debit is a convenient way to
manage payments.**



Notice

Minakuchi Shinryosho Clinic Offers Medical Services on Sundays and National Holidays

みなくち診療所で休日に診療を行っています

Open on June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Sundays)

Business Hours

- Morning session: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Afternoon session: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Reception: 8:45 am - 3:30 pm

Medical Specialty Internal Medicine

Administrator

Medical Koka (name changed from Imamura Iin Clinic)

Inquiries Minakuchi Shinryosho Clinic
(during business hours)

☎ 0748-62-3346 ☎ 0748-63-1728

Sukoyaka Shien Ka

☎ 0748-69-2171 ☎ 0748-63-4085

website ▶



Extended Business Hours in June

6月の延長窓口

June 3, 10, 17, 24

**On Tuesdays, The Shimin Ka in City Hall is open
until 19:00 for issuing personal documents
such as family registers, residence certificates,
tax certificates and registering personal seals.**

Please note that we cannot handle procedures related
to My Number Card or resident transfers (such as
moving in, moving out, or address changes).

Various personal documents can be obtained
at convenience stores and online using your My
Number Card. (For details, please scan the QR code)



Document issuance at
convenience stores



Online application

Inquiries Shimin Ka

☎ 0748-69-2138 ☎ 0748-65-6338

Editing & Publishing

Koka City Hall

6053, Minakuchi, Minakuchi cho, Koka city, 528-8502

☎ 0748-65-0650 ☎ 0748-63-4086

Business Hours: 8:30-17:15 (Except extended business hours on Tuesdays)



**Information on Koka City is also available on
the city's website and Facebook!**

Koka City Website

<https://www.city.koka.lg.jp/>

Koka City Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/city.koka>

Koka City
Website



Koka City
Facebook

