



Vol. 278  
July  
2014

*Konnichiwa!*

# NAGAOKA

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English (Nagaoka International Affairs Center) →  
地球広場 (International Affairs Center) → Konnichiwa Nagaoka




## Flying Boldly High in the Sky


During the traditional giant kite battles on the Kariyata River in Nakanoshima, the enthusiasm of Nagaokans flew high in the sky. Amidst the many huge 6-meter-long kites brilliantly painted with figures of warrior heroes of legends or dramas there flew a kite asking for citizens' support in the launching the Phoenix Fireworks to be displayed in memory of war victims, with prayers for further recovery from disaster, and for the pursuit of peace.


The first-year students from Nakanoshima Junior High School participated in pulling a thick kite rope with all their might under the instruction of local kite-flying experts. (June 9<sup>th</sup>)




Population and Households  
As of June 1, 2014  
(compared to the previous month)

  
279,656  
(-137)

  
136,438  
(-56)

  
143,218  
(-81)

  
104,013  
(+21)

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# The 2014 Nagaoka Festival

## Friday, August 1

**Zenyasai (the celebration on the first night)**

**6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, Central Street,  
and Aôre Nagaoka

**(1<sup>st</sup> Program) 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

\* *Maebure* (Forerunner)

Harley-Davidson

Baton Twirling

\* *Taiko* Drumming

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Program) 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Special Program in Memory of Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims,  
with a Prayer for Recovery from Disaster,  
and for the Pursuit of Peace

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Program) 7:00 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.**

\* Parade

**(4<sup>th</sup> Program) 7:25 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.**

\* *Dai Minyô Nagashi* (Grand Folk Dance Parade)

Everyone is welcome to join *Dai Minyô Nagashi*.

Just come and join us.

**(5<sup>th</sup> Program) 8:50 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

\* *Mikoshi* (portable shrines)

\* *Ohayashi* (festival music bands)

\* *Taiko* Drumming



**Tôrô Nagashi (Floating Paper Lanterns)**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Near Oimawashibashi Bridge on the Kaki River

**Prayer Meeting for the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims**

**6:00 a.m. – Hiragata Park**

**7:00 a.m. – Shôfukuji Temple**

**Prayer Meeting for Anti-Nuclear Arms and Peace**

**8:00 a.m. – Heiwa no Mori (Peace Forest) Memorial Park**

**Fireworks in Memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims**

**7:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.**

## Saturday, August 2

**Fureai Friendship Plaza**

**(Daytime Programs)**

**11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

**11:30 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. Aôre Nagaoka**

\* Parade 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

\* Summer Music Festival 11:45 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

\* Many Fun Programs 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m./4:40 p.m.

Ôte Street intersection, in front of Carnation Plaza, and  
*Nakadoma* (Roofed Open Plaza) in Aôre Nagaoka,  
City Hall Complex

\* Flea Market 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Suzuran Street

Fee: ¥500/3m x 1.8m ¥2,000/vehicle

Registration: By July 31 (Thurs.)

Suzuran Dôri *Shôtengai Jimukyoku*

(Suzuran St. Shopping Mall Office)

Phone: 0258-32-2480 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m./weekdays)



**Ôhanabi Taikai (Grand Fireworks Show)**

**7:15 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.**

On the Shinano Riverbanks between Chôsei Bridge and  
Ôte Ôhashi Bridge

## Sunday, August 3

**Wampaku Omatsuri Hiroba (Wild Kids Festival Plaza)**  
**(Daytime Programs)**

**11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

**11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Aôre Nagaoka**

\* Many Fun Programs 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\* Many shows, fun programs, and food stalls at Ôte Street  
intersection, in front of Carnation Plaza, and *Nakadoma*  
(roofed open plaza) in Aôre Nagaoka, City Hall Complex

\* Flea Market 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Suzuran Street Area

Fee: ¥500/3m x 1.8m

Registration: By July 31 (Thurs.)

Suzuran Dôri *Shôtendai Jimukyoku*

(Suzuran St. Shopping Mall Office)

Phone: 0258-32-2480 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m./weekdays)

**Ôhanabi Taikai (Grand Fireworks Show)**

**7:15 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.**

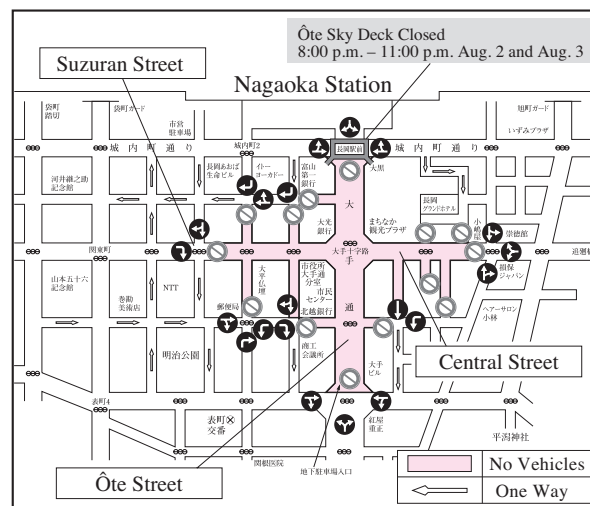
On the Shinano Riverbanks between Chôsei Bridge and  
Ôte Ôhashi Bridge

## Traffic Restriction Hours during the Zenyasai Celebration and Daytime Programs

Aug. 1 (Friday) 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Aug. 2 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 3 (Sunday) 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



## The Origin of the Nagaoka Festival

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945 was a sad and distressing day Nagaokans will never forget. Starting at 10:30 p.m., a total of 125 B-29 bombers flew over Nagaoka and dropped approximately 163,500 firebombs for one hour and 40 minutes. Flames turned the land literally into a deluge of fire. The bombing claimed 1,485 lives and burned down 80% of the city.

After the Pacific War ended, the once-discontinued Nagaoka fireworks were revived during the Nagaoka City Festival for Restoration from War Devastation, which was held in 1947. The annual Nagaoka Festival has its origin in this festival. In memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid victims and in pursuit of everlasting peace, the Nagaoka Festival (so renamed in 1951) has continued on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> every year since then. The fireworks display on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> has gone on since 1948.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the city holds the Annual Citizens' Rally for Declaring Nagaoka an Anti-Nuclear Peace-Advocated City. Many citizens participate in this rally in order to share with and convey to future generations the misery of war and the significance of peace.

A lantern-floating ceremony is also held annually on the Kaki River to remember and comfort the souls of the air-raid victims. It is said many victims rushed into the water of Kaki River, where some lost their lives during the air raid.

In the Nagaoka War Damage Exhibit Hall, various materials related to the 1945 air raid and the people's daily life during the hardships of the Pacific War are permanently on display.



Downtown Nagaoka  
August 2, 1945

## The Nagaoka Grand Fireworks Show

Displays of Nagaoka's fireworks have a long history. The first fireworks display in Nagaoka is said to have been in 1879 on the occasion of a shrine festival.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Japan's largest scale fireworks show is held along the banks of the Shinano River in memory of the people who lost their lives during the 1945 air raid. The spectacular display of 20,000 shots of fireworks draws over 800,000 spectators from home and abroad. Highlights of the Nagaoka Grand Fireworks Show include:

- **Shô-Sanjakudama** (3-foot-diameter shell fireworks)

When a giant 3-foot-diameter *Shô-Sanjakudama* (300 kilograms) is launched up to an altitude of 600 meters above the ground, a huge 650-meter-diameter flower opens. This fireworks shell contains 80 kilograms of gunpowder. A total of four shots of *Shô-Sanjakudama*, which are the embodiment of the most sophisticated skills of Nagaoka's pyrotechnicians, are launched annually during the two fireworks festival nights (two shots for each night).

- **Niagara Falls**

In the image of Niagara Falls, the 650-meter-long fireworks, which are set up on Chôsei Bridge and Ôte Ôhashi Bridge over the Shinano River, flow down into the river. The spectacular Niagara Falls are shown a total of four times on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Kome Hyappyô (One Hundred Sacks of Rice) Fireworks**  
(100 shots of size-10 fireworks shells)

*Kome Hyappyô* (One Hundred Sacks of Rice) Fireworks were created in 1986, commemorating the 80th anniversary of

the establishment of the modern municipality of Nagaoka City. Celebrating the centennial of the modern municipality in 2006, 100 shots in sequence were successfully accomplished.

- **Vesuvius Grand Star Mine**

With technology possessed exclusively by Nagaoka's pyrotechnicians, the sight of 400 – 500 shots launched in the space of two minutes can be said to be a re-creation of the great eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in Italy.



- **Super Grand Wide Star Mine**

The extremely colorful fireworks are launched simultaneously from five locations.

- **Super Grand Miracle Star Mine**

Fireworks launched simultaneously from several locations in a wide area shoot high up in a diagonal pattern.

- **Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery**

Wishing for a safe recovery from the damage caused by the Great Chûetsu Earthquake on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, phoenix-shaped fireworks are displayed over a span of 2.8 kilometers in a line high above the ground.

- **Ten Chi Jin Fireworks**

Commemorating the 2009 broadcast of *Ten Chi Jin*, a long-running period TV drama, *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks are shot up from nine locations, filling the summer night sky with a sparkling glow. The highly artistic fireworks in a magnificent scale depict the life of Kanetsugu Naoe, a samurai warrior who had a special connection to old Nagaoka.

### Rules at the Fireworks Viewing Sites

In order to ensure the safety of fireworks viewing sites, spectators are required to obey the following rules:



Each person's space is limited to approximately 100 centimeters long by 80 centimeters wide. Refrain from reserving a larger space than you actually need. Do not use rocks or concrete blocks to hold down the edges of a sheet.



Smoking is not allowed in fireworks viewing sites.



Do not drink too many beverages (alcoholic or otherwise).



If you use a tripod, make sure that it is at an appropriate height that does not obstruct the view of other spectators.



Decide on a meeting location with the people accompanying you so that no one gets lost.



Pets are not allowed.



High heels are dangerous for walking on the grassy, sandy, and slanting turf of the riverbanks.



Tables and chairs are not allowed because they may obstruct the view of other spectators.



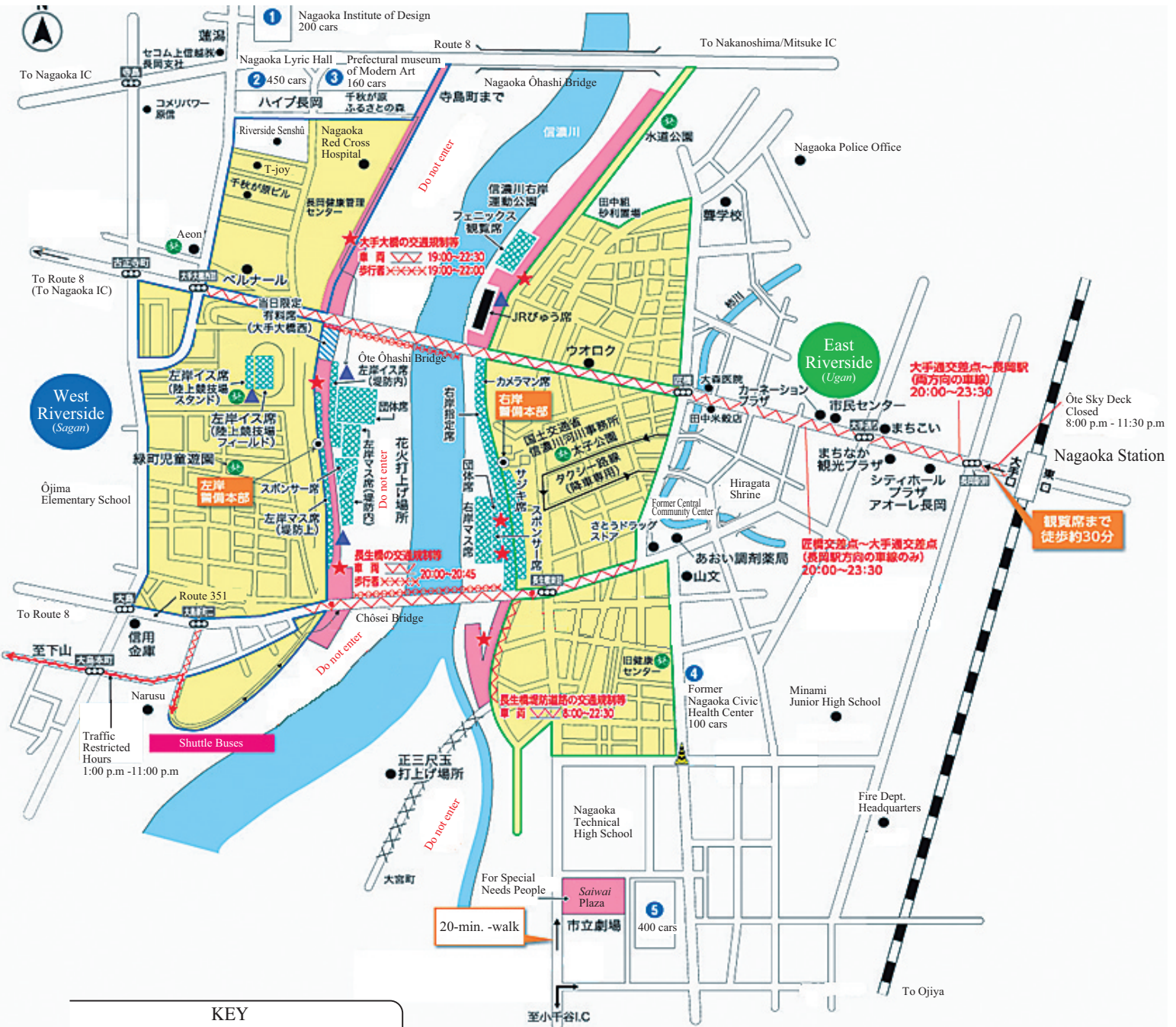
Use public transportation or shuttle bus services. Parking is not allowed near fireworks viewing sites.



Drive carefully and check updated traffic information. Traffic is heavily congested after the fireworks show.

# Nagaoka Festival Grand Fireworks Viewing Sites and Traffic Restriction

**Restricted Hours:**  
**Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**  
**Parking is available at P① - P⑤ (¥1,000/car) (from 10:00 a.m.)**



KEY	
	Security Guard Headquarters
	Security Guards
	Prepaid Areas with Reserved Sections
	Tickets available at the site on the days
	Free Areas (open tentatively at 2:00 p.m.)
	Souvenir Shops
	Temporary Parking Lots (1)~(5) (¥1,000/car)
	Temporary Bicycle Parking Areas (free)
	No Vehicles
	Shuttle Bus Route
	Do Not Enter
	No Vehicles during Restricted Hours
	No Pedestrians
	One-Way

## Traffic Restriction on the Bridges (Aug. 2 and Aug. 3)

### Chôsei Bridge

No Pedestrians 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.  
 No Vehicles 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

### Phoenix Ôhashi Bridge

No Pedestrians 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
 No Bicycles 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

### Ôte Ôhashi Bridge

No Pedestrians 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
 No Vehicles 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

# 2014 Fireworks Schedule <http://nagaokamatsuri.com>

7:25 p.m. Size 10 (5 shots)

Wishing for Peace in Memory of the Nagaoka Air-Raid Victims  
Sponsored by the Cities of Nagaoka and Honolulu

## Saturday, August 2

- 7:15 Message Fireworks
1. :30 Niagara Falls & Super Grand Star Mine
  2. :34 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  3. :36 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  4. :38 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  5. :41 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  6. :44 Size 10 (60 shots)
  7. :47 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  8. :50 *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks
  9. :54 Size 10 (10 shots)
  10. :56 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  11. :58 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  12. 8:00 Super Grand Wide Star Mine
  13. :03 Size 4 – 20 (25 shots)
  14. :06 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  15. :09 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  16. :12 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  17. :15 Phoenix-Shaped Fireworks for a Recovery
  18. :24 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  19. :26 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  20. :28 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  21. :30 Niagara Falls
  22. :30 Size 30, *Shō-Sanjakuda*  
(a 3-foot-diameter shell)
  23. :33 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  24. :35 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  25. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  26. :40 “*Kono Sora no Hana*” Fireworks
  27. :44 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  28. :47 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  29. :50 Super Grand Miracle Star Mine
  30. :54 Star Mine
  31. :56 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  32. :58 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  33. 9:00 Size 30, *Shō-Sanjakudama*  
(a 3-foot-diameter shell)
  34. :02 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  35. :05 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  36. :07 *Kome Hyappyō* Fireworks Size 10 (100 shots)
  37. :10 *Takumi* (Artisan) Fireworks

## Sunday, August 3

- 7:15 Message Fireworks
1. :30 Niagara Falls & Super Grand Star Mine
  2. :34 Size 10 (30 shots)
  3. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  4. :40 Grand Star Mine
  5. :42 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  6. :45 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  7. :47 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  8. :50 *Ten Chi Jin* Fireworks
  9. :54 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  10. :56 Star Mine
  11. :58 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  12. 8:00 Super Grand Wide Star Mine
  13. :03 Size 10 (30 shots)
  14. :06 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  15. :09 Twin Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  16. :12 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  17. :15 Phoenix-Shaped Fireworks for a Recovery
  18. :24 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  19. :26 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  20. :28 Size 10 (10 shots)
  21. :30 Niagara Falls
  22. :30 Size 30, *Shō-Sanjakudama*  
(a 3-foot-diameter shell)
  23. :33 Grand Star Mine
  24. :35 Size 10 (24 shots)
  25. :37 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  26. :40 “*Kono Sora no Hana*” Fireworks
  27. :44 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  28. :47 Vesuvius Grand Star Mine
  29. :50 Super Grand Miracle Star Mine
  30. :54 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  31. :56 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  32. :58 Size 7 (4 shots) and Size 10 (12 shots)
  33. 9:00 Size 30, *Shō-Sanjakudama*  
(a 3-foot-diameter shell)
  34. :02 Vesuvius Super Grand Star Mine
  35. :05 Star Mine
  36. :07 Size 10 (100 shots)
  37. :10 *Takumi* (Artisan) Fireworks

## Your Cooperation Is Most Appreciated!

- “Park and Ride” is recommended to reduce traffic jams during the Fireworks Show. Park your vehicle at a designated parking lot (e.g. Municipal Auditorium in Saiwai-chō, Echigo Hillside Park, Koshiji and Mishima Branch Offices, etc.) and use a shuttle bus service or a train to get to a fireworks viewing site.
- Park your bicycle at a designated free bicycle parking area. (See p. 4)
- The gates for *muryō seki* (free areas) will open at 2:00 p.m. The gates may open earlier than these designated times depending on congestion.
- Approximately 5,000 volunteers will clean up the fireworks viewing sites in the early mornings following the fireworks shows.

# The Nagaoka Civic Center

2-2-6 Ôte Street, Nagaoka City (0258-39-2763)

Hours: Every Day Except for the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



## Nagaoka City International Affairs Center (*Chikyû Hiroba*) (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 0258-39-2714 Fax: 0258-39-2715 E-mail: kouryu-c@city.nagaoka.lg.jp



## Consultations Offered for International Residents

Various services are provided for international residents. The center is a place where international residents can find help and support. The staff are ready to respond to you either in English or easy Japanese. No appointment is necessary for consultations. Feel free to stop by if you have any difficulties, worries, or questions.



## Japanese Learning Programs

### Nihongo Kôza

A free trial lesson is being offered. Please call ahead.

#### Morning Classes (Tuesdays & Fridays)

##### \* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

##### \* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

July	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29	¥1,800
Aug.	5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	¥1,600
Sept.	2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 26	¥1,400

#### Sunday Classes

##### \* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

##### \* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

July	6, 13, 20, 27	¥1,600
Aug.	10, 17, 24, 31	¥1,600
Sept.	7, 14, 21, 28	¥1,600

### Nihongo Hiroba

Volunteers help international residents learn Japanese at this free program during the following sessions:

- Sundays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



## A Guide to Swimming Pools (You can use the Internet to find each location.)

### Yûkyûzan Swimming Pool 悠久山プール

(Phone: 0258-35-6368)

336 Yûkyû-chô, Nagaoka City

July 5 (Sat.) – Sept. 7 (Sun.) Closed: Tuesdays

Children's Outdoor Pool: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Indoor Heated Pool: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fees: From ¥150 to ¥400, depending on age groups

### Kibôgaoka Swimming Pool 希望が丘プール

(Phone: 0258-28-1775)

2156-1 Nishizu, Nagaoka City

July 5 (Sat.) – Sept. 7 (Sun.)

Hours: Mostly 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Fees: From ¥150 to ¥400, depending on age groups

### Washima B&G Kaiyô Center Swimming Pool 和島B&G海洋センタープール

(Phone: 0258-74-2257)

5402 Shimazaki, Nagaoka City

Until Sept. 7 (Sun.) July 25 (Fri.) – Aug. 29 (Fri.): 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Other weekdays, Sat., Sun., and Holiday: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fees: ¥100 for high school students and older

¥50 for elementary and junior high school students

Free for others

### Koshiji B&G Kaiyô Center Swimming Pool

越路B&G海洋センタープール

(Phone: 0258-92-4594)

2281 Fudôsa, Nagaoka City

Until Sept. 7 (Sun.)

Closed on Mondays (except for July 21) and 22 (Tues.)

July 17 – Aug. 31 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

July and Aug. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(except for Sundays and Holidays)

Fees: From ¥50 to ¥210, depending on hours and age groups

### Echigo Kawaguchi Onsen Pool

えちご川口温泉プール

(Phone: 0258-89-4511)

2514-4 Nakayama, Kawaguchi, Nagaoka City

July 19 (Sat.) – Aug. 24 (Sun.) 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed: July 22 (Tues.) – July 25 (Fri.), 29 (Tues.),

Aug. 5 (Tues.), and 19 (Tues.)

Fees: ¥650 – ¥1,200

depending on age groups for using the onsen/pool



## Beach Volleyball Competition

Aug. 10 (Sun.) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Teradomari Chûdô (Central) Beach

Teams: 16 teams (4 adults per team)

(on a first-come, first-served basis)

Application Period: By July 28 (Mon.)

Fee: ¥3,000 per team

For further information: *Terasupo!*

(Regional Promotion Division,

Teradomari Branch Office)

Phone: 0258-75-3111



## Now Accepting Applications for The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers



**Hosted by *Mutsumi Kai* and the Nagaoka International Exchange Association**

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Venue: Nagaoka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hall  
2-1-1 Sakanoue-machi Phone: 0258-32-4500  
(A 8-minute walk from West-Side Exit of Nagaoka Station)  
Prizes: Certificate, Plaque, and Gift Coupons  
(¥10,000, ¥20,000, ¥30,000, or ¥50,000)

Eligibility: International residents living in Niigata Prefecture  
Topic: Free (speech to be no longer than 5 minutes)  
Contestants: 10 (to be chosen based on speech manuscripts)  
Application Period: July 9 (Wed.) – Aug. 23 (Sat.)  
Please send your manuscripts to: Ms. Miwako Kobayashi  
1-10-3 Omote-machi, Nagaoka City 940-0071  
Phone/Fax: 0258-36-0114 E-mail: miwakowe@nct9.ne.jp

### Municipal Account Settlement for the 2013 Fiscal Year

The municipal account for the 2013 fiscal year has been tentatively settled. The contents of the settlement will be audited by inspectors and approved by the City Council.  
Revenue: ¥146,744,950,000 Expenditure: ¥142,731,620,000  
Balance: ¥4,013,330,000 Savings: ¥15,932,920,000  
Debts: ¥155,323,500,000 (City Bond Balance)  
¥555,000 per citizen

### The Summer Traffic Accident Prevention Campaign

The Summer Traffic Accident Prevention Campaign will be held from Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Reckless driving at excessive speeds and drunk driving should be strictly avoided.

You are also required to ride a bicycle safely. Some bad and dangerous examples of riding a bicycle are:

- Riding while holding an umbrella.
  - Using earphones or headsets to listen to music while riding.
  - Riding while using a cell phone.
- Avoid riding a bicycle in these dangerous ways.

### Safety Tips Playing with Sparklers

Playing with sparklers, called *hanabi* in Japanese, is a pleasure for many people in the summer. You are advised to keep in mind the following safety tips when handling sparklers:

- Choose an appropriate location and time that will not annoy other people.
- Children should always be accompanied by adults when handling sparklers.
- Be sure to follow the instructions provided with the packages of sparklers.
- Do not disentangle or unravel sparklers.
- Avoid lighting sparklers when it is windy.
- Do not light many sparklers all at once.
- Put out used sparklers in a bucket of water in order to completely extinguish them.
- Be sure to clean up after playing with sparklers.



### The National Health Insurance System

The National Health Insurance System is a mutually supporting system in which members share their premiums to cover their medical expenses for injuries or illnesses.

Company employees or organization members can use employees' health insurance policies. Those who are not members of these insurance policies are required to apply for National Health Insurance.

Registered foreign nationals whose authorized period of stay is one year or more are required to apply for the National Health Insurance Policy.

The notice regarding your premiums for fiscal 2014 will be sent to the head of your household in the middle of July. If your premium is paid by being deducted from your pension or if your premium is transferred from your bank account, you will not receive a notice. Please be sure to make your payment by the due date.

If you have been unemployed due to bankruptcy or displacement, your premium may be reduced. In this case, you are required to apply for premium reduction. If it is difficult for you to pay your premium due to some specific reasons, please contact *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*, the National Health Insurance and Pension Division.

Your new blue health insurance card, which is to be used from this August, will be sent to you via postal registered mail in the middle of July.

For further information: *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*  
(National Health Insurance and Pension Division)  
Phone: 0258-39-2220

### Subsidies for Single-Parent Families

In order to support single-parent families, the city provides subsidies for child rearing (*jidô fuyô teatei*/児童扶養手当) and medical expenses (*iryôhi josei*/医療費助成). Detailed information about eligibility and registration is available at the Citizens' Support Division (Phone: 0258-39-2338) and the Social Welfare Division (Phone: 0258-39-2319) respectively. If you need any assistance for applications, please contact the staff of the International Affairs Center in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. (See p. 6)

### The Sister City Friendship Forum (with simultaneous interpretation)

**Saturday, August 2 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
Citizens' Interaction Hall A, City Hall Plaza – *Aôre* Nagaoka  
● Keynote Address: Ms. Cecile Shea from the U.S.A. Embassy  
Regarding exchange programs and the further development of friendly Japan-U.S.A. relationships  
● Panel Discussion  
Ideal municipal level exchange programs for friendly bonds between Japan and the U.S.A. and their significance with examples of Nagaoka's sister city exchange programs

Coordinator: Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki  
President of the Japan-America Society, Inc.

Panelists:  
-Mayor Tamio Mori from the City of Nagaoka  
-Mayor Kirk Caldwell from the City and County of Honolulu  
-Ms. Ronda Stucker from Nagaoka Committee of Fort Worth Sister Cities International  
-Mr. Edwin Hawkins  
President of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii  
Participants: 200

International Affairs Division  
Phone: 0258-39-2207 Fax: 0258-39-2280  
E-mail: intlexchange@city.nagaoka.lg.jp



## Major Emergency Medical Facilities

### Major General Hospitals

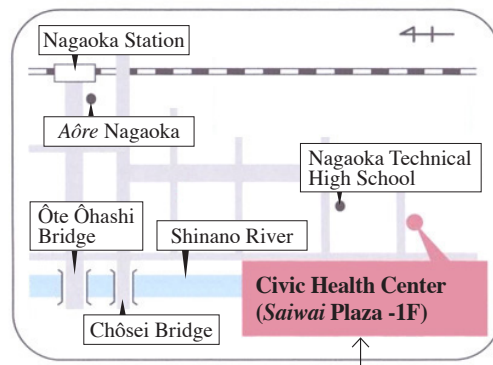
Nagaoka *Chû Sôgô Byôin* (Central General Hospital) 0258-35-3700

Nagaoka *Sekijûji Byôin* (Red Cross Hospital) 0258-28-3600

Tachikawa *Sôgô Byôin* (General Hospital) 0258-33-3111

Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza -1F*)

2-1-1 Saiwai-chô (0258-39-7508)



## Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza -1F*)

Facilities	Departments	Hours
Clinic for Sundays, Holidays, and Nights (0258-37-1199)	Internal Medicine ( <i>Naika</i> )	(Monday – Friday) 6:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
		(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For obstetrics and gynecology ( <i>san fujin ka</i> ), the staff at this facility will give information about which clinic is assigned for each Sunday or holiday.	Pediatrics ( <i>Shônika</i> )	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
	Surgery ( <i>Geka</i> )	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dental Clinic for Sundays and Holidays (0258-33-9644)	Dentistry ( <i>Shika</i> )	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Chûetsu Center for Children's Emergency Treatment (0258-86-5099)	Pediatrics ( <i>Shônika</i> )	(Monday – Saturday) 6:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

## The *Tenkomorigô* Sightseeing Bus Service

~You can tour the city's sightseeing spots on the *Tenkomorigô*~

The *Tenkomorigô* sightseeing bus is making round trips from Nagaoka Station to the city's various sightseeing spots on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays until August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Period:** Saturday, July 5 – Sunday, August 17

### Round Trip Course:

Nagaoka Station Ôte (West-Side) Exit –

Nagaoka Station Ôte (West-Side) Exit

The Bus will leave Nagaoka Station,

Ôte Exit terminal, at 9:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

The morning route and afternoon route will be reversed.



Special Exhibition at Museum of Modern Art

**Tickets:** ¥500 for junior high school students and above

¥200 for elementary school children

Free for pre-school aged children

(admission to the facilities not included)

**Ticket Outlets:** Echigo Kôtsû Co. Information Desk

Nagaoka Station Ôte (West-Side) Exit

Phone: 0258-32-2809

**For further information:** *Kankô Kikaku Ka* Phone: 0258-39-2344  
(Tourism Planning Division)

## *Kome Hyappyô Matsuri* (One Hundred Sacks of Rice Festival)

11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

How would you like to join the historic procession by playing a role of one of these characters?

- ① Lord Kenshin Uesugi in his childhood and his mother
- ② Yatarô Onikojima (a lancer)
- ③ Lord Tadanari Makino and Lady Makino
- ④ Princess Makino (Tadakuni's Daughter)
- ⑤ Kanetsugu Naoe
- ⑥ Lady Osen (Kanetsugu's wife)

Fees: ¥5,000 for ①

¥3,000 for ②④⑤⑥

¥6,000 for ③

Application: By Aug. 20 (Wed.)

Audition: Aug. 31 (Sun.)

*Matsuri Shinkô Ka*

(Festival Promotion Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2221



## Nagaoka Mon, Nagaoka's Special Products

### Precision Tape Polishing by SANSHIN Co., Ltd.

This section is part of a series that introduces high quality products and technologies developed exclusively by various local industrial corporations.

SANSHIN has developed a special tape technology used to polish precision components, for example those of automobile engines, to a nanotech precision level of one millionth of a millimeter or less.

The specific feature of this technology is the polishing of metal surfaces with continuously winding polishing tapes, which ensures a continually fresh polishing tape surface to produce a smooth finish on any applicable metal materials.

SANSHIN has also developed their own unique technology

of moving their polishing tapes both horizontally and vertically in order to offer the best polishing method for each different material. SANSHIN's polishing equipment has various industrial applications, such as for vehicles, construction machinery, electronic equipment, and many others.

Mr. Nobukazu Hosokai, the company president, expresses, "We are aiming to maintain our market share in the technology of polishing tapes as much as possible. We are always aiming to develop innovative technology without simply being satisfied with the status quo."

