



英語

Issued by Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP)
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Otariya & Otariya Festivals



December 15 and January 15 are dates of rituals for the god of the Futaarayama Shrine, which are held twice a year. The December Otariya Festival is written in Japanese like this “冬渡祭,” and the January Otariya Festival is written like this, “春渡祭.”

The kanji characters are difference, but both are read as “Otariya,” right? That seems kind of weird.



Good luck charms, such as old notes and daruma figures, etc. are burned in December at the festival, giving the sense that the year has come to an end.

During the January festival, amulets are burned, giving the sense that the New Year's celebration has come to an end.

In the evening, portable shrines are spun around, so I want to go watch!



Let's all enjoy the new year together!

Shingles (Herpes Zoster) Vaccination Cost Subsidizing Began

☐ What is shingles (herpes zoster)?

It is a skin disease caused by the same virus as chickenpox. When you get sick, your skin hurts and it gets red and blisters form, etc. The pain can continue for a long time even after healing. It is also said that people over 50 years old are more likely to get this disease, and one in three people will develop shingles by the age of 80.

☐ Prevention method

In addition to getting vaccinated, it is important to take care of regular lifestyle habits, such as eating a balanced diet, sleeping properly, and exercising moderately.

☐ Vaccination cost subsidy

▽ Target persons: People age 50 or older with with resident registration in Utsunomiya City

▽ Subsidy amount: ① Live vaccine = 4,000 yen/time (Vaccination 1 time)

② Inactivated vaccine = 10,000yen/time (Vaccination 2 times)

▽ Vaccination cost: It depends on the cooperative medical institution, so if you want to find out, please contact a cooperative medical institution.

(Rough estimate) ① Around 8,000 yen/time (Vaccination 1 time)

② Around 20,000 – 23,000 yen (Vaccination 2 times)

▽ Vaccination venues: Cooperative medical institutions listed on the Utsunomiya City website.

▽ Vaccination at a medical institution other than in Utsunomiya: After paying in full, if you apply to the Health Issue Prevention Division (*Hoken Youbou-ka*), the subsidy will be paid later.

▽ Application method: Send a copy of your bill, receipt (original), and deposit bankbook for your account directly or by mail to Health Issue Prevention Division, 972 Takebayashi-machi, 321-0974.

▽ Other: ① One vaccination and ② two vaccinations will be subsidized per person. The target persons are people who have been vaccinated on or after November 1.

For more information, visit the Utsunomiya City website.

Inquiries: Health Issue Prevention Division (*Hoken Youbou-ka*) ☎028-626-1114



Utsunomiya Children's Home Usage Guide

Children's homes are designed to provide appropriate play and living places and foster good health for elementary school students during after-school or long-term holidays whose guardians are away from home during the day due to work, etc.

▽ Target children: Children whose guardians are not home during the day due to work, etc.

▽ Application info.: People who want to use children's homes in the middle of the fiscal year can also apply. Please apply to the children's home you want to use by the 10th day of the month you desire use.

(Ex. If you want to use starting in January ⇒ Apply by December 10)

▽ Application method: Please write down the necessary information for the application form (which can also be printed from the Utsunomiya City website) located on the 13th floor of the Lifelong Learning Division for your child's elementary school's children's home, and send it to the elementary school together with certification documents.

▽ Other: It is mandatory that guardians pick up their children from children's homes. For more information, visit the Utsunomiya City website.



Inquiries: Lifelong Learning Division

(*Shogai Gakushu-ka*) ☎ 028-632-2651

International Exchange Salon 🎵

- 🕒 Every 4th Saturday 4:00PM - 6:00PM
December 16 (Sat) (Dec is 3rd Saturday)
- 😊 An event where you can talk with people from various countries 🎵

Cost Free

@ Utsunomiya International Plaza (4-1-1 Baba-dori)

☎ 028-616-1563



Animation Films



- 🕒 December 17 (Sun)
Starting at ① 10:30AM & ② 1:30PM
- 😊 "Mickey Mouse's Merry Christmas," etc.

Cost Free

Limit First 50 people

Sign up n/a

@ East Library (*Higashi Toshokan*)

Audio Visual Library (*Shichokaku Library*)
(3-5-1 Nakaimaizumi)

☎ 028-638-5704

Recycled Crafts Workshop

- 🕒 December 23 (Sat) & 24 (Sun)
10:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 3:00PM
Come anytime!
- 😊 Use newspaper and milk cartons to make balance boards and flying disks.

Cost Free

@ Utsunomiya City Environmental Learning Center (*Utsunomiya-shi Kankyo Gakushu Center*)

(777-1 Mobara-cho)

☎ 028-655-6030



Christmas Presents Just for Kids

- 🕒 December 22 (Fri) – 24 (Sun)
9:00AM - 7:00PM
- 😊 Children that come to visit Utsunomiya Tower during this period will receive a present. 🎵

Limit First 200 people

@ Hachiman Yama Park
(Hanawada 5-chome)

☎ 028-624-0642



New Year's Mochi-Making & Throwing Event !

- 🕒 January 6 (Sat) 10:30AM - 12:00PM

- 😊 Try pounding rice and throwing it to celebrate the new year.

First 60 people

Limit Elementary school and older people living,

Target attending school, or working in Utsunomiya

Sign up Sign up by phone starting at 6:00PM on December 21.

Cost 1,000 yen (Ingredients fee)

@ Youth Activity Center (*Seishonen Katsudo Center*) (3007 Imaizumi-cho)

☎ 028-663-3155

Utsunomiya New Year's Market

- 🕒 Jan. 11 (Thurs) 10:00AM - 10:00PM (Plan)
- 😊 Booths are aligned filling the streets. At this bustling New Year's event in Utsunomiya, people buy daruma figures, bean drums, yellow carp, etc. good luck charms.

@ Kamigawara Street
(Odori 1-chome, etc.)

Tochigi Prefectural Street Merchant Cooperative
(*Tochigi-ken Gaisho kyoudo Kumiai*)

☎ 028-627-5011



Interview

Melanie from France



We asked Melanie about her hometown of Lille, France's multi-ethnic society, lifestyle, favorite aspects of Japan, and dream to be a translator.

Bonjour! "Hello" in French

Melanie Giboudeau came to Japan 3 years ago. She is working as an English teacher.

UCIA: What kind of place is Lille?

Melanie: Lille is in northern France, and borders Belgium. There are beautiful buildings and townscape of the Middle Ages, with a university as well, and it is said to be a town of learning. Winter lasts a long time and it is cold. Stewed cuisine called cream stew is very delicious.

UCIA: Are there many foreigners living in France?

Melanie: At my school there were students studying from India, Africa, South America, etc. Because of that, there were many classes to learn about multiculturalism. People born in France can become French. It is possible to travel to and from neighboring countries in Europe without a visa, and it is also possible to live in such countries.

UCIA: What was your life like in France?

Melanie: I was surprised to see that things that are still usable are thrown out in Japanese garbage stations. French people are reluctant to throw things out, and use them carefully, fixing them as necessary.

UCIA: What aspects do you like about Japan?

Melanie: I like that stores are open on Sundays and fun events are held. It is possible to go out and about. In France, most stores are closed on Sundays, and there are few trains and buses as well, so usually people just stay at home. People can enjoy meals with their families, but it's a little sad for those living on their own.

UCIA: Is there anything you want to try doing?

Melanie: I am diligently studying Japanese now to pass the N2 test. I like translating, so once I become better at Japanese, I want to translate Japanese picture books into French and spread them in France.

UCIA: Merci! (Thank you!)

Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Service

Consultation for Foreign Residents



※Communication in other languages is also possible using a tablet capable of multilingual interpretation and translation.

		Spanish Portuguese	Vietnamese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 6:00PM	Mon	1 st & 3 rd Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
		4 th Sunday of the month (Appointment needed)				
City Hall ☎028-632-2834 (During office hours)	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs	—	2 nd Thurs	—	1 st Thurs
	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs	2 nd Thurs	—	1 st Thurs	3 rd Thurs

UCIA's official LINE

We send fun exchange events and life information. "Please register as a friend and use it as an information gathering tool."



"Oh-i!" is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai, and Vietnamese. You can also read it on the UCIA website.
<https://www.ucia.or.jp>



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