

1) Our first story today is about theft incidents that occurred in May within the city.

In May, a total of 35 bicycle thefts were reported in Hiratsuka City. These incidents occurred in nearly every district across the city.

Specifically, 7 cases were reported in Beniya Town, 3 each in Takamura and Kitakaname, and 2 cases in both Shononimiya and Toyoda-Hongo.

Some of the bicycles were stolen even while parked within residential premises, and in some cases, the bikes were locked but still taken. We strongly recommend using an additional wire-lock, available at home improvement stores, when parking your bicycle.

In addition, 12 motorcycle thefts were reported during the same month. The highest numbers were seen in Yokouchi with 4 cases and in Shimojima with 3 cases.

Just like with bicycles, we advise securing motorcycles with an anti-theft lock in addition to the standard built-in lock, to better protect your vehicle.

2) International Culture Exchange Salon

This year's Tanabata Festival will be held from Friday, July 4 to Sunday, July 6. On Saturday, July 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Hiratsuka International Exchange Association will host an International Culture Exchange Salon for overseas visitors at the Western-style House in Hachimanyama.

Visitors can experience traditional Japanese culture including origami, calligraphy, aikido, string figures, and shogi. Guests can also try on a yukata and take photos. Admission is free and no reservation is required. Many English-speaking volunteer interpreters will be present.

For more information, contact the Hiratsuka International Exchange Association Office at 0463-25-2520.

3) Open-Air Market "San-San Marché"

On Sunday, July 13, the "San-San Marché" open-air market will be held at Shonan Seaside Park in Takahama-dai, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Handmade accessories and delicious foods from kitchen trucks will be on sale. Free parking is available. For inquiries, call 0463-31-7211.

4) Volunteer-Run Japanese Language Classes

Hiratsuka City offers four volunteer-run Japanese language classes for non-native residents:

1. Hiratsuka International Exchange Association
2. Cabella Japanese Language Group
3. Shonan JRC
4. Yokouchi Project

All classes are free of charge.

For locations, days of operation, and eligibility, please visit the Hiratsuka City website.