

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



June 2019  
Compiled by AIC

### April 25

The Hokkaido Baseball Academy, a private baseball school in Furano, announced that an undecided baseball team for the Hokkaido Baseball League will be based in Bibai. This will be the first independent baseball league in Hokkaido. There will be two teams in the league, with the other being based in Furano. The league will open in April 2020, and play 70 games by the end of October.

### May 5

Interstellar Technologies Inc., an aerospace startup company located in Taiki Town of Tokachi subprefecture, successfully launched their MOMO-3 small rocket, making it the country's first privately developed model to reach outer space. The company expects to launch a rocket called "Zero", an artificial satellite, in 2023.

### May 8

JR Hokkaido announced that it will raise fares when the consumption tax rises in October. The fares for local trains on the heavily traveled segment between central Sapporo Station and Shin-Sapporo will raise about 31%, and the same increase can be expected for the line between central Sapporo Station and Shin-Kotoni. Depending on the zone, some commuters can expect a 2,000 yen monthly increase in their transportation costs.

### May 10

In celebration of successfully making wine using local mizunara trees in Horonobe Town for wine barrels, a special lecture and wine tasting were held at the Horonobe Underground Research Center. 90 people from the town were able to taste the Horonobe flavored wine. The Town produced a couple of barrels last December, courtesy of Hokkaido Wine Co. Ltd., and after 3 months of maturation, 360 bottles of red wine were made.

### May 11

The City of Asahikawa has decided to adjust city-owned facility charges and various fees for the first time in 14 years due to raising maintenance and operation costs. Fees to use public halls and admission to the Asahiyama Zoo will raise, however, fees for using community centers will be lowered.



### Inside This Issue...

#### For further information

#### or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or  
SAITO Emmy)

#### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Tourism,  
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Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8- chome,  
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## Gokokujinja Shrine Festival 護国神社祭

Although the name of the festival is the “Gokokujinja Shrine Festival”, you will also find the main trail of Tokiwa Koen lined with shops. In the past, companies and workplaces used to allocate holidays according to the days of the festival. In modern times it has become increasingly difficult to take days off, so most people nowadays can only go after work. This is a vibrant festival to mark the beginning of summer, so grab your friends and have a good time! Please keep in mind that many of the times listed below indicate when vendors will be in operation. There are a variety of traditional events held at various times on each day of the festival, so please visit the festival website or call the number below for more information.

**Date:** 6/4 (Tuesday) - 6/6 (Thursday)

**Time:** Gokokujinja Shrine: 6/4 18:00~, 6/5 10:00~, 6/6 10:00~. Tokiwa Park: 6/4 18:00-21:00, 6/5 10:00-21:00, 6/6 10:00-21:00

**Location:** Gokokujinja Shrine, Tokiwa Park

**For Further Information Contact:** Gokokujinja Shrine at 0166-51-9191 for information on events and activities at the Gokokujinja Shrine venue



## The Great Music March in Hokkaido 第87回 北海道音楽大行進

Every year, this march attracts over 150,000 spectators to witness the greatest musical event in Asahikawa. The Great Music March in Hokkaido has over 80 years of history and over 4,000 participants from all over Hokkaido gather in Asahikawa every year to participate. Come out and see unique musical performances and colorful costumes from the performing groups!

**Date:** 6/8 (Saturday)

**Time:** Opening Ceremony Starts 11:30, March Starts 13:00, After Concert Performances Start 15:00

**Venue and March Starting Locations:** The opening ceremony will be held at the Riverside Asahikawa Park, the march will begin at the Tokiwa Rotary with the kindergarten and preschool marching groups starting and joining the main marching group at 8-jo-dori 9-chome, and the After Concert Performances will take place throughout the length of Kaimono Koen all the way to the JR Asahikawa Station

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-7558



## Flower Festival 2019 Asahikawa 花フェスタ2019旭川

This flower-filled event marks the beginning of summer! Whether you're a beginner or a pro, you will definitely enjoy the lectures geared towards improving your gardening. You can also see a magnificent “Flower Wedding Show”, and view an exhibition of flower art created by local flower and nature-related organizations. In the outdoor area, you will be able to purchase pots of flowers and garden tools.

**Date:** 6/12 (Wednesday) - 6/16 (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00-17:00 (The first day starts at 10:00)

**Venue:** Dohoku Arcs Taisetsu Arena (Kagura 4-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** Free (However, there are lectures that have a fee if you wish to attend)

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-24-5285



## 2019 Second Concert for Africa コンサート・フォー・アフリカ

A concert was held this past March to raise money for Ghana. However, there were many people who couldn't attend, so they have requested another opportunity to join in the fun! Come and support Ghana at this next concert.

**Date:** 6/13 (Thursday)

**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

**Venue:** Machinaka Bunkagoya (Kaimono Koen 7-jo-dori 7-chome)

**Admission:** ¥500, Junior high school students and under are free

**For Further Information Contact:** Chiba at 080-6096-7957, or send a message to rebirthad2011@yahoo.co.jp

**2019 Second Concert for Africa**

2019.6.13 (木) 17:30open / 18:00start

会場: まちなかぶんか小ホール (旭川市) 旭川市文化センター  
TEL: 0166-24-2211

入場料: ¥500 (中学生以下無料)

お問い合わせ先: Email: rebirthad2011@yahoo.co.jp  
Tel: 080-6096-7957 (携帯)

1日だけのコンサートを開催しませんが、本公演の収益の一部を旭川市文化センターに寄付し、その一部をアフリカの子供たちに寄付させていただきます。

主催: 旭川市教育委員会  
協賛: 旭川市文化センター、旭川市音楽協会、旭川市音楽愛好会、旭川市音楽愛好会、旭川市音楽愛好会、旭川市音楽愛好会

主審: アフリカ教育支援協会  
Bert Chiba  
パート: 中野

旭川市文化センター  
旭川市文化センター  
旭川市文化センター  
旭川市文化センター

## 35th Kyokusui Pops Concert 第35回 旭吹 ポップスコンサート

Live pop and Disney music is coming to Asahikawa, brought to you by the Asahikawa City Wind Orchestra! In the first half of their concert, hear a variety of Disney songs from classics like The Little Mermaid and Alice and Wonderland, and in the second half, listen to classic pop sensations like “Tico Tico”, “Bluesette”, and “Himawari”.

**Date:** 6/16 (Sunday)  
**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥800 (Same price for students)  
**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-46-4320



## Fujiko Hemming 2019 Piano Solo Concert フジ子・ヘミング2019 ピアノソロコンサート

Fujiko Hemming won several esteemed prizes shortly after graduating from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. She became deaf in her right ear before an important concert in Vienna, and has suffered from partial hearing loss ever since. A documentary of her life aired on NHK in 1999 and was a hit with viewers. She then began touring the world—her tickets selling out at even the largest of concert halls. This world-renown pianist will visit for one day only, so don't miss this chance to witness a magnificent performance!

**Date:** 6/21 (Friday)  
**Time:** Opens 18:00, Starts 19:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** “SS” Seating ¥12,000, “S” Seating ¥10,000, “A” Seating ¥8,000  
**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Coach and Four, Ticket Pia (P code: 140-602), Lawson Ticket (L code: 11532)  
**For Further Information Contact:** Hokkaido Broadcasting Co. (HBC) at 011-232-1373 from 10:00-17:00. Unavailable weekends and holidays  
**Notes:** Please contact HBC for information on wheelchair accessible seating. Please refrain from bringing preschool children as they will not be allowed to enter



## Kid's Concert “The Wizard of Oz” こどものためのコンサート「オズの魔法使い」

This Kid's Concert is not your ordinary performance. Kids will not only be listening to music, but they will be playing it as well! They will be making their own instruments and learning how to play them, for an overall wonderful musical experience.

**Date:** 6/22 (Saturday)  
**Time:** Morning Showing starts 11:30, Afternoon Showing starts 15:30. Concert is approximately 45 minutes long  
**Venue:** Kagura Community Center, Kirarin Hall (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥500  
**Ticket Office:** Reserve tickets through MINAMI Music Academy. TEL 0166-48-9454, 080-3230-7697. Mail: ongaku\_academie@yahoo.co.jp  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-48-9454



## Asahikawa Inochi no Denwa Charity Concert Swing Messengers Orchestra “A Flats” 旭川いのちの電話チャリティーコンサート スウィングジャズオーケストラ・アフラッツ

“Inochi no Denwa” is a telephone crisis support organization based in Japan that assists those who are sad, lonely, or going through difficult times. Funds raised through this concert will go to support the organization. Not only will you be supporting a good cause, but you will also be getting to listen to the best Swing Orchestra in Asahikawa!

**Date:** 6/22 (Saturday)  
**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** ¥1,000  
**Ticket Office:** Kodomo Fukido, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop  
**For Further Information Contact:** Inochi No Denwa Office at 0166-25-2143



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JUNE



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Dillon Kenzo Maguire  
**Home Country:** United States  
**Interviewed:** May 12th, 2019

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at [cir\\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

**AIC:** So Dillon, where are you from?

**Dillon:** Seattle, Washington. USA.

**AIC:** And what brings you to Asahikawa?

**Dillon:** I'm teaching English at AEON in the Feeeal Building.

**AIC:** That's great! How did you come across this job?

**Dillon:** My mom taught under AEON's predecessor, AMVIC, in Okayama back at the start of the Heisei Era in '89. She suggested it to me when I graduated college focusing in English, so I thought "Yeah, I've always wanted to go to Japan. I should go!"

**AIC:** How did you become interested in Japan? Was it also because of your mom?

**Dillon:** My mom is *sansei* Japanese American, so she can't speak Japanese, but there's still a thread that connects us to the culture. I remember reading Momotaro when I was a kid and I really just wanted to come to Japan.

**AIC:** Can you tell me some of your hobbies?

**Dillon:** I like to draw, I go out and shop, watch movies. I think Asahikawa is good for that because it has lots of malls.

**AIC:** What do you like to draw?

**Dillon:** I like to draw little cute characters or monsters. Mostly Japanese things, like Kumamon. I'm not a big anime person so I don't draw much of that, but I draw other Japanese-inspired things like *yokai*.

**AIC:** Are you interested in winter sports?

**Dillon:** I should try them because I have never done any of that before. I'm not used to living in a snowy place. I'm also not an outdoors person so if it's cold outside I just want to sleep.

**AIC:** Do you miss anything about Seattle?

**Dillon:** I miss watching US television, but I don't really miss too much about Seattle. Everything here is so safe, convenient, and clean compared to America. I like that Seattle has a defined skyline, because Asahikawa and Sapporo are low cities. Other than that, I'm pretty happy here.



**AIC:** Do you like Japanese food?  
**Dillon:** Yeah, I like Japanese food. I'm a vegetarian, so it can be hard sometimes, but usually most izakayas have something I can enjoy. What I miss the most is the diversity of foods. There aren't a lot of Thai, Indian, or Mexican restaurants in Asahikawa. You have to go to Sapporo. If you really want diverse foods you can go there, but it's a lot longer than a quick walk.

**AIC:** Do you speak any other languages?  
**Dillon:** No (laughs). I barely speak any Japanese. Just English.

**AIC:** How's your Japanese coming along?  
**Dillon:** I studied it in high school a little bit. Coming here has unlocked a lot that I had forgotten because it has been around seven years since I had to speak Japanese for any reason. I'm a lot better when I'm listening. Whenever I go to a restaurant or a store, I'll understand the first two questions the cashier asks me, but the third one always throws me for a loop.



**AIC:** What are some of your favorite spots here? Have you gotten to explore at all?  
**Dillon:** I have explored a lot but I haven't gone to any landmarks. I've mostly just been walking around. Kaimono Koen is a really nice spot to hang out. Somehow, Asahikawa feels like a big city and a small town at the same time. I also like hanging out at the AEON mall because there are so many good, useful shops like Daiso and lots of stuff on sale.

**AIC:** What do you like most about Japan now that you've been here for a little while?  
**Dillon:** Everyone is very polite, everything is very clean, everything is very safe and convenient, and you don't really need a car to get around. You can walk everywhere. In America, even in a city like Seattle with a robust public transportation system with buses and trains, it's still kind of hard to get around because everything is so big and spread out. You still need a car to go to the mall. Waiting for the bus is very inconvenient and nothing is ever on time. Everything smells and people are very rude or dangerous. Japan is very neat and organized.

**AIC:** Now for our final question! Do you like Karaoke?  
**Dillon:** Yeah, I enjoy Karaoke. It's a good way to practice Japanese. Not speaking necessarily, but pronunciation. If you listen to Japanese music you'll get the hang of the intonation, so I enjoy Karaoke. I haven't sung English songs because I've only been singing Japanese songs.

**AIC:** Do you have any favorite songs you like to sing?  
**Dillon:** I like some older songs that are slower pace and easier, like "Ue o Muite Arukou" or "Koi no Bakansu". Older stuff that is easier to remember and easier to sing.

**AIC:** I'm glad you like so many Japanese songs! That wraps up this interview. Thank you for your time!  
**Dillon:** Thank you!

# Asahikawa Summer BBQ Spots

As June begins, we bid farewell to Hokkaido's short, almost non-existent spring season. You will be missed. On the bright side, Japan has plenty of fun summer activities to enjoy now that the weather is consistently warm. Outdoor barbeque gatherings are a staple for this season, so we listed the best places in Asahikawa for you to go out and grill some tasty meat (and veggies)!

## Kaguraoka Park

TEL: 0166-65-5553

## Kamui no Mori Park

TEL: 0166-63-4045

Address: Hanasaki-cho 3-chome

## Nishi-Kagura Park

TEL: 0166-75-3669

Address: Nishi-Kagura Minami 1-jo 1-chome

## Shunkodai Park

TEL: 0166-52-0694

Address: Aza-Chikabumi 6-sen 3-go



## ★ Movies ~ June ★

\*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

\*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 - 74 - 6411

URL: [cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)
- Sadako (Japanese)
- Kubo Ibuki (Japanese)
- Promare (Japanese/Anime)
- American Animals (English)
- According to Our Butler (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese)
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese)
- Siblings of the Cape (Japanese/R15+)
- Hikinige: Saikou no Saiaku no Hi (Japanese)
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English)
- Avengers: Endgame (English)
- Birthday Wonderland (Japanese/Anime)
- Just Only Love (Japanese)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)
- Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventure! The Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Kaiju no Kodomo (Japanese/Anime) 6/7
- Aladdin (English) 6/7
- Almost a Miracle (Japanese) 6/7
- Saint Young Men 2 (Japanese) 6/7~20
- We Are Little Zombies (Japanese) 6/14
- Men in Black International (English) 6/14
- Ride Your Wave (Japanese/Anime) 6/21
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English) 6/21
- The Fable (Japanese) 6/21
- Bento Harassment (Japanese) 6/28
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English) 6/28
- Newspaper Reporter (Japanese) 6/28
- Diner (Japanese) 7/5

**Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.**

## ★ Movies ~ June ★

\*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- Kubo Ibuki (Japanese)
- Sadako (Japanese)
- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars III (Japanese/Anime)
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese)
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Aladdin (English 4DX, Japanese 2D) 6/7
- Cold Pursuit (English/PG12) 6/7
- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars IV (Japanese/Anime) 6/14
- Uta no Prince-sama (Japanese/Anime) 6/14
- Men in Black International (English) 6/14
- The Fable (Japanese) 6/21
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English) 6/21
- Ride Your Wave (Japanese/Anime) 6/21
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Kirameke! Ice no Kuni no Vanilla-hime (Japanese/Anime) 6/28
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English) 6/28
- Nagi Machi (Japanese/PG12) 6/28
- Tannisho wo Hiraku (Japanese/Anime) 7/5
- Diner (Japanese) 7/5

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

### Now Showing

- A Long Goodbye (Japanese)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)
- Chiisana Koi no Uta (Japanese)
- Sadako (Japanese)
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese)
- Hunter Killer (English)
- Overlord (English)
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English)
- Avengers: Endgame (English)
- Shazam! (English)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Aladdin (English) 6/7
- Erica38 (Japanese) 6/7
- Men in Black International (English) 6/14
- Kakegurui - Compulsive Gambler (Japanese) 6/14~7/4
- The Fable (Japanese) 6/21
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English) 6/21
- Bento Harassment (Japanese) 6/28
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English) 6/28
- Diner (Japanese) 7/5

**Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.**

# Kaimono Koen Matsuri



**Date:** 6/29 (Saturday) – 6/30 (Sunday)  
**Time:** Saturday 10:00-18:00, Sunday 10:00-17:00  
**Location:** Kaimono Koen (1-jo-dori through 7-jo-dori)  
**Notes:** You will also be able to see performers on 6/28 (Friday) at 17:30 in front of machibar (2-jo-dori 8-chome), so go check it out!

Kaimono Koen is hosting its annual festival centered on street performing and shopping! Street performers throughout Hokkaido and the rest of Japan are coming to Asahikawa to put on a show for the people! Small kids will be able to enjoy getting their faces painted in clown make-up free of charge! In addition, there will be food tents and special sales on products sold outside in wagons. Join the crowds and come out to Kaimono Koen for shopping, food, and the incredible street performers!



Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

## FUN FRIDAYS

**Dates:** June 14th & 28th, July 12th & 26th, August 9th and 23rd  
**Times:** 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month  
 6:30pm-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month  
**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1) (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)  
**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

**Volunteer Guide:** Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

**Event Volunteer:** The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

**Homestay:** Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

**For further information or to register, please contact AIC.**

## FREE Wi Fi

The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center .

## Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

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**\*\*The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.\*\***