



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

369th edition, July 2023



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<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.htm>



Hello Everyone!

There are several local festivals as well as firework displays to be seen in July. You can still enjoy hydrangea viewing at the Onoike Park and the glow of fireflies in the Akagi Machi Miyada, Oshima area. The Japanese star festival **Tanabata** takes place on the 7th day of the 7th month of the year, when, according to a legend, the star deities **Orihime** (Vega) and **Hikoboshi** (Altair) separated by the Heavenly River (the Milky Way), are able to meet. People write wishes and hang them on bamboo branches, and decorate the branches with paper chains and origami paper Milky Way ornaments.

Many cities and towns hold festivals and have Tanabata displays decorating the main streets.

Marine Day (Umi no Hi) is a national holiday celebrated every year in Japan on the third Monday of July; it falls on July 17 this year.

Twice a year, at the beginning of July and December, come the big seasons for gift-exchanging in Japan. In summer it is called "**O-chugen**". Drinks, fruits, summer cakes and sweets, dried noodles and canned food are popular o-chugen gifts. From the mid-month through August, people send midsummer greeting cards, "**Shochu Mimai**", to inquire after each other's health during the hot summer days.

Ikaho Hawaiian Festival (伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル)



The Ikaho Hawaiian Festival, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, is set to take place from Tuesday, August 1 through Friday, August 4. There are many events during the festival such as Wai Wai Party, Hula Show and market stalls. The highlight of the festival is the Hula Show that takes place every night from 8:15 pm to 9:30 pm (from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm on August 4), where members of Halau Ka La Onohi Mai O Haehae, the overall winner of the 2023 Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawaii, will perform in both modern (hula auana) and traditional (hula kahiko) forms of hula. The performances are free to the public, no tickets are required. Don't miss this wonderful event! Wai Wai Party takes place every day from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm (from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm on August 4). A House Band will perform Hawaiian music and people will get on the stage dancing together happily.

Pick Your Own Blueberries (ブルーベリー狩り)

From the end of June until the beginning of September, you can enjoy the delicious blueberries, fresh from the field at one of the local blueberry picking farms in Onogami, Komochi, Akagi district, etc.

Contact the farms direct for up-to-date opening hours and more information.

Come and enjoy juicy and fresh blueberries!

The 40th Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (第40回^{だい かいしぶかわ まつ}渋川へそ祭り)

Shibukawa's biggest and most popular annual event, Heso Matsuri, the Bellybutton Festival is going to be held on Saturday, July 29, from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm in Tatsumi-cho. Thousands of people come from far and wide, filling the street to enjoy the variety of belly dances, yukata dances, freestyle dances, charity bazaar and many other attractions. The main attraction is the Heso Odori Parade that takes place from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. People with large faces painted on their stomachs gather and yelling the call "Heso dase yoiyoi!" with big excitement dance and parade through the streets around the Shin-machi Gosaro intersection and Ekimae Dori. Sales of Shibukawa specialty products by Shibukawa Local Products Promotional Association and "Heso no Machi" specialty products from other parts of Japan will take place from 1:00 am.

Tel: 0279-22-2873 (Kanko Div.)

Peace Education Through Anime (平和アニメ^{へいわ じょうえいかい}上映会)

Peace education animation movies screening sessions will be held at Kanashima Fureai Center Hall (capacity 200 people) on Wednesday, August 2, and at Shibukawa Kominkan Main Hall (capacity 40 people) on Wednesday, August 9. Both screening sessions will take place from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (door opens at 1:30pm). You can watch:

Ji no Nai Hagaki (The Blank Postcard), an anime adaptation of a short touching true story by Kuniko Mukoda, depicting the importance and warmth of family against the background of war;

Aru Mori no wo Hanashi: Rururu no Rule, a story about a mysterious forest, that makes the watcher think about ecology and morality;

Hiroshima ni Ichiban Densha ga Hashitta (The First Train Runs in Hiroshima), a real story following a young girl who works as a conductor on a tram line in the devastated city of Hiroshima, before and after the atomic bomb explosion.

Admission: Free of charge, but reservations in advance are required (**Tel: 0279-22-2463**)



Flamenco Dance Classes (フラメンコダンス^{きょうしつ}教室)

Join the beginner Flamenco classes at Chuo Kominkan on every Thursday from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm, starting August 3 through August 24, and learn how to dance the flamenco-style folk dance of Seville, Spain called the Sevillanas, while having fun! Everyone is welcome! It's free!

Limit: 20 people (on a first-come first-served basis)

Application: from July 10 to July 25, directly at the Chuo Kominkan or by phone (**Tel: 0279-52-2102**) every day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (except on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays)



Tai Chi Chuan - Health Classes (健康太極拳^{けん こう たい きよく けん きょうしつ}教室)

Shibukawa City offers free Tai Chi classes for people living, working or studying in Shibukawa City. Tai Chi is done to improve balance, concentration, focus, flexibility, muscle strength, and overall health. The classes will be held at Chuo Kominkan, on Mondays July 3, 10, 24 and 31, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Registration is not required. Just show up! Please bring sportswear, indoor shoes, towel and a drink.

Tel: 0279- 22 -2241 (Sport Div.) or **Tel: 0279- 53 - 4492** (Taikyokuken)

Shibukawa City Public Library Events しぶかわしりつとしよかんもよおもの (渋川市立図書館 催し物)

All events will be held in the City Library and are free. Just show up!

★ **Kids Movies:** "Orihime and Hikoboshi" ("The Legend of Tanabata") and others, on Saturday, July 8, from 11:00 am to 11:40 am.

★ **Picture book storytelling by Story Reading Group:** "Okodademasen Youni" ("I Hope I Don't Get Scolded"), and others on Saturday, July 15 from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

★ **Movies:** "Kuri Kuri No Ita Natsu" ("The Children of the Marshland"), a French film released in 1999, on Sunday, July 16 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen Campsite

ぬま お がわ しん すい こう えん
(沼尾川親水公園キャンプ)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen opens for the season from July 22 through October 29 (in September and October, only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.)

There will be available: 5 bungalows (for 4 adults) at 3200 yen per night; 6 camping pitches at 530 yen per night; one pond fishing a day for a fee of 3200 yen.

Entrance Fee: 200 yen for junior high school students and older people, 100 yen for elementary school students. It is free for children younger than elementary school age.

Reservations: by phone from Monday, July 2
(Reservation is required.)

Tel: 0279-56-8840 (Akagi Sogo Undo Shizen Koen)

Shibukawa Community Pools Open

しぶかわ し ゐん びら
(渋川市民プール開き)

Shibukawa Shimin Pool will be open for the season from Saturday, July 1 to Sunday, September 3, daily, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, except in cases of bad weather.

Fees: 250 yen for high school students and above, 100 yen for elementary and junior high school students. It's free for younger children.

Location: 2900 Handa-machi.

There are other swimming pools too in Shibukawa so you can enjoy swimming all summer long!



Shibukawa & Ikaho Photo Contest (しぶかわいかほフォトコンテスト)

As part of the contest, photographers are invited to take photos conveying the charm of Shibukawa City.

Submission period: April 1 – July 31, 2023

The categories for the photo contest are: ① "Yukata" ② "Daily life" ③ "Scenery"

Photo Submission Guidelines: Follow the steps below to enter the photo contest;

STEP 1: Follow @shibukawakankou (Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association) on Instagram.

STEP 2: Take photos within Shibukawa city during the contest period. Photos of places other than Ikaho Onsen are also very welcomed!

STEP 3: Hashtag 「#いかフォト」. Post your photos with a description of the location where you took them.

Submission period: April 1 – July 31, 2023

There is no limit to the number of entries, but only one photo from each contestant is eligible to win. You don't need to select a category when submitting an entry to the Photo Contest.

The Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Kanko Kyokai (Tourism Association) will award:

- **Grand Prize** - an Ikaho Onsen travel certificate worth 30,000 yen
- **Three Category finalists** (one per category) - an Ikaho Onsen travel certificate worth 10,000 yen each.
- **Three Honorable mentions** (one per category) - consisting of Ishidan original goods.

Prize-winning photos will be announced on the competition's official website and on the Instagram account of Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association.

For the contest rules, please visit the Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association official website at:

<https://www.ikaho-kankou.com/ikaphoto/> (**Tel: 0279-72-3151**)

On-duty Clinics in July (7月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
7/2 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Takano-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Takeuchi-shika-iin (たけうち歯科医院) Tel: 25-7700
7/9 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Yamashita-shika-iin (山下歯科医院) Tel: 22-0648
7/16 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Shinto-saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Ino-seikei-geka-rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Hirakata-naika-shika-iin (平形内科歯科医院) Tel: 22-2233
7/17 (Mon)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	SHUN-dental-clinic (SHUN デンタルクリニック) Tel: 25-7961
7/23 (Sun)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Iriuchijima-naika-iin (入内島内科医院) Tel: 60-7322	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Miyashita-shika-iin (宮下歯科医院) Tel: 24-1939
7/30 (Sun)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Fukuda-shika-iin (福田歯科医院) Tel: 23-6677

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm daily, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. The emergency clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable if specialized treatment is necessary.

Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

Free Counselling Service (外国人生活相談窓口の案内)

The Shibukawa International Association is providing a free counselling service for foreign residents at Shibukawa City Hall every Thursday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

TEL: 0279-22-2396



Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office Policy Creation Division 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

Tel: 0279-22-2396 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

Url: <http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/index.html>