



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

371st Edition, September 2023



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



Dear Readers,

Summer vacation has ended, and the new school semester has begun. **Undokai**, the sports festivals and campus festivals are held throughout the country in late September and early October.

During the first half of September the late summer heat is strong, but after mid-month the temperature drops in the mornings and evenings, and autumn is in the air. In Japan people enjoy the music of crickets and other insects singing through the long autumn nights.

Peak typhoon season continues in September and days can be wet, with strong winds.

A sign that autumn has arrived is the celebration of **Otsukimi** (viewing the moon), to admire, especially the moon of the 15th of the eighth month by the lunar calendar (around the middle of September), which is called Jugoya or **Chushu-no-Meigetsu** (the harvest moon of mid-fall). On this day, people make offerings such as **Tsukimi-dango** (moon viewing dumplings), and Satoimo (taro). They usually view the moon at home, but also join the **Kangetsu-kai** (moon viewing party) held at shrines, temples or other venues. Otsukimi Day this year is Saturday, September 10.

September 19 is Respect-for-the-Aged Day. This is a day to express gratitude to elderly people. September 23 is the Autumnal Equinox Day. Around the Equinox day, people visit the graves of their ancestors. With this day as the dividing point, the nights are getting longer.

From late September to early October, beautiful buckwheat flowers bloom throughout Miyukida's buckwheat fields on a hill overlooking Akagi Mountain, at the foot of Haruna Mountain. You can enjoy the beautiful scenery and feel the fall breeze with the scent of these beautiful flowers.

International BBQ! (バーベキュー交流会 こうりゅうかい)

Shibukawa International Barbecue is coming soon! Come join us for a fun day out at Sogo Koen Seijin no Mori BBQ Jo, where you can enjoy games and barbecuing in a relaxed atmosphere with other foreigners and local Japanese people.

Date: Saturday, October 14, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm (Reception starts at 10:00 am)

Site: Shibukawa Sogo Koen General Park Barbecue Ground

Limit: 50 people (on a first-come, first-served basis)

Charge: 800 yen / foreigners 500 yen (300 yen for children under age 15)

Sign-up: Friday, September 15 - Monday, September 25

Tel: 0279-22-2396



Ikaho Matsuri (い か ほ 伊香保まつり)

The Ikaho Festival is held every year on September 18, 19 and 20 in the Ikaho hot spring town. On September 18, the festival coincides with Roka Festival when a Japanese tea ceremony is held in memory of Tokutomi Roka. A Yukumi ceremony of drawing hot water from the hot spring source is also held to give thanks for the abundant amount and high quality of the natural onsen water. On September 19, the Ikaho shrine's mikoshi (portable shrine) is paraded through the town's main streets before being carried up the Stone Steps and returned to the shrine at the top. On September 19 and 20, Taru-mikoshi (made of sake barrels) are paraded through the historic Ikaho stone steps streets and then up to the Ikaho shrine. Watching the mikoshi carriers bumping against each other on the narrow stone steps is thrilling and impressive. You can also enjoy traditional Japanese dance and food on festival days.



Shibukawa Environmental Festival (しぶかわ^{かんきょう}環境まつり)

The event is held in September every year, with the aim to encourage and support residents to "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" household waste.

There will be a special collection of "hard to dispose of" items, a milk carton exchange collection, an exhibition stand, a corner for recreation (Otanoshimi Corner) with refreshment booths, fluffy playground equipment, and a toy repair corner (Omocha no Byoin).

At the special collection corner you can dispose of items that are not collected by regular collection services, such as car tires, large-sized home appliances, aging fire extinguishers, car batteries, for a specific fee. These items can be carried in by car to the collection corner. For the collection of the "four items of household appliances", you will have to unload the item(s) from your car.

At the milk carton exchange collection corner you can exchange one kilogram of milk cartons for 3 rolls of toilet paper (cartons with an aluminum layer on the inside are not collected). The limit for this exchange is 30 rolls of toilet paper. Milk cartons cannot be brought in by car to the collection. Please use the parking lot around the venue.

At the exhibition corner, a stamp rally will be held to distribute eco-friendly giveaway items associated with the environmentally friendly practices to those who collect stamps while visiting the exhibition corners. There will be a display of "My Bag", to encourage more eco-friendly shopping behavior, a display of Pellet stoves, and a display of environmentally friendly buses running regular routes. You can also learn about resource recovery, reduction of food loss, how to make Bokashi fertilizer, and others.

The festival will still take place in light rain, but it will be canceled in the case of severe weather.

Time & Place: Sunday, September 3, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Komochi Fureai Koen

Tel: 0279-22-2114 (Forests & Environment Dept.)

Japanese Language Course (にほんごきょうしつ 日本語教室)

Japanese language course will resume after summer vacation on September 5 and will run until March 19, 2024. The course will be held as usual at Shibukawa Chuo Kominkan every Tuesday, except holidays, from, 10:00 am to 11:30 am and from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Tel: 0279-22-2396 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp



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.

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

The submission period is August 1 – November 30, 2023. 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.

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

For the contest rules, please visit the Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Kankokyokai website (scan the QR code on the right to access the website).



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

- **Grand prize winner** - an Ikaho Onsen travel certificate worth 30,000 yen
- **Three 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 in early January 2024.

Mind and Body Relaxation Course

（心と体のリラクゼーション講座）

Learn how to relieve stress and boost your mood with yoga breathing techniques and poses while increasing strength, flexibility, and balance.

The course will be held at Shibukawa City Hoken Center on Saturday, October 7, 14, and 21, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Things to bring: a yoga mat, a towel, water to drink, and comfortable clothing

Limit: 30 people on a first come, first served basis

Application: by phone, September 12 - September 22

Tel: 0279-25-1321 (City Hoken Center)

Ikebana Course - Beginner

（初歩からのお花の生け方教室受講生）

Come and learn the basic forms of Ikebana flower arrangement and enjoy a tea party.

The course will be held at Komochi Fureai Cha Shitsu on Sunday October 8, 29, November 19, and December 17, from 9:30 am to Noon.

Cost: 1500 yen each time

Application: September 7 - September 22 at Shimin Kaikan Window, by phone or fill in the application webforms by scanning the QR code on the right



Tel: 0279-25-7070 (Machi-zukuri)

SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (がいこくじんむりょうほうりつそうだん)

When: Sunday, September 10, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Oizumi Kominkan, Minami Bekkan Kenshu-shitsu (Oizumi-machi Yoshida 2011-1).

Consultants: Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi Lawyer (Immigration Specialist) & Shakai Hoken Romushi (Labor issue & pension specialist)

Interpreting services are available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Contact: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma.

Tel: 027-289-8275 (Reservations are recommended.)

(Same-day registration is available, but those with reservations have priority.)

On-duty Clinics in September (9 月 の 休 日 当 番 医)

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
9/3 (Sun)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Shimizu-shika-iin (清水歯科医院) Tel: 54-3413
9/10 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Miyashita-dental-clinic (宮下デンタルクリニック) Tel: 53-4701
9/17 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Mitake-shika-iin (三剛歯科医院) Tel: 72-3430
9/18 (Mon)	Kawashima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Satori-shika-clinic (佐島歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-0069
9/23 (Sat)	Honsawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Sato-shika-iin (佐藤歯科医院) Tel: 54-8330
9/24 (Sun)	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Aoitori-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Nagai-shika-iin (永井歯科医院) Tel: 56-8854

Night Emergency Clinic (夜 間 急 患 診 療 所)

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

Location: 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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

TEL: 0279-22-2396



Information (お 問 い 合 わ せ)

Shibukawa City Office DX & Administrative Management 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/p001414.html>