



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

378th Edition, April 2024



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Hello Everyone!

The cherry blossom season is currently at its peak in many cities across Japan. Sakura (cherry blossom) is the national flower of Japan and Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) is a Japanese traditional spring event. Japanese talk about cherry blossoms in their daily conversations at this time of year, and they go out to view and enjoy the cherry flowers. After close observation of the trees at designated locations all over Japan, the Meteorological Agency releases a forecast and makes an official announcement when the cherry trees bloom. The blooming of cherry blossoms signifies not only the arrival of spring but the beginning of the new academic year as the Japanese school year starts in April. It also signifies the new fiscal year for business and it's a symbol of a bright future. The cherry flowers will last for about two weeks.

April 29 is **Showa no Hi**, or Showa Day, a national holiday in Japan to commemorate the birthday of Emperor Hirohito, known as Emperor Shōwa, the reigning emperor from 1926 to 1989.

Shiroi-juku Yaezakura Festival (白井宿八重ざくらまつり)



This festival is held each year at Shiroi-juku, an old fashioned street in Shibukawa city.

Citizens dressed as knights from the Edo period participate in a parade through the town, stopping under the branches of the yaezakura cherry in full bloom. There will be also a haiku competition and agricultural products and local specialties on sale.

When: Sunday, April 21, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rokusai Ichi: Rokusai market, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Yayoi no Kukai: Haiku (Japanese poetry) meeting to celebrate the spring, from 9:00 am to Noon

Shiroi-juku Musha Gyoretsu: samurai procession, from 10:30 am to noon (canceled in case of rain)

Dashi display: Japanese festival float parade, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Shoren-ji Peony Garden (正蓮寺のぼたん園)

The garden of Shoren-ji Temple (Jodo sect of Buddhism) in Shibukawa is a popular place to see peonies. About 90 varieties of peony flowers in more than 1,500 bushes planted in the 170 square meter Japanese garden, are blooming in wonderful colors such as red, white, pink and purple. The view from the passageway is marvelous. Enjoy not only the gorgeous atmosphere of spring, but also the special scents that these flowers can offer. Admission is free of charge, except for the peak season.

Admission fees: 300 yen for adults. It's free for students up to high school

Opening Hours: daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm)

Peak viewing season: from late April to early May

Address: 2160 Shibukawa, Shibukawa City (Tel: 0279-22-0838)



Yozakura - Night Viewing of Cherry Blossoms at Sogo Koen

(夜桜ライトアップ「総合公園」)



The park is situated on the east side of Mount Haruna at an altitude of 600 m, with a view of Mount Tanigawa in the distance and the spectacular view of the nearby Mount Akagi. Athletic facilities including a track-and-field stadium and a baseball field, walking paths and sculptures are in place.

Sogo Koen is popular as a sports and recreation park. The 55.8-hectare park allows visitors to enjoy the blossoms of about 3,000 cherry trees. The cherry blossoms start blooming about ten days later compared to the city, because of the altitude difference, so the full bloom will be from mid to late April this year. During the peak season, the cherry trees are lit up between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

Onogami Hot Spring Festival (小野上温泉まつり)

Held every year in late April, at the Onogami Hot Spring Center parking area. The Onogami Onsen Matsuri is a festival to express a sincere gratitude for patronage and to pray for the continuous use and development of the hot spring. You can enjoy local entertainment performances "proud of their voice" contest, floats parade, sale of products, distribution of flowers and trees, flea market, and others. Onogami Onsen Center will be opened for free to the public from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on the festival day.

When: Monday, April 29 (public holiday), from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Japanese Language Lessons (日本語教室)

Learn daily Japanese conversation, hiragana, katakana and essential Japanese kanji characters in a friendly, supportive learning environment. Whether you are a beginner or have studied before, volunteer teachers will help you improve your Japanese language skills. The class will be held at Shibukawa Kominkan on Thursdays, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am (morning class), or from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm (evening class).

Lesson dates: May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, September 3, 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2024, and January 4, 21, February 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2025

Limit: 10 people for each class (on a first come first served basis)

Registration Fee: 3000 yen / 1000 yen for each trimester (excluding materials)

Application: by phone or email

Tel: 0279-22-2463 / **Email:** sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp



Mother's Day Flower Arranging Class (母の日 フラワーアレンジメント 教室)

Come join this class and learn how to create a beautiful flower arrangement for your mother, a friend or yourself! It will be held at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan on Sunday, May 12, from 1:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Limit: 20 people (randomly selected if there will be more applications)

Participation fee: 2000 yen (materials cost)

Application: from Monday, April 8 to Wednesday, April 24. You can find the application form at:

<https://www.city.shibukawa-foundation.or.jp/.2024/03/flower/.html>

Fill out the form and submit it online. (Tel: 0279-25-7070)

Rediscovering Ikaho Hometown - Call for Participants

(ふるさと再発見 in いかほ参加者)

Stroll through the beautiful and historic Ishidan-gai (stone stairway) of Ikaho, and find old and new hidden gems. A stamp rally will also be held. Collect stamps while visiting and you can get a souvenir gift!

When: Sunday, May 19, from 9:30 am to noon

Limit: 20 people (randomly selected if there will be more applications)

Gathering place: Ikaho Taiikukan parking lot

Application: by phone, until Wednesday, April 17 (Tel: 0279-22-2500)

Komochi Maple Village Campground Opens for the Camping Season

(メープル ヴィレッジ子持の営業を開始しました)

Komochi Maple Village Campground opens for the season on Wednesday, April 2 and operates until Thursday, October 31. The campground is closed on Mondays (if a national holiday falls on Monday, it is closed the next day). It will be open every day, from Monday, April 29 to Sunday, May 5 and from Monday, July 1 to Saturday, August 31. There are available bungalows (one night 12570 yen for 6 people, 20950 yen for 10 people, and 25140 yen for 12 people), and barbecue pits (1800 yen).

Reservations: by phone at Maple Village Campground (Tel: 0279-53-2344), or at Tourism Dep. (Tel: 0279-22-2873t) (Reservations are required!)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen Campground Special Schedule

(沼尾川親水公園キャンプ場臨時営業のお知らせ)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen is announcing a temporary special opening starting Saturday, April 27 through Monday, May 6. There will be available: bungalows (for 4 adults, about 14 square meters) at 3200 yen per night; camping pitches at 530 yen per night, and fishing ponds (3,200 yen per person, for one day).

Reservations: by phone at Kiguregumi Sport Park Akagi, from Friday, April 12 to Friday, April 26, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Tel: 0279-56-8840), or at Numaogawa Shinsui Koen, from Saturday, April 27 to Monday, May 6, 9:00am - 4:00 pm (Tel: 0279-56-3531). (Reservations are required!)

Karate-do Course (空手道教室)

The course will be held at Shibukawa Shimin Taiikukan every Wednesday (except on May 3), from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, starting April 17 through May 29, and consists of two divisions: a junior division for junior high school students and younger children, and a senior division for high school students and older people.

Limit: 25 people on each division (Young children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

Cost: 1000 yen

Application: by phone (Tel: 0279-22-2241 / Tel: 090-9107-3027 / Fax: 0279-25-8815)



Easy Tai Chi Experience Class

(やさしい太極拳教室)

Tai Chi practice has many health benefits, including muscle strength, flexibility, better balance, and helps reduce stress and anxiety. It is easy and fun to learn. It's free!

When: Sunday, April 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Chuo Kominkan

Limit: 20 people

Application: by phone

Tel: 0279-53-4492 / Tel: 0279-22-2241



On-duty Clinics in April

(4月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine		Surgery		Dentistry
4/7 (Sun)	Aoitori-family-clinic (青鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Takahashi-shika-clinic (高橋歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8211
4/14 (Sun)	Saito-naikageka-clinic (斉藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Yoshioka-shika-clinic (吉岡歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8289
4/21 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331
4/28 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Ishida-shika-iin (石田歯科医院) Tel: 25-0411
4/29 (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	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The clinic provides medical services daily, 7:00 am - 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. Patients will be introduced to another medical institution if specialized treatment is necessary.

(Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa)

Tel: 0279-23-8899

To access the **SHIBUKAWA CURRENT** online, scan the code on the right with your smartphone or visit our website at:
<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p000024.htm>



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: 0279-22-2463)



Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

Tel: 0279-22-2463 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

URL: <http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p001414.html>