

SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

380th edition, June 2024



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Hello Everyone!

In Japan, summer arrives along with the rainy season, the period that is referred to as both **tsuyu** and **baiu**, literally meaning plum rain in Japanese, as it coincides with the season of plums ripening. During this season there are many cloudy and rainy days, but is the best time to enjoy viewing beautiful flowers such as hydrangea, iris, water lily, etc., that thrive in wet weather. **Teru teru bozu**, sunshine charm dolls made of white tissue paper or cloth, are traditionally hung outside of windows to wish for sunny weather. June is also an exciting time for picking cherries and blueberries in the Akagi and Komochi areas. There are also some small shops that sell delicious strawberry sherbet, cherries and blueberries.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking and mountain courses along the Kanto Fureai Road. Also, bungalows and barbecue pits are available at the Komochi Maple Village and Akagi campsites.

Summer solstice, or **Geshi** as it's called in Japan, falls on Friday, June 21, this year.

Father's Day is called **Chichi No Hi** in Japan, and it falls on the third Sunday of June (this year, on Sunday, June 16). This holiday gives people a chance to express their thanks for their father's love and hard work.

Miyata Firefly Festival (みや た まつ 宮田ほたる祭り)

Watching the fantastic dancing lights of fireflies is a truly magical experience. Two different types of fireflies, Genji firefly (*Luciola cruciata*) and Heike firefly (*Luciola lateralis*) can be seen in the Akagi Machi, Miyada Hotaru no Sato (Firefly Village), from mid-June to the end of July. Entrance is free!

The Firefly Festival will be held on Friday, June 14, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Inside the festival area, there will be food stalls, so you can enjoy delicious local foods.

Free parking is available at Akagi Utopia. Please refrain from parking at the festival site.



Shinkoji Temple Hydrangea in Full Bloom (み しんこうじ アジサイが見ごろ「真光寺」)

Shinkoji is a famous temple that is said to have been founded in the Heian Period by the monk Junichi Doshi. The temple was under the guardianship of Shingen Takeda (the nineteenth head of the Takeda clan), a samurai commander in the Warring States period (Sengoku). The temple was ranked among the Kanto region's five major temples of the Tendai sect. There are several cultural assets in the Shinkoji precincts such as the temple's large bell "Ogane" (prefecture designated important cultural property in the "Shoro" (bell tower)). Shinkoji is known as Ajisaidera ("Hydrangea Temple") because hydrangea bloom all over the temple grounds during the rainy season. There are more than 3000 shrubs of hydrangea in the beautiful garden of the temple and from around late June to early July they will color the ground of Shinkoji temple and the surroundings. (Address: 748 Shibukawa, Shibukawa City.)

Hydrangea Festival (あじさいまつ祭り)

From late June to early July you can enjoy Hydrangea Ajisai viewing at the Onoike Ajisai Koen!

There are about 8,000 Hydrangea plants of 20 different varieties in wonderful colors such as silky white, blue, turquoise, pale red, and dark purple. The festival takes place from Saturday, June 15 through Sunday, July 7. During the day, visitors can enjoy not only the beauty of the brightly colored hydrangea but also the sound of the wind chimes that are placed around the park. In the evening, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, the flowers are illuminated and visitors can enjoy the beautiful and magical colors of the flowers, which are different from the daytime colors. Booths will be set up for the festival on Saturdays and Sundays, offering local specialty products, foods, and also free rental of Japanese umbrellas (from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm). The access to the park is free of charge.

Parking is available at the Onoike Ajisai Koen. In addition, the parking lots at Ryokoji and Shibukawa Hachimangu can be used during the festival.



Shibukawa Skyland Park (しぶかわスカイランドパーク)

The Shibukawa Skyland Park provides a lot of events during this month.

You can enjoy the panoramic view of Shibukawa from the Ferris Wheel, various attractions, and also Hydrangea view. About 5000 "White Lady" or Annabelle hydrangea shrubs are planted in the park and when they bloom they look great, like a carpet. The best time to see Annabelle hydrangea in the Park is from late June to mid-July. The entrance ticket during the peak of the season is 300 yen for children and adults, allowing visitors to ride one time on the Ferris wheel for free.

In the case of bad weather the park will be closed.

Tel: 0279-20-1589 (Address: Shibukawa Skyland Park / 2843-3 Kanai, Shibukawa City)



Fresh Greenery Light-up at Kajika-bashi (「河鹿橋」の新緑ライトアップ)

Located near the Kogane no Yu (golden hot spring source) and the Ikaho Rotenburo (open-air bath), Kajika-bashi over the Yuzawa River is famous for its autumn foliage, but the fresh greenery in early summer is also beautiful. The area around the bridge is lit up after sunset, allowing visitors to admire the beautiful contrast of the fresh green leaves against the red bridge during the day and night.

Lights will be on daily from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm until Sunday, June 16.

Please note that there is a limited number of parking spaces available at the foot of the bridge. If you are coming by car, you can also use the Monmon parking lot, next to the Ikaho Ropeway (charges apply) or the parking lot of the Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum of Literature (charges apply).

Ancient Rice Planting and Harvesting Class (こだいまいたいけんきょうしつ 古代米づくり体験教室)

In this class you will have a hands-on experience of producing Kodai-mai (ancient rice): Kuro-mai (black rice), Aka-mai (red rice), etc., from rice planting to harvesting.

Where: Handa Hayao Jinja

When: Rice planting on Saturday, July 6; rice harvesting on Saturday, October 26

Limit: 60 people (randomly selected if there are more applications)

Application: By phone, until Monday, June 17

Tel: 0279-52-2102.



Flower Arranging Workshop (はなにしたたいけんきょうしつ 花に親しむ体験教室)

Get fun ideas on using containers to plant varieties of flowers and plants for outdoor decorative purpose. The workshop will be held at City Hall Dainichosha on Wednesday, June 26, from 10:00 am to noon.

Limit: 25 people (randomly selected if there are more applications).

Fee: 2000 yen (for flower seedlings, containers, etc.)

Application: By phone, until Friday, June 14

Tel: 0279-25-8307 (Toshi Seisaku)



Tai Chi Chuan - Health Class (けんこうたいきょくけんきょうしつ 健康太極拳教室)

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 class will be held at Chuo Kominkan, on Mondays, July 1, 8, 22, 29, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. It's free! No need to register, just show up and enjoy the class!

Tel: 0279-53-4492 (Shibukawa Taikyokuken Association) / **Tel:** 0279-22-2241 (Sport Div.)



Lettering - Picture Plate Class (きょうしつ えざらづく レタリング教室-絵皿作り)

Make an original picture plate of your own painting for a nice summer vacation memory!

The class will be held at Kanashima Fureai Center on Saturday, July 20, from 10:00 am to noon (morning part) and from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm (afternoon part).

Limit: 80 elementary and junior high school students, for each part

Fee: 800 yen (materials cost)

Application: Friday June 7 - Friday June 21, from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm. You can apply:

1) Via a Reply-paid postcard (Ofuku Hagaki). Fill out the necessary information on the postcard and send it to Shōgai Gakushū-ka, Shibukawa City Hall (80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City, 377-8501).

You can also fill out your second choice (desired time). If you are applying for more than one person, they must be family members residing at the same address, and only one application postcard is required. Please note that if the number of applicants exceeds the capacity, participants will be decided by lottery. After the participants are decided, results will be sent via the reply postcard.

2) Online, via the following URL:

https://apply.e-tumo.jp/city-shibukawa-gunma-u/offer/offerList_detail?tempSeq=13243

(Please make sure that you are set up to receive emails from: @city.shibukawa.gunma.jp.)



SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (がいこくじんむりようほうりつそうだん 外国人無料法律相談)

Where: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma (1st Floor, Showa Chosha Wing, 1-1-1 Ote-machi, Maebashi)

When: Sunday, June 16, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (doors close at 2:30 pm)

Advisors: Lawyer, Gyoseishoshi (Immigration specialist), and Sharoushi (Labor Consultant)

Interpreters: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese and Nepalese

(Priority is given to those who have appointments.)

Reservation & Inquiry: One-Stop Consultation for Foreign Residents of Gunma

Tel: 027-289-8275, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, weekdays

On-duty Clinics in June (6月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
6/2 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Akagi-shika-iin (あかぎ歯科医院) Tel: 20-6522
6/9 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Iizuka-shika-iin (いづか歯科医院) Tel: 22-0808
6/16 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Aoba-shika-iin (あおば歯科医院) Tel: 25-8820
6/23 (Sun)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Ino-seikei-geka-rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Fukushima-shika-iin (ふくしま歯科医院) Tel: 22-0154
6/30 (Sun)	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Aoitori-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Meiji-shika-shinryojyo (明治歯科診療所) Tel: 25-8101

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries daily between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. If specialized treatment is necessary, patients may be introduced to another medical institution. Please call before heading to the clinic, to ensure they can treat you.

Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

Tel: 0279-23-8899

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



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 Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka, 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/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p001414.html>