



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

383rd Edition, September 2024



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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 Wednesday, September 18.

Respect for the Aged Day in Japan is held every third Monday of September, this year on September 16. 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.

The 41st Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (第41回渋川へそ祭り)

Shibukawa's biggest and most popular annual event, Heso Matsuri, the Bellybutton Festival is going to be held on Saturday, September 7, from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm, around Shinmachi Gosaro intersection. Visitors can enjoy a variety of belly dances, yukata dances, freestyle dances, charity bazaar and many others, but the main attraction is the Heso Odori Parade, in which groups of dancers with large faces painted on their stomachs parade through the streets yelling with big excitement, "Heso **dase yoiyoi!**"

The parade takes place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. 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.

During the festival, vehicular traffic will be closed on the streets around Shin-machi Gosaro intersection and Ekimae Dori. (Free parking is available at the City Hall Parking Lot.)

Ikaho Matsuri (伊^い香^か保^ほまつり)

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.



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

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.

When: Saturday, October 26, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm (Reception starts at 10:00 am)

Where: Shibukawa Sogo Koen General Park Barbecue Ground

Limit: 60 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 13 - Monday, September 23 (**Tel: 0279-22-2463**)



Tachibana Furusato Festival (たちばな^{ふるさと}古里まつり)

The Festival will be held at Atagoyama Furusato Koen Park on Sunday, September 29, from 1:30 pm. The main attraction is the procession of local junior high school students celebrating the Princess Ototachibana and Prince Yamatotakeru, from a legend of Mount Tachibana. Wearing costumes that reflect the image of the ancients, they create a fantastic atmosphere.

The procession starts at 1:30 pm and the welcoming ceremony takes place at 3:00 pm, on the stage inside the park. It includes a Kamishibai (picture-story show) and balloon release.

There will be also a variety of events to enjoy such as public entertainment stage, a bamboo workshop, a bazaar, food stands, local products' sale, and a game corner.

Tachibana Lake Fireworks: A colorful light display over the lake is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm. (The festival may be cancelled in the case of inclement weather.)

Japanese Language Course (にほんご^{にほんごきょうしつ}教室)

Japanese language course will resume after the summer break on September 3, and will run until March 18, 2025. 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: 0279-22-2463 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp.

Kamishibai Exhibition (紙芝居展を開催します)

Tracing the roots of Kamishibai, the traditional form of Japanese picture-storytelling, the traveling exhibition of the Gunma Prefectural Museum of Literature in Commemoration of Bunmei Tsuchiya introduces visitors to various Kamishibai and their history, including the earliest street Kamishibai and Kamishibai for foreigners.

When: Sunday, September 1 - Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Admission fee: Adults 350 yen, elementary, junior high school, and high school students 200 yen

TEL: 0279-72-2237 (Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum)

Environmental Festival

(渋川環境まつり)

Embracing the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, the Festival encourages people to reduce waste and increase recycling, for a greater environmental impact. You can enjoy a variety of recycling events and also can dispose of your old household electrical goods, old tires, etc. (with a disposal fee). This event was held every year at the beginning of September, but the date has been changed to October 27 due to the hot weather.

Respect-for-the-Aged Day

(敬老の日)

Respect-for-the-Aged Day (Keiro-no-hi) is a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday in September, this year on September 16. It is a day to honor the elderly, pray for their long life, good health, and thank them for their many contributions to society.

People visit their parents, grandparents and aged friends to show respect for the aged.

Shibukawa City's Official Website Is Now Translatable In More Languages

渋川市公式ホームページで対応できる言語を拡大しました

To make relevant information more accessible to all of our residents, the Shibukawa City official website can be now automatically translated in five new languages: Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Nepali, and Thai, added to the other already existing seven languages (Japanese, English, Chinese Simplified and Chinese Traditional, Portuguese, Korean, and Spanish).

To translate the website into another language, simply click on the "Select Language" button and then select the language you want from the drop down list.

URL: <https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/shisei/kouhou/homepage/p011622.html>

SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (外国人無料法律相談)

When: Sunday, September 8, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Registration until 2:30 pm)

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

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
9/8 (Sun)	Aoitari-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Funaoka-shika-iin (船岡歯科医院) Tel: 23-8211
9/15 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Kato-seikei-geka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Shimizu-shika-iin (清水歯科医院) Tel: 54-3413
9/16 (Mon)	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Komayose-Kodomo-shinryojo (駒寄こども診療所) Tel: 55-5252	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Miyashita-dental-clinic (宮下デンタルクリニック) Tel: 53-4701
9/22 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斉藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Ino-seikei-geka-rehabili-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Mitake-shika-iin (三剛歯科医院) Tel: 72-3430
9/23 (Mon)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Takano-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Satori-shika-clinic (さとり歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-069
9/29 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Miyukida-naika-iin (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Sato-shika-iin (佐藤歯科医院) Tel: 54-8330

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: 0279-22-2463)



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