



# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

384th Edition, October 2024



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## Hi Everyone,

**Kaminazuki** or **Kannazuki** is the traditional name for the month of October which means "Month of the Gods". October is one of the most pleasant months for traveling as the weather remains warm, but it is not hot and humid anymore. Leaves begin changing color from beautiful green into yellow, orange, red, and brown, in the northern regions and at higher elevations.

Autumn in Japan is said to be the "Season of Food". You can enjoy delicious apples, grapes, pears and other local products. For a small fee you can pick apples in Shibukawa, Komochi and Akagi apple orchards. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking and mountain courses along the Kanto Fureai Road. Bungalows and barbecue pits are available at Akagi camping sites and at Sogo Koen.

Beautiful scenery of buckwheat flowers blooming in delicate white and swaying in the early autumn breeze can be viewed in the Miyukida area from late September to early October.

Sports Day, also known as **Taiiku no Hi**, is a national holiday in Japan on the second Monday in October, this year it falls on October 14. Commemorating the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics held in Tokyo, its aim is to promote sports and an active lifestyle.

## Gunma Citizen's Day ぐんまけんみんひ (群馬県民の日)

October 28th is **Gunma Kenmin no Hi** (Gunma Prefectural Citizens' Day).

The purpose of this day is for Gunma citizens to learn more about the history of Gunma and enhance their sense of autonomy to create a better community. To celebrate this day, public schools will be closed, free admission to prefectural and municipal facilities will be offered, and events will be held throughout the prefecture. Some places may be closed due to coronavirus restrictions so please check with them before you visit.

## Shibukawa Sports Rec Festival しぶかわ (渋川スポレクフェスティバル)

The objective of this event is to popularize and develop sports recreation and to support a healthy lifestyle in Shibukawa through physical activity. There will be a presentation, a panel exhibition and hands-on classes by City Sport and Recreation Association members. Also, a 6-item physical fitness test will be conducted during the festival. Anyone can participate, but those aged 20 to 79 are asked to cooperate with the 2024 Physical Fitness and Athletic Ability Survey. It's free! Just show up!

**When:** Sunday, October 27, from 9:30 am to Noon

**Place:** Komochi Social Gymnasium

## The 30 National Creative Kokeshi Doll Exhibition in Shibukawa

(第30回全国創作こけし美術展 in 渋川)

This exhibition is held annually with the purpose of increasing the artistic evaluation of the works of the kokeshi doll artisans from Shibukawa and its vicinity. The exhibit also features Kokeshi dolls with elaborated designs and high artistic value by creators across Japan and other countries.

During this period, works from the 30th Project Exhibition "Creative Kokeshi Doll Painting Contest: Your Kokeshi" will also be on display. Admission to the exhibition is free!

**Place:** Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan Small Hall

**When:** October 30 - November 5, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (last admission at 4:30 pm).

(On November 5, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (last admission at 3:30 pm).

**The World of Creative Kokeshi Painting Workshop:** You can experience painting your own Kokeshi doll while visiting on Sunday, November 3, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, and from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The workshop is limited to 20 people each time. Application on the day of the event. Numbered tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the venue from 9:30 am and from 1:00 pm. It's free! Please bring a pencil, an eraser and a dustcloth.

### Citizen Culture Festival (市民総合文化祭)

You can enjoy free performances by performing arts groups operating at the community centers in Shibukawa City.

**Instrumental recitals:** Taishogoto, keyboard, harmonica, accordion, brass band, orchestra, and other performances Sunday, October 6.

**Shin-buyo performance:** "New Japanese dance" performed to popular songs at Shimin Kaikan on Sunday, October 13.

**Dance recital:** Social dance recital at Shibukawa City Civic Center on Sunday, October 14 (holiday).

**Go and Shogi tournament:** Traditional Japanese board games Go (Igo) and Shogi (Japanese chess) tournament at Hokkitsu Kominkan on Sunday, October 20.

**Chorus recital:** People of all ages choral performance at Shimin Kaikan on Saturday, October 26.

**Nihon Buyou performances:** Japanese traditional dance presentation on Sunday, October 27.



### The 18th Tachibana Takenosato Festival (第18回竹の里フェスティバル)

The Festival will be held for two days, on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27. Visitors can participate in various events related to bamboo, which is a feature of the Kita-Tachibana area.

**Bamboo crafts exhibition:** Exhibition of bamboo crafts on Saturday, October 26, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday, October 27, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center.



**Pageant of bamboo and light:** Collaboration of bamboo and lights at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center on Saturday, October 26, from 4:15 pm to 7:00 pm. The lit bamboo lamps create a magical space.

**The world of bamboo music:** Performances by Taiko (Japanese drums) and other musical instruments made of bamboo, and Yagibushi dance (a popular folk songs and dance performed at matsuri) on Sunday, October 27 at Hokkitsu Kominkan Hall, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**Bamboo shoots food tasting:** free distribution of local food made from bamboo shoots (limited number) at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center and at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center on Sunday, October 27, from 0:30 pm.

## Shibukawa Environmental Festival (しぶかわ<sup>かんきょう</sup>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 18 rolls of toilet paper. Milk cartons cannot be brought in by car to the collection.

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. You can 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.

Please use the parking lot around the venue.

**Time & Place:** Sunday, October 27, from 9:00 am to 0:00 pm at the Komochi Fureai Koen

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

## Gunma Prefectural Astronomical Observatory (けんりつ<sup>てんもんだい</sup>ぐんま天文台)

Gunma Astronomical Observatory, housing one of the world's largest reflecting telescopes for directly viewing objects, a solar telescope and also several exhibits of various kinds in the exhibition area, is designed for both astronomical research and public use. Outside, there are two monuments: a replica of Jantar Mantar, an assembly of stone-built astronomical instruments related to the 12 zodiac signs, each facing the signs' respective constellation and a full sized replica of the Stonehenge, the prehistoric stone circle monument indicating the direction of sunrise and sunset at the solstices.

The observatory is located in Takayama village, about 25 min by car from Shibukawa Station.

**Opening times:** **March - October**, facility tour from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, stargazing from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm; **November - February**, facility tour from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, stargazing from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday it's open for the day facility tour, but stargazing is available only for group visits, and reservations are required.

**Closed:** every Monday (on the following day if falls on a holiday), and for New Year Holidays

**Admission:** 300 yen for adults, 200 yen for university and high school students, free for junior high school students and younger. Last entry is 30 min before the closing time. Free parking is available.

**Tel: 0279-70-5300** (Gunma Astronomical Observatory).

## SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreigners (がいこくじん<sup>むりようほうりつそうだん</sup>無料法律相談)

**When:** Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Where:** Gunma Prefectural Government Building, 1F Showa Chosha Wing

**Consultants:** Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi Lawyer (Immigration Specialist) & Shakai Hoken Romushi (Labor issue & pension specialist). Free confidential interpreting service is available.

**Contact:** One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma (**Tel: 027-289-8275**)

## On-duty Clinics in October ( 10月の休日当番医 )

| Internal Medicine |  |   | Surgery   | Dentistry   |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 10/6<br>(Sun)     | Iguchi-iin<br>(井口医院)<br>Tel: 25-1100                     | Tsukagoshi-clinic<br>(塚越クリニック)<br>Tel: 60-7700      | Kato-seikei-geka-iin<br>(加藤整形外科医院)<br>Tel: 20-1007  | Nagai-shika-iin<br>(永井歯科医院)<br>Tel: 56-8854           |
| 10/13<br>(Sun)    | Shibukawa-chuo-byoin<br>(渋川中央病院)<br>Tel: 25-1711         | Harasawa-iin<br>(原沢医院)<br>Tel: 72-2503              | Sekiguchi-byoin<br>(関口病院)<br>Tel: 23-2378           | Onogami-shika-shinryojo<br>(小野上歯科診療所)<br>Tel: 59-2493 |
| 10/14<br>(Mon)    | Aoitori-family-clinic<br>(青い鳥ファミリークリニック)<br>Tel: 26-2681 | Okamoto-naika-clinic<br>(岡本内科クリニック)<br>Tel: 20-5353 | Arima-clinic<br>(有馬クリニック)<br>Tel: 24-8818           | Hoshikawa-shika-iin<br>(ほしかわ歯科医院)<br>Tel: 24-8835     |
| 10/20<br>(Sun)    | Kamiyama-naika-iin<br>(神山内科医院)<br>Tel: 22-2181           | Oi-naika-clinic<br>(大井内科クリニック)<br>Tel: 30-5575      | Shibukawa-iryo-center<br>(渋川医療センター)<br>Tel: 23-1010 | Takahashi-shika-clinic<br>(高橋歯科クリニック)<br>Tel: 24-8211 |
| 10/27<br>(Sun)    | Kosei-iin<br>(厚成医院)<br>Tel: 22-1060                      | Akagi-kaisei-clinic<br>(赤城開成クリニック)<br>Tel: 20-6500  | Shibukawa-iryo-center<br>(渋川医療センター)<br>Tel: 23-1010 | Yoshioka-shika-clinic<br>(吉岡歯科クリニック)<br>Tel: 24-8289  |

### 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 the hours of 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, the clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable.

**Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa City)**

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.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](mailto:sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp)**

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