



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

385rd Edition, November 2024



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Hi Everyone!

According to the Japanese traditional calendar, November 7 is **Ritto**, the beginning of winter. Although the weather turns gradually colder, it is a wonderful time for viewing of fall colors, and Shibukawa City is blessed with beautiful mountains where entire slopes turn orange, yellow and red, creating some of the most amazing seasonal sceneries. If you pass the mountain road in Ikaho, Onogami, Komochi, Akagi or Hokkitsu area walking, cycling, driving a car, or riding on a motorcycle you'll be quite amazed by the autumn colors around you. Hiking is another rewarding way to see the colorful leaves in the mountains.

November 3 is **Bunka no Hi** (Culture Day), a Japanese national holiday to celebrate arts and culture. It falls on a Sunday this year, so the holiday will be observed on Monday, November 4.

Shichi-Go-San is a traditional event held annually on or around November 15 to celebrate the growth of children, boys who are five years old and girls who are three or seven years old. They are dressed in traditional kimonos or in their best clothes and brought to the nearby shrines or temples to show thanks to the gods for their growth and to pray for their continued health and safety.

November 23 is **Kinro Kansha no Hi** (Labor Thanksgiving Day), a national holiday for honoring labor.

Fall Foliage Light up (紅葉ライトアップ)

Kajika Bridge over the Yuzawa River near the source of Ikaho Onsen is a very popular spot to see fall leaves. The maple trees around the bridge are lit up after the sun set, creating a magical atmosphere that is different from the daytime visits.

Light-up: from 4:30 pm to 10:00 pm, until November 10 (A free shuttle bus runs between Ishidangai to Kajika Bridge on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm.)

Fall Colors in Mt. Iwaido-yama

(紅葉が見ごろ「岩井堂」)

Iwaido was an important fort of Takeda clan in the Sengoku period. The mountaintop offers a superb view of Mt. Haruna to the south and of Mt. Asama, Mt. Shirane and Mt. Azumaya to the west. Mt. Iwaido is a popular destination for hikers during the fall foliage season. The best time to see the fall colors is around mid-November.

The 2024 Kami Miharada Kabuki Stage (上三原田の歌舞伎舞台 2024)

The devices and stage settings of the Kami Miharada collapsible kabuki stage, dating from 1819 in Akagi Kami-Miharada, will be installed and raised for operation. You can watch popular plays performed by local kabuki troupes and also a performance by Miharada Elementary School children, on Saturday, November 9, from 8:50 am to 4:10 pm. It's free! Free parking is also available. In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed to Sunday, November 10.

Citizens' Cultural Festival (市民総合文化祭)

The festival offers a series of events and activities that are free of charge.

Shigin performance: traditional Japanese poetry recitation along with the sword and fan dance at Kanashima Kominkan on Sunday, November 3, from 9:20 am to 4:00 pm.

Kabuki presentation: traditional kabuki and children's kabuki, performances by local troupes during the "Kami-Miharada Kabuki Stage 2024" on Saturday, November 9, from 0:40 pm to 2:00 pm, Ehon Taikoki (picture book by Taiko Hideyoshi), and from 3:10 pm to 4:10 pm, Meiboku Sendaihagi (Troubles in the Date Clan). (In case of bad weather, it will be postponed to Sunday, November 10.)

General Art Exhibition: exhibition of artworks created by people from Shibukawa, including: literary works, calligraphy, handicrafts, artworks, photography, flower arrangement, bonsai, kimono dressing, tea ceremony, and a consultation desk for persons with disabilities, at Komochi Shakai Taikukan on Saturday, November 16, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, November 17, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Local performing arts: Gion Hayashi, Daidai Kagura, Taiko Japanese drums and other performances at Komochi Shakai Taikukan Sub-Arena on Sunday, November 17, from 0:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Dance Recital: modern and contemporary dance, classical ballet, and other magical dance performances at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan Large Hall on Sunday, November 17, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Minyo Minbu: Japanese folk songs and dance performances at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan Large Hall on Sunday, November 24, from 1:00 pm to 3:40 pm.

Ukiyo-e Exhibition (浮世絵展を開催)

This exhibition features a collection of ukiyo-e pictures of "Eight Views of Ikaho" and "The Sixty-Nine Post-Station of the Kiso Kaido Road".

When: Saturday, November 2 - Sunday, December 25, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum

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

Murakami Daidai Kagura

(村上太々神楽)

It is said that Murakami Daidai Kagura was first performed at the celebration of the newly rebuilt Sakuma-jinja in 1719, having been performed since then by villagers in its precincts. Now its activities center around the City Preservation Association and it is performed at the Sakuma-jinja Fall Festival, every year on November 23.

Chari-Challe Fall 2024 "Akagi Shizen-En" Climb into the Forest

(ちやりチャレ 2024 秋「赤城自然園」森までクライム)

Explore the city's landscape by cycling up to Akagi Shizen-En (Nature Park) and immerse yourself in the sights, scents, and sounds of nature! Located at an altitude of 600 meters, the park is known for its natural beauty, offering spectacular scenery in every season. Invitation tickets are given away to those who rent an "Aji Cycle" e-bike and cycle up the hills to reach the park.

Whether you're looking to maintain your fitness or immerse yourself in nature and experience the vibrant beauty of fall, an e-bike can make it easier and more enjoyable, and it's available for free!

When: from Saturday, November 2 to Sunday, November 10, 2024

Reception: on the 1st Floor of the Shibukawa Ekimae Plaza, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

(Akagi Shizen-En open hours are between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, entrance to the park is until 3:30 pm.)

Tel: 0279-22-2596

Making Shimenawa Kazari Workshop (しめ縄飾りづくり教室)

You will learn how to make your own Shimenawa-kazari, a Japanese New Year's wreath decoration braided from kodaimai (ancient rice straw). The workshop will be held at Yagihara Kita Kaikan on Sunday, December 1, from 9:00 am to noon. It's free! Please bring scissors and clothes that can get dirty.

Limit: 20 people living, working or studying in Shibukawa (randomly selected if more than 20 people apply, but first-timers are given priority)

Application: until Friday, November 15, from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, every day excepting Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, directly at the counter, or by phone (**Tel: 0279-52-2102**)

Japanese New Year's Decorations Workshop (お正月飾りづくり教室)

Using inawara (rice straw) you will make okaogakushi and nakashime shimenawa decorations. It will be held at Hokkitsu Shiryokan on Sunday, December 8, from 10:00 am to noon. It's free! Please bring pruning shears, a carving knife, a 30 cm ruler, and 2-3 sheets of writing paper.

Limit: 10 people (randomly selected if more than 10 people apply).

Application: until Friday, November 22, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm everyday excepting Mondays and Tuesdays, directly at the counter or by phone (**Tel: 0279-52-4094**)



The 33rd Kuroimine Iseki Marathon (第33回黒井峯遺跡マラソン)

The Marathon is held on Sunday, December 8. There are four different courses to choose from the 2km, 4km and 10km jogging, and 5km walking course all starting at the Komochi Junior High School's ground. People of all ages, and living, working or studying in Gunma prefecture can participate.

Applications: ① by a postal money transfer form which can be found at Komochi Kominkan and ② from the RUNNET website. The deadline for payment is Friday, November 8.

For details, please check the official Kuroimine Iseki Marathon 2024 website before registering.

Tel: 0279-22-7780 (Komochi Kominkan)

"Get Closer to Flowers" Workshop (花に親しむ体験教室)

This workshop is recommended to anyone interested in growing flowers and plants, and would like to start Yoseue, Japanese container gardening.

It will be held on Saturday, November 30 from 10:00 am to noon at Dainichosha, Momiji Terrace.

Limit: 25 people (randomly selected if more than 25 people apply).

Fee: 2000 yen (material costs such as flower seedlings and bowls.)

Application: until Friday, November 15, by phone (**Tel: 0279-25-8307**)



Local Cuisine Using "Imperfect" Vegetables - Cooking Class

(規格外野菜を使った郷土料理教室を開催します)

In this cooking class you'll learn how to cook with less waste with "imperfect" vegetables, and turn them into a delicious dish popular in Gunma Prefecture, Okkirikomi. The class will be held at City Shakai Fukushi Center on Saturday, December 14, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. It's free!

Limit: 16 people (randomly selected if more than 16 people apply)

Application: from Monday, November 11 to Wednesday, November 27, by phone (**Tel: 0279-22-2114**)

On-duty Clinics in November (11月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
11/3 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331
11/4 (Mon)	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Saito-shika-iin (さいとう 歯科医院) Tel: 53-5454
11/10 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら 歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
11/17 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260
11/23 (Sat)	Kawashima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Miyukida-naika-iin (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Komayose-shika-clinic (駒寄歯科クリニック) Tel: 30-5500
11/24 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iin (痛みクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Ino-seikei-geka -rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Hoshino-shika-clinic (星野歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-0232
12/1 (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	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Sakura-shika (さくら歯科) Tel: 30-6333

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

(Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

Tel: 0279-23-8899

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/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.htm>

