

SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

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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 it 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 20, 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 15). This holiday gives people a chance to express their thanks for their father's love and hard work.

Miyada Firefly Festival (みやだ ほたるまつり)

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 Saturday, June 14, from 7:00 pm to 9:30 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 (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 (あじさい祭り)

In early summer, over 8,000 hydrangea plants of 20 species paint Onoike Ajisai Koen with vibrant shades of blue, purple, pink, red and white. A festival is held annually to coincide with the blooming period of these brightly-colored and cheerful flowers, this year from Saturday, June 14 through Sunday, July 6. Wind chimes and lanterns decorate the park, adding a touch of color and offering a refreshing feeling. During the event period hydrangeas are beautifully lit up in the evening, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Visitors can enjoy not only the beauty of hydrangeas but also various activities, including an exhibition, wearing Japanese traditional umbrellas (wagasa), and many more. Booths will be set up at the bicycle parking lot within the park on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, offering food, drinks, and also free rental of Japanese umbrellas. 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.

An original artwork exhibition of the manga artist Ike will be held during the event period at Shibukawa Civic Hall Lobby, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, every day except Mondays. Admission is free of charge.

Goods related to characters that appear in Ike's manga work "Nekomusume Michikusa Nikki" and posters of the Ajisai Matsuri will be on sale and a stamp rally will also take place during the event.



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 viewing hydrangeas. About 5000 Annabelle hydrangea or "White Lady" 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 500 yen for adults, allowing visitors to ride one time on the Ferris wheel for free. In the case of bad weather the park will be closed.

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 15.

Free parking is available at the foot of the Kajika-bashi, but there is a limited number of parking spaces.

Shibukawa Tanabata Matsuri (しぶかわ たなばた まつり)

Tanabata Matsuri will be held at Shibukawa Ekimae, the street in front of the station, on Saturday, June 28, from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. The street, from the intersection on the north side of the station to Hirasawa River, will be closed to vehicle traffic between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

The festival features a variety of activities for visitors, including music and dance performances, stalls selling food and drink, and craft experiences. They can also write their wishes on colorful paper strips and hang them on bamboo branches.

Free parking is available at the Shibukawa City Hall Main Building and Second Building (Dainichosha).

TGR Rally Challenge in Shibukawa Ikaho

(TGR ラリーチャレンジ in 渋川伊香保)

The "TOYOTA GAZOO Racing Rally Challenge in Shibukawa Ikaho" will be held on Sunday, June 29, based at Shibukawa Sogo Koen (Comprehensive Park). A SS stage allows car and racing enthusiasts to witness the rally cars in action and appreciate their performance. This is a special opportunity to see the intense racing up close and to enjoy things like working vehicle rides, riding in a rally car, taking commemorative photos at photo spots, and public viewing.

A "Rally Park" event will be held within the park, and there will be a range of activities for families and friends to enjoy in conjunction with the Rally. In addition, there will be a number of food booths offering a diverse range of food, drinks, and local products.

Ancient Rice Planting and Harvesting Class (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 7; rice harvesting on Saturday, October 25

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

Application: until Monday, June 16, by phone (**Tel: 0279-52-2102**) or by filling out the application form on the city website at: <https://logoform.jp/form/6c9p/1043226>



Shibukawa City Public Library Events

(渋川市立図書館催し物)

All events will be held in the City Library and are free.

★ **Kids Movies:** "Mizuiro no Nagagutsu" and others on Saturday, June 14, from 11:00 am to 11:45 am.

★ **Picture book storytelling by Story Reading Group Moe no Ko:** "Ryu no Me no Namida" (Tears of the Dragon's Eye) and others on Saturday, June 21, from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

★ **The Story of Tanabata by Story Reading Group Moe no Ko:** Tanabata Story Panel Theater and others on Saturday, July 5, from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm

★ **Movie:** "90 Sai. Nani ga Medetai?" (90 Years Old – So What?), a 2024 Japanese film based on a novel by Aiko Sato, on Sunday, June 15, from 2:00 pm to 3:40 pm.



SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (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 15, 2025, 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 weekdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm / **Tel: 090-1215-6113** only on the consultation day

On-duty Clinics in June (6月の休日当番医)

| Internal Medicine | | | Surgery | Dentistry |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 6/1 (Sun) | Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378 | Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353 | Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170 | Takeuchi-shika-iin (たけうち歯科医院) Tel: 25-7700 |
| 6/8 (Sun) | Miyukida-naika-iin (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070 | Komayose-kodomo-shinryojo (駒寄こども診療所) Tel: 55-5252 | Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007 | Esu-shika (エース歯科) Tel: 55-1181 |
| 6/15 (Sun) | Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711 | Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503 | Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010 | Akagi-shika-iin (あかぎ歯科医院) Tel: 20-6522 |
| 6/22 (Sun) | Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311 | Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756 | Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818 | Iizuka-shika-iin (いづか歯科医院) Tel: 22-0808 |
| 6/29 (Sun) | Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100 | Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003 | Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800 | Aoba-shika-iin (あおば歯科医院) Tel: 25-8820 |

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/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

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