



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

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



Hello Everyone!

There are several local festivals as well as firework displays to be seen in July. You can still enjoy hydrangea viewing at the Onoike Park and the glow of fireflies in the Akagi Machi Miyada, Oshima area. The Japanese star festival **Tanabata** takes place on the 7th day of the 7th month of the year, when, according to a legend, the star deities **Orihime** (Vega) and **Hikoboshi** (Altair) separated by the Heavenly River (the Milky Way), are able to meet. People write wishes and hang them on bamboo branches, and decorate the branches with paper chains and origami paper Milky Way ornaments.

Many cities and towns hold festivals and have Tanabata displays decorating the main streets.

Marine Day (Umi no Hi) is a national holiday celebrated every year in Japan on the third Monday of July, it falls on July 21 this year.

Twice a year, at the beginning of July and December, come the big seasons for gift-giving in Japan.

In summer it is called "**O-chugen**". Drinks, fruits, summer cakes and sweets, dried noodles and canned food are popular o-chugen gifts. From the mid-month through August, people send midsummer greeting cards, "**Shochu Mimai**", to inquire after each other's health during the hot summer days.

Ikaho Hawaiian Festival

(伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル)



The Ikaho Hawaiian Festival, which celebrates its 27th anniversary this year, is set to take place from Thursday, July 29 through Sunday, August 1. The festival features hula performances 'Wayway' lively parties, workshops, and also market stalls selling Hawaiian style clothing, accessories, and other items. Participants of all ages, dressed in colorful Hawaiian costumes, gather from across Japan to perform hula dancing on the main stage and on the stone steps making spectators to forget the heat and feel the Hawaiian atmosphere. The highlight of the festival is the Hula Show that takes place every night from 8:15 pm to 9:00 pm (from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm on August 1), where members of 'O Kamuela Hula Hālau, the overall winner of the 2025 Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawaii, will perform in both modern (Hula Auana) and traditional (Hula Kahiko) forms of hula. The performances are free to the public, no tickets are required. Also, the Wayway Party takes place on the main stage every day during the festival, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm (from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm on August 1).

Visit www.ikaho-kankou.com/ikaho-hawaiian2025/ to find out more.

The 42nd Shibukawa Heso Matsuri

(第42回渋川へそ祭り)

Usually held in July, Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (Belly Button Festival), one of the city's most popular annual event, is going to be held on Saturday, September 6 this year, to avoid extreme heat.

Creative Kokeshi Art Exhibition - Original Kokeshi Painting contest

(こけし美術展で展示する絵付けオリジナルこけし)

The Contest is open to artists of all ages who live, work or study in Shibukawa. There are two divisions: a student division (junior high school students and younger) and a general division (high school students and older). All applicants must receive a blank kokeshi doll and then submit their artwork at the Lifelong Learning Division. Feel free to paint your own original picture (except for already existing characters). All submitted works will be exhibited at the 31st National Creative Kokeshi Art Exhibition in Shibukawa, from Wednesday, October 29, to Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Limit: 100 blank kokeshi dolls will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, starting Friday, July 11 through August 15, from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, weekdays (excluding public holidays). The deadline for the artwork submissions is Monday, August 25. Please be sure to check the application requirements in advance (available at the Lifelong Learning Division or on the city website).

Following the judging process, certificates will be awarded to the outstanding entries in each category: Shibukawa City Mayor's Award, City Council Chairman's Award, City Vice Mayor's Award, City Board of Education Superintendent's Award, and Shibukawa Kokeshi Doll Chairman's Award.

Ukiyo-e Exhibition (うきよ絵展を開催)

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, July 5 - Sunday, August 31, 2025, 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)

Extra Virgin Olive Oil Limited Sale (イタリア・フォルニーニョ産オリーブオイル販売)

Imported as part of the Shibukawa International Association exchange program, the organic extra virgin olive oil 'Millenario' from Foligno, Shibukawa's sister city in Italy, will be on sale at Dainichosha, Ajisai Salon on Saturday, July 11, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It can also be purchased at Shibusan, the Shibukawa Specialty Products Center in front of the Shibukawa Station, starting at 1:00 pm on the same day.

Price: 2800 yen (750ml bottle, tax included, and a wine bag is offered with each bottle bought)

Tel: 0279-22-2873 (Tourism Division)



Mallet Golf Lesson for Beginners (マレットゴルフ初心者体験講習会)

Shibukawa City Akagi Shikishima Mallet Golf Course offers a lesson for beginner golfers on Sunday, July 6, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Participants can expect to learn the basic skills of golf in a supportive and enjoyable atmosphere.

Where: Akagi Shikishima Mallet Golf Course

Participation fee: 400 yen course fee and equipment rental fee (collect at the venue on the day)

How to apply: By phone at the City Sports Association, Shibukawa Branch Mallet Golf Club

Tel: 090-2942-6988 (Mr. Kitabayashi)

Pottery Class (どき 土器づくり きょうしつ 教室)

Learn pottery techniques and enjoy working with clay by hand or by using simple tools, at Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryokan (Museum of History) on Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3. It's free!

Your baked pottery works will be ready for pick-up from Monday August 18, at the museum counter.

Time: from 10:00 am to Noon (first part) and from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm (second part)

Limit: 10 people, on a first come first served basis (for each class)

Application: Wednesday, July 9 to Sunday, July 20, by phone at Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryokan, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, every day except on Mondays and Tuesdays

Tel: 0279-52-4094

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen Campsite

(ぬま おがわしんすいこうえん キャンプ°)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen opens for the season from July 19 to August 31. From September 6 to October 26, it will be open only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

There will be available: 5 bungalows (for 4 adults) at 3200 yen per night; 6 camping pitches at 530 yen per night; one pond fishing a day for a fee of 3200 yen.

Entrance Fee: 200 yen for junior high school students and older people, 100 yen for elementary school students. It is free for children younger than elementary school age.

Reservation: by phone from Friday, July 5 (it's required)

Tel: 0279-56-8840 (Akagi Sogo Undo Shizen Koen)

Shibukawa Community Pools Open

(しぶかわ しみん プール びら 開き)

Shibukawa Shimin Pool will be open for the season from July 1 to September 7, daily from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm (except in the event of bad weather or a tournament). There are other swimming pools too in Shibukawa so you can enjoy swimming all summer long!

Fee: 250 yen for high school students and older, 100 yen for elementary and junior high school students. It is free for kindergarteners.

Location: 2900 Handa-machi.

Tel: 0279-23-2008



Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (ねっちゅうしょう よ ぼう 熱中症の予防)

Heat stroke or necchusho is a condition caused by the body overheating and its temperature rising to 40 °C or higher. Typical symptoms include confusion, agitation, fatigue, dizziness, headache, and nausea.

High temperature and humidity, and a lack of water intake are the most common causes of heat stroke.

To prevent heatstroke, avoid direct sunlight and dress lightly. Drink water, sports drink, etc. frequently and find a cool, well-ventilated place to rest. Make sure you feel fine before starting your day's work. Heat stroke is a deadly condition. Get medical help as soon as you see the first signs!

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

When: Sunday, July 27, 2025

Where: Bikini Kiryu City Bunka Kaikan Bldg. 4th Floor (2-5 Orihime-cho, Kiryu-shi)

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Same-day registration is available, but those with reservations have priority.)

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 (from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays) (Reservations are recommended.)

Clinics in July (7月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
7/6 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Fukushima-shika-iin (ふくしま歯科医院) Tel: 22-0154
7/13 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	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
7/20 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Shinto-saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Ino-seikei-geka -rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Smile-shika-clinic (スマイル歯科クリニック) Tel: 30-5033
7/21 (Mon)	Kawahisma-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Kobuna-shika-iin (こぶな歯科医院) Tel: 22-4939
7/27 (Sun)	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Takano-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Yamashita-shika-iin (山下歯科医院) Tel: 22-0648
8/3 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1219	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Hirakata-naika-shika-iin (平形内科歯科医院) Tel: 22-2233

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm daily, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. The emergency clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable if specialized treatment is necessary.

Address: 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>