

# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

404th edition, June 2026



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## Hello Everyone!

In Japan, summer arrives along with the rainy season, the period known to as both **Tsuyu** and **Baiu**, literally meaning 'plum rain' in Japanese, as it coincides with the season of plums ripening. There are many cloudy and rainy days during this season, 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**, traditional sunshine dolls made of white tissue paper or cloth, are hung outside of windows to wish for sunny weather.

Fireflies are a sign of summer in Japan and in Akagi Machi, Miyada Hotaru no Sato visitors can observe both Genji and Heike fireflies flying around, particularly from mid-June to the end of July.

June is also a great 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 trails along the Kanto Fureai Road. Also, bungalows and barbecue pits are available at the Komochi Maple Village and Akagi campsites.

The summer solstice, or **Geshi** as it's called in Japan, falls on Sunday, June 21, 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 21. This holiday gives people a chance to express their thanks for their fathers' love and hard work.

## Ikaho Hawaiian Festival 2026 (いかほ<sup>い か ほ</sup>ハワイアンフェスティバル2026)

This year, the Ikaho Hawaiian Festival will be held from Thursday, July 2 through Sunday, July 5.

The Ikaho hot spring town will transform into a tropical paradise, featuring authentic hula performances, lively outdoor dance sessions along the famous Ishidan-gai (stone steps), and Hawaiian markets. The highlight of the festival is the Hula Show that takes place every night from 8:15 pm to 9:00 pm (last day from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm,) where members of the 2026 Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawaii, will perform in both modern and traditional forms of hula.

The performances are free to the public, no tickets are required. Don't miss this wonderful event!

(For more information, please visit the Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association official website.)

## Shinkoji Temple Hydrangea in Full Bloom (アジサイ<sup>み</sup>が見ごろ<sup>み</sup>「真光寺」<sup>しんこうじ</sup>)

Shinkoji is a famous temple that is said to have been founded in the Heian Period by the monk Junichi Doshi. 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 Great Bell (Ogane) which is designated as a Gunma Prefecture Important Cultural Property. Shinkoji is locally known as Ajisaidera, or Hydrangea Temple with over 3,000 hydrangeas blooming all over the temple grounds and surrounding areas during the rainy season, and creating a magical blue world that attracts many visitors every year.

## Hydrangea Festival (あじさいまつり)

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 13 through Sunday, July 5. Wind chimes and lanterns decorate the park, adding a touch of color and offering a refreshing feeling. During the event period painted lanterns, floodlights, and footlights will brightly illuminate the pathways and flowers, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, creating a truly magical atmosphere.

Booths offering food, drinks, and free rental of traditional umbrellas (wagasa) will be set up at the bicycle parking lot within the park. The access to the park is free of charge.

Parking is available at 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 festival 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 appearing 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 (しづかわ 渋川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 White Annabelle hydrangeas are planted in the park, and when they bloom they resemble a beautiful carpet. The best time to see Annabelle hydrangeas 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, which includes one free ride on the Ferris wheel for free. In case of bad weather, the park will be closed.

## TGR Rally Challenge in Shibukawa Ikaho (しづかわ い か ほ TGR ラリーチャレンジ in 渋川伊香保)

The "TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) Rally Challenge in Shibukawa Ikaho" will be held on Sunday, June 28, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, based at Shibukawa Sogo Koen (City General Park).

A special stage (SS) event allows car and racing enthusiasts to watch the rally cars in action and appreciate their performance. Visitors can also enjoy rides in rally cars and working vehicles, taking commemorative photos at photo spots, and spectator viewing areas.

The highlight of the TGR Rally Challenge is the ceremonial start where rally cars and their crews are introduced to spectators, offering fans a chance to cheer on drivers before the competition begins.

In conjunction with the TGR Rally Challenge, a dedicated "Rally Park" event venue will be set up within the park, featuring stage performances, sales of local products, food trucks, display of "working vehicles," and activities inspired by motor sports, such as live demonstrations and interactive activities.

## Fresh Greenery Light-up at Kajika-bashi (かじかばし しんりよく 「河鹿橋」の新緑ライトアップ)

The area around Kajika-bashi in Ikaho is illuminated after sunset, allowing visitors to admire the beautiful contrast of the fresh green leaves against the red bridge both during the day and night. Lights will be on daily from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm until Sunday, June 14.

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

## 3rd Shibukawa Cross Country Hydrangea Mini-Tournament

(第3回 渋川クロスカントリーあじさいプチ大会)

Held at Shibukawa Sogo Koen (City General Park), this annual beginner-friendly event takes runners and walkers along the park's scenic, wooded trails while the hydrangeas are in full bloom. The tournament features three distinct divisions: a 9km (3-lap) running race, a 6km (2-lap) running race, and a 6km (2-lap) walking event, treating participants to beautiful floral scenery and a packed lunch.

**Date:** Sunday, June 21, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (Registration is from 10:00 am to 10:30 am.)

**Capacity:** 100 - 499 participants

Applications: are currently being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 11:59 pm on Sunday, June 14, through the e-Moshicom website, using the Event ID: E0145741.

**Participation Fee:** 2,000 yen (includes lunch, insurance, and event support services)

Please pay the participation fee at the reception on the day of the event.

### 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,) including Kuro-mai (black rice) and Aka-mai (red rice) from rice planting to harvesting.

**Where:** Handa Hayao Jinja

**When:** Rice planting on Saturday, July 4 (The harvesting date will be decided later.)

**Limit:** 60 people (participants will be selected by lottery if the applications exceed the capacity)

Applications are accepted June 15, by phone (Tel: 0279-52-2102).



### Bamboo Crafts Workshop (竹工芸教室)

The workshop will be held at Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryoukan on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Participants will learn how to prepare bamboo strips and weave their own bamboo crafts in a traditional manner. Please bring a machete or small knife, as well as your own lunch.

**Limit:** 7 people (high school students or older)

(participants will be selected by lottery if the applications exceed the capacity)

**Fee:** 500 yen (for materials)

Application are accepted by phone, until Friday June 12. (Tel: 0279-52-2102)

### 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 14, 2026, 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 will be given to those who have appointments.)

**Reservation & Inquiries:** Contact One-Stop Consultation for Foreign Residents of Gunma, weekdays, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ( Tel: 027-289-8275 / Tel: 090-5054-5215 only on the consultation day)

## On-duty Clinics in June (6月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine		Surgery		Dentistry
6/7 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Takano-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Akagi-shika-iin (あかぎ歯科医院) Tel: 20-6522
6/14 (Sun)	Aoitori-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Iizuka-shika-iin (いづか歯科医院) Tel: 22-0808
6/21 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック)  Tel: 20-1881	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iinn (痛みのクリニック長谷川 医院) Tel: 30-5055	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター)  Tel: 23-1010	Aoba-shika-iin (あおば歯科医院)  Tel: 25-8820
6/28 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	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
7/5 (Sun)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Meiji-shika-shinryojyo (明治歯科診療所) Tel: 25-8101

## 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: <https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/000011/000014/p001414.html>**