



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

405th edition, July 2026



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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.

Umi no Hi (Marine Day) is a national holiday celebrated every year in Japan on the third Monday of July, it falls on July 20 this year.

Traditionally Japanese people give gifts twice a year, **Ochugen** (mid-year) and **Oseibo** (year-end), to express gratitude to those who have cared for us. Ochugen gifts are sent from the beginning of July to the middle of August, and Oseibo gifts are sent during December. Drinks, fruits, 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

いかほ

(伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル)



The Ikaho Hawaiian Festival takes place from Thursday, July 2 through Sunday, July 5, featuring hula performances, 'Wayway' lively parties, workshops, and also market stalls selling Hawaiian style clothing, accessories and other items. Participants of all ages from across Japan gather in colorful Hawaiian costumes to celebrate the Aloha spirit and perform hula 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 (on July 5 from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm,) where members of Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, who won first place overall in the wāhine competition at this year's 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 July 5.) .

Visit www.ikaho-kankou.com/ikaho-hawaiian2026/ to find out more.

wāhine overall winner Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima

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 32nd National Creative Kokeshi Art Exhibition in Shibukawa, from Friday, October 30, to Thursday, November 5, 2026.

Limit: 100 blank kokeshi dolls will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, starting Monday, July 13 through Friday, August 14, from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, on weekdays (excluding public holidays). The deadline for the artwork submissions is Monday, August 31. 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.

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: Sunday, July 5 - Thursday, August 27, 2026, 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)

Japanese Culture Class for Foreign Residents (外国人のための日本文化教室)

Shibukawa City International Association offers a free origami class for foreign residents providing a hands-on way to explore Japanese culture and crafts. Participants can enjoy learning about this traditional Japanese art of folding paper and techniques passed down through generations, seeing and experiencing origami paper craft. No origami experience is needed!

When: Sunday, July 26, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Reception starts at 1:45 pm.

Limit: 20 people, on a first come first served basis

Application: July 8 to July 22, by phone at Shibukawa City Office Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka,

Tel: 0279-22-2463 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

Pottery Class (土器づくり教室)

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 1 and Sunday, August 2. It's free! Your baked pottery works will be ready for pick-up from Wednesday August 19, at the museum.

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 8 to Monday, 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**):

Wednesday Salon- Mind and Body Health Class

(水曜サロン「あたまとからだの健康教室」)

Mind-body exercises combine physical movement, controlled breathing, and mental focus to improve strength, flexibility, balance, and overall well-being. The class will be held at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan on Wednesday, July 29, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Limit: 40 people, on a first come first served basis

Application: Wednesday July 8 to Thursday, July 23, by phone, or visit the Shimin Kaikan reception desk, every day except on July 13, 21, 22.

Tel: 0279-25-7070 (Shibukawa Shimin Kaiakan)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen Campsite

(沼尾川親水公園キャンプ°)

Numaogawa Shinsui Koen opens for the season from Saturday, July 18 to Monday, August 31.

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 10 (it's required)

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

Shibukawa Community Pools Open

(渋川市民プール開き)

Shibukawa Shimin Pool will be open for the season from July 1 to September 6, 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.

Tel: 0279-23-2008



Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (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 (外国人無料法律相談)

When: Sunday, July 26, 2026

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, Tagalog, Nepalese, 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
7/5 (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-iin (関口医院) Tel: 22-2378	Meiji-shika-shinryojyo (明治歯科診療所) Tel: 25-8101
7/12 (Sun)	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Smile-shika-clinic (スマイル歯科クリニック) Tel: 30-5033
7/19 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Shinto-saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Takeuchi-shika-iin (たけうち歯科医院) Tel: 25-7700
7/20 (Mon)	Miyukida-naika-iin (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Yamashita-shika-iin (山下歯科医院) Tel: 22-0648
7/26 (Sun)	Kawahisima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Hirakata-naika-shika-iin (平形内科歯科医院) Tel: 22-2233
8/2 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	SHUN-dental-clinic (SHUNデンタルクリニック) Tel: 25-7961

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/000011/000014/p001414.html>