



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association
407th Edition, September 2026



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Dear Readers,

In the Japanese lunar calendar, September is known as **Nagatsuki** or **Yonagazuki**, meaning the month of long nights. In the first half of September, the late summer heat is strong, but after mid-month the temperature drops in the mornings and evenings, and autumn is in the air. People enjoy the music of crickets and other insects singing, and also the **Otsukimi** (viewing the moon) in the autumn nights. **Undōkai** (sports festivals) and **Bunkasai** (cultural festivals) are held across Japan during September and October, and preparations for these events in schools begin after students return from summer the break. Peak typhoon season continues in September and days can be wet, with strong winds.

Keirō no Hi (Respect for the Aged Day) is a public holiday in Japan celebrated annually on the third Monday of September, this year on September 21, to honor elderly citizens.

September 23 is **Shubun no Hi** (Autumnal Equinox Day), a national holiday in Japan. It is a day to commemorate ancestors and is part of the week-long Buddhist observance called **Higan**.

From late September to early October, beautiful buckwheat flowers bloom throughout Miyukida's buckwheat fields on a hill overlooking Akagi Mountain, at the foot of Haruna Mountain.

The 43rd Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (第43回渋川へそ祭り)

Since 1984, Shibukawa has joyfully embraced its title as the geographic "belly button" of Japan, hosting the lively and colorful Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (Belly Button Festival). The Festival has been held every year since then, becoming one of the largest and most popular events in the city. During the festival, the area around Gosaro Intersection, close to the Heso Ishi (Belly Button Rock) and the Heso Jizo, becomes a pedestrian paradise, where visitors can enjoy various activities, including the kids' and adults' Belly Button Dance Parade, performances of groups of dancers, wind bands, and Japanese Taiko drums, sales of Shibukawa specialty products, a Belly Button-theme food stalls, fire safety activities, and many others.

The main attraction of the festival is the Heso Odori Parade, where participants, both children and adults, with comical faces painted on their bellies wear special costumes with arms hanging out from their waists, and large hats to cover their heads and arms, parade through the streets while dancing and encouraging spectators to join in by yelling with big excitement, "Heso dase yoiyoi!" (Show us your belly, yoi yoi!).

Visitors can have their belly painted, learn the dance, and join in the Heso Odori with the locals!

When: Saturday, September 5, from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm (the Kid's Belly Button Dance Parade takes place from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and the Belly Button Dance Parade, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.)

Japanese Culture Class for Foreign Residents - Make Okonomiyaki

(外国人のための日本文化教室:「お好み焼きづくり体験教室」)

Experience Japanese culture by learning how to make okonomiyaki, a popular Japanese savory pancake. Volunteers will provide support, so beginners are very welcome!

When: October 31, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Where: Furumaki Community Center

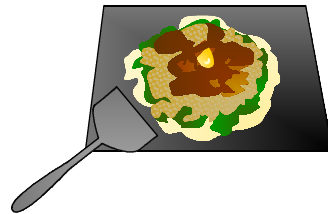
Limit: 20 people, first come, first served

Charge: Free.

Please bring: an apron, bandana/headscarf, towel, mask, drink, and slippers.

Sign-up: September 8-25. Apply by phone or email to the Shibukawa International Association, providing your name, address, phone number, and nationality.

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



Tachibana Furusato Matsuri & Lake Fireworks Display

(たちばなふるさとまつり・湖上花火大会)

The event will be held at Atagoyama Furusato Koen on Sunday, September 27, from 1:30 pm (fireworks display starts at 7:00 pm.) The festival includes a procession of local junior high school students, performing arts presentations, picture storytelling, a food market, a singing show & band performance, and a tag hoop competition. The procession is a celebration of Princess Ototachibana and Prince Yamato Takeru, from a legend of Mount Tachibana. Wearing costumes that reflect the image of ancient times, they create a fantastic atmosphere. The festival will conclude with the Tachibana Lake Fireworks Display, illuminating the night sky.

Shibukawa Civic Hall 50th Anniversary Festival

(渋川市民会館 50th アニバーサリーフェスタ)

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shibukawa Civic Hall with a special community festival!

The event will take place at Shibukawa Civic Hall on September 13, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Parking is available at both the Main Building and the Second Building of Shibukawa City Hall.

Activities include main-hall stage experiences, e-sports activities and competitions, an exhibition of posters from past events, a quiz rally, and more. There will also be an all-you-can-pack local vegetable event for ¥300.

Come and enjoy a special day celebrating 50 years of Shibukawa Civic Hall!

Bamboo Crafts Workshop (たけこうげいきょうしつ 竹工芸教室)

The workshop will be held at Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryukan on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 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 September 11. (Tel: 0279-52-2102)

Get Familiar with Flowers Workshop (はなにしたたいけんきょうしつ 花に親しむ体験教室)

In this hands-on workshop you will discover the traditional Japanese art of group planting "Yose-ue" and create your own beautiful, antique-inspired autumn container garden.

When: Two identical sessions on Saturday, October 10, session one from 9:30 am, and session two from 11:00 am.

Where: Dainichosha, the City Hall Second Building.

Limit: 20 people (randomly selected if the number of applicants exceeds 20)

Fee: 2000 yen (material costs)

Application: by phone until Friday, September 18 (Tel: 0279-25-8307)



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, September 13, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Registration until 2:30 pm)

Where: 2F, Large Conference Room, Oizumi-machi Kominkan, (2465 Yoshida Oizumi-machi, Oura-gun)

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)

(Same-day registration is available, but those with reservations have priority.)

Night Emergency Clinic (やかんきゅうかんしんりょうじょ 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. If specialized treatment is necessary, patients will be introduced to another medical institution that is more suitable.

Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

On-duty Clinics in September (9 月 の 休 日 当 番 医)

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
9/6 (Sun)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Hirakata-shika-iin (平形歯科医院) Tel: 22-0953
9/13 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Funaoka-shika-iin (船岡歯科医院) Tel: 23-8211
9/20 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Shinto-saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Shimizu-shika-iin (清水歯科医院) Tel: 54-3413
9/21 (Mon)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Mitake-shika-iin (三剛歯科医院) Tel: 72-3430
9/22 (Tue)	Aotori-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Sato-shika-iin (佐藤歯科医院) Tel: 54-8330
9/23 (Wed)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Kato-seikei-geka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Nagai-shika-iin (永井歯科医院) Tel: 56-8854
9/27 (Sun)	Kawashima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Miyukida-naika-clinic (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Takahashi-shika-clinic (高橋歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8211

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>