

SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association
409th Edition, November 2026



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Hi Everyone!

According to the traditional Japanese calendar, November 7 is **Ritto,** the beginning of winter. Although the weather turns gradually colder, it is a wonderful time for viewing fall colors, and Shibukawa City is blessed with beautiful mountains where entire slopes turn orange, yellow and red. If you travel along the mountain roads in the Ikaho, Onogami, Komochi, Akagi or Hokkitsu areas you'll be quite amazed by the autumn colors around you.

November 3 is **Bunka no Hi** (Culture Day), a Japanese national holiday to celebrate arts and culture. **Shichi-Go-San** is a traditional event held annually around November 15 in which five-year-old boys and three-and seven-year-old girls dressed in traditional kimonos are brought to the shrines or temples to give thanks to the gods for their growth and to pray for their continued health and safety.

November 23 is **Kinro Kansha no Hi** (Labor Thanksgiving Day), a national holiday for honoring labor. It falls on a Monday, creating a 3-day weekend from Saturday, November 21 to Monday, November 23.

The 150th Anniversary of the Kamimiharada Kabuki Stage Founder's Death - Grand Memorial Performances

（上三原田の歌舞伎舞台創建者 150 年大遠忌公演）

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Kamimiharada Kabuki Stage, a nationally designated Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property, the equipment and stage settings will be installed and set up for operation on Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8. For the first time in 7 years, a traditional spectator seating area with a hand-crafted wooden and a bamboo arch roof has been constructed by local volunteers. The event will feature traditional kabuki, local children's kabuki, puppet theater (bunraku), and regional performing arts. It's free. Free parking is available at Miharada Elementary School grounds as well as two other parking lots. For more information, please check the city's website using the Event ID: p015781.

Ikaho Onsen Fall Foliage Light-up （伊香保温泉紅葉ライトアップ）

Yumoto Kajika-bashi, the red arched bridge over the Yuzawa River near the Kogane-no-yu (golden hot springs) source, is a very popular spot to see vibrant red maple leaves. During the fall foliage season, the maple trees around the bridge will be lit up after sunset, creating a magical atmosphere that's completely different from that of daytime. The light-up event will take place from Tuesday, October 27 to Sunday, November 15, from 4:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

The Kajikabashi parking lot is extremely crowded every year, so if you are coming by car, please use paid parking lots such as the Monokiki parking lot and Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum parking lot. A free shuttle bus runs between Ishidan-gai and Kajika Bridge on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm, with the last bus departing from Ishidan-gai at 8:00 pm.

Citizens' Cultural Festival （市民総合文化祭）

The festival offers a variety of free cultural events, programs, and performances by people and groups active in the city's community centers, local artisans, and artists.

Kabuki presentation: Traditional Kabuki and children's Kabuki performances held on the Kamimiharada Kabuki Stage as part of the 150th anniversary of the death of its founder on Saturday, November 7, from 1:00 pm to 2:10 pm, and Sunday, November 8, from 11:10 am to 12:30 pm, Performance by groups affiliated with the Cultural Association, from 2:20 pm to 3:20 pm

General art and craft exhibition: Exhibition of works created by the general public, including literature, calligraphy, handicrafts, fine arts, photography, flower arrangement, bonsai, gardening, works created by local high school students and artists with disabilities from welfare facilities. There will also be various hands-on activity corners, such as copperplate crafting, bread-flower making, dyeing, haiku, tea ceremony, ikebana, yukata/kimono dressing and others at JESCO Arena Shibukawa (Komochi Shakai Taiikukan) on Saturday, November 14, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, November 15, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Traditional performing arts: Daidai Kagura, Taiko Japanese drums, and other performances at JESCO Arena Shibukawa (Komochi Shakai Taiikukan) on Sunday, November 15, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Folk Song and Dance Recital: Presentation of folk songs passed down through generations and traditional dances handed down since ancient times at Hokkitsu Fureai Center on Saturday, November 21, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Traditional dance and music recital: Nihonbuyo dance, Noh chanting and sankyoku (koto, shamisen, and shakuhachi) at Shibukawa Civic Hall on Sunday, November 22, from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Dance Recital: Social dance performance at Shibukawa Civic Hall Small Hall on Sunday, November 22, from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

Singing Recital: Performance of popular songs (kayokyoku) at Shibukawa Civic Hall on Monday, November 23 (National Holiday, Kinrō Kansha no Hi), from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Fall Colors on Mt. Iwaido-Do

（紅葉が見ごろ「岩井洞」）

Iwaido is a popular destination for hikers during the fall foliage season. The top of the mountain offers a superb view of Mt. Haruna to the south and of Mt. Asama, Mt. Shirane and Mt. Azuma to the west. The best time to see the fall colors is around mid-November.



Kamishibai Exhibition （紙芝居展を開催します）

Tracing the roots of Kamishibai, the traditional form of Japanese picture-storytelling, the traveling exhibition of the Gunma Prefectural Museum of Literature in commemoration of Bunmei Tsuchiya introduces visitors to various Kamishibai works and their history, including the earliest street Kamishibai and Kamishibai for foreigners.

When: Thursday, November 5 to Thursday, December 24, 2026, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Admission fee: Adults: 350 yen; elementary, junior high school, and high school students, 200 yen

Making Shimenawa Kazari Workshop（しめ縄飾りづくり教室）

You will learn how to make your own Shimenawakazari, a Japanese New Year's wreath decoration braided from kodaimai (ancient rice) straw. The workshop will be held at Yagihara Kita Kaikan on Sunday, December 6, from 9:00 am to noon. Please bring scissors and clothes that can get dirty.
Limit: 20 people (randomly selected if more than 20 people apply, but first-timers are given priority)
Application: until Friday, November 13, by phone or in person at the counter from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, every day except Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays.（**Tel: 0279-52-2102**）

Japanese New Year's Decorations Workshop（日本の正月飾りづくり教室）

Using inawara, you will make decorations such as okaogakushi and nakashime shimenawa. The workshop will be held at Hokkitsu Shiryokan on Sunday, December 6, from 10:00 am to noon. Please bring pruning scissors, a cutter knife, a 30 cm ruler, and 2-3 pieces of paper.
Limit: 10 people (randomly selected if more than 10 people apply).
Application: until Friday, November 20 by phone or directly at the counter, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm every day, except Mondays, Tuesdays, and holidays.（**Tel: 0279-52-4094**）

The 9th Shibukawa Sports Club Festival（第９回しぶかわスポーツクラブまつり）

Designed to be enjoyable for a wide range of ages from children to adults, the festival features a variety of special events, including sports experience booths, games, physical activities, exhibitor booths, stage events, food trucks, a stamp rally, a raffle, and more.
When: Saturday, November 14, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The festival will be held even in light rain.
Place: Nakamura Ryokuchi Koen Park. Please use the following parking areas: Nakamura Ryokuchi Park Parking Lot, Miyata Shokai Budokan Parking Lot No. 2. (Tentative: Kansan Co., Ltd. Parking Lot No. 2, Ramy Pasta Industry Co., Ltd. Employee Parking Lot)

International Understanding Lecture: Let's Learn About the World Together

（国際理解講座「みんなで世界を知ろう」）

Foreign residents from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, who are learning Japanese in Japanese language classes in Shibukawa, will introduce their home countries to the audience, and provide a brief glimpse into the cultural diversity of Southeast and South Asia.
It will be held at Furumaki Kominkan on Saturday, November 28, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Limit: 10 people (randomly selected if more than 10 people apply).
Application: Friday, November 6 to Friday, November 20 by phone or email at Shibukawa City Office Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka (Your name, address, and phone number are required.）
Tel: 0279-22-2463 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

Hanamaru Marcket（はなまるマーケット）

Held at the Shibukawa Ekimae Children's Park, the event features a variety of community activities including a free-throw tournament, a flea market, dance performances, food trucks, and a marche with workshops and merchandise stalls.
When: Sunday, November 15, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

On-duty Clinics in November （１１月の休日当番医）

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
11/1 (Sun)	Kosei-iin （厚成医院） Tel: 22-1060	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic （榛東わかばクリニック） Tel: 20-5531	Takano-gekaichoka-iin （高野外科胃腸科医院） Tel: 24-2454	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
11/3 (Tue)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Komayose-kodomo -shinryojo （駒寄こども診療所） Tel: 55-5252	Tomaru-clinic （とまるクリニック） Tel: 26-7711	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260
11/8 (Sun)	Kamiyama-naika-iin （神山内科医院） Tel: 22-2181	Harasawa-iin （原沢医院） Tel: 72-2503	Adachi-seikei-geka （あだち整形外科） Tel: 30-1170	Komayose-shika-clinic （駒寄歯科クリニック） Tel: 30-5500
11/15 (Sun)	Miyukida-naika-iin （みゆきだ内科医院） Tel: 60-6070	Takeuchi-shonika （竹内小児科） Tel: 30-5151	Otaki-clinic （大滝クリニック） Tel: 30-5800	Hoshino-shika-clinic （星野歯科クリニック） Tel: 22-0232
11/22 (Sun)	Sato-iin （佐藤医院） Tel: 52-3003	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Sekiguchi-byoin （関口病院） Tel: 22-2378	Sakura-shika （さくら歯科） Tel: 30-6333
11/23 (Mon)	Iguchi-iin （井口医院） Tel: 25-1100	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Arima-clinic （有馬クリニック） Tel: 24-8818	Takizawa-shika-iin (たきざわ歯科医院) Tel: 55-6480
11/29 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin （渋川中央病院） Tel: 25-1711	Oi-naika-clinic （大井内科クリニック） Tel: 30-5575	Shibukawa-iryo-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

Night Emergency Clinic （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.（Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.
Tel: 0279-23-8899（Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa.）

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.htm