

12月

SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

194th Edition, December 2008



Greetings!



2009 is just around the corner and a long New Year's holiday awaits us!! This hustle and bustle is part of the year-end atmosphere that gives a real sense of the approaching Japanese new year.

Rice cake (Omochi) pounding is a custom practiced at the end of the year. Many households do mochitsuki. Mochi is made from steamed, hot glutinous rice, and is pounded many times in a wooden tub with a wooden pestle.

Year-end gift (Oseibo) is given in the middle of December. Oseibo signifies gratitude for kindnesses throughout the year.

New Year's card (Nengajo) is a year-end tradition and a very important custom for Japanese people to send New Year's cards to relatives, friends, teachers, classmates, and co-workers. Receiving New Year's cards is an enjoyable part of New Year's Day. If you are not adjusted to this custom yet please try to take part in it. It will be very rewarding.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year !

Please take note:

City Offices, Banks
Post Offices, and
Hospitals (except some
on-duty clinics and
emergency hospitals) will
closed during the New
Year's Holiday.



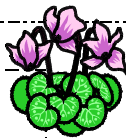
忘年会

Daiko Service (代行サービス)

Since the laws regarding drinking and driving in Japan are extremely strict, using "daiko service" has become very popular. Under this system, a driver is provided to drive the customer's car, and the daiko taxi accompanies the customer to her/his destination where the customer's car is parked. The driver then returns with the daiko taxi. This service is somewhat more expensive than a regular taxi, and the price is based on the distance involved.



Contents:



- ★ Garbage Collection of Year-End
- ★ Earthquake Early Warning
- ★ Useful Telephone Numbers
- ★ Marriage Notification
- ★ Coming Events
- ★ Emergency Telephone Service
- ★ On Duty Clinics
- ★ Holiday Emergency Hospitals
- ★ Food Poisoning
- ★ Bird Flue

★ For our Readers ★

We, the office staff of Shibukawa International Relations, are really grateful for your cooperation and participation in the many events of 2008. We hope for your continued support and best wishes for all of you.

(Tel: 027-243-7271)

Legal Consultation day (法律相談)

ほうりつそうだん

Take advantage of this to discuss about your daily life (lawyers, insurance, labor or administrative consultant). It will be held on Dec 14th (Sun) 10am-3pm at Gunma Kaikan 3F, (Ote-machi 2-1-1, Maebashi). **It's free!!**





Living Guide せいかつ (生活ガイド)



Garbage Collection of Year-End

ねんまつねんし しゅうしゅう
(年末年始のごみ収集)

Due to the year-end and new year's holiday, burnable garbage will be collected until December 29th (for areas where garbage collection days are Monday, Thursday and Friday), and December 30th (for areas where garbage collection days are Tue and Friday). Non-burnable garbage will be collected as usual. Please keep the rules of collection day, time, pick-up site (8:30am on the scheduled day of the week.), and don't forget to write your residential area and your name on the garbage bags or stickers. Garbage collection will start on January 5th after the new year's holiday break.

Drunk Driving laws

いんしゅうんてんほう
(飲酒運転法)

Anyone living in Japan for any length of time knows that drink driving laws are strict. The amount of money you will have to pay and the legal consequences you could face are enormous. For driving while drunk you can receive a maximum of 3 years in jail or up to a ¥500,000 fine. For driving under the influence (defined by a 0.15mg/l or more blood alcohol content) you can receive up to 1 year in jail or up to a ¥300,000 fine.

Useful Telephone Numbers

ひつよう でんわばんごう
(必要な電話番号)

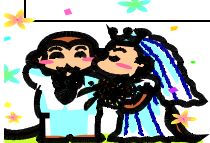
Name	Telephone
Shibukawa City Hall	22-2111
Police Station	23-0110
Fire Station	25-0119
NTT Shibukawa Branch	25-0911
Gas office (Toshi gas).....	23-5501
Tokyo Electric Co (Shibukawa branch)	24-2250



Attention at Home

じたくとう き
(自宅等で気をつけること)

- Lock the door as soon as you come home.
- Lock window before sleeping.
- Verify who the visitor is before you open the door.
- Have a good relationship with your neighbors in an emergency.



Marriage Notification けっこんとど (結婚届け)



When a foreign national marries in Japan, he/she must notify both the municipal office of his/her place of residence and the embassy of his/her own country in Japan. One must obtain a Certificate of Acceptance of Report of Marriage by submitting a Certificate of entitlement for marriage issued by the embassy of his/her own country and marriage notification to the municipal office of one's place of residence. One should confirm with the embassy of one's own country in Japan about documents required for marriage procedure to be performed at the embassy.

To the Readers: If you have a question about what type and where public services are located in the city, or there is anything at all you do not understand, or if you would like to pass on any helpful information to the readers please do not hesitate to bring your questions or information to us.





Coming Events (イベント)



New Year Dishes

(おもてなしおせち)

The Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan wishes to hold a Japanese traditional New Year dishes on Dec 15th (Mon) 10am-12:30pm. You can learn how to prepare easily a New year dishes . Please bring your apron and small towel.

Limit: 16 people.

Charge: ¥1000

Sign-up: Dec 8th (Mon) -11th (Thu)

Tel: 22-4321 (for details)



Learning to Sharpen a Knife

(包丁研ぎに挑戦)
ほうちょうと ちょうせん

It's free and is a good chance to learn how to sharpen and keep in good condition a knife. So feel free to join us. It will be held on Dec 16th (Tue) 1:30am-3:30pm at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan. Please bring your knife (2 knives for one person), two small towels, apron and a sharpening stone (if you have)

Sign-up: from Dec 10th

Limit: 20 people

Tel: 22-4321 (for details)

Decorating for the New Year

(お正月飾りをつくろう)
しょうがつかざり

The Shibukawa Kouminkan (in the second City Office building) will hold a New Year's decor making class on Dec 19th (Fri) 1:30pm-4pm. Come join us and please bring your scissors and mister.

Limit: 15 people

Charge: ¥300

Sign-up: Dec 9th-16th

Tel: 22-0999 (for detail)



New Year's Decor Making

(お正月アレンジ)
しょうがつ

You can try to make a flower arrangement using an artificial flowers. It will be held on Dec 17th (Wed) 10am-noon at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan.

Limit: 20 people

(first come , first served)

Fee: ¥1500

Sign-up: Dec 9th (Tue) -15th (Mon)

Tel: 22-4321 (for detail)



Year end Noodles Making

(年越しのそば打ちに挑戦)
としこし そば うち ちょうせん

Come join us! You can try to make Japanese noodles. It will be held on Dec 16th (Tue) 10am-1:30pm at Shibukawa Kouminkan. Please sign-up until Dec 12th.

Limit: 15 people

Charge: ¥500

Tel: 22-0999 (for details)



Magic and Music for Family

(親子でわくわくクリスマス)
おやこ

It's free and really fun!! Come with your children (under 8) . The Shibukawa Kouminkan wishes to hold a magic, and music performance for family on Dec 13th (Sat) 10:30am-noon. Don't miss it!

Limit: 100 people (Parent and child)

(first come, first served)

Tel: 22-0999 (for more information)





Health Information (健康情報)

けんこうじょうほう



Emergency Telephone Service

(緊急テレフォンサービス)

- ☆ police (警察) 110
- ☆ ambulance (救急車) 119
- ☆ fire brigade (消防車) //

On Duty Clinics (当番医)

There are some on duty clinics will be available during the New Year holidays. Please check the monthly (printed on 2nd edition (15th) of each month) Shibukawa Kouho, or call at the Shibukawa City Office 0279-22-2111.

Food Poisoning

日本をよく発生する食中毒



Vibrio Parahaemolyticus (ビブリオ菌) *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, which likes salt and is always found in salt water, is rather common in Japan due to the large amounts of raw fish in the Japanese diet. It is vulnerable to fresh water and heat. Furthermore, as this bacteria propagates in any food with a moderate salt density and acid level, it is important to wash your hands and sterilize cooking utensils thoroughly before and after cooking.

Salmonella (サルモネラ菌) *Salmonella* lives in the intestines of cows, pigs, and chickens though there are cases where meat and eggs have become contaminated. To avoid being affected please heat food sufficiently when cooking as this bacteria is also vulnerable to heat. When eating raw eggs or lightly fried eggs (sunny side up), please be sure the eggs have been kept fresh.



Holiday Emergency Hospitals

(緊急指定病院)

- ☆ Shibukawa Sougo Hospital 22-4111
- ☆ Shibukawa Chuo Hospital 25-1711
- ☆ Sekiguchi Hospital 22-2378
- ☆ Kitakanto Cardiovascular Hospital 027-232-7111

Bird Flu (鳥インフルエンザ)

An outbreak of bird flu can happen any time. So please take precautions to prevent getting this disease. If you need more information about this please call at the Shibukawa Health Center 25-1321.



Japanese Phrases in an Emergency (緊急の時の日本語)

- ★ Ambulance, please = *kyukyusha onegai shimasu*
- ★ Fire Engine, please = *shoubousha onegai shimasu*
- ★ Police, please = *keisatsu onegai shimasu*
- ★ Fire = *Kaji desu*
- ★ Injury = *Kega desu*



Information (お問い合わせ)

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TEL: 0279-22-2396 FAX: 0279-24-6541

Email: kikaku03@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

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