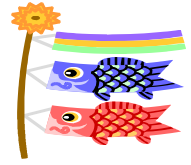




# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

199th Edition, May 2009



## Hello Readers!

We received the fearful news of the swine flu outbreak in Mexico which has killed more than 100 people and sparked a worldwide panic. Experts think the symptoms of the swine flu are similar to those of the common flu. The infection can spread by coughing, sneezing and contaminated surfaces. Although there are no cases documented of the swine flu virus in Japan, just for precaution, the health ministry advises people to cover their mouth and nose with a flu mask when they go out, to wash hands often and gargle, and keep updated on the news.

Consult your nearest Health Center by phone when flu symptoms such as a fever or cough occur, or if you need further information, call (03) 3501-9031

We are getting ready for a busy Holiday Season! The Golden week starts on April 29 and ends on May 6 this year. There are four national holidays during this period: April 29th, which was the birthday of the former Emperor of Japan. May 3rd is Constitutional Memorial Day. May 4th is also called Greenery day. May 5th is Children's Day. May is a pleasant season to enjoy the outdoors. In Shibukawa you can enjoy the Peony Festival at Shorenji Temple until early May.



Please take note that Garbage Collection will be held as usual during golden week holidays

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## Japanese Language Courses

にほんごきょうしつ  
(日本語教室) **Tel: 0279-22-2396 (for details)**

Japanese Language Courses will start on May 12th. Each course meets 28 times and only ¥3000!! All classes are taught by trained volunteer teachers in small groups based on ability. So, all abilities are welcome.

The courses are held at Shibukawa Chuo Kouminkan 10:30-11:30am (morning classes, 2nd floor) and 19:00-20:30pm (evening classes, 4th floor)

### Hokitsu Japanese Language Courses

There will be a consultation opportunity for you after each Japanese Language class about your daily life, including health problems. A total of 12 classes is only ¥1000!!

**Lesson Time : 10:30-11:30am**  
**Consultation Time : 11:30am- noon**  
**Tel: 0279-22-2396 (for details)**



**Community Activities** (こうみんかん かつどう 公民館活動) Local community centers are always conducting various activities with their local residents. There is always something to do or a skill to learn. It is also a perfect opportunity to make new friends and learn something about the community. So take advantage of these opportunities. It's fun too!!



# Living Guide (生活ガイド)

せい かつ



## Vehicle Tax (自動車税)

じどうしゃぜい

All vehicle owners must pay this tax, those who own an automobile as of April 1, will receive a Tax Payment Notice from the Prefectural Government around the middle of May. This sum must be paid by the end of the month. For vehicles registered after April 1st, or registered vehicles brought into the prefecture from another prefecture, tax is paid at the time of registration

### Vehicle Type

### Annual Tax Fee

Over 1000 cc - 1500 cc	34500-yen
Over 1500 cc - 2000 cc	39500-yen
Over 2000 cc - 2500 cc	45000-yen
Over 2500 cc - 3000 cc	51000-yen
Over 3000 cc - 3500 cc	58000-yen

### Light Motor Vehicle Tax

(軽自動車)

Those who own a motorbike, light vehicle, small sized specialist vehicle or a two-wheel small sized vehicle must pay this tax. Examples of tax payable for light motor vehicles

- ★ Less than 50 cc Engine → 1000-yen
- ★ Four Wheel Passenger Vehicles → 7200-yen

## Garbage Collection (ゴミ収集)

しゅうじゅう

- Pet bottles will be collected twice a month ●

### ☆ Important Point ☆

#### Remove Cap

Caps are non-burnable garbage

### ☆ Pet Bottles (ペットボトル) drink, liquor, and sauce

Take off the cap, and wash the inside. You don't need to crush the bottles or remove the labels. Put into the designated container.



### ☆ Used Oil Collection (廃食用油)

はいしょくようあぶら



PET

Used cooking oil collection will be held twice a week of every month at the main City Office, the Second City Office and each General Branch Office building 8:30am to 17:15pm during the designated days and time. Before putting the oil in any container, filter out any particles.

## After School Daycare (学童保育)

がくどうほいく



After school daycare is available weekdays after school and during extended school holidays for children with working parents who come home late. Often an empty room in an elementary school or nursery school is used for daycare classes. The time and costs vary with each site. The program curriculum is quite developed. This is a safe place for children to be after school. For more information please contact your local municipal office.



# Events (イベント)



## Cooking Class for Children

(レッツ★キッズ★クッキング)

On May 24th (Sun) 9:30am - noon, the Shibukawa Kouminkan (in the second City Office building) is offering an opportunity for children (elementary school students) to cook rice omelets. Please bring an apron, small towel and head cover. Applications for the class will be accepted from May 11th.

**Limit:** 15 children

**Charge:** ¥300

**Tel:** 22-0999 (for details)



## Flower Arrangement

(プリザーブドフラワー)

Learn how to make a flower arrangement using special methods of processing with real flowers. This class will be held on May 26th (Tue) 10am - noon at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan.

**Limit:** 16 people (women aged 20 or over)

**Fee:** ¥1500

**Sign-up:** from May 14th

**Tel:** 22-4321



## Swimming Class for Children

(少年水泳教室)

The Gunma Shibukawa Swimming School will open its swimming facilities for elementary school students. The classes will be held on May 10th - June 7th for 2nd grade and June 14th - July 12th for 3rd grade (every Sunday, five classes for each grade) 1- 3pm. Sign-up has already started **so hurry!!**

**Limit:** 40 students (each grade)

**Fee:** ¥500

**Tel:** 22-2104 (first-come, first-served)

## Confectionery Class

(抹茶レアチーズ)

This class will be held on May 25th (Mon) 10am-12:30pm at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan. It is a good chance to learn how to make a cheesecake with matcha (green powdered tea). Come join us! It's fun! (please bring your own apron, head cover and dish towel)

**Limit:** 16 people

**Fee:** ¥600

**Sign-up:** from May 13th

**Tel:** 22-4321



## Exercises for All Ages

(エイジレス体操)

The classes are will start on May 13th - July 15th, 2 - 4pm (every Wednesday about 10 times) at Shi Budokan. It's fun!! so feel free to join us. Accommodation for 30 people and charge will be ¥1000. Sign-ups will be start from May 7th.★ Please bring indoor shoes, a bath towel and drinks.

(Tel: 22-2104 for more information)

## Yoga Class (リラックスヨーガ)

Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan will hold free yoga classes on May 20th- June 17th (every Wednesday five times) 1:30 - 3pm. Please bring a bath towel and drink.

**Limit:** 15 people

**Sign-up:** from May 8th

**Tel:** 22-4321 (for details)



Please call 0279-22-2396 for more information about the community Activities.



# Health Information (健康情報)

## Health Center (保健センター)

Shibukawa has established a Health Promoter Program and carries out check-ups for cancer and general health throughout the city. The regional emergency medical service system will continue to improve with Shibukawa General Hospital functioning as the core hospital.

The city provides conscientious day care services for children by improving nursery schools, Family support Center and After-school clubs for children, and it subsidizes medical costs for infants.

The city helps the elderly and those facing various physical challenges to live in their own homes and to fulfill their lives.

You can find the schedule of health check-ups for baby in the yearly health calender which is distributed in March. You can also find these information in Shibukawa Koho (information paper). If you have just moved in, and don't have the yearly health calender, please come to your nearest Municipal Health & Welfare Center.

Tel: 25-1321

### 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. Place at Shibukawa City Hall. Every Thursday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. TEL: 0279-22-2396

### Food Poisoning (食中毒)

Due to high temperature and humidity, it is important to pay attention to how to keep food. Follow these few simple rules.

- (1) Heat food properly.
- (3) Consume food quickly.
- (4) Adjust freezing temperature



## If You Need To See Doctor at night

If you need to see a doctor during the night, you have to go to the Shibukawa Emergency Medical Center. This center is open from 7:00pm to 11:00pm throughout the year.

Contact:

Shibukawa Emergency Medical Center  
(near the Shibukawa Health & Welfare Center)

1760-1 Shibukawa.

Phone: 23-8899

### Ambulance (救急車)

If you need an ambulance, dial **119**. The operator will ask you which service you would like. Answer "kyuukyuu desu (ambulance)". Provide the operator with as much information as possible about the location and condition of the patient.

### Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office Planning Division 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa shi

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

Email: [kikaku03@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp](mailto:kikaku03@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp)

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