



# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

226th Edition, August 2011



## Hi Everyone!

Due to energy saving measures, everybody working in our office can be seen patting their faces and necks with a hand towel at regular intervals. I'm sure you are experiencing similar conditions at home or at work. It's hard to imagine we have at least two more months of this unrelenting heat to look forward to! Sigh.... Thank goodness the Summer Festivals are just around the corner, to take our minds off the stress and the sweat.

The best way to beat the heat during summer is to get out of the city and find the many festivals held this month around you. You can also enjoy many firework displays which are also one of the main attractions of the Japanese summer. There are also many swimming pools around Shibukawa city to provide a good way to cool off. Check out the rest of the Current for daily living information and other community activities.

節電のため、市役所ではみんな毎日汗をふきながら仕事をしています。みなさんも家や職場で同じ思いを思っていると思います。この容赦のない暑さがまだ2カ月も続くななんて考えられない！ハア...

でも、よかった！この暑さを忘れさせてくれる夏祭りの季節がやって来ました！

町に出て地域のいろいろな祭りを楽しみ、そして夏祭りの一番のアトラクションである花火を楽しんで夏の暑さを吹き飛ばしてくださいね！また、渋川市内にはたくさんのスイミングプールがありますので、ぜひプールに行っ

て体を涼めるのも良いと思います。ほかにも中のページに生活に役立つ情報や地域活動の情報がありますのでチェックしてみてくださいね。



## Ikaho Hawaiian Festival (伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル)

Shibukawa's annual and famous Ikaho Hawaiian festival will be held on August 1st (Mon) - 4th (Thu). You can enjoy the traditional Hawaiian Hula dance and many activities and festivities surrounding the Ikaho Hawaiian festival site. Stages will be Shibukawa Monogiki parking area, Ikaho Stone steps, Ikaho Kominkan and Ikaho Green Bokujo. Don't miss this wonderful event!



## Tachibana Furusato Festival

(たちばなふるさとフェスティバル)



The Festival will be held on August 7th (Sun) from 10am in front of Hokkitsu General Branch Office. There are many events such as a tasting event and free distribution of local agricultural products, bamboo workshop and a parade of people dressed in ancient attire. A charity bazaar will also be held to support the victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake.





## Grape Picking Bus Tour (ブドウお楽しみコース) September 8th (8:30am - 4:30pm)



Enjoy grape picking, visit Haruna Glass factory, soft drinks factory, Gunma Maitake Center, Souvenir shop (Chikyu-ya), Mizusawa Udon (lunch break) and Sky Therme Shibukawa (hot springs bath). Reservations will be accepted until August 19th by return postcard.

Please include your name, address, age, gender, telephone number and send it to: Budou Otanoshimi ko-su kibou, Shibukawa Tourism Department, 〒 377-8501, Ishihara 80. Please bring towel.

**Limit:** 40 people (randomly selected if more than 40 people apply)

**Charge:** 3000 yen (including lunch, children 15 and under are 2500 yen)

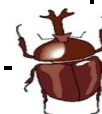
**Tel:** 22-2111 for more information

★ Meet at the Excel-inn Shibukawa at 8:30am (in front of the Shibukawa Station car park, parking spaces available.)



## Free Entry Pass for Skyland Park (市民特別無料券プレゼント)

Free entry coupons and discount tickets were distributed in the monthly Shibukawa Koho, July 15th issue. You can choose one of them and can use the free entry coupons or the discount ticket (for one day only) until October 31st. One of the main attractions is the grand fireworks display held on September 3rd (Sat, after 5pm entry will be free) from 7:15pm. There are also lots of events for kids such as bug-collecting, bingo games, entertaining shows, etc. (It is advised that cars park in the designated area.)



## Cooking Class for Men

(男だけの料理教室)

You can learn how to cook purely Japanese style dishes. It will be held on September 16th (Fri) from 9:30am at Shibukawa Seibu Kominkan. Don't forget to bring your apron, head cover and a small towel. Please sign-up by August 31st. Please call **25-3841** for sign-up.

**Limit:** 10 people (first come, first served)

**Charge:** 1000 yen



## A Cozy Place for Study

(夏休みの勉強は中央公民館で)

The Chuo Kominkan is now providing a cool and quiet place to study from 9am to 4:30pm until August 24th. It is a good opportunity for students and alike adults to concentrate on studying during the summer vacation.



## Akagi Camp Site (赤城キャンプ場)

Located at a height of 900 meters, and on top of the mountain, you'll be surrounded by a beautiful view of the entire Kanto area. Tents, lodges, hot showers, a common cooking space and other amenities are available. Call 090-4066-6561 for more information.

◆ **Location:** Kita-Akagisan, Akagi-machi, Shibukawa, Gunma 379-1111 Japan

(Approximately 30 minutes away from Akagi exit off the Kanetsu Expressway)

◆ **Open:** July 1 – September 30 (Open only weekends and holidays in September)



# Japanese Lessons にほんごきょうしつ (日本語教室)

Learn basic Japanese conversation, Hiragana, Katakana and Elementary Kanji in a friendly atmosphere at Chuo Kominkan. The 2011 program will continue until March 13, 2012.

It is also a good opportunity to learn various things about Japan and make friends through the Japanese language. If you are interested, you can visit the remaining classes. (It's free to visit).

Morning session from 10am-11:30am (every Tuesday) and evening session from 7pm- 8:30pm (every Tuesday). Charge is 3000 yen. Call 0279-22-2396 for more information.



## Japanese Grammar にほんご ぶんぽう (日本語の文法)

(These may be of help when you are studying Japanese language and grammar)

<u>Japanese</u>	<u>Hiragana</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>English</u>
単語	たんご	Tango	Word
文法	ぶんぽう	Bunpo	Grammar
方言	ほうげん	Hougen	Dialect
漢字	かんじ	Kanji	Chinese Character
文	ぶん	Bun	Sentence
意味	いみ	Imi	Meaning
質問	しつもん	Shitsumon	Question



## Converting to a Japanese Driver's License にほん うんてんめんきょしょう ぎ か (日本の運転免許証への切り替え)

**Prerequisites:** You must hold a valid foreign driver's license, and stay in the issuing country for more than 3 months after obtaining it.

**Required Items:** Foreign Driver's License (and a Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license), Passport, Resident card/Alien registration card (A copy of #1, #3 (A4 paper size), and #4 (both A4 and B5 paper size) and One recent passport photograph.

You must take the written and driving test in addition to the above and the process is as follows... You will be asked 10 questions about road rules and road signs. You must answer at least 7 correctly to pass. Once you have passed the written test, apply for the driving exam, which will be held around a week later. It will be held at the same place. If you fail, you can repeat as many times as required in order to pass but you will have to pay the fee again for each attempt. If you pass, the license will be issued on the same day, within the hour.

### Only the following translation documents are acceptable:

Translation by the Administrative Management Agency that issued the license, or by the office of the country where the license was issued. Translation by the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF).

★ Citizens of UK, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Holland, Greece, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Australia and New Zealand have a very simple process to convert their home license to a Japanese license with a translation of the original, as the Japanese authorities consider those countries to have a traffic safety record equal to that of Japan.



## Lost Drivers License

うんてんめんきよ な とき  
(運転免許を無くした時)



If you lose your drivers license, you must report the loss to the police. Next, go to the Shibukawa Traffic Safety Association in Shibukawa to have a new license issued. You are not permitted to drive until you have received the re-issued drivers license.

## Lost Alien Registration Card

がいこくじんとうろくしょうめいしょ  
(外国人登録証明書)

If your Alien Registration Card is lost or stolen, report it to the police and to the city office within 14 days, and they will reissue you a replacement card.



## Items You Should Take to the Hospital

びょういん じゅしん ひつよう  
(病院で受診するときに必要なもの)

When you receive medical treatment at the hospital or clinic, take your Health Insurance Card with you and show it at the reception desk. All medical expenses should be paid in cash (Japanese yen). It is ideal to write down your address, phone number, and symptoms beforehand and bring the note with you.

## Health Consultation 24 Hour Hot-Line

じかんけんこうそうだん  
(24時間健康相談)

Shibukawa city now provides a free health consultation 24 hours every day. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask about any of you or your family's physical, mental problems or medical information.

Toll free number 0120-377-240 (in Japanese)



## Consultation Service

がいこくじんせいかつそうだん  
(外国人生活相談)

This service is available every Thursday from 1pm-3pm at Shibukawa City office (1st floor). This is a good opportunity for you to discuss any problems related to your daily life. The service is free of charge and it will be completely confidential, so please don't hesitate to contact us. Tel: 0279-22-2396.

## Night Emergency Clinic

やかんきゅうかんしんりょうじよ  
(夜間急患診療所)

This service is only for first aid treatment of emergency cases at their incipient stage during the night.

**Place:** Shibukawa Hot Plaza

(old Shibukawa Health and Welfare Center)

**Department:** for internal diseases/ outpatient department/ pediatrics

**Hours:** 7 pm - 11pm every day

**Tel:** 0279-23-8899

## (For your information)

The Shibukawa Health Center provides health education, consultations, check-ups, advice on nutrition and exercise, and children's vaccinations etc. Please call 25-1321 for more information.



## Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office Planning Division 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

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

Email: [sia-kikaku@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp](mailto:sia-kikaku@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp)

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