



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

205th Edition, December 2009



Dear Readers,

Isn't it amazing how fast time flies? 2010 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 pounding** (mochitsuki) 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. it signifies gratitude for kindnesses throughout the year. **New Year's card** (nengajyo) 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 !



Bus to Narita International Airport

(成田空港行きのバスサービス)

From: Shibukawa	Kan-etsu Koutsu Office
" Maebashi	Maebashi Station South Exit, and Kamisato parking lot.
" Takasaki	Takasaki Station, South Exit
" Fujioka	Fujioka Interchange
" Isesaki	Machikado Station Hirose
" Honjo	Maidai Minami Kouen

Please call 0279-25-3000 (For more information)

Please take note:

(お知らせ)

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



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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.





Living Guide (生活ガイド)



Garbage Collection of Year-End

(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 28th (for areas where garbage collection days are Monday, Thursday and Friday. Collection will start January 4th), and December 29th (for areas where garbage collection days are Tuesday and Friday. Collection will start on January 5th). 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.



Useful Telephone Numbers

(必要な電話番号)

Name	Telephone
Shibukawa City Hall	22-2111
Police Station	23-0101
Fire Station	25-0119
NTT Shibukawa Branch	25-0911
Gas office (Toshi gas).....	23-5501
Tokyo Electric Co (Shibukawa branch)	24-2250

Drunk Driving Penalties

(飲酒運転の罰則)

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 5 years in jail or a fine up to 1,000,000 yen. Driving under the influence of alcohol you can lead to up to 3 years in jail or a possible 500,000 yen fine.

Attention at Home

(自宅等で気をつけること)

Lock the door as soon as you come home.

Lock all windows before sleeping.

Verify who the visitor is before you open the door.

Have a good relationship with your neighbors.



Application for Re-entry Permit (再入国の手続き)

Prepare beforehand if you are going to travel abroad outside of Japan in the near future!

A "Re-entry Permit" is a document issued to foreign nationals who obtain Japanese "Status of Residence", so that they can re-enter Japan after travelling abroad. You must apply for the Re-entry Permit before leaving Japan. If you fail to do so, you may not be allowed to re-enter Japan and it could lead to the loss of your status of residence. If you lose your status of residence, you may face deportation.

Types of "Re-entry Permit"

There are two types of "Re-entry Permit"; Single and Multiple. A Single permit allows you to re-enter Japan just ONE time. However, with a Multiple permit, you can travel abroad and re-enter Japan repeatedly until the expiration of the permit.

Call 027-328-1154 for more information (Tokyo Immigration Bureau Takasaki Branch Office)



Coming Events (イベント)



Sharpen a Knife

(包丁研ぎにチャレンジ)

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 18th (Fri) 1:30-3:30pm at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan. Please bring your knife (2 knives for one person) apron, two towels and a sharpening stone (if you have). **Tel: 22-4321 (for details)**

Sign-up: Dec 9th-11th

Limit: 16 people

Seal Making

(消しゴムハンコで年賀状)

The Shibukawa Kouminkan wishes to hold a seal making class for children. It is a good chance to learn how to make a seal using an eraser for making New Year's card.. It will be held on December 20th (Sun) from 9:30am-noon. Please bring your writing utensils.

Limit: 18 children (elementary school age)

Charge: ¥300

Sign-up: Dec 8th- 10th (until noon)

Tel: 22-0999 (for more information)



Year-crossing Noodles

(年越しのそば打ちに挑戦)

Come join us! You can try to make Japanese traditional year-end soba noodles. It will be held on December 22nd (Tue) 10am-1:30pm at Shibukawa Kouminkan.

Please bring apron, head cover and small towel.

Limit: 15 people

Charge: ¥500

Sign-up: Dec 9th - 11th

Tel: 22-0999 (for details)



Community Activities

(公民館活動)

The Shibukawa's local community centers are providing many community activities for you. There are many activities going on every week. You can learn helpful things for your daily life. It is also a perfect opportunity to make new friends and learn something about the community.

Call 22-111 (for more information)

Movie (映画鑑賞会)

Place: Shibukawa City Library from 2pm

Film: Christmas Carol (American movie)

Flower Arrangement

(新春アレンジ)

You can try to make a flower arrangement using special preserved of real flowers. It will be held on December 22nd (Tue) 10am-noon at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan.

Limit: 20 people

Fee: ¥2000

Sign-up: Dec 9th-11th

Tel: 22-4321 (for detail)

Aroma Candle Making

(癒しのアロマキャンドル)

Learn how to make an original aroma candle using essential oils of flowers and leaves. It will be held on December 21st (Mon) from 1:30am-3:30pm at Shibukawa Toubu Kouminkan.

Limit: 16 people

Fee: ¥800

Sign-up: Dec 9th - 11th

(Call 22-4321 for details)





Health Information (健康情報)

けんこうじょうほう



A/H1N1 Influenza 24 Hour Hotline Tel: 0279-22-4166

(新型インフルエンザ24時間電話相談)

Swine flu is very quickly spreading throughout Gunma. Main symptoms of H1N1 Influenza are a fever of more than 38 degrees Celsius, sore throat, runny nose, headache, joint aches and diarrhea.

Please take care of washing hands, wearing a mask and trying to avoid big crowds.

If you have high fever or symptoms of above please call the hot line for information or consultation before going to the hospital.

Complications can arise in the elderly, pregnant women, and people with diabetes. So those concerned should take extra care



Useful Telephone Numbers

(役立つ電話番号)

Shibukawa Health Center	25-1321
Ikaho Health Center	72-5777
Onogami Health Center . .	59-2621
Komochi Health Center . .	22-7791
Akagi Health Center	56-3557
Hokkitsu Health Center . .	52-4151

On-duty Holiday Doctor

(休日当番医)

An on-duty doctor will provide medical care during the daytime on Sundays and National Holidays. The doctor will vary. Please check the Shibukawa Kouho (news letter in Japanese from the City Office) or call at 22-2111.



Counselling Service

(外国人生活相談)

If you've ever got a problem and need some advice --or even just an impartial opinion -- feel free to come at Shibukawa City Hall (1st floor) or call the number shown below. This opportunity will be only for every Thursday from 1pm-3pm.



Cancer Diagnosis

(がん検診)

Cancer can be treated if it is discovered early enough. Early diagnosis is very important, so please get a check-up once year after you turn 40. Women who are over 30 years old should get womb, breast, and thyroid gland check-ups.

In Shibukawa, health checks for stomach, womb, breast and thyroid gland are carried out once a month. If you'd like to get a check-up please contact to your nearest Health Center by phone.



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: sia-kikaku@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

Staff: Mr. Igarashi, Mr. Sakuma, Mr. Kato, Mr. Ooyama, Mrs. Sarwar

