# KUMAGAYA FRIENDS

The official English-language newsletter for Kumagaya city, Saitama, published every second month

October 2026

*KUMAGAYA FRIENDS*
**Published and edited by:**
Public Relations Section, Kumagaya City Hall, Saitama
2-47-1, Miya-cho, Kumagaya, Saitama 360-8601
**Phone:** (048)524-1111 Ext.220
**URL:** http://www.city.kumagaya.saitama.jp/

## Notice of Changes to Saturday Opening Hours (Effective January 2027)

Starting January 2027, our Saturday opening hours will change as follows:

**Current Hours:** 8:30 AM – 5:15 PM
**New Hours:** 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Please note:**
**March & April Exceptions:** As with other months, we will remain open on the second and fourth Saturdays. However, Only Main City Hall will extend its hours from 8:30 AM to 5:15 PM on the fourth Saturday of March and the second Saturday of April.

**Available Services:** There will be no changes to the services provided.

**Convenience Store Services:** You can also obtain official certificates, such as copies of residence records (*Juminhyo*), at convenience stores nationwide using your My Number Card.

Inquiries: Planning Section ☎ Ext. 216

## Revision of Water Rates

Effective April 1, 2027, water rates will increase by an average of approximately 21.4%. We sincerely apologize for the financial burden this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

**For continuous users:** For customers who have been using the water service since before March 31, 2027, the new rates will apply starting from your June 2027 meter reading.
**For details:** Please visit the city website or refer to the special edition of the Water and Sewerage Newsletter, distributed during the meter readings in October and November, 2026.

Inquiries: Waterworks Management Section (in Waterworks Building)
☎ 048-520-4132

### NHK WORLD JAPAN

NHK WORLD JAPAN delivers news and programs in various languages, introducing multilingual services and contents (videos and articles) every month.

**https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/**

### Saitama Information & Support

☎ 048 - 833 - 3296
✉ sodan@sia1.jp

Telephone counseling is available in foreign languages regarding issues in daily life.
Days: Monday to Friday
(Closed on national holidays and Dec.29 to Jan.3)
Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### ☆KIFA☆ Information

**Kumagaya International Friendship Association**

### Japanese Language Class

Learn Japanese to use in everyday life. Please note that participation in Japanese classes will now require you to book a seat in advance.
For further information, please call us on the phone number below or check out our website.

**Office Information**
**Days:** Monday through Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays)
**Hours:** 8:45 am to 5:00 pm
**Location:** Public Relations Section, Kumagaya City Hall
**Tel:** 048-524-1111 Ext.220
**E-mail:** info@k-ifa.jp
**URL:** https://www.k-ifa.jp

**City population (As of October 1st, 2026):**
**189,217**

**Foreign resident population: 6,563**