

KUMAGAYA FRIENDS

"KUMAGAYA FRIENDS" is a quarterly English language newsletter for the community and friends of Kumagaya City.

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Kumagaya Uchiwa Matsuri (Fan Festival) July 20-22

~One of the biggest Gion Festivals in the Kanto Area~

Twelve richly decorated floats and wagons from the twelve districts parade around the city to the powerfully rhythmical accompaniment of the traditional music of the bamboo flutes, Japanese Taiko drums and gongs (Tatakiai). There is no single word capable of expressing the energy that everyone feels when the all participants gather in the same place! Over 750,000 people every year come to see the gorgeous attractions that is the Kumagaya Uchiwa Matsuri.

- ◆ Inquiries: Commerce and Tourism Section
Tel 048-524-1111 Ext. 312
- ◆ Web site: <http://uchiwamatsuri.com/>



July 20th, Monday (national holiday)

- Togyo Ceremony 6:00 am~

The portable sacred shrine is taken out of the Yasaka Shrine and carried to the "Angu" temporal shrine.

- The First Face-off Meeting (Hatsu-Tatakiai) 7:00 pm~
In front of Tiara 21 Shopping Mall and JR Kumagaya Station, with traditional Japanese musical accompaniment, all of the twelve floats get together for the first time.

July 21st, Tuesday

- Junko Ceremony 1:00 pm~4:00 pm

Route 17 is blocked off to all traffic and the twelve floats, led by the leader float of this year, are paraded down the road to the sound of beating drums and gongs.

- Face-off Meeting (Junko Tatakiai) 6:00 pm~
You will enjoy the gorgeous floats lining up in a fan-shaped location, at Kamakura-cho intersection.

July 22nd, Wednesday

- The Grand Meeting & Takeover Ceremony (Hikkawase Tatakiai & Nen-ban okuri) 8:00 pm~
This is the climax and Grand Finale of the whole three-day festival at the Festival Square (Omatsuri Hiroba).
- Kangyo Ceremony 10:00 pm~
This is a ceremony of the closing of the festival. The portable sacred shrine is carried and taken back to the Yasaka Shrine, then the festival finishes.

* Please note that the road traffic will be rerouted during the event. For further information, see our website.

☆ KIFA ☆ Information

Kumagaya International Friendship Association



Japanese Language Class

You can learn Japanese for your daily life. All you need to do is just turn up on the day and fill in the registration form.

Date & Hours=

- 2 pm-4 pm Every 1st & 3rd Sundays
- 10 am-12 noon Every 2nd Thursdays

Place=Green center (next to the Kumagaya City Hall)

Fee= 100yen (*free of charge for members)

Office information

Days: Monday through Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays)

Hours: 8:30 am to 5:15 pm

Location: Public Relations Section, Kumagaya Municipal Office

Tel: 048-524-1111 Ext.220 **Fax:** 048-520-2870

E-mail: info@k-ifa.jp

URL: <http://www.k-ifa.jp>

Why don't you come and join us?

Spanish Language Class for Beginners

- ☆ Anyone living in Kumagaya or in the vicinity is welcome to apply for this class. This class is limited to 25 participants. (Chosen by lot)

Time : from September 4 th - October 9 th every Friday

Venue: Shoko kaikan (Kumagaya Chamber of Commerce , in front of the city hall)

Lesson fee: 2,000 yen for member of KIFA (If you are not a member, the annual membership fee 1,000 yen is additionally required.)

How to apply: Please fill in an application form on our web site by August 21 st, Friday.

Population (As of July 1st, 2015)

Population: 201,483

