



OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2024 Vol. 24 No. 1

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501

Happy New Year!

47th Okinawa City Industrial Festival

Date & Time:
January 13 (Sat) -14 (Sun), 2024
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue:
Koza Athletic Park
Okinawa City Gymnasium,
Okinawa City Multipurpose Athletic
Field and surrounding parking



BASKETBALL FESTA 2024 in OKINAWA CITY

Date & Time:
January 13 (Sat), 2024
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
January 14 (Sun), 2024
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Venue:
Koza Athletic Park



Total Population: 142,248

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,787 Female: 72,430
[Foreign Population (59 Countries)] Male: 1,210 Female: 821

Administrative Events & Announcements

► Certification Of Tax Deduction For Those With A Disability

If you are at least 65 years old and certified that you apply to a certain level of physical disability or dementia, you may be approved to be issued a □□□□□□□□□□ (tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability), which will allow you to receive a deduction during the income tax filing process in 2024.

Sending a Tax Deduction Certificate: In order to avoid congestion at the counter, a "Tax Deduction Certificate for Persons With a Disability" will be sent to those who are eligible.

Eligibility: Those who are categorized under level 4-13 (person who are taxed for resident tax in 2023) in the income category for long-term care insurance premium the certificate will be mailed in the end of January.

For others, and those who need this certificate for filing taxes, please come to the *Kaigo Hoken Ka* (Long-term Care Insurance Division) window for assistance with the application process.

Required Documents: Applicant's ID (Resident card, driver's license, health insurance certificate, etc.).

*If people other than the applicant self or their family will apply on behalf, the power of attorney will be required. The application form is available at the service counter or Okinawa City homepage.

※If you already have certificate such as *Shogaisha Techo* (for physical/mental) or *Ryoiku Techo* (for intellectual), you can submit your disability certificate to receive tax deductions. You do not need to apply for this service.

※If someone other than your relatives will be applying on your behalf, please prepare a power of attorney. (Please get an application form from the division in charge.)

Contact: Long-term Care Insurance Division ext. 2085, 3145

Under the Income Tax Act and the Local Tax Act, even if you have not been issued a disability certificate (physical or mental) or a medical care certificate, if you are certified to be a person with a disability, **you can receive a deduction for income tax and inhabitant tax as a "deduction for the disabled"**.

► New 20-year-old Citizens! You Have Reached the Age to Join the National Pension System

Anyone who lives in Japan between age 20 and 59 have the obligation to join the National Pension System.

-National Pension Enrollment Notice-

If you have turned 20 years old, you will receive a "National Pension Enrollment Notice," "National Pension Enrollment and Premiums Guide (Pamphlet)," "National Pension Premium Payment Form," etc. from the Japan Pension Service.

The "Pension Handbook," which will be sent to you separately, is necessary to confirm your premium payment and to receive your pension in the future. Please keep it in a safe place.

*If you are enrolled in an employee pension insurance plan at your workplace, you will not be enrolled in the National Pension Plan.

*If you are a dependent of your spouse (who is a member of the Employees' Pension Insurance or Mutual Aid Association) when you turn 20, please contact your spouse's workplace and apply for the National Pension Plan Category 3.

-Not Only for Post-Retirement Years -

The National Pension System supports you not only when you get old, but it also has the following benefits:

<Disability Pension Benefit>

Provided if you become disabled as a result of an accident or disease.

<Pension Benefit for the Bereaved>

Eligible dependents, such as your child or spouse, will be qualified to receive this benefit when you pass away.

However, please note that if you do not follow the necessary procedures and leave your insurance premiums unpaid, you may not be able to receive these pensions.

★If you are financially unable to pay your insurance premiums

There is an exemption system, a grace period system, and a special payment system for students. Please contact below for details.

Koza Pension Office : 098-933-2267

Shimin Ka (市民課 Residential Division) Ext. 2133/ 2134



► Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Adult Diapers

If you are bedridden and are certified as "long-term-care-need" in Okinawa City, you may be able to get this tax deduction certificate for medical expenses spent on adult diapers issued at the city hall if this is your second year or more to apply for medical deductions.

Eligibility: You have a doctor's statement of "Bedridden Level B1~C2" and "Possibility of Incontinence."

*For those who are certified as "long-term-care need" for another 13 months, the doctor's statement from the previous year or two years ago is acceptable.

NOTE: If this is the first time you are applying for the deduction, please consult with your doctor to receive a "Certificate of Diaper Use."

Contact: *Kaigo Hoken Ka* 介護保険課 (Long-term Care Insurance Division) Ext. 3167

Okinawa City Hall will be **Closed** on **January 1 (Mon), 2 (Tue), 3 (Wed) & January 8 (Mon)** for a Coming-of Age Day as Japanese holiday.

New Year's Greetings in Japanese -A Happy New Year!

新年 あけまして おめでとう ございます (Shin-nen Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu)



▶ **2024 Okinawa City Fire Fighting Ceremony**

Ceremony and display drills, vehicle exhibits, and various firefighting mini-experiences will be held.

Date and Time: January 6 (Sat)

Venue: Okinawa Civic Hall (Main hall, etc)

Contact: Okinawa City Fire Department General Affairs Division (ext: 4300)

▶ **Setup period for tax return venues**

Tax return venue and setup periods for 2023 are as follows.

Venue: AEON MALL Raikam.

Period: February 16 (Fri) - March 15 (Fri)

Contact: Okinawa Tax Office

TEL: 098-938-0031

▶ **Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko 40th Anniversary Park 「開鐘」**

Daytime Performance

Doors open 12:00 Concert begins 13:00

Evening performance

Doors open 16:30 Concert begins 17:30

Venue: Okinawa Civic Hall Main Hall

Fee:

Advance tickets: 2000 yen Same-day ticket: 2,500 yen

*All free seating

▶ **Use our chatbot for tax return advice!**

A tax consultation chatbot regarding tax returns for the 2023 tax year will be available on the National Tax Agency's website on the following dates.

Income Tax Returns: Starting January 4 (Thu).

Consumption tax return: From early February.

Period: February 16 (Fri) - March 15 (Fri)

Contact: Okinawa Tax Office

TEL: 098-938-0031

▶ **Historic Street Special Exhibition "New Collections Exhibition"**

Materials, photographs, documents, etc. donated by citizens and others from April, 2023 to September, 2023 will be introduced.

Date and Time: Through February 4 (Sun)

Venue: Okinawa City Postwar Cultural Resource and Exhibition Center, Historic Street, 2nd floor.

Contact: City History Editor, General Affairs Division. (ext: 2272, 2273)

▶ **Preparation of tax returns by smartphone or computer**

The Okinawa Tax Office encourages the use of smartphones and computers to prepare and e-file tax returns.

Try e-filing as the tax return filing sites are very crowded.

Please note that a numbered admission ticket is required to the tax return venue.

Add "IRS" as a friend on the LINE app to prepare your tax return, get an admission ticket, and watch the IRS distribution video.

Contact: Okinawa Tax Office

TEL: 098-938-0031(Select voice guidance "1)

▶ **Measures to prevent TV reception problems have begun**

New use of cellular phone signals will begin in some areas of Okinawa City on January 18, 2024 (tentative). The following flyers will be distributed to areas where TV images may be affected by the start of work.

In the event of an impact, recovery work will be performed by countermeasures staff commissioned by the 700 MHz Utilization Promotion Association. Please contact the following call center.

*The cost of the restoration work will be covered by the 700 MHz Utilization Promotion Association.

Contact: 700MHz TV Reception Interference Countermeasure Call Center

☎0120-700-012(9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Open year-round)

*If you cannot reach the above phone number by IP phone or other means, please call 050-3786-0700 (Paid).



▶ **Delivery of My Number Cards on holidays and weekday evenings**

If you are unable to visit City Hall during weekday business hours, please use the holiday and weekday evening counter delivery service.

Date and Time

January 10, 17, 24, 31 (Wed) 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. / January 7 (Sun), 27(Sat) 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Venue: Okinawa City Hall, 1st Floor, Citizens Division

Contact: Citizens Division (ext: 3128)

This Month's KANJI 新年-Shin nen

Example: Atara shii ie

Atara shii shigoto

新...Shin / Atara (new) 年...Nen / Toshi (Year)

新しい家 (New House) / 新しい仕事 (New Job)

▶ **Please note:**

January is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

Residential Tax (4th term)/**Long-term Care Insurance Premium** (8th term)/**National Health Insurance Premium** (7th term)/**Medical Care for the Elderly Insurance Premium** (7th term). If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on **January 31**.
Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **Next group medical examination**

Group medical checkups are by appointment only (first-come, first-served). Please apply as soon as possible.

Schedule: January 23 (Tue) & 24 (Wed).

Venue: Okinawa City Gymnasium

How to apply: Government office counter, telephone, website (Deadline when capacity is reached)

*A medical checkup set will be mailed in advance to those who make an appointment at least two weeks in advance.

Contact: Civic Health Division (Ext.2245/2246)

▶ **Covid 19 vaccination**

All persons 6 months of age and older who have completed their initial vaccination are eligible for an additional dose of Omicron strain XBB-compatible new corona vaccine. February and March are expected to be crowded, so those who wish to receive additional vaccinations should make reservations as early as possible.

If you have lost your vaccination ticket, please contact the call center below.

Contact: Okinawa City New Coronavirus Vaccination Reservation and Consultation Call Center.

☎098-923-2401 Okinawa City Hall, B1F, next to the store



◀Click here for web reservations

About Medical Facilities in the City▶
(Okinawa City Official Website)



▶ **Warning On PM2.5 Effects**

This is an announcement from the Environmental Protection Division, Okinawa Prefectural Government:

The density of PM2.5 tends to get higher during the winter towards spring. This can cause sore throats for those who have issues with their respiratory system. If you see that the air is smoggy outdoors, please make sure you protect yourself by wearing a face mask or by staying inside unless it's necessary and urgent to go out.
Okinawa Kankyobu Kankyo Hozenka 098-866-2236



▶ **Influenza vaccination for the elderly**

Free influenza vaccination for the elderly is available until February 29, 2024. Those who wish to receive vaccinations should make an appointment at their own medical institution for vaccination as soon as possible.

Target group

The following people who are registered as residents of Okinawa City on the day of vaccination

①65 years of age or older

②Between 60 and 65 years of age, with severely impaired heart, kidney, or respiratory function, or immune function due to HIV. (Physical disability certificate level 1 or so)

*The number of vaccinations you can receive is one.

*Vaccinations are administered at designated medical institutions.

*The preliminary medical examination form required at the time of vaccination is. Available at each designated medical institution.

Contact: Children's Consultation and Health Division (Ext: 2232 / 2233)

▶ **Reimbursement of HIV vaccination costs**

If a person who did not receive the routine HIV vaccination between 2013 and 2021 is vaccinated at his/her own expense after the prescribed age, the cost of the number of vaccinations will be reimbursed.

Target group: Persons who meet all of the following criteria.

①Must be a registered resident of Okinawa City on April 1, 2022.

②Women born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2005

③Have not received three doses of the routine HIV vaccine in the year they turn 16 years of age.

④Persons who received bivalent (Cervarix) and quadrivalent (Gardasil) vaccines at their own expense from the year they turn 17 until March 31, 2022.

⑤Persons who have not received a catch-up HPV vaccination for the number of doses for which they are seeking reimbursement.

Application deadline: Until March 31, 2025 (Mon)

Contact: Children's Consultation and Health Division (Ext: 2232 / 2233)

Okinawa City Library will be closed from 23 Jan 2023 ~ 9 March 2023

Storytelling and hand games: January 13 (Sat), 20 (Sat), 27 (Sat) at 3:00 p.m.

Reading service for visually impaired: January 12 (2nd Friday of each month), 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Closed: 1-3 (Mon-Wed) Year-end and New Year holidays, every Monday, 25 (4th Thursday of each month)



Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you? Let us know!

Email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho

Bunka Geino Ka

沖縄市役所 文化芸能課 (B1)

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa

Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 923-3485

Visit our website NOW!



Koza International Plaza

2-7-20 Sumiyoshi, Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: kipokinawa@gmail.com

Mon-Fri :10:00-19:00/ Sat: 10:00~ 17:00

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ociakip>

All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

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