

OKINAWA CITY NEWSLETTER

Okinawa City Hall Announcements for Registered Residents of Okinawa City
December 2013 > January 2014 Vol.13, No.12 <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/> <https://www.facebook.com/City.Okinawa>

18th Christmas Fantasy 2013 December 22-28 4:00 PM~ 9:30 PM



“Haru-yoi! Haru-yoi!”

It has been 10 years since the Awase giant tug-of-war was held on Bijuru Street. On November 3rd, with around 30,000 spectators watching, the 3,000 people tug-of-war between the east and west ended with the west going home in victory.

Okinawa City Population Statistics

TOTAL: 138,731 (+177)	Foreign Residents:
Male: 67,186 (+98)	Total: 1,184 (-10)
Female: 71,545 (+79)	(From a total of 46 countries)
Households: 56,200 (+101)	Male: 688 (-3)
	Female: 496 (-7)

Dear Reader,
2014 is sure to bring more changes into our lives. Let's hope they help us grow and move forward in a positive direction. It's my wish that you get to spend time with those you love this holiday season ☺ Have a safe end of the year, and see you in 2014!
-Naomi

Free and convenient postal and emailing services! Would you like us to mail or email our monthly newsletters to you? Let us know! Fill out the form below and return it to us by fax, mail, email, or directly at the Culture & Tourism Division service window (Okinawa City Hall 5F), or contact us by phone!

Address: 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa JAPAN

Email: international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp TEL: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 939-7341

✂

Name: _____

Address: _____

TEL: _____ Email: _____

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Kanko Ka Culture & Tourism Division, Okinawa City Hall

SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN OKINAWA CITY

DECEMBER 2013

Adults & High School Students

¥1,700 in advance

¥2,000 at the gate

Age 4-JHS Students

*Must be accompanied by an adult.

¥1,000 in advance

¥1,200 at the gate

Free for ages 3 & under!

Tickets are available for purchase at the following locations:

Family Mart (e+)/ Lawson (L code 81486)/ Okinawa Zoo Park/ All CoCo Store/ Ryubu Palette Kumoji/ All Co-op stores/ Yuiwork/ Okinawa Expressway rest areas/ Kadena ITT/MCCS Tours

*Tickets for the zoo must be purchased separately.

*Gates to the event open after 16:00.

*Temporary parking will be available at Koza Sports Park and the Okinawa City Hall. There will be a free shuttle bus available from these locations. You are encouraged to use this free service, as zoo vicinity is expected to be very crowded.

For more information visit:

www.xmas-fantasy.com/

Okinawa Zoo Park (098)933-4190
Executive Committee (098)936-0134
(English Service Available)

*Okinawa City Hall publishes important and useful announcements in the monthly *Okinawa-shi Koho*, and this newsletter is created by *Bunka Kanko Ka* (Culture & Tourism Division) staff who translate a portion of those announcements into English to better serve our community of foreign residents. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated). For inquiries in English, please email: international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp. You can also view monthly issues of the newsletter and other information online about living in Okinawa City by clicking on the ENGLISH/中文 link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>
We kindly ask for your patience and understanding with us as our free services are always a work in progress!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN OKINAWA CITY

DECEMBER 2013

音楽で語り伝へる! まちなかミュージックフェス

KANADERU PARK vol.9

at CHUO PARK AVENUE
2013.12.22 sun 雨天決行、荒天中止
14:00 - 20:00

12/14~12/28 沖縄市 街なかのこどもアート 日本交流フェスティバル 開催中!

主催 | 沖縄市センター商店街振興組合

Kanaderu Park Vol. 9



December 22
14:00~20:00
FREE Admission

**Postponed in case of rain. Cancelled in case of severe weather.*
Kanaderu Park is a music festival held once every three months on Park Avenue (B.C. Street), with live performances by over 40 bands and musicians (professional and amateur) from all over the island! Vol. 9 will also include an art exchange festival! Enjoy a B.C. Street filled with music, food and lots of fun!

Want to Participate?

The Kanaderu Park Executive Office is looking for bands, musicians and performers to participate at each Kanaderu Park event. This is a chance for any professional or amateur to perform live! For more information in English visit:

<http://kanaderupark.com/english.html>
Kanaderu Park Executive Office 937-9345

沖縄市 市民ミュージカル

コザ物語

11月10日(土) 米米の楽園

終戦後のコザの街。親を失い行くあてもない。こどもたちのために生涯を捧げ、「基地の街のお母さん」と言われた女性。息子を母のように誕生した「コザ物語」。激動の時代をたくましく生き抜くこどもたち。そしておとなたち。取組みのあり、笑いも涙もミュージカル!

Koza Monogatari Musical

DEC 22 (SUN); [Open] 14:30 [Start] 15:00
Venue: **Shimin Sho-Gekijo Ashibina**
(Civic Theater Ashibina, located on the 2F of Korinza)
Tickets: Adult- ¥1,500 Child- ¥1,000
(additional ¥300 for at-door tickets)
"Children- they are the hope of our future."
Thanks to local support and popularity, KOZA MONOGATARI ("Koza Story") has been performed every year since its first showing at the 2011 Kijimuna Festa. On December 22, this powerful and moving musical will be back in Okinawa City! For more information email:
international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp

All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp
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What else is happening?...

ライブハウス Free Admission! Live Music!
LIVE HOUSE CIRCUIT
サーキット <http://www.kozalives.com/>

Koza Music Town Ongaku Hiroba (1F) Events FREE December 12 (Thrusday)~ December 29 (Sunday)

12/12 THR; 18:00~21:00	Footloose Dance Studio Performance http://www.footlooseokinawa.com/
12/13 FRI; 16:00~18:00	Yutaka Solo Live http://ip.tosp.co.jp/i.asp?i=YUTAKACHAOS
12/15 SUN; 18:00~21:00	Street Live
12/20 FRI; 16:00~18:00	Yutaka Solo Live http://ip.tosp.co.jp/i.asp?i=YUTAKACHAOS
12/21 SAT; 13:00~15:30	Promenade Concert (brass band concert)
12/22 SUN; 12:30~16:00	X'mas Cosplay Live! ~Three Principles of Sound Vol. 2~
12/27 FRI; 15:00~20:00	FINEFIND http://finefindmusic.ti-da.net/
12/29 SUN; 12:00~	MT Battle Grand Championship http://finefindmusic.ti-da.net/

*The schedule is subject to change. Otoichiba 932-1949 <http://www.otoichiba.jp/>

Jazz Dance Studio Across

December 29 (Sunday) [Time: TBA] Venue: Civic Theater Ashibina

[Admission Fee] Advance: ¥1,500 At-Door: ¥2,000 <http://jazzdancestudioacross.com/>

*Inquiries regarding services/events are conducted in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated). Schedules are subject to change. Please visit the given websites to confirm dates and times.

What's going on at Koza International Plaza?

★New Year's Mochitsuki Taikai★ FREE

January 11 (Saturday) 10:00~ 14:00
(Registration Period *required: December 1~15)
Capacity: 60 persons (on a first come, first served basis)
Mochitsuki- a Japanese/ Chinese cultural experience. Celebrate the new year and pray for long life!

Yuntaku-Kai for Moms and Dads! FREE

Every Friday from 10:00-12:00

"Yuntaku" mean to "chat" in the Okinawan language. This group is open to foreigners raising children in Okinawa City!

Koza International Plaza 989-6759 (Ask for Eri Oshiro for assistance in English)

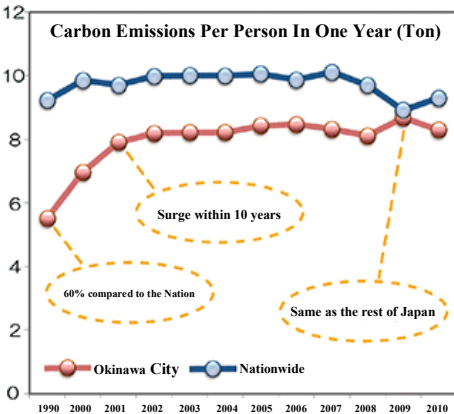
Email: ocia@bbc.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp FB: <https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>



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Osteoporosis is a condition that causes your bone density to decrease and your bones to become brittle, causing you to stoop or break a bone with the slightest impact. Bone mass continues to increase until you become 20 years old, then begins to decrease every year after the age of 40, and very rapidly for women after menopause. There are three lifestyle habits you can incorporate into your daily life to support the health of your bones!

1. Eat foods rich in calcium, such as dairy and soy products, small fish, and green vegetables. Including foods that are rich in vitamin D will help your body absorb calcium.
2. Exercise in moderation. It will strengthen your bones.
3. Cut your intake of fast food and foods high in sodium. They interfere with calcium absorption.



Let's Stop Global Warming! Okinawa City CO² Emissions

It has been estimated that about 1,080,000 tons of CO² was emitted from Okinawa City alone in fiscal year 2010. The city is characterized by an increasing emission rate, with each individual producing 1.5 times more CO² than in 1990. 80% of all carbon dioxide is produced from our homes, offices and cars. In order to decrease the amount of CO² we produce, it's crucial that we practice more energy saving measures in our homes, at our offices, and with our cars.

2013 Okinawa City Sei-jin Shiki-ten

Coming Of Age Ceremony in Okinawa City

DATE/ TIME: January 12, 2014 (Sunday) [Open] 1:30 PM [Start] 2:00 PM

VENUE: Okinawa City Shimin Kai Kan (Okinawa City Civic Center, Large Hall)

ELIGIBLE PERSONS: Those born between April 2, 1993~ April 1, 1994

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A card with details regarding the ceremony will be sent to those eligible within Okinawa City. You may still participate in this ceremony if you are from Okinawa City, but no longer live here. However, the card detailing the event will not be sent to you.

"Sei-jin Shiki" is a formal ceremony held for young men and women who are (or about to turn) 20 years old. It usually includes congratulatory speeches and are held at local official establishments. Young men and women dress up in traditional or formal wear for the occasion.

Shogai Gakushuu Ka ext. 2742 (Career Planning Division)

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Kokumin-nenkin Ni-in Kanyu Seido

National Pension Voluntary Enrollment System

In order to qualify to receive the full amount of your basic elderly pension benefits by age 65, you must have been enrolled in the National Pension System for a total of 40 years, from age 20 to 60. If you were not able to fulfill 40 years of payments, you can volunteer to continue paying your premiums from the age of 60 to 65 so you can come close to receiving the full amount of benefits. If you have not met the required enrollment years (which is at least 25 years, including years your payments were exempted), you can continue being enrolled until age 70 (however, this only applies to those born before April 1, 1935). Those who reside overseas and are Japanese nationals can also enroll. For more information, visit your nearest pension office.



Okinawa-Shi Koguchi Shikin Yushi Seido

Loan System for Small to Medium Scaled Businesses

If you own a small to medium scaled business enterprise within Okinawa City and have been running the operation for at least one year, loans to finance operations, equipment or change of employment are available. However, it is required that you have been recorded in Okinawa City's Basic Resident Register since January 1st of last year and have continued to be a resident since then (this requirement does not include representatives of a business, who may reside outside of Okinawa City). Other terms and conditions apply.



Application Period: April 2, 2013 ~ last day of March, 2014

Loan Limit: ¥7,000,000 (700 man-en)

Interest Rate: General Loan Annual Interest— 2.30%
Special Loan Annual Interest—2.10%
(There is a separate guarantee charge.)

Loan Period: 7 years (payment deferment possible)

Payment Method: Monthly installments

Collateral and Guarantor: Collateral may not be needed, but a co-signer will be requested if necessary. In addition, the Okinawa Credit Guarantee Corporation also conducts guarantees of special loans.

Banking Facilities: Okinawa Ginko (Bank of Okinawa), Ryukyuu Ginko (Bank of the Ryukyus), Koza Shinyo Kino (Koza Shinkin Bank), Okinawa Kaiho Ginko (Okinawa Kaiho Bank) in Okinawa City or their branches.

Application /Contact: Shoko Shinko Ka, Shogyo Gakari ext. 3226
(Industrial and Commercial Development Division Business Section)

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Automatic reimbursements for subsidized children's medical expenses will begin January 1, 2014. If you show your "Kodomo Iryo Joseikin Jyukyū Shikakusha Sho" (proof that you qualify to receive medical subsidies for your child's medical expenses) at the reception window at any medical facility within Okinawa Prefecture, your reimbursements will be automatically deposited to the bank account you register. **Kodomo Katei Ka ext. 2125, 3193** (Children's Welfare Division)

After School Jido Club (Gakudo Club) FY 2014

Recruiting afterschool club members for FY 2014

Eligible Children: Elementary school students who live within Okinawa City whose parents/guardians cannot care for them during the afternoon due to work, illness, or etc.



Recruitment Period: 2014 January 17 (Friday)~31 (Friday)
Enrollment Capacity: • Ageda Jidokan 25 persons • Fukushi Bunka Plaza Jido Center around 30 persons
 * Children with disabilities are welcome.

Fee: ¥6,000 per month

Days/ Hours Open: ① Monday through Friday ⇒ from the time school is over until 18:30 ② Saturdays and during long breaks, such as summer vacation/ On days school is closed or other approved days

▶ Ageda Jidokan 934-4643 ▶ Fukushi Bunka Plaza Jido Center 930-1695

Okinawa-Shiritsu Yochien (Public Kindergarten Schools)

2 Year Child Care (For Children Who Are 4 Years Old)

1. Eligible Children

- Children who live in the school district of any of the kindergarten schools listed below
- Children born between April 2, 2009~April 1, 2010
- Children whose has a parent/guardian who can drop them off and pick them up from school



2. Applicable Kindergarten Schools

- Ageda Yochien - Shimabukuro Yochien - Moromi Yochien - Goeku Yochien
- Nakanomachi Yochien - Murokawa Yochien - Misato Yochien - Koza Yochien

3. Enrollment Capacity 25 students (per class) for each kindergarten (8 total)

*If the number of applicants exceeds the enrollment capacity, students will be selected by a drawing. Results will be notified the next day.

4. Enrollment Fee ¥7,200 **Tuition: Total amount for the year-** ¥52,800 (¥4,400/month)

5. Days & Hours Weekdays (Mon/ Wed/ Fri): 8:15~12:15 Bento Days (Tue/Thr): 8:15~13:00

6. Notification *A notification (titled "2年保育 (4歳児) 入園願書") will be sent mid-December to households with children eligible to be enrolled.

7. Registration Interview Completed at the school **Period:** January 9~10, 2014; PM 2:30~4:00

Hoiku-Yochien Ka ext. 3173, 3174 (Child Care/ Kindergarten Division)

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Koki Koreisha Iryo Hokenryo
Have You Forgotten to Pay Your Elderly Health Insurance Premium?



You will be subject to late fees (based on regulations) and accruing over-due payments if you fail to pay your elderly health insurance premiums, and when it comes time to renew your insurance certificate (around July every year), you may only be issued a temporary one. Please do not forget to pay your elderly health insurance premiums. *If you are having difficulty making payments, please consult the **Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka** to negotiate a payment plan.

We recommend the secure and convenient account transfer (automatic payment) method to make payments on time.

Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka

Koki Korei Iryo Gakari ext. 2118, 2128

National Health Insurance Administrative Division / Medical Care System for the Aged Section

Living In Okinawa City

The guide book series which provides valuable information about living in Okinawa City with English and Chinese translations is complete! Pick up your free copy/ copies at the Okinawa City Hall **Shimin Ka** (1F) or **Bunka Kanko Ka** (5F) service window.



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まいにち Japanese For Your Livelihood
にほんご

かさいけいほうき
 じゅうたくよう **住宅用火災警報器**

あなたの家を、火事から守るために、かさいけいほうきは、とてもたいせつです。

かさいけいほうき かなら 火災警報器は、必ずとりつけなければいけません。

かさいけいほうきは、電気屋さん

などで買うことができます。

キッチンだけでなく、しんじつ、リビング、ろうかなどにも

とりつけます。とりつける場所にも

決まりがありますので、説明書を

読んで、正しくとりつけてください。



English: Home Fire Alarm

A home fire alarm is very important to protect your home from a fire. **A home fire alarm must be installed in your home.** You can buy a fire alarm at an electronics store. You can install one not only in your kitchen, but in your bedroom, living room and hallway as well. There are places in the home where fire alarms must be installed, so make sure you read the instruction manual and install it correctly.