



**"The Contest of Cultures"**  
The Okinawa International Carnival was held on November 30 and December 1 with the Gate 2 Parade as the main attraction. Visitors enjoyed the parade, tug-of-war, bike parade, and the colorful international culture.

**Okinawa City Population Statistics**

TOTAL: 138,838 (+107)	<b>Foreign Residents:</b>
Male: 67,234 (+48)	Total: 1,190 (+6)
Female: 71,604 (+59)	(From a total of 46 countries)
Households: 56,305 (+105)	Male: 691 (+3)
	Female: 499 (+3)

Dear Reader,  
As 20 years olds celebrated adulthood yesterday during *Seijin-no-hi* all over the nation and took an official step into their 20's, I said good-bye to my 20's. "Hello 30's!" I've found that aging comes quick and easy, but growing up comes much more slowly, with lots of bumps and turns along the way. I'm bracing for more bumps ahead! May we all grow up a little more this year, and turn out a better person in the end! -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](mailto: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

**OKINAWA CITY NEWSLETTER**

Okinawa City Hall Announcements for Registered Residents of Okinawa City  
January > February 2014 Vol.14, No.1 <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/> <https://www.facebook.com/City.Okinawa>

**第37回 沖縄市産業まつり**  
37th Okinawa City Industry Festival

それいいね、まちに輝く、特産品！

沖縄市ブランド OKINAWACITY BRAND

1/25 土曜日限定!!

とき **2014年1月25日(土)・26日(日)**  
午前10時～午後7時 (最終日は午後6時まで)

ところ 沖縄県総合運動公園体育館 及び周辺広場

主催: 沖縄市産業まつり実行委員会

**The 37th Okinawa City Industry Festival**  
\*Admission is FREE

**January 25 & 26**  
10:00~19:00 \*18:00 on Sunday  
Okinawa Prefecture Comprehensive Sports Park

The Okinawa City Industry Festival is a two day event full of entertainment and cultural activities built around the theme of Okinawa City brands. It offers an impressive display of products manufactured and handmade in the city, giving a chance for festival goers to see the various goods local citizens and city leaders take pride in. Products include agricultural crops, marine products, wooden crafts, Ryukyu instruments, pottery, awamori, clothing, food, and more! Visitors will also be able to observe how some of these products are manufactured and purchase many of them on the spot.  
\*Temporary parking and a shuttle bus service to the venue will be available at Awase port.

\*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](mailto: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!



# Happy New Year to All Residents

I hope you had a brilliant and blessed new year's day with your family. I cannot believe how quickly the time has gone by. This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> year to take the role of steering our municipal government, and I could not have pushed forward with the development of our city without the support of all of you who love and take pride in our city. Again, I am deeply thankful for all of your support.

This year Okinawa City marks its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I believe this year should be the time to realize and move into action with the rediscovery of the resources and wealth of our city created by our very own citizens with great devotion and effort since the very beginning.

Since Japan's long-held dream to host the Olympics and Paralympics 2020 in Tokyo has come true, Okinawa City will be able to spur the promotion of "Sports Convention City" as interests in sports will grow. We can expect the East Coast Development Project to be a major base during this time.

We will also open our long-awaited new baseball stadium that includes enhanced features in February. As for the Okinawa City sponsored FC Ryukyu soccer team, they have moved up to division 3 in J-League (J3). Okinawa City has got off on the right foot at a Sports Convention City representative.

Furthermore, as the "Robo-tomo" exhibition at the Okinawa Zoo gains attention for their collection of Japan's robot technology, the pride of our nation, we expect the charm of the zoo to increase as a facility that represents the Children's City declaration.

Moreover, we are headed towards a significant period of finishing up and sustaining the outlook of our City Center Revitalization project, which includes upgrading the Ageda area, developing the Yamazato-daiichi area, and a full-scale upgrading of the Goya area along route 330.

The Okinawa City Special Promotion Grant established in 2012 has been working to improve our policies for the past three years in school education, the development of cultivating resources for the future of our children, promoting the tourism industry through cultural resources including music and *Eisa*, employment promotion, childcare support and our approach to disaster prevention.

With various approaches to develop our city and using the best of our local resources and policies to solve problems, we are confident that the time has come for results to show.

However, it is each citizen of Okinawa City that is a treasure to be most proud. "We ourselves are strength, prosperity and hope". This is what I have realized over these 8 years, and this realization continues grow stronger.

I would like to extend my wish you advance unobstructed with abundant creativity and that this year will be full of beautiful smiles and full of hope.

Mitsuko Tomon  
Okinawa City Mayor



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# What else is happening?...

**一店逸品のお店では、コザにきわぬ商品券使えます!**  
商品券参加店では、5,000円で500円分の買い物ができます。コザにきわぬ商品の販売先は、沖縄工会事務所、ファミリーサポートセンター、沖縄市観光協会、コザBOX、読天街商店街で販売しております。  
※商品券の有効期限は、2014.2.28まで

**一店逸品スタンプラリー(平成26年 1/31迄)**  
期間中(平成26年1月31日迄) 一店逸品スタンプラリー参加店に来店、もしくは逸品をご購入いただいたと、各店舗でスタンプを押してもらえます。スタンプを3つ集めて各店舗にてご提出ください。3つで一口の応募券とない。ペナシオン宿泊券等、様々な商品等のスタンプ商品が当たります。(応募者多数の場合は抽選となります)  
当選者の発表は、2/12(日)に、お電話のメールのご連絡にてお伝えいたします。

**スタンプ換印**

住所  
名前  
電話番号 or メールアドレス

男・女 年齢 10代・20代・30代・40代・50代・60代以上

お問合せ先 沖縄工会事務所 中小企業課 地域振興課  
沖縄中環4-15-201 TEL:098-938-8022 [www.okinawacci.or.jp/](http://www.okinawacci.or.jp/)  
〒900-0001 沖縄県那覇市浦元1-1-1 TEL:098-938-8022

## Koza Itten Ippin Stamp Rally Ends January 31, 2014!

Participating Stores: 24 stores around Okinawa City's downtown area.

Get your card stamped for visiting one of the participating stores or for purchasing one of their *ippin* (one of a kind item, service). Once you've collected 3 stamps, submit it to any participating store, and you will have a chance to win quality prizes! Download the flyer and see all 24 participating stores on the Okinawa Chamber of Commerce & Industry website.

Okinawa Chamber of Commerce & Industry 938-8022 [www.okinawacci.or.jp/](http://www.okinawacci.or.jp/)

## Youth Center Acting & Dance School Presentation FREE



The students of Okinawa City Youth Center Acting & Dance School are ready to show the results of 9 months of hard practice. Come support the youth of your community and their performances full of contagious energy and smiles!

February 11 (TUE); [Open] 15:30 [Start] 16:00  
Venue: Civic Theater Ashibina (inside Korinza)

Tickets are free. Please call or fax the youth center to claim your ticket! (Only 300 available on a first-come-first-served basis; claim tickets between January 16~ 31)  
Okinawa City Sei-Shonen Center (Youth Center) \*930-1336 FAX: 933-1350 \*Japanese

## What's going on at Koza International Plaza?



### New Year's Mochitsuki Taikai FREE

Mochitsuki - a Japanese/ Chinese cultural experience. Make and eat mochi to celebrate the new year and pray for long life!

January 18 (Saturday) 10:00~ 14:00

Capacity: 60 persons (on a first come, first served basis)

### Celebrating Our Sister City (Exhibit) FREE

Did you know Okinawa City and the City of Lakewood in Washington, U.S.A. are sister cities? Come see how the relationship between the two cities have blossomed over the past 12 years.

January 16 (Thursday)~ 31 (Friday)

Koza International Plaza 989-6759 (English assistance available)

Email: [ocia@bbc.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto:ocia@bbc.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp) FB: <https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>



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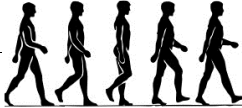
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## Learn to walk the right way! **FREE Class**

Learn effective walking by learning the correct posture!

① <b>January 23 (THR)</b> Application Deadline: January 17 (F)	Okinawa Prefecture Comprehensive Park Gymnasium area in front of the Information Center
② <b>February 9 (SUN)</b> Application Deadline: February 5 (W)	Okinawa Koza Comprehensive Park Multi-Purpose Grounds
③ <b>February 18 (TUE)</b> Application Deadline: February 14 (F)	Okinawa Koza Comprehensive Park Multi-Purpose Grounds



\*Classes will be held from 10:00~ 12:00 noon (Registration begins at 9:45)

\*Open to 20 Okinawa City residents.

**Shimin Kenko Ka Kenko Suishin Gakari Ext. 2243** Residents Health Division, Health Promotion Section

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

## Tax Deduction Application for Persons with Disabilities



Individuals with a condition equivalent to those approved for a **shogai-techo** (physical or mental disability certificate) or **ryoiku-techo** (psychiatric disability certificate) are also eligible to be approved for tax deductions under income tax and local tax laws.

In Okinawa City, if you are at least 65 years old and any of the following below applies to you, you can be approved to be issued a **shogai-sha kojo taisho-sha nintei-sho** (a tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability). If you are eligible for this certificate and need it for filing your taxes, please come to the **Korei Fukushi Ka** (Elderly Welfare Division) service counter for assistance with the application process.

⇒ **Only those who are approved as yo-shien (support level) or yo-kaigo (care level) based on the Long-Term Care Insurance Act are eligible for this service.**

⇒ Those who are already **shogai-techo** or **ryoiku-techo** holders can submit their disability certificate to receive tax deductions. They do not need to apply for this service.

⇒ Please bring your **inkan** when you apply.

(The following is a chart showing those who are eligible)

● Disability reason

Disabled	(1) Equivalent to a light to moderate mental disability (2) Equivalent to a degree 3~6 physical disability	An individual tax payer, their dependents or spouse who fit the category of disabled or heavily disabled are eligible for income tax deductions.
Heavily Disabled	(1) Equivalent to a heavy mental disability (2) Equivalent to a degree 1 or 2 physical disability (3) Bedridden elderly (for at least 6 months)	

**Shogai-sha kojo (tax deductions for persons with a disability)**

An individual tax payer, their dependents or spouse who fit the category of disabled or heavily disabled are eligible for income tax deductions.

**Korei Fukushi Ka Kaigo Kyufu Gakari ext. 2085** Elderly Welfare Division Care Benefits Section

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**ライブハウス** **Free Admission! Live Music!**  
LIVE HOUSE CIRCUIT  
**チケット** <http://www.kozalives.com/>

## Filing City & Prefectural Residence Tax & National Health Insurance Premiums for Fiscal Year 2014

- **When can I file my taxes?** Between February 17 (Monday) ~ March 17 (Monday). Closed on Saturdays and Sundays (except March 16th [Sunday]).
- **What are the hours?** 9:00 am~ 4:00 pm
- **Where do I file my taxes?** Okinawa City Hall 1F lobby
- **What is the filing schedule by district?** A schedule divided by districts (see below) has been created in order to prevent overcrowding. Please come and file on the day your district is scheduled. Please file by March 17th (Monday) if you are not able to on the scheduled dates.

<b>Feb-17 (M)</b> Miyazato, Chibana	<b>Feb-25 (T)</b> Naka-no-machi, Hiyagon, Awase-dai-ichi
<b>Feb-18 (T)</b> Goya, Higashi	<b>Feb-26 (W)</b> Center, Yamauchi, Noborikawa
<b>Feb-19 (W)</b> Awase	<b>Feb-27 (TH)</b> Misato, Yoshihara, Sumiyoshi
<b>Feb-20 (TH)</b> Murokawa, Moromizato, Kubota, Akemichi	<b>Feb-28 (F)</b> Minami-tobaru, Matsumoto, Ikehara, Kaihocho
<b>Feb-21 (F)</b> Teruya, Koja, Yaeshima, Military Base	<b>Mar-3 (M)</b> Kamara, Yamazato, Takahara
<b>Feb-24 (M)</b> Goeku, Ageda, Ōzato, Awase-dai-san	<b>Mar-4 (T)</b> Shiromae, Sonoda, Higashi-tobaru, Awase-dai-ni, Yogi

\* Please remember to come to the Okinawa City Hall to file. You cannot file at any **jichikai-jimusho** (neighborhood council office).

\* Parking lots will be extremely crowded during this period. We encourage you to use public transportation. There will be overcrowding as the deadline for filing approaches (usually between March 11~17), and long waiting times are to be expected. We apologize in advance to residents for this inconvenience, and encourage you to file early.

\* A provisional local tax law has been established and there will be a 1,000 yen increase in residential tax per individual (500 yen increase per city and prefectural tax). We ask for your understanding on this matter.

**Shimin Zei Ka** ext. 3248, 3249, 3252~3255 Resident's Tax Division

**English assistance is available at the service counter!**



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## Filing Depreciable Assets for FY 2014

This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2014 (the assessment base date), not including land or building establishments (see "Applicable Assets" list below.) (If you own even one depreciable asset, you are still subject to report and file them, whether or not you are taxed.) Please remember to indicate your line of business.

### Applicable Assets

- Assets acquired or lost between January 2, 2013~ January 1, 2014
- Assets acquired before January 1, 2013 that are currently being utilized.
- Assets utilized up until now, but disposed or transferred as of January 1, 2014.

**Filing Period /** 2014 January 6 (Monday)~ 31 (Friday)

**Where to file /** *Shisan Zei Ka* (Property Tax Division), *Kaoku Gakari* (Building Establishment Section).

### Important message from *Shisan Zei Ka*

#### Submit a notice in the following cases:

- Establishments you presently own have been torn down  
- *messhitsu shinkoku sho* (disposition of property report)
- New establishments or extensions to already existing ones have not yet been registered  
- *kaoku shinkoku sho* (building establishment report)
- There is a change in your establishment's intent of use  
- *kaoku shinkoku sho* (building establishment report)
- Establishments that were bought or sold, donated or inherited have not yet been registered  
- *shoyu-sha henko gan* (transfer ownership)
- The owner of the fixed asset has passed away and the inheritance process is not complete  
- *sozoku daihyo-sha shitei todoke* (inheritance notification)
- You live outside of Okinawa City and have difficulty making tax payments  
- *nozei kanri-nin shitei todoke* (tax agent notification)



**Shisan Zei Ka ext. 2254~ 2258** Property Tax Division

Submit a proxy letter if a representative applies to issue any documents related to your income or property.

**\*Please bring your *inkan*.**

**Automatic reimbursements for subsidized children's medical expenses begin January 1, 2014.** If you show your "Kodomo Iryo Joseikin Jyukyu Shikakusha Sho (Jido Shokan)" (an orange colored card which serves as proof that you qualify to receive subsidies for your child's medical expenses and automatic reimbursements) at the reception window at any medical facility within Okinawa Prefecture that support this system, your reimbursements will be automatically deposited to the bank account which you register. You no longer have to come directly to the *Kodomo Katei Ka* service counter to apply for your reimbursement.

### IMPORTANT

- ➔ Medical facilities outside of Okinawa Prefecture, as well as some within Okinawa do not support this system. Please show your orange certificate and confirm directly at the hospital's reception counter.
- ➔ Reimbursement applications for medical care received up to December 31, 2013 must still be processed at *Kodomo Katei Ka*. (You must apply within a year from the month after you have received medical care in order to receive a reimbursement.)
- ➔ Please apply at the *Kodomo Katei Ka* service counter to have the orange certificate issued so you can use this system.

### Bring the following to apply:

1. The child's insurance certificate
2. The parent/ guardian's bank passbook
3. The parent/ guardian's *inkan*

\*If your child already has a certificate (yellow card) showing they are qualified to receive benefits and was born after January 2, 2009, the new orange colored certificate will be sent by mail. Those who will stay at a hospital after January 1, 2016 must have the new certificate issued at the *Kodomo Katei Ka* service counter. (The age criteria to receive subsidies with this new system are the same.)

**Kodomo Katei Ka ext. 2125, 3193**  
Children's Welfare Division

**まいにちにほんご**  
しんねん  
**新年のあいさつ**  
にほん あたら とし はし  
日本では、新しい年になって 初  
めて会う人には、「おはようございます」  
や「こんにちは」と言わないで、  
『あけまして おめでとう ございます』  
と いいます。そして、つづけて  
『今年も よろしく おねがいします』と、  
つけ加えます。これは、「今年も あなたと  
良い おつきあいを したいです」  
という 気持ち を 伝える 言葉 です。職場  
の人や、友達、親戚に 使います。  
おつきあい...一緒に 仕事を したり、ふだんの  
生活で、まわりの人たちと すごすこと です。  
今年もみなさんにとって、すばらしい一年に  
なりますように。

### English: New Year Greetings

In Japan, when you see someone for the first time after New Year's Day, instead of greeting them with "good morning" or "hello", say "akemashite omedeto gozaimas." Then continue saying "kotoshimo yoroshiku onegaishimas." This let's the other person know that you hope to continue a good relationship with them again this year. You can use this with your co-workers, friends and relatives. **Otsukiai**--- this means to be on good or close terms with those around you.

**We hope you have a great year!**  
Japanese: Eiko Irei English: Naomi Ishimine