


# **OKINAWA CITY** **Newsletter** April 2014 Vol. 14 No. 4



Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Kanko Ka (5F)  26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501

## Events

## Okinawa City- Celebrating 40 Years



Okinawa City celebrates its landmark birthday this month! Established in 1974, two years after reversion, it became the second largest city in the prefecture with a population of 96,000. Ever since its establishment, Okinawa City evolved in all aspects such as economy, education, culture, and welfare. With a current population of 139,000 people, the city will continue forward with its principle to be "the city that connects people, culture and environment" and further develop with the support of its citizens.

### Okinawa City Emblem, Tree, and Flower

The emblem of Okinawa City is a stylized "お" (o), the initial of 沖縄市 (*Okinawa-shi*), and was established on September 20, 1974. The design consists of three rings combined firmly together, symbolizing the harmony, hope and peace of its citizens.



The fountain palm tree, hibiscus and croton were established as Okinawa City's tree, flower and foliage plant on October 26, 1974.

### 7th JA Okinawa Misato Branch Nokyo Matsuri

Looking for fresh vegetables? How about some free eggs? Care for some fresh beef or goat soup? The JA Okinawa Misato Branch Nokyo Matsuri (Agriculture Cooperative Association Festival) will have all that and more! A carving class will be open to festival goers and traditional Okinawan entertainment will also be included in the program!



**Date & Time:** April 19 (Saturday); 9:30~ 18:00  
 April 20 (Sunday); 9:00~ 17:00  
**Venue:** Okinawa City No-min Kenshu Center Hiroba  
 (Agricultural Training Center Field)  
 2380 Noborikawa, Okinawa City 904-2142  
**Contact & Sponsor:** JA Okinawa Misato Branch

### FC Ryukyu Opening Games

**FC Ryukyu VS S.C. Sagami-hara**  
**Date & Time:** April 13 (Sunday); Kick-off @ 13:00  
**Venue:** Okinawa-shi Rikujo Kyogijo  
 (Okinawa City Koza Stadium)

**FC Ryukyu VS FC Machida Zelvia**  
**Date & Time:** April 20 (Sunday); Kick-off @ 13:00  
**Venue:** Okinawa-shi Rikujo Kyogijo  
 (Okinawa City Koza Stadium)

Tickets:	[ADVANCE]	[Same-day]
[S Seats] Adults:	¥1,500	¥2,000
E/J/H Students:	¥800	¥1,000
[A Seats] Adults:	¥1,000	¥1,500
E/J/H Students:	¥300	¥500

<http://fcryukyu.com/>  
<http://okinawa-kenso.com/>

Okinawa City Total Population: 138,962 (+531)	Male: 67,306 (+286)	Female: 71,656 (+245)	Households: 55,434 (+860)
Total Foreign Residents (45 Countries): 1,180 (+3)		Male: 678 (+/-0)	Female: 502 (+3)

Bunka Kanko Ka (the Culture & Tourism Division) of Okinawa City Hall selects and publishes excerpts from Okinawa City's public relations newsletter, *Koho Okinawa*, in English and Chinese in hopes of better serving our community of non-Japanese speaking residents. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated). Assistance in English and Chinese are available at Bunka Kanko Ka, and translation services for other administrative services can also be provided by making an appointment in advance. 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 newsletters and other information about living in Okinawa City by clicking the ENGLISH/中文 link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

# Administrative Announcements

## ► Kokumin Nenkin Hokenryo (National Pension Premium) Payment Exemption Period Widened

The application period to be exempted from premium payments until March 2014 was initially set as during the FY 2013 (July 2013~ June 2014), but due to the revision of the law as of April 2014, you will be able to apply to be exempted from paying your premium payments 2 years and 1 month back from the day you apply.



### Important Points to Remember When You Apply:

1. You must submit an application form for every fiscal year.
2. The income (of the applicant, their spouse and head of household) for the previous year of the fiscal year being applied for will be reviewed.
3. The later you apply, the shorter the applicable exemption period will get. For more information, please visit the city hall or your nearest pension office.

**Contact:** *Shimin Ka Kokumin Nenkin Tanto* ext. 2132~ 2134  
(City Residential Division / National Pension Section)

## ► Families with medical insurance for the elderly: ~Starting April 2014~

### ◎ Funeral Grants will increase to ¥20,000

\*This applies to those who had medical insurance for the elderly and passed away on or after April 1, 2014.

\* An additional ¥20,000 will be issued separately by the Okinawa Prefecture *Koki Koreisha Iryo Koiki Rengo* (Medical Insurance for the Elderly Mutual Aid Association).

### ◎ Issuance of Acupuncture, Moxibustion and Shiatsu Massage Vouchers

1. You can apply to receive a voucher pad that includes 6 tickets.
2. Each ticket is worth ¥1,000 and can be used at any designated medical facility.
3. Bring your medical insurance certificate and *inkan* to apply.

**If someone applies on your behalf, they must provide their ID and *inkan*.**

\*There is a limit to the number of vouchers available.

\*Please be aware that the vouchers have expiration dates.



**Contact:** *Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka Koki Korei Iryo Gakari* ext. 2118, 2128  
(National Health Insurance Administrative Division, Medical Care System for the Aged Section)

## ► If you are between 70~74 years old, the medical fee percentage you are required to pay will be revised starting April 2014.

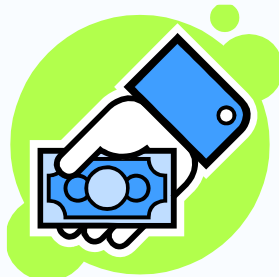
Although those between 70~74 years old are required by law to pay 20% of their medical fees, they were required to pay only 10% up until now based on special measures.

Starting April 2014, in order to achieve fairness among the generations, those who will become 70 years old (born after April 2, 1944) will be required to begin paying 20%.

Those who have already turned 70 years old (born before April 1, 1944) will continue to pay 10%.

◆ Out-Of-Pocket Payment Percentage for Medical Fees		*As of April 2014
Until 69 Years Old	30 %	
70 Years Old or Older 75 Years Old or Younger	Born after April 2, 1944	20%
	Born before April 2, 1944	10%

(Income earners on par with other working income earners stay the same at 30%)



[Those who turn 70 years old after April 2, 2014]

◎ **Out-of-pocket Percentage: 20% the month after your 70th birthday** \*However, if your birthday falls on the 1st, you will begin paying 20% starting that month.

◎ **Out-of-pocket Upper Limit:** For those who will be paying 20% from age 70, the upper limit will be lower compared to what it was until age 69.

[Those who have already turned 70 years old by April 1, 2014]

◎ **There will be no change to your out-of-pocket percentage (1%) and upper limit.**

**Contact:** *Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka Kyufu Gakari* ext. 2112, 2107  
(National Health Insurance Administrative Division, Benefits Section)

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## ▶ **Okinawa City's "Meal Delivery Service" Guidelines Renewed**

In Okinawa City, confirming the safety of the elders, and services of delivering nutritionally balanced meals (*bento*) to those in need of improving their diet and having their diet watched over are provided. The guidelines of these services have been renewed as of April 2014.

**Who is eligible to use this service?** You are eligible to use this service if all of 1~4 apply to you :

- ① You are at least 65 years old and live alone in Okinawa City, and also have your *juminhyo* (residence record) registered in Okinawa City; households that consist of elders only.
- ② You have difficulty preparing meals due to senility, a mental or physical disability or disease, and are recognized of needing someone to confirm your safety on a daily basis.
- ③ No one who can support you lives near you, and if they do, they are not able to support you for some reason.
- ④ Your household is exempt from paying prefectural and residential taxes.

### **More about the meal delivery service:**

- ① You have a choice between having lunch or dinner delivered to you, once a day, up to 5 days per week between Monday through Saturday.
- ② Days the delivery service is unavailable: Sunday, Japanese public holidays, June 23 (*Irei-no-hi*), and during typhoons or natural disaster which makes deliveries difficult.



**Contact:** *Korei Fukushi Ka Chiki Hokatsu Shien Center* ext. 3114, 3186  
(Elderly Welfare Division, Local Comprehensive Support Center)

## ▶ **Amount of Child Rearing Allowance for Single Parents & Special Child Rearing Allowance for the Fiscal Year 2014**

The amount of child rearing allowance for single parents and special child rearing allowance for the FY 2014 will decrease by 0.3%.

### **Child Rearing Allowance for Single Parents for the FY 2014 (per month)**

\*The numbers shown indicate amounts provided per month.  
\*An additional ¥5,000 will be provided for the second child.  
¥3,000 will be provided for each child thereafter.

	October 2013~ March 2014	April 2014~
Full Amount	¥41,140	¥41,020
Partial Amount	¥41,130~ 9,710	¥41,010~9,680

### **Special Child Rearing Allowance for the FY 2014 (per month)**

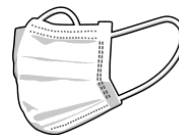
\*The numbers shown indicate amounts provided per month.

	October 2013~ March 2014	April 2014~
Level 1	¥50,050	¥49,900
Level 2	¥33,330	¥33,230



**Contact:** *Kodomo Katei Ka* ext. 3195 (Children's Welfare Division)

## ▶ **PM 2.5 (Particulate Matter)**



When PM2.5 temporarily exceeds the environmental standards, it does not necessarily mean that it will have an immediate and extreme effect on your health. However, children and elders, and those who have respiratory problems may experience some pain in their throat. When there is smog, wear a mask when you go outside, or avoid going out altogether, and take other measures to protect yourself.

## ▶ **Photochemical Oxidant Warning**

In the event that an official warning is announced, please refrain from strenuous outdoor exercise and stay indoors if possible. If you begin to sense pain in your eyes or throat, try gargling and also rinsing your eyes out with water. If you feel that your health is in danger, please report to the *Chubu Fukushi Hokensho* (Chubu Health Care Center).

**Contact:** *Kankyo Ka* ext. 2227  
(Environmental Division)

## ▶ **Regarding changes in the standard criteria for physical disability certification, and transitional measures for those with pacemakers, artificial joints, etc.**

### ◎ Reason For Changes

With advances in medical technology, more and more people are able to live normal lives with pacemakers and artificial joints without experiencing any major obstacles. Therefore, based on the medical review conducted by Japan and the revisions made, the standard criteria for physical disability certification will be revised as of April 1, 2014 .

### ◎ Transitional Measures

The changes above are applicable only if you apply after April 1, 2014. However, if you were issued a medical certificate or doctor's opinion by the end of March and apply by the end of June this year, you will be certified under the standard criteria that was effective up until now. If you are issued a doctor's opinion after April 1, 2014, even if you apply by the end of June this year, you will be certified under the new criteria.

**Contact:** *Shogai Fukushi Ka Shintai Shogaisha Techo Tanto* ext. 3158  
(Disabilities Welfare Division, Person in Charge of Physical Disability Certificates)

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### ► Disability Benefit Systems

#### ① Special Disability Benefits

This benefit is available to people who are at least 20 years old with a severe disability and need special and constant assistance throughout the day. People who are staying at a care facility or are hospitalized are not eligible for this benefit. There is an income limit, and a current status notice must be submitted annually.

#### ② Welfare benefits for Disabled Children

This benefit is available to people who are under 20 years old and are staying at home or currently in a hospital with a severe disability who need special and constant assistance throughout the day. People who are staying at a care facility are not eligible for this benefit. There is an income limit, and a current status notice must be submitted annually.

#### ③ Welfare Benefits (as a transitional measure)

This benefit is available to those who are already receiving this benefit. There is an income limit and a current status notice must be submitted annually.

**【Regarding the revision of the amount of Special Disability (Children/ Welfare) Benefit】**

Based on the notice from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the amount of benefits will be revised as of April, 2014.

※If you are already receiving benefits, please notify *Shogai Fukushi Ka* if there are any changes (change of name or address, you enter a care facility or are in a hospital for more than three months, the beneficiary is deceased, etc.). If you continue receiving benefit without any notice, you will be required to return the full amount that you have received.

Contact: *Shogai Fukushi Ka* ext. 3157  
(Disabilities Welfare Division)

**Japanese Corner**  
まいにち にほんご  
**ひとのかぞえかた**

ひと 人を かぞえる..... 人 / 名  
にん めい

1. ひとり/ いちめい	6. ろくにん/ ろくめい
2. ふたり/ にめい	7. しちにん/ ななめい
3. さんにん/ さんめい	8. はちにん/ はちめい
4. よにん/ よめい	9. きゅうにん/ きゅうめい
5. ごにん/ ごめい	10. じゅうにん/ じゅうめい

**レストランで**  
にほんのレストランでは、いりぐちであなたがなんめいできたか、たずねられるばあいがあります。そのばあいは、ていんににんずうをいって、あんないされるまてまきましょう。

English: **How to Count People**  
Counting people --- **nin/ mei**  
1. *Hitori/ Ichi-mei* 2. *Futari/ Ni-mei* 3. *San-nin/ San-mei*  
4. *Yo-nin/ Yo-mei* 5. *Go-nin/ Go-mei* 6. *Rok-nin/Roku-mei*  
7. *Shichi-nin/ Nana-mei* 8. *Hachi-nin/ Hachi-mei*  
9. *Kyu-nin/ Kyu-mei* 10. *Jyu-nin/ Jyu-mei*  
**At a Restaurant**  
If you go to a restaurant in Japan, sometimes a they will ask how many people are with you when you come in. If they do, tell them how many and wait to be seated.  
Staff: Welcome. **How many people?**  
Customer: **7 nin/ 7 mei** (7 people)  
Japanese: Eiko Irei English: Naomi Ishimine

### ► Announcement from the Okinawa Prefecture Koki Koreisha Iryo Koiki Rengo (Medical Insurance for the Elderly Mutual Aid Association)

- Medical insurance premiums for 2014 and 2015 will be revised as indicated.
    - ◎ In order to help low income households, the range of eligibility for both 20% and 50% reduction categories of the per capita rate for insurance premiums will be expanded.
    - ◎ The tax imposition limit will increase from ¥550,000 to ¥570,000.
  - Starting April 2014, the *Choju Kenshin* (health checkup for elderly citizens) will include the following items:
    - ① Chest measurement
    - ② Electrocardiogram test\*
- \*Only for those with doctor's orders to receive this test.



Contact: *Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka Koki Korei Iryo Gakari* ext. 2118, 2128  
(National Health Insurance Administrative Division, Medical Care System for the Aged Section)

Haitai! I've finally put my winter clothes away and I'm wearing short sleeves to work! The word for "hot" in the Okinawan language is "achisan", and you'll have plenty of chances to use this word while living in Okinawa ☺ Naomi



098-989-6759 10:00~ 21:00 Monday-Sunday  
1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-0004  
<https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>

### Culture & Tourism Division

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501  
TEL : 098-929-0261 FAX : 098-939-7341  
Email : [international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto:international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp)  
URL : <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp>



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