

# OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

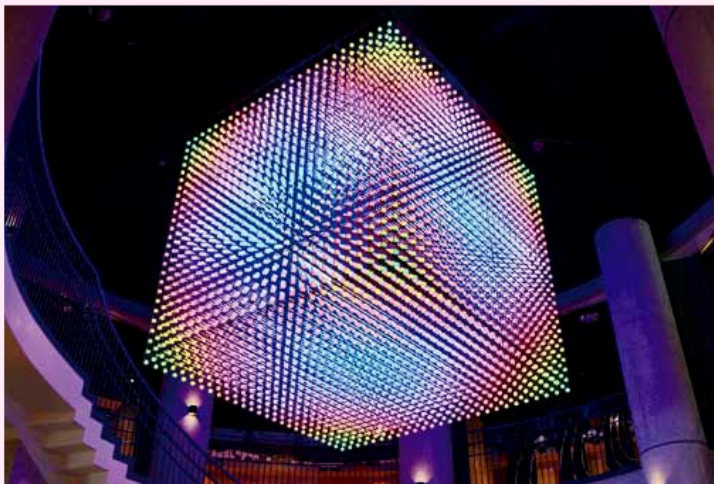
MAY 2014 Vol. 14 No. 5

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



## Events

### Okinawa Zoo's Wonder Museum Reopens with new exhibits!



Wonder Museum— a place where children can look at, touch and feel new experiences to nurture their creative minds. The renewal of the museum has replaced the 17 previous exhibits and now offers 34 completely new ones!

**Hours Open:** 9:30~ 17:30 (April~ September)  
 9:30~ 17:00 (October~ March)

**Days Closed:** Every Tuesday; Last and first day of the year (December 30<sup>th</sup>~ January 1<sup>st</sup>) \*If Tuesday falls on a holiday, the museum will be closed the following day, but will be open every day during the longer school vacation periods.

**Museum Entrance Fee (in addition to the zoo fee):**

Adult- ¥200 Age 4~ High School Student: ¥100

**Zoo Entrance Fee:** Adult- ¥500 Junior~ High School: ¥200  
 Age 4~ Elementary: ¥100

**Contact:** *Kodomo No Kuni* 933-4190 (Zoo & Museum)  
 5-7-1 Goya, Okinawa City 904-0021

URL: <http://www.kodomo.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/index.shtml>

### Koza International Plaza

#### Yuntaku Kai! Free Group

Enjoy chatting in Japanese with friendly Japanese volunteers!

**Date & Time:** 7:00 pm- 8:30pm on Wednesdays;  
 10:30am- noon on Fridays (for parents with kids)

**Venue:** Koza International Plaza

#### Japanese Class Free Class

Introductory-level Japanese class

**Date & Time:** 7:00 pm- 8:30pm on Tuesdays

**Venue:** Koza International Plaza

**Term:** 3 months

**Fee:** Lessons are free. There is a ¥500 charge for a copy of class materials.



**Contact:** Koza International Plaza 989-6759  
 1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City 904-0004

(Ask for Ms. Shimabukuro for assistance in English)

Email: [ocia@bbc.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto:ocia@bbc.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp)

FB: <https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>

### FC Ryukyu Opening Games

#### FC Ryukyu VS Zweigen Kanazawa

**Date & Time:** May 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday); Kick-off @ 15:00

**Venue:** *Okinawa-shi Rikujo Kyogijo*  
 (Okinawa City Koza Stadium)

#### FC Ryukyu VS AC Nagano Parceiro

**Date & Time:** May 25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday); Kick-off @ 15:00

**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

URLs: <http://fcryukyu.com/>

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

Okinawa City Total Population: 138,962 (-299) Male: 67,129 (-177) Female: 71,534 (-122) Households: 56,507 (+73)  
 Total Foreign Residents (45 Countries): 1,194 (+14) Male: 683 (+5) Female: 511 (+9)

*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/>

## What else is going on?

### **Kid's Cooking Class** *Free Class*

A kid's only cooking class where children will have the chance to learn healthy breakfast recipes!

**Who can participate?** Children who are residents of Okinawa City age 6, and up to kids in the 6th grade. (Parents will eat together with their children.)

**Date & Time:** May 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 10:00 ~12:00 noon

**Venue:** *Shakai Fukushi Center* (1-14-29 Sumiyoshi)

**Capacity:** 12 (selected by drawing if limit is exceeded)

**What to Bring:** Apron and head handkerchief

**Application Deadline:** May 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) by 3:00 pm

**Contact:** *Shimin Kenko Ka* (ext. 2241)

(City Residents Health Division)

### **Cooking With Dad!** *Free Class*

Let's make tofu!

**Who can participate?** Children who are residents of Okinawa City age 6, and up to kids in the 6th grade and their fathers (grandfathers are also welcome!).

**Date & Time:** June 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 10:00 ~12:00 noon

**Venue:** *Fukushi Bunka Plaza* (7-35-1 Takahara)

**Capacity:** 8 pairs (selected by drawing if limit is exceeded)

**What to Bring:** Apron and head handkerchief

**Application Deadline:** June 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) by 3:00 pm

**Contact:** *Shimin Kenko Ka* (ext. 2241)

(City Residents Health Division)

### **Feel Great! "Power Up" Class Participants Wanted!**



Learn easy stretches and strength training exercises while sitting on a chair. Recommended for those who have feet, leg or hip problems.

**Who can participate?** Residents at least 65 years old who are not receiving any nursing care or support, and have not received any orders for limited exercise from a doctor. **Capacity:** 25 residents

**Venue:** *Nomin Kenshu Center* (Agricultural Training Center)

2380 *Noborikawa*, Okinawa City 904-2142 (large meeting room)

**Dates & Times:** June 4<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)~ August 6<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) \*Every Wednesdays, 10 times total (Transportation service available. Terms and conditions apply.); 14:00~ 16:00

**Participation Fee:** ¥100 per class (free for those who are receiving welfare or are tax-exempt)

**Application Deadline:** May 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday) \*Participants selected by a drawing if limit is exceeded.

**Contact/ Application:** *Korei Fukushi Ka Chiki Hokatsu Shien Center* (ext. 3169)

(Local Comprehensive Support Center, Elderly Welfare Division)

### **Eibô and Sâchan Look-Alike Contest for Kids**



Mame-shibori



Looking for kids to enter the Eibô and Sâchan look-alike contest. Winners will be given a prize at the first Eisa Night event held at Koza Music Town on June 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday). We look forward to receiving your entries!

**Who can enter the contest?**

① Kids Division (Eibô and Sâ chan): 0~ 6 years old (under elementary school age)

② Junior Division (Eibô and Sâ chan): 6~12 years old (limited to elementary school age)

**How can you enter?** Enter by mail or visit our office at the given address. Include your child's name, age, sex, your (the parent or guardian's) name and contact number, and portrait of your child's face (from the waist up). (Entries by e-mail will also be accepted.)

**Entry Period:** May 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)~ no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday)

**How to dress for the portrait:**

Boys (Eibô) must wear a *Saji* on their heads and girls (Sâchan) must wear a *Mame-shibori* on theirs. \*You can borrow these items at the Okinawa City Tourism Association office. You can get your child's picture taken and directly enter the contest at the office.

**Contact/ Entries:** Okinawa City Tourism Association office 989-5566

105-1 Koza music Town 1-1-1 Uechi, Okinawa City 904-0031 E-mail: [info@koza.ne.jp](mailto:info@koza.ne.jp)

### **Enjoy a bit of Japanese culture: Children's Day** *Free Event*

Stop by KIP with your kids to take pictures of them wearing a traditional *kabuto* (will fit kids up to 6 years old). \*Please bring your own camera.

**Date:** May 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)~ 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) **Venue:** Koza International Plaza

**Who can participate?** Moms, dads and kids!

**Contact:** Koza International Plaza 1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City 904-0004

989-6759 (10:00~ 21:00) (Ask for Ms. Shimabukuro for assistance in English)

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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# Administrative Announcements

## ▶ We Support Single Parent Households!

We provide various services to support single mothers and fathers. Please do not hesitate to consult us.

### ◎ Self-reliance Support Programs for Single Mothers

We provide programs for child-rearing allowance recipients to help find employment according to each individual's case by coordinating with other employment agencies, such as Hello Work.

### ◎ Self-reliance and Educational Training Benefits

We provide financial aid to single parent households who enroll in designated educational training courses that will help them towards finding employment.

### ◎ Programs to Support General Livelihood

The city hall will send helpers to single parents who are temporarily having difficulty with housework or looking after their children, and provide services such as preparing meals, taking care of housework and caring for the children.

You may need to consult the section in charge before you apply for these services. Please contact the *Kodomo Katei Ka* (Children's Welfare Division) *Katei Shien Gakari* (Family Support Section).

**Contact:** *Kodomo Katei Ka Katei Shien Gakari* ext. 3195 (Family Support Section, Children's Welfare Division)



## ▶ National Pension System- Changing Your Category

All residents in Japan between ages 20 and 59 are obligated to enroll in the National Pension System, and each person falls under one of the three categories shown below. Submitting a notification is required at the time of enrollment as well as when there is a change in your category. You may not be able to receive benefits if you do not notify the city hall of your change, so please remember to complete the required procedures.

### National Pension System Categories

**Category 1 insured persons** are self employed persons and those in the farming or fishing industry and their spouse, students or part-time employees who are 20 years old and older. Procedures can be completed at the Okinawa City Hall *Shimin Ka Kokumin Nenkin Tanto* service counter.

**Category 2 insured persons** are those working for a company or government office who are also enrolled in *Kosei Nenkin* (employees' pension insurance system) or *Kyosai Kumiai* (mutual aid pension system). Their employer will complete procedures as needed.

**Category 3 insured persons** are spouses and dependants of category 2 insured persons. Their employer will complete procedures.

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

## ▶ The FY 2014 Rabies Vaccination May 18~ June 15 (Every Sunday)

Vaccination FEE: ¥3,200  
(Vaccine: ¥2,650 + Certificate: ¥550)



- ※ There is registration fee (¥3,000) if your dog has not been registered.
- ※ You will need to get your dog's tag re-issued (¥1,600) if you have lost it.
- ◆ Depending on your dog's condition on the day of getting the shot, they may not be able to get vaccinated. You can also get them vaccinated at any veterinary hospital. Please contact the hospital about costs and other details.
- ◆ Please have someone who can keep your dog under control bring them to the vaccination site. Make sure their collar is on tight and keep them on a short leash. Put a muzzle on them if they tend to bite.
- ◆ Mind your manners! Please clean up after your dog!
- ◆ Do not come to the vaccination site with your car.
- ◆ Avoid giving your dog a bath or strenuous exercise after the vaccination.

**★ Also mandatory for all dogs living off base!**

**Payments are accepted in YEN ONLY.**

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

## ▶ Grants for Seismic Inspection

Okinawa may not experience many earthquakes, but do you think you have nothing to worry about? It's better to be safe than sorry. Okinawa City provides grants for seismic inspections. For more information, please contact *Kenchiku Koen Ka*. **Houses Eligible for Inspection:** Reinforced concrete houses, terraced houses and other housing built after May 31, 1981.

**Application Period:** April 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday)~ December 19<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

**Application Process:** Before you begin the application process please contact *Kenchiku Koen Ka*.

**Contact:** *Kenchiku Koen Ka*  
ext. 2654, 2655  
(Construction & Public Park  
Administrative Division)

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**More announcements...**

**Japanese Corner**

**まいにち にほんご**

**消費税が8%になりました。**

ことし しがつついたち しょうひぜい はち  
 今年 の 4月1日 から、消費税が8%にな  
 りました。消費税は、買い物をする 時  
 代金に 追加される 税金 です。商品を えら  
 ぶ とき、商品の 値札は、税金が つく まえ  
 の 金額とついたあとの 金額が わかる  
 ように 書かれています、どちらか  
 だけが 書かれている 場合も あります。



せいこみ かかく  
**税込価格**：消費税が  
 追加された金額  
 ほんたいかかく ぜいぬきかかく  
**本体価格(税抜価格)**：  
 消費税が追加されて  
 いない金額

English: **Sales Tax is Now 8%**  
 As of April 1st this year, the sales tax increased to 8%. Sales tax is a tax that is added on to the total cost of items purchased when you go shopping. When you are choosing products, the price tag/ label will show the amount before and after tax, and sometimes it will only show one or the other.  
**Tax-included price:** Amount showing the price after tax is included  
**Pre-tax price:** Amount showing the price before tax is included.  
 Japanese: Eiko Irei English: Naomi Ishimine

**▶ Koki Koreisha Iryo Hokenryo:**

Have you forgotten to pay your *koki koreisha iryo hokenryo* (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 visit *Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka* to discuss a payment plan.

**Making payments using the secure and convenient automatic payment method is recommended.**

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

**▶ Grants for Home Solar Panel Systems**

**Application Period:** July 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday)~ March 31, 2015 (Tuesday)

**Grant Amount:** ¥50,000 per house (※for the first 200 houses)

**Main Terms & Conditions:**

1. Your address is registered in Okinawa City.
2. You're not behind on tax payments.
3. You installed a home solar panel system in the house you live in and are already receiving services from the electric company. ※For those who started receiving electric services between January and March 2014, please apply within 6 months from the day after you started receiving services. Please contact *Kankyo Ka* for more information.

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

**▶ Okinawa City Tidbit**

Okinawa City has established brother and sister city relationships with Toyonaka City (Osaka Prefecture), Yonezawa City (Yamagata Prefecture) and Tokai City (Aichi Prefecture), as well as with the City of Lakewood in Washington State (U.S.A.).

**City of Lakewood (International Sister City)**


The relationship between Okinawa City and Lakewood first blossomed in 1995 with the World Uchinanchu Festival. Thereafter the cities began exchanges in education and culture, and officially established a sister city relationship on January 16, 2002. As a testimony to this the two cities have deepened their relationship by organizing exchange projects, such as tours and study abroad programs.

**▶ Water and Sewerage Charges Have Changed as of the FY 2014**

Water and sewerage charges will change for meter readings made after May 1<sup>st</sup>. Adjustments will be made for May, and bills mailed on June 2<sup>nd</sup> (with a June 23<sup>rd</sup> payment deadline) as well as automatic payments made on June 9<sup>th</sup> will be adjusted to the new charges and tax rate (8%).

**Contact:** *Suido Kyoku Ryokin Ka* 937-3637 (Fees Division, Okinawa City Waterworks Bureau)

**▶ The Japanese Red Cross Society**

 Campaigns for the Red Cross are held every month of May. Members of the society will visit every household and workplace explaining their mission and activities and ask for a donation of ¥500 (yen only, please). We kindly ask for your cooperation with the Japanese Red Cross Society.

**Contact:** *Shimin Seikatsu Ka Shimin Seikatsu Gakari* ext. 2207 (Livelihood Section, Livelihood Division)

Haitai! I recently planted some *ko-re-gu-su* in my micro farm. In the Okinawan language, *ko-re-gu-su* means chili peppers. I'm looking forward to making some homemade awamori chili sauce! 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>

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

Email: [international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto:international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp)

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

*Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Kanko Ka* (5F)

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa

Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 939-7341



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