

OKINAWA CITY 40th ANNIVERSARY 笑顔が奏でる 輝く未来



Newsletter

January 2015 Vol. 15 No. 1

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

Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City!

Happy New Year! I would first like to wish you all a brilliant new year full of hope.

I am deeply grateful to the many citizens for their support last year which allowed me to take office as the Mayor of Okinawa City.

As I resolve to seek the further development of Okinawa City, which recently marked its 40th anniversary, I am also filled with gratitude and respect for our predecessors who boldly looked to the future and paved the way for a new era.

The number of tourists has satisfactorily increased and a logistics hub has steadily formed in this peaceful, resourceful and beautiful Okinawa resulting in higher expectations for friendship and commerce between it and other regions of Asia. Under these circumstances, city officials and I have been working together ever since my inauguration to develop this city into a place where citizens can cherish their hopes and dreams.

Projects we have started include the improvement and expansion of Okinawa's one and only full-scale zoo, the establishment of a multipurpose arena that will serve as the landmark of Okinawa City, and opening up an auto racing track which will create major employment. As for the east coast land development project that will encourage long-term visits, we set off fireworks from the artificial island to publicize the project and revitalize the region in coordination with Tobu Festival.

Our aim is to invigorate the whole city as if a theme park, with the combined effect of new tourism resources and potential local resources.

Furthermore, while promoting citizens' health to revive Okinawa's image as the Prefecture of Longevity, we are also working to decrease the number of children on the kindergarten waiting list, to refine medical benefit programs for children, and to reduce school lunch fees with the objective of creating an environment in which citizens can work and raise their children with a peace of mind.

Now that 70 years have passed since the Battle of Okinawa, we will work to design a peaceful administration, wishing for peace, safety, and future growth as an established community. We also endeavor to demonstrate the region's cultural power, as Okinawa Zento Eisa Festival will be held for the 60th time this year. The festival has become a special, leading attraction of summer in Okinawa since the war and is something loved by all.

I will exert every effort to realize the vision of "Energetic Okinawa City" becoming the cornerstone of central Okinawa, and would deeply appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

I wish you all the best in health and success.

Sachio Kuwae
 Okinawa City Mayor
 January 1, 2015



年頭のごあいさつ



Total Population: 139,181

[Japanese Population] Male: 66,726 Female: 71,284
 [Foreign Population (46 Countries)] Male: 679 Female: 492



The Okinawa City Hall's *Bunka Kanko Ka* (the Culture & Tourism Division) selects excerpts from the city's public relations newsletter (*Koho Okinawa*) and published them in English, Chinese, and now in Spanish in hopes of better serving our community of non-Japanese speaking residents. **These articles are translated by the Culture & Tourism Division and Koza International Plaza staff, and are provided for reference only.** 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 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/>

Events

38th Okinawa City Industry Festival January 24 (Sat)~ 25 (Sun) *Free Admission



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.

Date & Time: January 24 & 25 10:00-18:00 *17:00 on Sunday
Venue: Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park Gymnasium

KIP Events

*Free Admission/ Participation Celebrating Our Sister city! (Photo Exhibit)



Did you know Okinawa City and the City of Lakewood (Washington, U.S.A.) are sister cities? Come see how the relationship between the two cities have blossomed over the past 13 years.

Date & Time: January 16 (Fri)~ 31 (Sat)
10:00-19:00

Venue: Koza International Plaza

New Year's Mochitsuki Taikai!

Mochitsuki---a Japanese/ Chinese cultural experience. Celebrate the new year and pray for long life!

Date & Time: January 17, 2015 (Sat)
10:00-14:00

Venue: Palmyra Street (where KIP is located)

Contact: Koza International Plaza
(English service available) 989-6759
(1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City 904-0004)
Email: okinawa_kip@yahoo.co.jp

https://www.facebook.com/ociakip/timeline?ref=page_internal

Administrative Announcements

▶ Tax deduction application for those with a disability

Individuals with a condition equivalent to those approved for a 障害者手帳 (physical or mental disability certificate) or 療育手帳 (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 障害者控除対象者認定書 (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 高齢福祉課 (Elderly Welfare Division) service counter for assistance with the application process.

※ Only those approved as 要支援 (support level) or 要介護 (care level) based on the Long-Term Care Insurance Act are eligible for this service.

※ Those who are already 障害者手帳 or 療育手帳 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.

※ If someone will be applying on your behalf, please prepare a power of attorney.
(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
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)

Please get an application form from the division in charge.

Contact: 高齢福祉課 介護給付係 (Elderly Welfare Division Long-term Care Benefits Section) ext. 2085, 3168

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shogaisha kojo
障害者控除 (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.

► Filing depreciable assets for the FY 2015

This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2015 (the assessment base date), not including land or building establishments (see "Applicable Assets"). (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. For inquiries regarding special measures for each asset, please contact the division in charge.

Applicable Assets

- Assets acquired or lost between January 2, 2014~ January 1, 2015
- Assets acquired before January 1, 2014 that you currently own.
- Assets utilized up until now, but disposed or transferred as of January 1, 2015.

Filing Period / 2015 January 5 (Mon)~ February 2 (Mon)

Where to file / 資産税課 家屋係
(Property Tax Division, Building Establishment Section)
ext. 2256, 2257

shisan zei ka

Important message from 資産税課

Submit a notice in the following cases:

- Establishments you presently own have been torn down:
messhitsu shinkoku sho
(滅失申告書- disposition of property report)
- New establishments or extensions to already existing ones have not yet been registered:
kaoku shinkoku sho
(家屋申告書- building establishment report)
- There is a change in your establishment's intent of use:
kaoku shinkoku sho
(家屋申告書- building establishment report)
- Establishments that were bought or sold, donated or inherited have not yet been registered:
shoyusha henko gan
(所有者変更願- transfer ownership)
- The owner of the fixed asset has passed away and the inheritance process is not complete:
sozoku daihyosha shitei todoke
(相続代表者指定届- inheritance notification)
- You live outside of Okinawa City and have difficulty making tax payments:
nozei kanrinin shitei todoke
(納税管理人指定届- tax agent notification)

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

*Please bring your *inkan*.



shisan zei ka

Contact: 資産税課 (Property Tax Division)
ext. 2254~2258

► Change/ addition to the FY 2014 mass-screening schedule

Date	Place	Time
<small>Addition</small> Jan 18 (Sun)	<small>kariyushi en</small> かりゆし園	8:30~ 10:30
<small>Change</small> Jan 24 (Sat)	Okinawa City Hall	8:30~ 10:30
Feb 8 (Sun)	Okinawa City Hall	8:30~ 10:30 13:00~ 14:00
Mar 1 (Sun)	<small>Sangyo Koryu Center</small> 産業交流センター	8:30~ 10:30
<small>Addition</small> Mar 11 (Wed)	Okinawa City Gymnasium	8:30~ 10:30
<small>Addition</small> Mar 12 (Thu)	Okinawa City Gymnasium	8:30~ 10:30

Regarding the change to the schedule on January 18

The mass health screening that was scheduled to be held at Ageda Elementary School (for Ageda district residents) on January 18 (Sun) has been rescheduled to January 24 (Sat) due to construction being held at the school.

Rescheduled Date & Place

January 24 (Saturday)
Okinawa City Hall
(For residents of Ageda district)
8:30~ 10:30 (morning only)

※ You can choose to go another day if the day scheduled is inconvenient for you.
※ Screenings for stomach cancer are not included during the afternoon schedule on February 8

shimin kenko ka kenshin gakari

Contact: 市民健康課 健診係 (Health Division, Health Examination Section) ext. 2240

► Lump-sum Birth Allowance

The lump sum provided by hospitals not enrolled in the system has been revised from ¥390,000 to ¥404,000 for births after January 1, 2015. Please see the following charts for details.

※If you give birth after 4 months of pregnancy in a hospital or birth center that is enrolled in the sanka iryo hosho seido 産科医療補償制度 (maternity compensation system), you will be given ¥420,000 per child.

For births up to December 31, 2014

A lump sum of **¥420,000** provided per child (※1)
(¥390,000 for births at birth centers not enrolled in the compensation system)
(※1) ¥30,000 premium is included in the lump sum.
(¥420,000 lump sum birth allowance)

¥30,000 (premium) ¥390,000 (lump-sum allowance)

For births after January 1, 2015

A lump sum of **¥420,000** provided per child (※2)
(¥404,000 for births at birth centers not enrolled in the compensation system)
(※2) ¥16,000 premium is included in the lump sum.
(¥420,000 lump sum birth allowance)

¥16,000 (premium) ¥404,000 (lump-sum allowance)

kokumin kenko hoken ka

Contact: 国民健康保険課 (NHI Division) ext. 2112

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▶ Filing City & Prefectural Residence Tax & National Health Insurance Premiums for the FY 2015

- **Filing Period** Between February 16 (Monday) ~ March 16 (Monday).
Closed Saturdays and Sundays (except Sunday, March 15).
- **Filing Hours** 9:00 am~ 4:00 pm
- **Where to File** Okinawa City Hall 1F lobby; large hall on basement level 2
- **Schedule by District** A schedule divided by districts (below) has been created in order to prevent overcrowding.

2/16 (M)	Miyazato, Chibana	2/24 (T)	Naka-no-machi, Hiyagon, Awase-dai-ichi
2/17 (T)	Goya, Higashi	2/25 (W)	Center, Yamauchi, Noborikawa
2/18 (W)	Awase	2/26 (TH)	Misato, Yoshihara, Sumiyoshi
2/19 (TH)	Murokawa, Moromizato, Kubota, Akemichi	2/27 (F)	Minami-tobaru, Matsumoto, Ikehara, Kaihocho
2/20 (F)	Teruya, Koja, Yaeshima, Military Base	3/2 (M)	Kamara, Yamazato, Takahara
2/23 (M)	Goeku, Ageda, Ōzato, Awase-dai-san	3/3 (T)	Shiromae, Sonoda, Higashi-tobaru, Yogi, Awase-dai-ni

Please come and file on the day your district is scheduled. Please file by March 16th (Mon) if you are not able to on the scheduled dates.

※ **Please remember to come to the Okinawa City Hall to file. You cannot file at any neighborhood association office.**

※ Parking lots will be extremely crowded during this period. Please use public transportation. Overcrowding and long waiting times are expected as the deadline for filing approaches, usually between March 11~16. We apologize in advance to residents for this inconvenience, and encourage you to file early.

Contact: 市民税課 (Resident Tax Division) ext. 3248, 3249, 3252~3255

▶ The Maximum Copayment for High-Cost Medical Care Will Change as of January 1, 2015

Category	Gross Income	Medical care covered by insurance (per month)	Medical care not covered by insurance (fees per meal)
High Income Earner	Over ¥9,010,000	¥252,600+ (Medical Fee—¥842,000)×1% <¥140,100>	¥260
	Over ¥6,000,000 Under ¥9,010,000	¥167,400+ (Medical Fee—¥558,000)×1% <¥93,000>	¥260
Average Income Earner	Over ¥2,100,000 Under ¥6,000,000	¥80,100+ (Medical Fee—¥267,000)×1% <¥44,400>	¥260
	Under ¥2,100,000	¥57,600 <¥44,400>	¥260
Low Income Earner	Tax-Exempt	¥35,400 <¥24,600>	¥210 (¥160 after the 91 st day)

As of January 1, 2015, the maximum copayment for high-cost medical care will be revised. The New maximum copayment will depend on your gross income. See the chart below for figures after January 2015.

【High-cost Payment Deduction System】 • • • If the patient's household has already made 3 high-cost payments within the 12 months prior to the month they received medical treatment, their 4th maximum copayment amount will be reduced to the amount within the < > in the chart above.

Contact: 国民健康保険課 (National Health Insurance Division) ext. 2107, 2112

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

Email: 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



Koza International Plaza

1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City
TEL 989-6759 FAX 989-6758
Monday-Sunday 10:00~ 21:00
E-mail: okinawa_kip@yahoo.co.jp
<https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>

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