



# OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2017 Vol. 17 No. 1

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501

## Announcements

### Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City!

I am optimistic that you began your new year full of hope.

Last year, the world was impassioned with sports with the opening of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our city was also filled with many fruitful moments achieved by successful players who represent our city. Mr. Ueyonabaru took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Paralympics, and Mr. Kiyuna became the champion of the World Karate Tournament and celebrated his 5<sup>th</sup> straight victory at the Japan Karate-Do Tournament. In basketball, the Ryukyu Golden Kings won the 4<sup>th</sup> BJ League Championship, and the new "B league" was born. In baseball, the Hiroshima Toyo Carp won the Central League Championship for the first time in 25 years. It was an exciting year in sports, suitable for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Okinawa City's "Sports Convention City" declaration.

Furthermore, a new project promoting the development of employment began last year. Utilizing a vacant space in the downtown area, "Startup Café Koza" was opened. The facility serves as the support hub of new businesses, and includes a fabrication laboratory and provides computer programming education. We will continue to explore the possibilities of our city, and promote the "Center City Invigoration Act," which has been newly recognized by the government of Japan.

This year will mark the 4th year since I took seat as Okinawa City Mayor, and it will be a time when many of our projects will evidently begin to move forward, including the development of the multipurpose arena with a seating capacity of 10,000, and the resolution of waiting lists for nursery schools to create a better environment for mothers and children. The relocation of the city library is underway, as well as the development of the Eisa Kaikan, which is to become the source of Okinawa's traditional performing art and the city's pride. Progress for the opening of the new Histreet museum is also being made. In addition, we will welcome a beautiful baby white tiger to the Okinawa Zoo this year. Finally, with the big Yamazato district development project, and the outsourcing of Residential Division services, we will see with our own eyes the city advance into a vibrant one this year. Please expect great leaps our city will make this year.

We would like to celebrate the New Year with you, and ask for your understanding and cooperation as we work together towards building a city where we can carry our dreams and hopes. Finally, my sincerest wishes to you and your family for health and happiness this year.

Sachio Kuwae  
Okinawa City Mayor



年頭のごあいさつ

Total Population: 141,627

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,790 Female: 72,435  
[Foreign Population (43 Countries)] Male: 832 Female: 571

The Okinawa City Hall's *Bunka Geino Ka* (the Culture & Traditional Arts Division) selects excerpts from the city's public relations newsletter (*Koho Okinawa*) and publishes them in English and Chinese in hopes of better serving our community of residents who may have difficulty reading or understanding Japanese. **These articles are translated by the Culture & Traditional Arts Division staff and are provided for reference only. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated).** For English support, please email: [kokusai@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto:kokusai@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

## 40th Okinawa City Industry Festival

January 28 (SAT)~ 29 (SUN) \*Free Admission

The Okinawa City Industry Festival is a two-day event full of entertainment and cultural activities built around Okinawa City brands. It offers an impressive display of products manufactured and handmade in the city, giving visitors a chance 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. There will be a local hero show (on Saturday) and a pro-wrestling show (on Sunday) to entertain visitors of all ages!

\*Temporary parking and a free shuttle service to and from the venue will be available from Aeon Mall Okinawa Rycom.

Date & Time: January 28 & 29 10:00-18:00 \*17:00 on Sunday

Venue: Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park Gymnasium and its vicinity

<http://kozaweb.jp/event/detail.html?&sp=true&id=3538>



### ▶ Tax deduction application for those with a disability

Individuals with a condition equivalent to those approved for a shogaisha techo 障害者手帳 (physical or mental disability certificate) or ryoiku techo 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 certified that you apply to a certain level of physical disability or dementia, shogaisha koko taishosha nintei sho you may 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), which will allow you to receive a deduction during the income tax filing process. If you are eligible for this certificate and need it for filing your taxes, please come to the Korei Fukushi Ka 高齢福祉課 (Elderly Welfare Division) window for assistance with the application process.

※Those who are already shogaisha techo 障害者手帳 or ryoiku techo 療育手帳 holders can submit their disability certificate to receive tax deductions. They do not need to apply for this service.

<<What to bring for the application>>

-Applicant's inkan ("mitome-in")

-ID (Driver's License, health insurance card, etc.)

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

(Please get an application form from the division in charge.)

Korei Fukushi Ka

Contact: 高齢福祉課 (Elderly Welfare Division ) ext. 2085, 3098

shogaisha koko  
**障害者控除 (Disability Tax Deduction)**  
An individual tax payer, their dependents or spouse who fit the category of disabled or heavily disabled are eligible for income tax deductions.

### ▶ New 20-year-old Citizens! You Have Reached the Age to Join the National Pension System

Anyone who lives in Japan between age 20 and 60 have the obligation to join the National Pension System. If you join the system early in your life and continue paying the premium, you will be able to receive your pension benefit when you get old, or if you develop a disability as a result of injury or illness, or lose an income earner in your family.

#### -A Big Support in the Future-

The National Pension System is managed by the national government, and is an ensured life-time benefit.

#### -Not Only for Post-Retirement Years -

The National Pension System supports you not only when you get old, but it also has the following benefits:

#### <Disability Pension Benefit>

Provided if you become disabled as a result of an accident or disease.

#### <Pension Benefit for the Bereaved>

Eligible dependents, such as your child or spouse, will be qualified to receive this benefit when you pass away.

Please contact the pension office or *Shimin Ka* (市民課 City Residential Division) for details or questions about the process:

**Koza Pension Office** 933-2267

**Shimin Ka** (市民課 City Residential Division) Ext. 2132/ 2134

### ▶ Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Diapers

This certificate can be issued at the Okinawa City Hall for those who are bedridden and are certified as "long-term-care-need" in Okinawa City.

**Eligibility:** It is your second year more to apply for this tax deduction, and you have a doctor's statement of "Bedridden Level B1~C2" and "Possibility of Incontinence." (For those who are certified as "long-term-care need" for another 13 months, the doctor's statement from the previous year is acceptable).

**Note:** If this is the first time you are applying for the deduction, please consult with your doctor to receive a "Certificate of Diaper Use."

Contact: 高齢福祉課 (Elderly Welfare Division ) ext. 3167

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## ► Issuance of Physical Disability Certificate

-This certificate is issued to those who have a disability defined under the Physically Disabled Persons Welfare Act.

-Levels of disabilities are defined from 1 to 6, depending on the type and degree of disability.

Disability Types: Vision/ hearing/ equilibrium/ vocal or verbal/ mastication/ deformity/ heart/ kidney/ bladder/ back passage/ small bowel/ immune system/ liver

The physical disability certificate enables the certificate holder to receive welfare services, benefits for assistive devices, subsidies for medical expenses, deductions on designated expenses, and tax deductions.

Application Categories	Required Documents
<b>New Application</b> ● When you apply for the first time	● Diagnoses/ statement of disability (*) ● Two face-photos (4cm x 3cm) ● Applicant's inkan (the guardian's inkan if under age 15)
<b>Re-issuance Application</b> ● When there is a change in the degree of disability ● An additional disability is recognized ● Re-certification	● Diagnoses/ statement of disability (*) ● Two face-photos (4cm x 3cm) ● Applicant's inkan (the guardian's inkan if under age 15) ● Current certificate
<b>Re-issuance Application</b> ● Loss, damage, change of face-photo	● Two face-photos (4cm x 3cm) ● Applicant's inkan (the guardian's inkan if under age 15) ● Current certificate
<b>Change of Information Notification</b> ● Update address or name ● Update guardian's status for those under age 15	● Current certificate ● Applicant's <i>inkan</i>
<b>Return Notification</b> ● When the disability no longer applies to under the Physically Disabled Persons Welfare Act ● The certificate holder passes away ● The certificate becomes unnecessary	● Current certificate (except for the case of lost) ● Submitter's <i>inkan</i>

(\*) Only doctors designated under Article 15 of the Physically Disabled Persons Welfare Act can write the diagnoses and statement. The term of validity is 3 months. The form is available at the service counter at *Shogai Fukushi Ka* (Disability Welfare Division).

**Contact:** *Shogai Fukushi Ka* (障がい福祉課 Disability Welfare Division) Ext.3157

## ► Filing Depreciable Assets for the FY 2017

This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2017 (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.

### Assets To File:

-Assets acquired/ lost between 01/02/2016~ 01/01/2017

-Assets acquired before 01/01/2016 that you currently own.

-Assets utilized up until now, but disposed or transferred as of 01/01/2017.

**Filing Period: 2017 January 4 (WED) ~ 31 (TUE)**  
**Where to File: Property Tax Division Ext. 2255/ 2257**

### Reductions for Solar Power Generators, etc.

Solar power generators, or assets acquired by small companies to improve business may be eligible for reductions if they meet the requirements. For more information about reductions (and special exceptions), please contact the division in charge.

### Please 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. 2255/ 2257

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▶ **Reminder**

**January** is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

**Residential Tax** (4<sup>th</sup> term)/ **Long-term Care Insurance Premium** (8<sup>th</sup> term)/ **National Health Insurance Premium** (7<sup>th</sup> term)/ **Medical Care for the Elderly Insurance Premium** (7<sup>th</sup> term).

If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on January 31. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **Individual Number Cards Will be Issued on the Weekend Shown Below.**

If you cannot visit the city hall during the weekday to issue your individual number card, the Residential Division will be open on the following weekend.

**Open Date & Time: January 28 (SAT) & 29 (SUN) 9:00-11:30** \*Open only in the morning.

**Where:** Residential Division counter, Okinawa City Hall 1F

**What you can do:** Receive your individual number card or notification card for the individual number card. **(Please understand that we will not be providing services for any other matters.)**

**Note:** You must contact the Residential Division in advance before visiting to confirm what you will need.

\*You will need your "My Number" when you file your tax. Please make sure you receive your notification card or My Number card.

**Contact:** *Shimin Ka* (Residential Division) Ext. 3127/ 3128/ 3115

▶ **Disaster Management Exhibition**

**Period: January 16 (MON) - 23 (MON)**

**Time: 8:30-17:15** (starts at 13:00 on the first day and closes at 14:00 on the last day)

**Venue:** Okinawa City Hall 1F Lobby

**Contents:** Panels of disaster management promotion, video showing Iwate Great Tsunami on March 11 (the Great East Japan Earthquake) with messages from victims from affected areas, free pamphlets, etc

**Contact:** Disaster Management Division Ext.2349

▶ **Okinawa Marathon 2017 First-aid Preparation Class**

This is held mainly for marathon volunteers and supporters to support the safety of marathon runners. You might be the one to save a life!

\*The beginner class requires reservations. Apply no later than the day before.

**Date & Time/** January 14 (SAT) 10:00-11:30

**Venue/** Okinawa City Fire Department (Misato Br.) Indoor Training Room

**Category (Hrs.)/** Beginner (90min)

**Eligibility/** 10 years old (4<sup>th</sup> grader of ES) or older

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**Date & Time/** February 18 (SAT) 13:00-18:00

**Venue/** Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park

**Category (Hrs.)/** Beginner (90min) & AED practical class (60min)

**Eligibility/** 10 years old (Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grader) or older

\*Services are provided in **Japanese only**.

**Contact:** Okinawa City Fire Department TEL: 098-929-0900

▶ **Okinawa City Multipurpose Arena (Tentative Name) Construction Plan Orientation for Residents**

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> public orientation regarding the Okinawa City Multipurpose Arena will take place as follows:

**Date & Time: January 11 (WED) 19:00- & 15 (WED) 19:00-**

**Venue:** Okinawa City Hall (Basement 1) *Nyusatsu Shitsu* (入札室)

\*Reservation is not required. **All services will be provided in Japanese only.**

**Contact:** Project Promotion Room Ext.2433

▶ **Okinawa City Library News**

**Book Readings & Hand Games:** Saturdays, January 14, 21 & 28 starting at 3:00 pm.

**Days Closed:** 1 (Sun)- 3 (Tue) for New Year's Holiday, 9 (Mon), 10 (Tue: makeup holiday), 16 (Mon), 23 (Mon) and 30 (Mon).

**Place:** Okinawa City Library 2F meeting room ※Up to 20 books per person.

**Address:** 2-19-6 Uechi, Okinawa City 098-932-6881

\*The library will be **closed** between **February 1, 2017 (Wed)~ end of April** due to its relocation to Korinza Mall.



**Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you?**

**Let us know! Email:**

**kokusai@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp**

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1)  
26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa  
Tel: (098) 929-0261



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