



# OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2020

Vol. 20 No. 1

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

## New Year's Greeting From Mayor

### Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City. May Okinawa City Continue to Shine!

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

Last year, Okinawa City celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the same moment of change from Heisei (平成) to Reiwa (令和), the start of the new era.

Looking back on 2019, we had many brilliant people from our city play active roles in society, which filled all of us with delight and made us realize our high potential as Okinawa City Citizens.

The girls' handball team in Bito Junior High School won the championship in the Kyusyu District, the dance troop "FUNKYU SIXERS" which consists of Junior High Schoolers belonging to a dance school in Okinawa City won a championship in the biggest national kid's dance competition, and Mr. Motoki Furugen, who is from our city and presently studying in university of music, came out on top at the "17<sup>th</sup> Italy Percussion Competition". Such showcases full of young and passionate energy encouraged us.

I am so pleased for having received great news that we will host the "B League All Star Game 2021" in the "Okinawa Arena" and I believe that it will provide hopes and dreams not only to children, but also many citizens.

At the same time the Okinawa Arena will open for public use in 2020, the Okinawa Zoo & Museum, which aims to be Japan's most unique zoo, will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continue to further evolve. We will continuously work through the various measures in creating more employment and tourism sources in order to achieve a powerful city, where we can expect to attract people from in and outside of Okinawa City, and become a leader in economic and industrial aspects in Okinawa Prefecture.

We also aim to become a parenting-friendly city, striving to enhance development support, efforts for child-care-wait issues, continuous support throughout the pregnancy and parenting period, in addition to the new construction of an after-school childcare facility located inside Goeku Elementary School, and a "Jido-kan (Children's center)" in the school district of Misato Junior High School.

In addition, we are all preparing for the torch relay in our city for the forthcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games. It is such a delight that Mr. Hirokazu Ueyonabaru, an honorary citizen of Okinawa City, and Mr. Ryo Kiyuna, Okinawa City's Champuru Ambassador is ensured to be a member of the national team. We are so proud to have them in our city and look forward to their performance, while our city will also enliven the excitement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games.

We would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation in our efforts towards building a city that continues to shine, where we can work together with one another. 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  
Greetings in the beginning of the year



Total Population: 142,543

[Japanese Population] Male: 68,070 Female: 72,731  
[Foreign Population (51 Countries)] Male: 1,071 Female: 671

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.lg.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.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 Events & Announcements

### 43rd Okinawa City Industry Festival \*Free Admission

January 25 (SAT) & 26 (SUN), 2020 10:00-18:00 \*17:00 on Sunday

Venue: Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park Gymnasium and its vicinity

Get to know unique brands of Okinawa City!

Attracting a large crowd each year, the Okinawa City Industry Festival exhibits agricultural and marine produce, arts and crafts, traditional Ryukyu musical instruments, pottery, awamori and many more local specialty goods. The event also includes stage performances with traditional instruments and street dance, and lots of fun for the whole family! Please stop by!



### ► Certification Of Tax Deduction For Those With A Disability

In Okinawa City, even if you do not receive a certificate of physical, mental or intellectual disability, if you have approved as “a person equivalent to”, you can deduct from the income & resident tax as “Disability Deduction”.

If you are at least 65 years old and certified that you apply to a certain level of physical disability or dementia, you may be approved to be issued a shogaisha kojo taishosha nintei sho 障害者控除対象者認定書 (tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability), which will allow you to receive a deduction during the income tax filing process in 2020.

If you are categorized under level 4-13 (person who are taxed for resident tax in 2019), the certificate will be mailed in the beginning of February. For others, if you need this certificate 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.

shogaisha techo 障害者手帳 (for physical/mental) or ryoiku techo 療育手帳 (for intellectual), you can submit your disability

certificate to receive tax deductions. You 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 other than your relatives will be applying on your behalf, please prepare a power of attorney.

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

**Contact:** *Kaigo Hoken Ka* 介護保険課 (Long-term Care Insurance Division ) ext. 2085, 3147

### ► 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 59 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. This 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 Residential Division) for details or questions about the process:

**Koza Pension Office** : 098-933-2267

**Shimin Ka** (市民課 Residential Division)

Ext. 2133/ 2131

#### <Categories Of Pension Insured Person>

The national pension system has three different categories of insured people depending on their type of employment, etc.,

**Category 1:**Self-employed/Students

**Category 2:**Salaried employees/Government employees

**Category 3:**Dependent spouse of a category 2 insured person

#### How to enroll in the National Pension:

1.If you reach 20 years old as a Category 1 insured person, you will receive a notification for enrollment from the Japan Pension Service.

2.You will receive a 国民年金保険料納付書 (National Pension Premium Payment Slip). It also includes a claim form of contribution postponement systems/special payment systems for students. \*Please visit us for consultation if you need to be exempted from payment for financial reasons. \*The amount that you have paid is reflected as “Social Insurance Deduction”

3.You will receive a “Pension Handbook”. Please keep it safe since you will need to confirm your payment record, and when you reach the age to receive your pension annuity.

\*If you reach 20 years old and are dependent of your spouse who is enrolled in a pension under their workplace, please contact your spouse's workplace and complete the process to be a category 3 insured person.



**All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY** (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: [kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp)

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### ▶ Applications for Premium Vouchers

#### -The Deadline Has Been Extended!

The application form has already been mailed to eligible citizens. Do not forget to apply!

**Application Deadline Extended To:  
January 31, 2020 (Fri.)**

**Where To Apply:** Okinawa City Hall 1F “プレミアム付商品券窓口(Premium Coupon Booth)”

**Where You Can Use Them:** Supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, and etc. located in Okinawa City.

**Until When You Can Use Them: February 29, 2020 (Sat)**

**Contact: Chuishijii Division (Premium Vouchers) 098-923-4300**

### ▶ Free Coupon For MR Vaccination Will Expire on March 31!



It has been decided that the rubella antibody test at medical facilities and regular vaccination as needed will be offered as an additional provision to males who haven't received MR vaccinations in the past.

\*You cannot receive vaccinations without taking an antibody test.

Eligibility: Male born between April 2, 1962 and April 1, 1979

\*We have sent the coupon to eligible males.

\*If any of you are not eligible, but wish to receive it this year, we can send you the coupon.

Eligible Period: Until March 31, 2020 (Tue)

Location: Designated medical facilities

Cost: Covered by government

Please make sure you bring your resident card to the medical facility.

Contact: : Kodomo Sodan Kenko Ka,

(Child Consultation/ Health Division Vaccination Section) ext. 2232, 2233

### ▶ Free Cooking Classes

<Sweets with Chocolate>

Date & Time: **February 8, 2020 (Sat) 13:30-15:30**

**Venue:** Okinawa City Social Welfare Center

**Eligibility:** age 6 to 12 (6th grade in ES) and their parents who live in Okinawa City

**Capacity:** 6 pairs

Application Deadline: January 29 (Wed) 15:00

<Okinawan Traditional Cuisine>

Date & Time: **February 21(Fri), 2020 18:30-20:30**

**Venue:** Okinawa City Welfare Culture Plaza

**Eligibility:** 20s to 40s who live in Okinawa City

**Capacity:** 16

\*Free child care is available for children from 12 months old. Call for sign-up in advance. (Up to 10 children: first come first served bases)

Application Deadline: February 12 (Wed) 15:00

**Fees for Classes: Free**

**What to Bring to Classes:** Apron, head handkerchief, hand towel

**Contact: Shimin Kenko Ka (市民健康課 Residents Health Division) Ext.2242**

### ▶ Filing Depreciable Assets for the FY 2020



This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2020 (the assessment base date), not including land or building establishments. (If you own even one depreciable asset, you are still subject to report and file them). Please remember to indicate your line of business. Also, you must file if you installed a solar power generator for business use because it is also considered a depreciable asset.

\*Make sure you make a copy before you submit the original if you need one.

**\*Please bring your inkan.**

**Assets To File:**

-Assets acquired/ lost between 01/02/2019~ 01/01/2020

-Assets acquired before 01/01/2019 that you currently own.

-Assets utilized up until now, but disposed or transferred no later than 01/01/2020.

**Filing Period: 2020 January 6 (Mon) ~ 31 (Fri) 8:00-17:15**

**Where to File: Property Tax Division (Okinawa City Hall 2F)**

*\*The assets have to be reported at the municipal office where they are located in.*

### 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 or visit our website (Japanese only).

#### [Other Notes Regarding the Filing]

1. Submit a proxy letter if a representative applies to issue any documents or certificates regarding “income (when representative under different household) “or “asset (proxy letter has to be signed by the asset owner)”.

2. 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)

**Contact: Shisan Zei Ka (Property Tax Division) Ext. 2252/2253**

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▶ **Please note:**

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

**Residential Tax** (4th 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.

▶ **Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Adult Diapers**

If you are bedridden and are certified as “long-term-care-need” in Okinawa City, you can issue this tax deduction certificate for medical expenses spent on adult diapers at the city hall if this is your second year or more to apply for medical deductions.

**Eligibility:** 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 or two years ago is acceptable).

\*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:** *Kaigo Hoken Ka* 介護保険課 (Long-term Care Insurance Division ) ext. 3167

▶ **Warning On PM2.5 Effects**

This is an announcement from the Environmental Protection Division, Okinawa Prefectural Government:

The density of PM2.5 tends to get higher during the winter towards spring. This can cause sore throats for those who have issues with their respiratory system. If you see that the air is smoggy, please make sure you protect yourself by wearing a face mask or by staying inside unless it’s necessary and urgent to go out.



まいにち にほんご **Daily Nihongo**

住民税 申告 (**Jumin Zei Shinkoku**) **Residential Tax Return**

Residential tax is used for public services such as disaster management, road maintenance, education, welfare, and more. All residents have to file their income at the city office where they reside as of January 1, 2019, or of the current year. If you file your income tax return, you don’t have to file your residential tax return.

If you need to file your residential tax return, please visit Okinawa City Hall during the following period:

**2020 February 17 (Mon)-March 16 (Mon) 9:00-16:00**

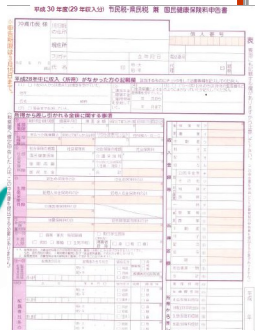
\*Closed on weekends and Japanese holidays except for March 15 (Sun).

If you miss this period, you have to wait to do this until: **June 8 (Mon)**

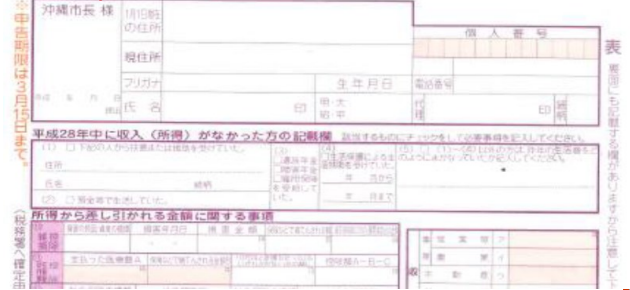
If you visit the city hall to file your residential tax return, try this Japanese and tell the administrator, or to ask at the information desk :

“**Jumin Zei Shinkoku ni kimashita.**  
住民税申告 に きました。”  
I’m here for the **residential tax return.**

A tax return form on the right will be mailed. Even if you don’t receive it, if you think you need to file please visit the city hall.



令和2年度(元年收入分) 市民税・県民税 兼 国民健康保険料申告書



▶ **Okinawa City Library News**

**Book Readings & Hand Games:** Saturdays, January 11 (offered by JICA themed “A Journey Through Seven Continents in the Library” ), 18 & 25 starting at 3:00 pm.

**Days Closed:** 1 (Wed)- 3 (Fri) for New Year’s Holiday, 6(Mon), 13(Mon: Coming of Age Day), 14 (Tue: makeup holiday), 20(Mon), 23(Thu: inspection) and 27(Mon).

※Up to 20 books per person.

**Address:** 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City Korinza Mall (1F) **TEL:** 098-929-4919



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

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

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

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