

OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

July 2019 Vol. 19 No. 7

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



Events

Kurashiki DAM Festival 2019

Let's get close to the forest and lakes!

Come out for a lot of fun workshops, such as making carving art on flip-flops, water pistols, wooden chairs, and you can also enjoy live performances!

Date and Time:

Sunday, August 4, 2019

10:00-16:00

*Event will be cancelled in case of rain.

Address: 879-1 Ishikawa Sonan, Uruma City
You can sign up for craft workshops at the site.

Sign up opens at:

Part 1: 10:00- / Part 2: 13:30- / Part 3: 14:00-

First come first serve basis!

Free admission (Except for some of the workshops & events)

Temporary parking: 倉浜衛生施設組合 (3394 Ikehara, Okinawa City)/
沖縄職業能力開発大学校 Okinawa Polytechnic College (2994-2 Ikehara, Okinawa City)*Shuttle bus is provided to the site.

Contact: *Kenchiku Koen Ka* (Construction & Public park Administrative Section) Ext. 2659



Fire Department Disaster Workshop for Kids During Summer Break



Date and Time: **July 28 (Sun)**

9:00-12:00 noon *Sign-up close at 11:00

at the site. *Event will be cancelled when typhoon approaches.

Venue: Okinawa City Fire Department

【Program】

*This applies to children age around 5 or above.

First Aid/ Water-discharge/ Rescue Operation/ Ladder truck riding/ 3D Disaster Prevention Movie, etc.

Eligibility: Children who are kindergarten age or older, and living in Okinawa City.

(Must be accompanied by their guardian.)

Bring: Your own drinks, towel and cap, etc.

*Sign up at site.

Parking is available at:

• Okinawa Prefectural Misaki Special-needs School

• Okinawa City Waterworks Bureau

Contact: Okinawa City Fire Department

TEL:098-929-0900

Okinawa Zoo and Museum Summer Event

Contact: Okinawa Zoo & Museum

TEL: 098-933-4190

Ice Festival!!

Let's give ice to the animals!
Workshops to cool off your body will also be held!

Date and Time

July 13(Sat)-15(Mon)



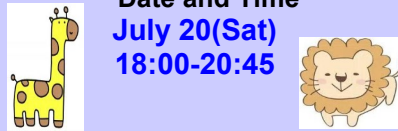
Animal Night Market

This Night Market will be held only on the first day of the Satur-Zoo Night period!!

Date and Time

July 20(Sat)

18:00-20:45



Summer Vacation Special Event

Ghost Night Museum

Unique ghosts designed by children gather in the museum!! Don't miss it!

Date and Time

July 20-August 31, 2019

Every Saturday!

17:30-20:00

Fee: ¥200 (Adult)

¥100 (age 4-High school Student)



Total Population: 142,204

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,905 Female: 72,600

[Foreign Population (52 Countries)] Male: 1,047 Female: 652

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 published 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. 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



► An Announcement About Koki Koreisha Iryo Seido (後期高齢者医療制度のお知らせ Elderly Health Insurance System)

Regarding the Insurance Certificate (被保険者証) and Reduction of Standard Cost Amount Certificate (減額認定証):

The insurance certificate and reduction certificate will be renewed from **August 2019**.
(Certificates [will expire on July 31, 2020](#).)

Renewal of Elderly Health Insurance Certificate:

Those who are not behind on any premium payments will get their new certificate mailed to their house by the **end of July**.

Those who are behind on premium payments, please come to the National Health Insurance Division service counter with your current certificate. *Please keep in mind that if you are behind on premium payments, you might only get a temporary certificate.

Renewal of Elderly Health Insurance Maximum Co-Payment Amount Certificate/ Reduction of Standard Cost Amount Certificate (減額認定証):

If you are a tax-exempt household, the cost of medical treatment for your visit or the meal fee during hospitalization will be reduced by showing the **Reduction of Standard Cost Amount Certificate**. If you already have one, the new certificate will be mailed with your insurance certificate. If you don't have one, you have to come to the service window to apply.

※If you may be hospitalized for a long period of time....

If you have been hospitalized more than 90 days between the period you are certified for **Reduction of Standard Cost Amount Certificate (Category II)** between August 2018 and July 2019, the cost of meals can be exempted after you apply. If you wish to apply, please bring documents issued by the hospital (such as receipts) to confirm the period of hospitalization, your health insurance certificate, and inkan. A proxy applying for the applicant must bring their ID and inkan.

Renewal of the Limit Application Certificate (限度証):

If you are the active income earner in category I & II, the cost of medical treatment for your visit or the meal fee during hospitalization will be reduced by showing the **Reduction of Standard Cost Amount Certificate**. If you already have one, the new certificate will be mailed with your insurance certificate. If you don't have one, you have to come to the service window to apply.

-The Elderly Health Insurance Premium-

The premium payment period for the fiscal year 2019 will start in July.

*The payment slip will be mailed around the **middle of July**.

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

Revision of the Premium Reduction Plan for the FY 2019

① **Revision of the Income Standard for the Per Capita Basis Reduction Amount:** The 90% of reduction will become 80%. Also, the income standard for the 50% and 20% reductions out of the per capita basis reduction will be revised as below:

The revised standard of the total income amount of households (insured person & head of household)

80% Premium Reduction(*1) – Households with income below ¥330,000 and all the household members who earn less than **¥800,000** for pension annuity. (Or, there is no other income.)

85% Premium Reduction(*2) – Households with income below ¥330,000

50% Premium Reduction – Households with income below $<¥330,000 + ¥280,000 \times \text{number of the insured}>$

20% Premium Reduction – Households with income below $<¥330,000 + ¥510,000 \times \text{number of the insured}>$

*1- 90% reduction until previous year will be 80% in 2019 and 70% which follows the main rule on the law after 2020.

*2- 85% reduction will continue in 2019 as an exception, and it will be 77.5% in 2020, and 70% which follows the main rule on the law after 2021.

② **Revision of the Premium Reduction Plan for Dependents Under Employees' Insurance:** The premium based on a per capita basis will be reduced by 50% (2 years since being enrolled with the Elderly Health Insurance System), and no income levy imposed. *Due to its revision, the "special reduction treatment" will no longer be in effect after March 31, 2019 for those who have been enrolled with the Elderly Health Insurance System for over two years. However, if they satisfy the reduction treatment qualification (see the chart above) for low-income residents, they can get the per capita basis reduction.

Contact: Kokumin Kenko Hoken Ka (National Health Insurance Division) ext. 2101, 2118

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.okinawa.jp

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▶ **Please Note:**

July is the payment deadline for the following taxes: **Real Estate Tax (2nd term)/ Long-term care insurance premium (2nd term)/ National Health Insurance premium (1st term)/ Medical care for the elderly insurance premium (1st term).** If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on July 31th. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **Announcement From Kodomo Katei Ka (Child Welfare Division)**

A Notice to Single Parents Receiving Child/Special Child Rearing Allowance

Single parents who receive 児童扶養手当 (Jido Fuyo Teate —Child Rearing Allowance For Single Parent) or 特別児童扶養手当 (Tokubetsu Jido Fuyo Teate —Special Child Rearing Allowance) are required to submit a 現況届 (Genkyo Todoke —Current Status Notification) every year. Those receiving “Special Child Rearing Allowance” must submit a 所得状況届 (Shotoku Jyokyo Todoke —Income Status Notification).

If you fail to submit this notification, you will not be able to continue receiving Single Parent Allowance benefits for August / Special Child Rearing Allowance benefits for November and thereafter, even if you qualify.

* The notification can only be submitted by the recipient (not by a proxy).

*The notification must be submitted even if payments have been suspended due to the income limit.

*If you fail to submit the required notification for 2 consecutive years, you will lose qualifications to receive benefits.

*Notification to the individuals will be mailed within July. Please read it through for the required documents etc.

Submission Period:

Child Rearing Allowance - August 1 (Thu) ~ 30 (Fri)
Special Child Rearing Allowance- August 9(Fri) ~ 26 (Mon)

Hours: Weekdays AM 9:00~11:00, PM 1:00~4:00 (not including Saturdays and Sundays).

Location: Okinawa City Hall basement level 2, Main Hall
*Notifications will also be accepted on August 18(Sunday), with weekday hours.

*In order to prevent overcrowding, we will send notices to individuals with designated dates and times.

*On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the submission period, Okinawa Hellowork will open a temporary job consultation service window to focus on supporting moms and dads who are looking for a job.

Contact: Kodomo Katei Ka (Children’s Welfare Division) ext. 3196/3197

▶ **Applications for Premium Vouchers Will Begin!**

Premium Vouchers are issued to ease the effects that the increase in consumption tax will have on households, while supporting the local economy.

Eligibility

① **Premium Vouchers (for Households Exempt from Paying Resident Tax)**

Those registered as an Okinawa City resident as of January 1, 2019, and are exempt from paying Resident Tax for the FY 2019.

However, the following persons are not eligible:

- You are receiving support from someone who is paying taxes.
- You are a receiving social welfare.

Process Flow:

1. Apply for vouchers (between Jun.-Dec.)
2. Get voucher exchange tickets in the mail (after the end of Sep.)
3. Purchase vouchers with the exchange tickets (between Oct.-Jan.)
4. Use the vouchers (between Oct.-Feb.)

② **Premium Vouchers (for Households with Children)**

Households with children born between April 2, 2016 and September 30, 2019.

Process Flow:

1. Get voucher exchange tickets in the mail (after the end of Sep.)
2. Purchase vouchers with the exchange tickets (between Oct.-Jan.)
3. Use the vouchers (between Oct.-Feb.)

*Applications are necessary for ①, not necessary for ②.

*Households that fall under both ① and ② can apply for both.

Voucher Price

Limit for One Person: ¥25,000 total value (can be purchased for ¥20,000)

*A set of ten vouchers, each with a ¥500 value, can be purchased for ¥4,000.

*One person can purchase up to five sets.

Application Period

July 8 (Mon.)-December 27, 2019 (Fri.) effective by postmark date.

Eligible persons should receive applications in the mail the beginning of July.

*Eligible persons should receive exchange tickets in the mail around the end of September.

*You can start using the Premium Vouchers from October 1.

Contact: Chuishijiji Division (Premium Vouchers) 098-923-4300

▶ **“Connect”: Free Consultation For Parents Concerns With Children’s Development**

Do you have any concerns about your Children’s development? You can share your story to find a solution with a counselor.

Where: Okinawa City Welfare Culture Center 1F

When: Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00-16:00

Eligibility: Parents or concerned personnel for Children between infants and 6th graders of Elementary School.

The service requires reservations, and is offered in Japanese only.

Contact & Reservation:

Child Consultation-Health Division

TEL: 098-989-1422



▶ **Kids’ Dance Lesson During Their Summer Vacation**

Beginners Welcome! Let’s Move With Music!

8-day lesson

July 29 (Mon) - August 7 (Wed) 10:00-11:30

Location: Okinawa City Youth Center

Eligibility: 1st -3rd graders of Elementary School in Okinawa City

Capacity: 40 (Applications will close when the capacity is reached.)

Application Period: July 11 (Thu)-19 (Fri)

9:00-17:15 (Weekdays only) *Please call or visit to apply.

Fee: ¥520 each (insurance for whole course)

Please pay at the youth center within the application period.

Contact: Okinawa City Youth Center

TEL: 098-930-1336.



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.okinawa.jp

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▶ FY 2019 National Pension Premium Exemption Applications Begin July 1 (Mon)

Applications will be accepted during the following period:

Exemptions for July 2019~June 2020

*You can consult about receiving an exemption for the past two years.

*The exemption is determined based on your income the previous year. You must file your income in advance of applying.

*You may have to provide documents if you have lost a job.

*If someone applies on your behalf, they must provide your *inkan* as well as their ID. They must also provide a Power of Attorney if they are not from the same household.

Power of Attorney---You can get the form at the Pension Agency Office/Residential Division counter or you can download it from the Japan Pension Service website (Form & Sample are in Japanese).

http://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/tetsuduki/kyotsu/seikyuu/20140306.files/consult_01.pdf

About the Japanese Pension System (English Link)

<http://www.nenkin.go.jp/international/english/nationalpension/nationalpension.html>

For more details, please visit *Shimin Ka, Kokumin Nenkin Tanto* (City Residential Division National Pension Section.) ext. 2131/2133



▶ Announcement: Total Ban On Smoking on all of Okinawa City Hall

With the revision of the Health Promotion Act, smoking any kind of cigarette, including paper-wrapped cigarettes, heated tobacco, and electronic cigarettes has been banned inside the city hall building and its premise, including the parking area since July 1st.

We would like your kind understanding and cooperation with our policy, which aims to curb passive smoking.



THANK YOU

▶ Okinawa City School Pool Facilities Opens to the Public During Summer Break

Period: July 23 (Tue)- August 16 (Fri)

*Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Japanese holidays. Pools are subject to close due to bad weather and such. Please confirm with each school's schedule in advance.

Time: 9:30 am-11:30 am

Location: 14 Elementary Schools in Okinawa City.

※Due to construction, Bito & Ageda Elementary School pool will **not open**.

Eligibility: Okinawa City Citizens. Age 3 and older. 3-year olds to 3rd graders of elementary school have to be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is high school age or older. **(Make sure to wear a swimming cap)**

Make sure the adult who will accompany with the child has enough Japanese skills to communicate with the lifeguards in case of an accident involving the child or another emergency.

Fee: Free

【Note】

-Those who are suffering from infectious diseases, sickness, or are drunk are not allowed in the facility.

-Floating tubes and other play equipment are not allowed to be used.

-For large groups, please contact the Sports Division a week in advance.

Contact : *Shimin Sports Ka* (City Residents Sports Division)
TEL: 932-1294



ANNOUNCEMENT The English assistant will be away on business between July 9th and July 17th

If you have any questions please send me a message below and I will response as soon as I get back in the office.

kokusai@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp

I apologize for any inconvenience that my absence will cause you.



Okinawa City Library News

Book Readings & Hand Games: Saturdays, July 13, 20 & 27 starting at 3:00 pm.

Days Closed: 1 (Mon), 8 (Mon), 15 (Mon: Marine Day), 16 (Tue: makeup holiday), 22 (Mon), 25 (Thu: Inspection) and 29 (Mon).

Address: 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City TEL: 098-929-4919



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 Kanko Ka (5F)
26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa
Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 939-7341



Koza International Plaza

Contact KIP for free Japanese classes, legal consultations, fun events and MORE!

1-17-15 Chuo, Okinawa City
TEL 989-6759 FAX 989-6758

Mon-Fri: 10:00-21:00/ Sat: 10:00~ 19:00

Sun & Holidays: Closed

E-mail: okinawa_kip@yahoo.co.jp

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



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