

**OKINAWA CITY** 笑顔が奏でる 輝く未来



Red carpet for Okinawa Intl. Film Festival boosted Koza Gate St. (March 28, 2015)

# Newsletter

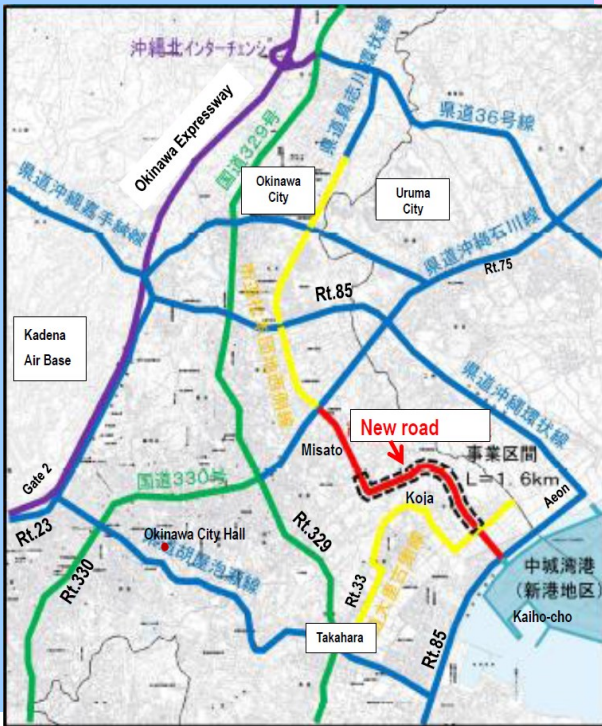
May 2015 Vol. 15 No. 5

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

## Announcements

### New Road Open!

Putting hopes on solving the chronic clog between Misato and Koja district



The new road between Misato and Koja district has reached completion and the opening ceremony took place on March 29 at the starting point of Koja Bridge.

"The enhancement of linking to principal roads such as the Okinawa loop line and highways will contribute to industrial development and local revitalization," Okinawa City Mayor Kuwae commented. Mr. Chinen, the chairperson of Koja neighborhood association, offered his congratulations saying "Connecting the upper and lower district of Koja makes regional cooperation stronger and will contribute as an evacuation route in the case of a Tsunami."

### New building of Koza Shinkin Bank will open to the public in the time of a disaster

Koza Shinkin Bank announced in advance of their new building opening ceremony their agreement in offering their building as a temporary evacuation site in the time of a disaster. Under this agreement, it will be possible



for 128 civilians to be accepted in the large hall on their 2nd floor as needed, with an emergency stock of water, food and blankets.

Koza Shinkin Bank Bldg.  
Address:  
2-10-1 Uechi, Okinawa City

### The first large-scaled police substation in Okinawa has newly opened

The former Okinawa Police Station in Goya has been moved to the Yamazato area, and the Koza police substation was newly built on the vacant lot. It is established as the Chuo and Teruya police substation in response to citizens' demands and is the first large-scaled substation in Okinawa. "We will make our best efforts to contribute to the community's security and to respond to our citizens' expectations," Mr. Tamashiro, the director of the Koza Police Substation, commented at the opening ceremony.

Koza Police Substation Address:  
2-4 Goya, Okinawa City



Total Population: 139,310

[Japanese Population] Male: 66,782 Female: 71,344  
[Foreign Population (43 Countries)] Male: 688 Female: 496



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 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 & Tourism 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

### ► 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)

### ► Increase Your Old-Age Pension Benefits: "Additional Pension" System

If you are a category 1 insured person or a voluntary affiliate of the pension system, you can increase the amount of benefits you will receive by paying ¥400 in addition to the fixed monthly insurance premium amount. The additional pension amount you will receive will be ¥200 multiplied by the number of months you pay the additional amount. Example: You pay the additional ¥400 for the next 10 years. The additional amount you will pay is ¥48,000 (¥400x10 Years [120 months]). When you begin to receive your elderly pension benefits, the additional amount you will receive in one year will be ¥24,000 (¥200x10 Years [120 months]). In other words, the additional premium you paid over a span of 10 years will come back to you in just 2 years, and you will only profit from the rest after that!

\*\*The ¥400 must be paid in addition to your monthly premium.  
Contact: **Shimin Ka Kokumin Nenkin Tanto** ext. 2132, 2134 (City Residential Division National Pension Administrator)



### ► Pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly

If you are eligible to receive this vaccination and live in Okinawa City, you can receive this vaccination for a subsidized price. Please note!: If you have already received this vaccine, you will not be eligible to receive the vaccine at the subsidized rate.

**Vaccination Period:** April 1, 2015 (Wednesday) ~ March 31, 2016 (Thursday)

**Where you can get vaccinated:** Any designated medical facility. (Fees for vaccinations received at other facilities will not be subsidized.) **Please make sure you bring your resident card.**

**Vaccination Fee:** ¥3,000 (However, those receiving public assistance can receive the vaccination for free.)

\*Vaccination types and schedules in foreign countries (including military bases) may differ. **Please come to the service window in advance with your residence card to confirm your vaccination history.**

Contact: *Kodomo Sodan Kenko Ka, Yobo Gakari* (Child Consultation/ Health Division Vaccination Section) ext. 2232, 2233

Age as of the FY2014	You are eligible if you were born on or between the days listed below!
65	Born between April 2, 1950~ April 1, 1951
70	Born between April 2, 1945~ April 1, 1946
75	Born between April 2, 1940~ April 1, 1941
80	Born between April 2, 1935~ April 1, 1936
85	Born between April 2, 1930~ April 1, 1931
90	Born between April 2, 1925~ April 1, 1926
95	Born between April 2, 1920~ April 1, 1921
100	Born between April 1, 1915~ April 1, 1916

#### For Permanent Residents

#### (Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice)

You need to exchange your alien registration certificate for a resident card no later than the following dates, irrespective of the period for the exchange stated in your alien registration certificate.



- Persons aged 16 and over as of July 9, 2012 → **By July 8, 2015**
- Persons younger than 16 as of July 9, 2012
  - Persons 16 years of age before July 8, 2015 → **By the 16th birthday**
  - Persons 16 years of age on or after July 9, 2015 → **By July 8, 2015**

Offices are expected to be very crowded immediately before July 8, 2015.

Exchange applications are already being accepted.

\* Persons younger than 16 as of July 9, 2012 whose 16th birthdays fall on the deadline for the exchange must file applications for renewal of the validity period during the 6 months preceding their 16th birthdays.

Applications should be filed at the relevant Regional Immigration Bureaus or their branch district immigration offices (excluding those at airports).

Further information is available on the Immigration Bureau's website:

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/keiziban/pdf/kirikaenoosirase.pdf>

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## Each resident will be notified of his or her own 12-digit Individual Number (nicknamed "My Number") beginning in October 2015.



- Your municipality will send a notification card showing your Individual Number to the address appearing in your resident record.
- If you receive a notification card, you can receive an Individual Number Card at your municipal office after sending in the application form that will arrive with the card.

## Your Individual Number will be used for administrative procedures related to social security, taxation, and disaster response beginning in January 2016.

- Individual Numbers will be used only for legally stipulated tasks, such as procedures for the national pension, unemployment insurance and medical insurance, receipt of public assistance and welfare benefits, and the filing of income tax returns and other tax procedures.
- Private businesses will also handle Individual Numbers within a scope stipulated by law. Applicable tasks will include those related to social insurance and tax withholding.

## Use of Individual Numbers for any purpose that is not stipulated by law and providing numbers to others are prohibited.



- Inappropriately obtaining the Individual Number of another person and providing a number to others without justifiable cause are punishable acts.
- Various measures will be implemented to protect personal information that is linked to Individual Numbers.

Individual Numbers represent a form of social infrastructure designed to improve administrative efficiency, enhance public convenience, and realize a fairer and more just society.

### Improved administrative efficiency

The system will greatly save time and labor needed to compare and input various types of information in administrative organs, local governments, etc., and bring better precision and accuracy to those tasks.

### Enhanced public convenience

The system will simplify administrative procedures and lessen the burden on residents by reducing the number of accompanying documents, etc., needed for procedures. Number holders will also be able to use services for confirming and supplying information that are based on the Disclosure System of Personal Information Cooperation Record.

### A fairer and more just society

Because it will make it easier to ascertain people's income and receipt of other administrative services, the system will prevent tax evasion and unfair receipt of benefits, and facilitate the provision of fine-tuned assistance to those who really need it.

## Your Individual Number will serve you for your lifetime.

Please take proper steps to protect it. Publisher: Cabinet Secretariat



The Social Security and Tax Number System website: <http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/index.html> telephone No.:0570-20-0291

## ▶ Kei-Car (Light-vehicle) Road Tax Exemption for Disability Certificate Holders

This system applies to the following people:

- *Shintai-shogaisha-techo* (physical disability certificate), *sensho-byosha-techo* (war injury and illness certificate), *ryoiku techo* (intellectual disability certificate), or *seishin-shogaisha-hoken-fukushi-techo* (psychiatric disability certificate) holders.
- Certificate holders and their family members within the same household.
- Certificate holders and their family members who may not live with in the same household, but share living expenses.\*
- Those who give constant care for a disabled person who lives alone.\*

\*Only applies if you are able to get a *seikei-doitsu-shomeisho* (proof of shared livelihood expenses) or *joji-kaigo-shomeisho* (proof of continuous nursing care) issued by the Welfare Office Director if the certificate holder and driver are from separate households.

### Documents needed for application:

1. The applicable certificate (physical, learning, intellectual disability, or war injury and illness certificate)
2. Vehicle inspection certificate (shaken)
3. Driver's license of the driver
4. Inkan
5. Tax notification form

\*Those who are eligible for this system must apply at the Resident's Tax Division service window by June 1 (Mon)

**Shimin Zei Ka** (Resident's Tax Division) (ext. 3258, 3256)

**English assistance available at the service window.**

Please consult for appointment in advance.



## ▶ The FY 2015 Rabies Vaccination



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.

※Japanese law requires to get this shot once a year.

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

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Kanji 漢字★ **Look around for the Kanji in your town**



**Hana**花 (Meaning : flower / Pronunciation : はな hana、カ ka)



The best time to view cherry blossoms is done now but we still can see various kinds of flowers here in the tropical island, Okinawa. Hibiscus is the best known typical Okinawan flower and is also designated as the flower of Okinawa City. The character “flower (花)” is used as part of the names of girls for its beautiful image. For example, they named the female elephant in Okinawa Zoo “Ryu ka (琉花)”. She was in the news for her delivery of a new baby in March.

<Japanese characters with 花 (Hana/Ka)>  
 花火 (Hana-bi: Fireworks) 花屋 (Hana-ya: Flower shop)  
 花束 (Hana-tabu: Bouquet) 花壇 (Ka-dan: Flowerbed)  
 Can you find any more “Flower(花)” around you?

## まいにち にほんご

きやらべん  
**キャラ弁**  
Kyara-ben

にほん かあ たち しごと べんとう  
 日本のお母さん達の仕事に、「お弁当づくり」  
 があります。お母さんが作って持たせるお昼ご飯です。  
 子供が保育園に入ると、ときどきお弁当を作ります。  
 しょうごう えんそく しゃかいけんがく ひ  
 小学校に入ると、遠足や社会見学などの日はお弁当を持  
 たせます。  
 あにめ にんき きやらべん に にんき  
 アニメや人気のキャラクターに似せた「キャラ弁」が人気です。  
 キャラクターがなくても、色々な野菜を使ってカラフルにする  
 こども よろこ た  
 と、子供も喜んで野菜を食べてくれるでしょう。お弁当の  
 作り方の方も売っています。  
 楽しみながら作ってください。

### To help your understanding :)

“Fixing BENTO (lunch box)” is one of the exciting things for Japanese moms to do for their kids. When their kids enter preschool, they start making it once in a while. Then kids have to bring bentos to picnics and field trips and such in Elementary School. “Kyara-ben” lunches are designed straight out of popular anime characters and can please kids a lot. Even if lunches are not kyara-ben, you can use a lot of different vegetables to make it more colorful and will encourage kids to eat more vegetables. You can find how-to-make bento books at book stores. Please enjoy your new experience!

せいかつガイド  
 こんいちほ  
 やさしいこ

**Living Guide in easy Japanese is now available on the CLAIR website : ) Visit**  
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/>  
**and get useful information!**

自治体国際化協会 (CLAIR/クレア)

### Okinawa City Library News



**Book readings & hand games: Saturdays, May 9, 16 & 23**  
 starting at 3:00 pm  
**Days Closed:** 3 (Sun), 4 (Mon), 5 (Tue), 6 (Wed) and 7 (Thu) for Japanese Holidays and compensating holidays; 11 (Mon), 18 (Mon) and 25 (Mon) for regular closing; 28 (Thu) for inspection day.

**Place:** Okinawa City Library 2F meeting room ※Up to 20 books per person.  
**Address:** 2-19-6 Uechi, Okinawa City 098-932-6881



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**Email:** [kokusai@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp](mailto: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!  
**Event in May: Miniature Samurai Dolls and Armors Exhibition**  
**Date: April 27-May 18, 2015**  
 10am - 5pm  
 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](mailto:okinawa_kip@yahoo.co.jp)  
<https://ja-jp.facebook.com/ociakip>

**Dear Readers** Hello :) Our calendar has just come to the end of the long vacation called “Golden Week”. How was your vacation? Having no time to be in the afterglow of it, this week I've got a mom's big operation called “CLEANING” for my son's classroom teacher visiting us soon. Any ideas for royal road will be much appreciated☆ Please take care!  
 Eiko Irei

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