



# OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2023 Vol. 23 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.

#### Okinawa City, on the World Stage !

Happy New Year!

I hope that all of you are having a glorious new year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all citizens and businesses for their cooperation. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve as the 13th Mayor of Okinawa City! I will do my best for the development of city government and to live up to the trust and expectations you have placed in us.

Last year marked a major milestone, the 50th anniversary of the return to Japan. It was an opportunity to communicate Okinawa's history and desire for peace to the rest of the country and to look ahead to the future of Okinawa. The 7th World Uchinanchu Festival and the Churashima Okinawa Culture Festival 2022 were held with great fanfare. Each host city reaffirmed its own identity and culture, and passed them on to the next generation. In Okinawa City, we have done these things to create an environment in which children, the bearers of a bright future, can grow up healthy and happy. 1.Expansion of benefit-based scholarships 2. Identifying young children to become care givers to their own family 3.The shared use of the kitchen of the municipal school lunch center has been put into service, making it possible to provide school lunches to all public kindergartens. The Ryukyu Golden Kings, based in Okinawa City, made it to the finals for the first time in the B-1 league 2021-22 season Championship and finished as the runners-up. Many residents of the prefecture were energized by the athletes' dynamic performance. We are looking forward to being Japan's #1 this year!

And this year, Okinawa will finally be on the world stage

FIBA will be held for the first time in the Philippines and in Indonesia and Japan and the venue in Japan will be the Okinawa Arena here in Okinawa City! The representative players have been selected from The Ryukyu Golden Kings. Let's have fun and enjoy the competition, which attracts not only world-class athletes but also many guests from Japan and abroad! I also believe that it will be a stimulating and irreplaceable experience for children with unlimited potential to have a world-class tournament held in their hometown and to be able to watch some of the world's best high-level play up close and personal. It's been three years since the Corona epidemic. Although the situation is still unpredictable over the past year, measures to prevent the spread of infection have become routine, methods of organizing events have diversified, business and education have developed digitalization in various parts of the world, and efforts have been made to balance these with economic activities.

With the start of the New Year, we will work as one to promote measures that meet the needs of citizens, including the creation of tourism resources and employment, the enhancement of health, welfare, and education, and childcare initiatives.

We would like to ask for the continued support and cooperation of our citizens.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year! **Okinawa city Mayor Kuwae Sachio**



Total Population: 142,684

[Japanese Population] Male: 68,124 Female: 72,762  
[Foreign Population (57 Countries)] Male: 1,078 Female: 720



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

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

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 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 2022.

**Sending a Tax Deduction Certificate:** In order to avoid congestion at the counter, a "Tax Deduction Certificate for Persons With a Disability" will be sent to those who are eligible.

**Eligibility:** Those who are categorized under level 4-13 (person who are taxed for resident tax in 2022) in the income category for long-term care insurance premium the certificate will be mailed in the end of January.

For others, and those who need this certificate for filing taxes, please come to the *Kaigo Hoken Ka* (Long-term Care Insurance Division) window for assistance with the application process.

**Required Documents:** Applicant's ID (Resident card, driver's license, health insurance certificate, etc.).

\*If people other than the applicant self or their family will apply on behalf, the power of attorney will be required. The application form is available at the service counter or Okinawa City homepage.

※If you already have certificate such as *Shogaisha Techo* (for physical/mental) or *Ryoiku Techo* (for intellectual), you can submit your disability certificate to receive tax deductions. You do not need to apply for this service.

※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:** Long-term Care Insurance Division ext. 2085, 3145

Under the Income Tax Act and the Local Tax Act, even if you have not been issued a disability certificate (physical or mental) or a medical care certificate, if you are certified to be a person with a disability, **you can receive a deduction for income tax and inhabitant tax as a "deduction for the disabled"**.

## ► 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.

### -National Pension Enrollment Notice-

If you have turned 20 years old, you will receive a "National Pension Enrollment Notice," "National Pension Enrollment and Premiums Guide (Pamphlet)," "National Pension Premium Payment Form," etc. from the Japan Pension Service.

The "Pension Handbook," which will be sent to you separately, is necessary to confirm your premium payment and to receive your pension in the future. Please keep it in a safe place.

\*If you are enrolled in an employee pension insurance plan at your workplace, you will not be enrolled in the National Pension Plan.

\*If you are a dependent of your spouse (who is a member of the Employees' Pension Insurance or Mutual Aid Association) when you turn 20, please contact your spouse's workplace and apply for the National Pension Plan Category 3.

### -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.

However, please note that if you do not follow the necessary procedures and leave your insurance premiums unpaid, you may not be able to receive these pensions.

#### ★If you are financially unable to pay your insurance premiums

There is an exemption system, a grace period system, and a special payment system for students. Please contact below for details.

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

**Shimin Ka** (市民課 Residential Division) Ext. 2133/ 2134



## ► Subsidy to promote replacement of energy-saving home appliances

Due to reduce the economic burden on citizens of the rising price of crude oil by Covid-19 supporting the purchase of energy-efficient home appliances



**Grant Amount:** ¥30,000 MAX (depends on purchase amount)

**Apply period:** 4th Jan2023 to 28 Feb 2023

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



## 46th Okinawa City Industry Festival

Date & Time:

**January 28 (Sat)**

10:00-18:00

**January 29 (Sun)**

10:00-17:00

Venue: **Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park**

**Dance Performance, food trucks & more.**

Shuttle bus from Rycome mall starts at 10:00 AM

Okinawa City Hall will be **Closed** on **January 2nd (Mon)** **3rd (Tue)** & **January 9 (Mon)** for a Coming-of-Age Day as Japanese holiday.

## New Year's Greetings in Japanese -A Happy New Year!

新年 あけまして おめでとう ございます (Shin-nen Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu)



### ► Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Adult Diapers おむつ代の医療費控除事項証明書

If you are bedridden and are certified as "long-term-care-need" in Okinawa City, you may be able to get this tax deduction certificate for medical expenses spent on adult diapers issued 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.

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

### ► Announcement from the Okinawa Tax Office: Tax Filing on website!

For this year's tax return, please visit the National Tax Agency website :

If at all possible, please file your tax return through the National Tax Agency's website. Use website for your convenience.

Recommend for : if you would like to tax deduction claim because medical expense, or Furusato Nouzei (ふるさと納税) & if you have quick questions before you tax claim.

**Contact:** Okinawa Tax Office 098-938-0031



確定申告特集 国税庁HP

National Tax Agency Homepage



AIに質問



Q&A

For Questions

### ► Free Flu shots for the elderly people

**Eligibility:** people who 65 of age over. You'll receive the list of the designated clinic by mail.

**Eligible Vaccine:** Influenza vaccine

You will make an appointment at designated medical facilities on the list.

\*Please contact below for more details or call for re-issue or questions.

**Location:** Designated medical facilities

**Period:** 28 Feb 2023

**Cost:** Free (Covered by government) one time only.

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

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

### ► Get Your Health Checkup Every Year !

Do not miss this chance!

The Public Health Check-up in FY2022 Requires

#### Reservation

(Reservation accepted at first come first serve bases)

Reservation Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-17:00

\*Except for weekends and Japanese Holidays.

**Contact for Reservation:** Shimin Kenko Ka

(Residents Health Division) Ext.2245/2246

If you want to get the checkup individually at the hospital, the list of medical facility which you can use the coupon is enclosed as a checkup guide.

Date		Time	Venue
Jan	14 Sat	8am to 10:30am	Okinawa City Hall
	15 Sun	8am to 10:30am 1pm to 2pm	
	25 Wed	8am to 10:30am	Kariyushi En
Feb	2 Thu	8am to 10:30am	Kariyushi En
	15 Wed	8am to 10:30am	Okinawa City Gym
	16 Thu	8am to 10:30am	

### ► People who has not completed COVID-19 Vaccination

Period: By March 31st 2023

Omicron strain compatible vaccination (BA.1) is available for one time per person now.

Contact us below.

**Call Center: 098-923-2401 / 8:30-17:00 (Mon-Sat)**

\*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.



### ► Exemption From Basic Water Charges 水道料金基本料金免除

In order to support the lives of citizens suffering from the covid-19, all households and businesses that have a contract with the Okinawa City Waterworks Bureau will be exempted from the basic water rates for December 2022 through February 2023(billed in January through March).\* Except for government offices.

No formalities are required.

However, sewerage usage fees will be charged as usual.

#### For contractors who own apartment buildings :

Please waive the basic water charge for three months for tenants of the apartment complexes applying for the Union. We appreciate your cooperation.

Also, in the case of apartment complexes where a single meter from the Waterworks Bureau supplies water to multiple households, you may be able to get a discount on your water bill if you apply for federation. Please contact us for details.

**Contact:** Okinawa City Waterworks Bureau

TEL: 098-937-3637



### This Month's KANJI 新年-Shin nen

新...Shin /Atara (new) 年...Nen /Toshi (Year)

Example: Atara shii ie

新しい家 (New House) /新しい仕事 (New Job)

Atara shii shigoto

▶ **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.

▶ **"FY2022 Temporary Special Benefits for Low Income Households Raising Children in Okinawa City"**

**-For Those Who Need to Apply-**

低所得の子育て世帯生活支援特別給付金を受給されていない方へ



**Eligibility** Those who apply to the following categories are required to apply.

**Not single parents households**

- (1) Public servants who are receiving child allowance for April 2022 & Households Exempt From Residential tax.
- (2) Parents or guardians who are raising only high school students and whose Exempt From Residential tax.
- (3) Those who are decreasing income due to Covid19 and income level equal to households Exempt from residential tax.

**Single Parents households**

- (1) The person who can not receive the child allowance 2022 due to receiving the other public assistance.
- (2) Households which income of all family members has decreased due to unexpected reasons in 2022(家計急変) and the income level is equally to the households exempt from residential tax.

**How to apply:** By mail (please use the enclosed return envelope for the application form)

**Application must be postmarked by Mon, Feb. 28, 2023.**

**Contact:** Children's Welfare Division (Ext.3192/3194)

▶ **Have You Applied For "The electric power and gas food price are soaring urgent support benefit money ?" (50,000yen per household)**

【電力・ガス・食料品等価格高騰緊急支援給付金】

**【Eligibility】**

**Households in which ① all members of the household are exempt from resident tax on a per capita basis for the FY 2022 or ② income of all family members has decreased due to unexpected reasons.**

① The "Confirmation of Requirements for Provision of Temporary Special Benefits for Households Exempt from Residential Taxation, etc. was mailed to households in which all members of the household are exempt from resident tax on a per capita basis. Please fill out the form and return it to us. For those households whose tax status cannot be determined, such as those who moved to Okinawa City, you need to apply by Application Form

② Households which income of all family members has decreased due to unexpected reasons in 2022(家計急変). Please fill out the application form with required documentation and mail it to us.

**Where you can get application :** Okinawa City Hall 5F or Okinawa City website.

**Application Deadline!! Jan 31 (Tue), 2023**

(Closed on weekends and Japanese holidays)

**Contact:** Temporary Special Benefit Section

**098-923-0206 Mon-Fri Hours: 08:30-17:15**

(Closed on weekends and Japanese holidays)

Or Visit 非課税世帯給付金担当 5F, Okinawa City Hall



▶ **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 outdoors, please make sure you protect yourself by wearing a face mask or by staying inside unless it's necessary and urgent to go out.

Okinawa Kankyobu Kankyo Hozenka 098-866-2236



▶ **Individual Number Cards Will be Issued on the Weekend & Night Hours Shown Below**

In addition to weekdays, the City Residential Division will be open on the following date to issue individual number cards.

**Night Hours Jan 11 (Wed), 18 (Wed), 25 (Wed) 17:15-19:30**

**Weekends Jan 7 (Sat), 8 (Sun), 28(Sat) 9:00-11:30**

\*Available only in the morning.

**Where:** City Residential Division My-number counter, Okinawa City Hall 1F Ext.3128

**Okinawa City Library will be closed from 23 Jan 2023 ~ 9 March 2023**

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

**Days Closed:** 1 - 3 (Sun-Tue) for New Year's Holiday, 9 (Mon: Coming of Age Day), 10 (Tue: makeup holiday), 16 (Mon). By 31st Jan (Tue) for homepage users.

※Up to 20 books per person from 11 Jan 2023 to 22 Jan 2023. Returning items on March.

**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:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka  
**沖縄市役所 文化芸能課 (B1)**

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa  
Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 923-3485

Visit our website NOW!



**Koza International Plaza**

2-7-20 Sumiyoshi, Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: [kipokinawa@gmail.com](mailto:kipokinawa@gmail.com)

**Mon-Fri** :10:00-19:00/ **Sat** :10:00~ 17:00

\*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ociakip>

**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)

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