



OKINAWA CITY

Newsletter

January 2021

Vol. 21 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.

I would like to wish all of you a glorious new year.

Last year, our society and economy were hit hard by COVID-19 infection, and our lives were forced to change in many ways. In this new lifestyle, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the citizens of Okinawa City for your understanding and cooperation in preventing the spread of infection, as well as your encouragement in many areas.

Without fear of change, the city will continue to promote awareness and take measures to prevent the spread of the disease and to restore socioeconomic activities more strongly.

Based on the basic plan for the first half of the "Fifth Okinawa City Comprehensive Plan", which will be launched in 2021, we will implement major projects and other measures to create a city that continues to grow.

This year, the long-awaited "Okinawa Arena" will finally be completed and unveiled to the citizens and residents of the prefecture. We are convinced that the enthusiasm of the Okinawa Arena, involving various industries, will be the catalyst to revitalize the whole Okinawa Prefecture.

The "Motor Sports Multi-Field Okinawa," which is scheduled to be completed this year, is attracting attention as facility that can be used for a wide range of purposes, and people from all walks of life are looking forward to the realization of the "Okinawa Circuit (tentative name)" in the future, which will lead to the impulsion of stay-and-play tourism and industrial promotion.

Following the opening of the New Bear House area, Okinawa Zoo & Museum is currently developing the Crocodile House area this year, and we hope that visitors will experience the evolution of Okinawa Zoo & Museum one after another.

In 2021, the Okinawa City Child Development Support Center and the After-School Children's Club in Goeku Elementary School will be opened for shared use, with the aim of supporting the healthy growth of children and creating a community where it is easy to raise children.

Our city has the potential to not only revitalize the local area, but also to drive the economy and industry of our prefecture. At the town meeting held last year, we heard various opinions and suggestions from citizens who love their hometowns and communities, and we will continue to work on various measures to realize a strong Okinawa City by taking these thoughts into consideration and aiming for a higher level.

We would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation in our efforts towards this new and brilliant year, 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



Total Population: 142,973

[Japanese Population] Male: 68,353 Female: 72,775

[Foreign Population (59 Countries)] Male: 1,159 Female: 686



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. 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

▶ Sukusuku-Support Benefit for Households with New-Born Babies

In order to provide financial support to households raising children, benefits (100,000 yen per eligible baby) are provided to families with babies born between April 28, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Eligibility: Babies born between April 28, 2020 and March 31, 2021, are registered as Okinawa City citizens, and also their mother / father must be continuously registered as an Okinawa City citizen from April 27, 2020 up to the time of application of this benefit.

▶ Kodomo-Oen Benefit for Household with High School Children

In order to provide financial support to households raising children, benefits (10,000 yen per eligible child) will be provided to children who have reached the age of second or third grade in high school by March 2021.

Eligibility: Children born between April 2, 2002 and April 1, 2004 and are also continuously registered as Okinawa City citizens from April 1, 2020 up to the time of application of this benefit.

Contact: *Kodomo Kikaku Ka* Ext.3404

▶ 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 are approved as “a person equivalent to”, you can get a deduction from 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 2021.

If you are categorized under level 4-13 (person who are taxed for resident tax in 2020), 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.

※If you already have a 障害者手帳 (for physical/mental) or 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”)

-Applicant's 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, 3145

▶ 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.

-A Big Support in the Future-

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.

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 have difficulty making premium payment:

You can apply for “Exemption (full/ partial)/ Contribution Postponement” or “Special Payment System for Students”. Please contact Residential Division for more information.

*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.



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

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).

*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

▶ Financial Aid Project For Higher Skills Training

(高等職業訓練促進給付金)

This program supports single parent households and will provide financial aid for a certain period to approved applicants who will be studying at a training institution for more than a year to acquire advantageous licenses to find employment (e.g. **nurse, child care provider, physical therapist, work therapist, beautician, welfare official, Dental Hygienist, Confectionary Hygiene Master** etc.).

Eligibility: Single parents who are currently living in Okinawa City and also satisfy all the requirements listed below:

- ① You are a recipient of Child Rearing Allowance for Single Parents (*jidofuyoteate*), or your amount of income meets the standard requirement to receive an allowance.
- ② You have been studying at a training institution for more than a year and are expected to acquire some form of qualification from the training.
- ③ It is recognized that you are having difficulty balancing work, child-raising, and your training.
- ④ You have never received this benefit before.
- ⑤ You are not currently receiving benefits similar to this one.

*All the applications will be reviewed to receive the benefit. Please visit us for consultation if you are already under training or will start training.

Application Period: Until March 31 (Wed)

Contact: *Kodomo Katei Ka* (Children’s Welfare Division)
Ext. 3196, 3197

▶ Taxi Tickets Will be Mailed to Your Resident

Taxi tickets will be mailed to your resident if you apply to the conditions below:

1. Household with only the elderly aged 65 and older.
2. Household with disabled member holding physical/intellectual/psychiatric disability certificate.
3. Household with pregnant mother holding a child & mother’s health record Book.
4. Household with babies under 1 y/o.

How Much? :560 yen × 10 tickets per household

When Are They Mailed?: End of December. You can use them as soon as you receive them.

Tickets are Valid: Until February 28, 2021

How to Use: You can use the tickets when you use the designated taxi listed below. Give the tickets to pay the fee.

* Please note that you cannot get change from tickets.

Contact: Enterprise Attraction Division(企業誘致課)
Ext. 3242/3243

List of Taxi Company

Name of Company	TEL	Name of Company	TEL
Ageda Kotsu	0120-893-930	Toho Taxi	0120-36-9494
Okinawa Chubu Private Taxi Association	098-929-1818	Towa Taxi	098-937-6543
Orion Daiichi Kotsu	0120-780-124	Fiji Taxi	098-933-9933
Koyo Taxi	098-930-1414	Mikoshi Taxi	0120-394-354
Sankei Taxi	0120-66-1537	Mihama Taxi	0120-893-930
Toshima Taxi	0120-49-1414	Myoho Taxi	0120-47-2394

▶ Free Cooking Class

<Let’s Cook Lunch Together!>

Date & Time: **February 11, 2021 (Thu) 10:00-12:00**

Venue: Okinawa City Social Welfare Center

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

Capacity: 6

Application Deadline: **January 27 (Wed) 15:00**

Fees for Classes: Free

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

*The content may be changed or cancelled depending on the spread of COVID-19 infection.

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

▶ FY 2020 Health Check-up Schedule

[Reservation Required]

Please note that all scheduled check-ups on the list require reservation by phone to limit the number of recipients in order to prevent COVID-19 transmission risks due to closed/crowded/close-contact environment.

<Address for the venue>

Okinawa City Hall: 26-1 Nakasone-cho, Okinawa City

Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center: 1-11-25 Awase, Okinawa City

*The check-up is also available at medical facilities individually.

Reservation: Residents Health Division TEL: 098-939-3126

FY 2020 Health Check-up Schedule

Date	Sign-in Time	Venue
Jan. 16 (Sat)	8:00-10:30 & 13:00-14:00	Okinawa City Hall
25 (Mon)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
26 (Tue)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
Feb. 4 (Thu)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
6 (Sat)	8:00-10:30 & 13:00-14:00	Okinawa City Hall
12 (Fri)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
14 (Sun)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
28 (Sun)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
Mar. 2 (Tue)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center
7 (Sun)	8:00-10:30	Okinawa City Sangyo Koryu Center

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:**

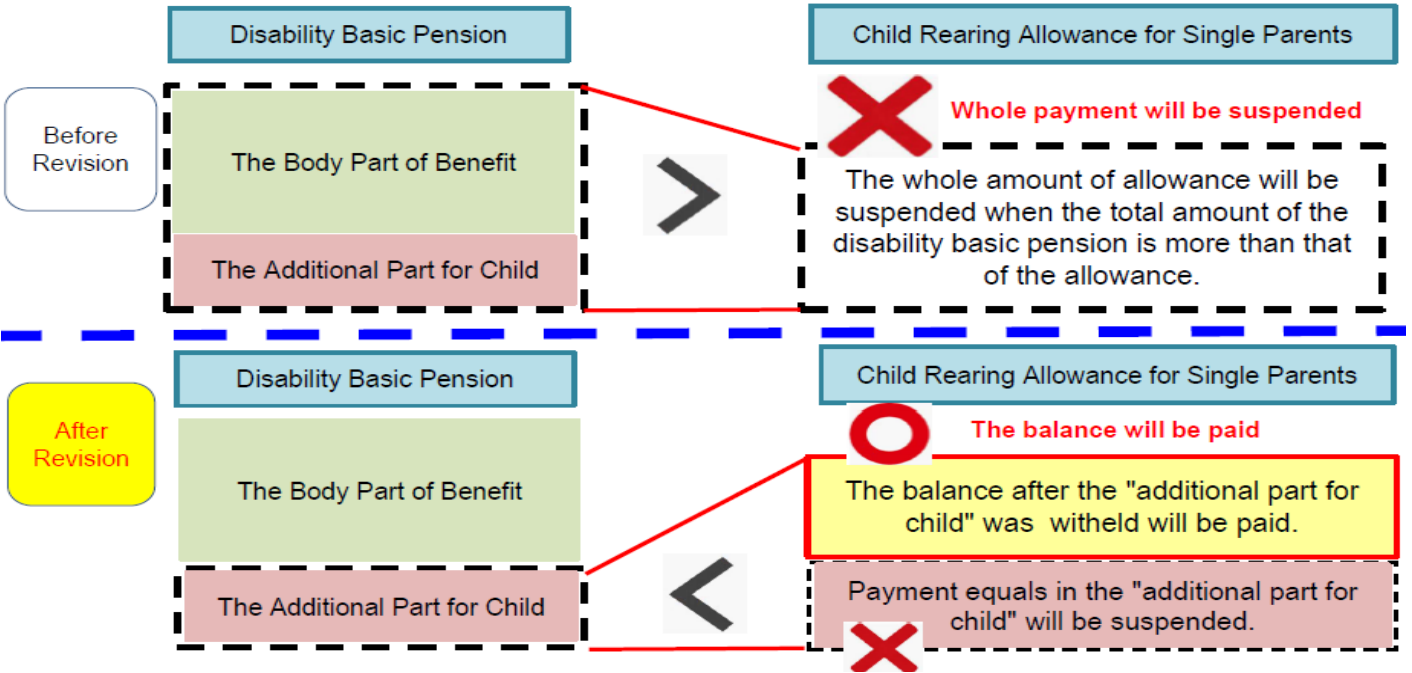
January is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

**Residential Tax (4th term)/Long-term Care Insurance Premium (8th term)/National Health Insurance Premium (7th term)/
Medical Care for the Elderly Insurance Premium (7th term).** If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on **February 1**. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **Announcement: For Single Parents Who Receive Disability Basic Pension**

It will be possible to receive part of the Child Rearing Allowance for Single Parents (CRASP) even if you receive the Disability Basic Pension (DBP).

Until now, if the total amount of the DBP exceeds the total amount of the CRASP, the CRASP could not be received. However, from March 2021, if the total amount of the CRASP is higher than the "additional portion for child", not the total amount of the DBP, the difference between the total amount of the CRASP and the amount equivalent to the "additional portion for children" can be received as the CRASP.



Limitation of Payment

The amount of the CRASP may be restricted according to the income of the recipient and the person who is responsible for the support of the recipient (such as the grandparents of the child) in the previous year, but from March 2021, disability pension, survivor's pension, worker's accident pension, and survivor's compensation will be included in the "income" calculation.

How to Receive The Benefits

If you are not currently certified as a recipient of Child Rearing Allowance for Single Parents, you need to apply to the Children's Welfare Division. It is also possible to apply in advance before March 2021.

For details, please contact the Children's Welfare Division.

Contact: *Kodomo Katei Ka* こども家庭課 (Children's Welfare Division) Ext. 3915/3196/3197

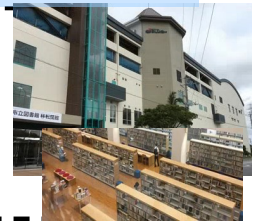
Okinawa City Library News

Book Readings & Hand Games: Saturdays, January 9, 16 & 23 starting at 3:00 pm.

Days Closed: 1 - 4 (Fri-Mon) for New Year's Holiday, 11 (Mon: Coming of Age Day), 12 (Tue: makeup holiday), 18 (Mon), 25 (Mon), and 28 (Thu: inspection).

※Up to 20 books per person.

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



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You can also visit, call or fax us at:

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