



OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2025 Vol. 25 No. 1

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

New Year's Greeting From Deputy Mayor of Okinawa City

Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City.

Okinawa City, a Dynamic City

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City.

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you are having a glorious new year.

Last year, Okinawa City celebrated a major milestone, the 50th anniversary of its municipal organization. The commemorative special feature article in "PR Okinawa," wrapping of the city's buses, and a special exhibition at "Histree" were used to introduce and publicize the magazine's history and boost its fortunes. Also, The "Okinawa All-Island Eisa Festival" and "Shionomori Beach Festa" with special events, including the addition of lyrics to the Okinawa City Song from the public, Carp and the Yomiuri Giants at the Koza Shinkin Stadium, "NHK Karaoke Nodojiman Show", "TV Tokyo Open The Price Show in Okinawa City", 'Sumo Matching in Okinawa', and many other commemorative events were held with the cooperation of many people. With all these, I am very happy that we were able to celebrate with the citizens of Okinawa. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued trust, expectations, and support in all aspects of our city government in the half-century since its birth.

In addition, last year marked the 50th anniversary of our brother city affiliation with Toyonaka City, Osaka Prefecture, the 30th anniversary of our sister city affiliation with Yonezawa City, Yamagata Prefecture, and the 15th anniversary of our sister city affiliation with Tokai City, Aichi Prefecture, and we were able to enjoy the bonds of friendship we have fostered through our extensive exchange.

In Okinawa Zoo & Museum, the "Night Zoo" was fully opened, admission was made free for children 15 years old and younger, the "Child Family Center" was established, and the "Child Family Support Center" was opened at Misato Jido En, and learning support for needy households was expanded.

In FY2025, we plan to launch the "Multi-Layered Support System Improvement Project," for which we have been making preparations with citizens, related organizations, and private groups, as well as open the "Kitami Children's Center (tentative name)," a children's center in the Misato Junior High School District. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 40th anniversary of our city's "Peace City Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons," and we hope that all citizens will renew their commitment to peace.

At the beginning of last year, a massive earthquake hit the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, and even now, the hard work of reconstruction continues. This event made us aware of the need to further strengthen our measures to protect the safety and security of our citizens. As we enter a new year, we will work together as a team to steadily and step by step promote various measures this year so that all citizens can live comfortably and in their own way while drawing bright hopes for the future. I would like to ask for the continued support and cooperation of our citizens. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

January 1, 2025

Duty Agent for Mayor of Okinawa City

Tsugumi Hirata, Deputy Mayor of Okinawa City



Total Population: 141,845

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,519 Female: 72,059

[Foreign Population (62 Countries)] Male: 1,336 Female: 929



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 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/ link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

Administrative Events & Announcements

► New 20-year-old Citizens! You Have Reached the Age to Join the National Pension System

20歳になったら国民年金

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
(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

► Certification Of Tax Deduction For Those With A Disability

障害者控除認定書の交付

If you are at least 65 years old and certified that as having a certain level of physical disability or dementia, you may be approved to receive a 障害者控除対象者認定書 (tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability). This certificate will allow you to claim a deduction during the income tax filing process in 2024.

Sending a Tax Deduction Certificate: To avoid congestion at the counter, a "Tax Deduction Certificate for Persons With a Disability" will be mailed to eligible individuals in late January.

Eligibility: Those who are categorized under level 4 to 13 (person taxed for resident tax in 2024) in the income category for long-term care insurance premiums will have the certificate mailed in late January.

For others, or those needing the certificate for taxes filing, please visit the *Kaigo Hoken Ka* (Nursing Care Insurance Division) window for assistance. Applications can be submitted starting January 6, 2025.

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

*If someone other than the applicant or their behalf, a Power of Attorney will be required. Application forms are available at the service counter.

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

※If someone outside your family is applying on your behalf, a Power of Attorney is mandatory.

(Please obtain the necessary application form from the division in charge.)

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division Ext. 2085, 3145

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

Okinawa City Hall will be **Closed** on **January 13 (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)



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

マイナンバーカードの休日及び平日夜間交付

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

Night Hours Jan 8.15.22.29 (Wed). 17:15-19:30

Weekends Jan 25 (Sat) 9:00-11:30

*Available only in the morning.

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

► You can apply Individual Number Cards at your local community association.

マイナンバーカード出張申請受付

(Please apply with Japanese speaker)

You can apply for a My Number card at your local community association, etc.

*City Hall is the place to receive your My Number Card after you have applied for it.

Jan 18 (Sat) Goeku Community Association

(越来自治会・Goeku Jichikai)

Time: 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Jan 25 (Sat) 26 (Sun) Industrial Festival

Time: 10:00 am to 17:00 pm.

Eligibility:

For residents of Okinawa who have never had their My Number Card made.

City Residential Division My-number Project team,

Ext.5202,5203

► Expansion of Eligible Age Under the Medical Care Support for Children

こども医療の年齢拡大

The eligible age under the Medical Care Support for Children will be expanded to the end of the fiscal year of 18 years old (until the first March 31st after the child's 18th birthday), starting with medical examinations in April 2025. We have sent the notification letter for those who need to apply.

Eligibility: Born between April 2, 2007 - April 1, 2009

Application Deadline: Application form must be completed and returned by Friday, February 28, 2025.

※Children between the ages of 0 and junior high school who are currently receiving benefits do not need to apply.

※New beneficiary cards will be sent to applicants and current beneficiaries in late March.

Contact: Children's Welfare Division (Ext. 2124/2125)

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)



► Reserve Your Spot For group medical Health Checkup !

市民集団健診は予約制です。

Do not miss this chance!

The group public health check-up requires

Reservation.

Contact for Reservation: Shimin Kenko Ka Ext 2246

► " Long -Term Care Insurance Premium Payment Notification " Will be Sent to You

介護保険料支払済通知書の交付

Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums Payment Notification (介護健康保険料支払済通知書) is sent to notify the amount of Long-Term Care Insurance premiums you paid from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

The notification will be mailed to the general collection (those who paid by account transfer, payment slip) in the late January.

The amount of National Health Insurance Premiums Payment can be reported as a deduction for social insurance premiums on your tax return FY2024 . Please use it as a reference.

If you are in a hurry, you can apply at the counter.

Required documents are identification, a power of attorney is required for applications by anyone other than the applicant or a relative in the same household.

The issuance fee (200 yen) is charged per a copy of the certificate.

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division Ext. 3146/3147

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

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 **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

おむつ代の医療費控除事項証明書

If you are bedridden and certified as being in “long-term-care-need” in Okinawa City, you may be able to eligible to obtain in a tax deduction certificate for medical expenses incurred on adult diapers. Certificates can be issued at the city hall.

Eligibility:

1. You must be certified in Okinawa City as being in “long-term-care need”. The certification period must include the days you used the diaper or when the doctor’s statement was issued within the same year.
2. You must have been certified as being “long-term-care need” for over 6 months continuously.
3. You must provide a doctor’s statement indicating “Bedridden Level B1~C2” and “Possibility of Incontinence.”

NOTE: If you do not meet the above criteria but would still like to apply, please contact the Nursing Care Insurance Division for assistance. **(Please attend with A Japanese Speaker)**

Call more details Contact: Kaigo Hoken Ka 介護保険課 (Nursing Care Insurance Division) Ext. 3170,3167

**▶ Filing Depreciable Assets
for the FY 2025**

令和7年度償却資産申告

This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2025 (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).

Assets To File:

- Assets acquired/ lost between 01/02/2024~ 01/01/2025
- Assets acquired before 01/01/2024 that you currently own.

Reductions for Solar Power Generators, etc.

Solar power generators, or assets acquired by 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).

Application Period: 6 January (Mon) to 31st (Fri) 2025.
(Must be completed during those days: weekdays only)

Time: ①8:30am ~ 12:00pm(noon) ②1:00pm ~ 5:00 pm.

Place: Okinawa City hall 2F Shisan Zei Ka
Property Tax Division Ext. 2252/2253

(Please attend with A Japanese Speaker)

**▶ High-cost Nursing Care Service Loaning
System 高額介護サービス費等資金貸付制度**

This system provides loans to those who are eligible for high-cost nursing care service expenses coverage and have difficulty paying the nursing care service expenses until they receive the payment.

Eligibility:

Insured by Okinawa City's long-term care insurance

The applicant must be expected to receive high-cost nursing care (preventive) service expenses.

Must complete payment of long-term care insurance premiums

The amount the user pays exceeding the following amounts

For taxable households, the maximum amount of user fees plus 7,000 yen

For tax-exempt households, the maximum amount of user fees plus 4,000 yen

Conditions for Loaning

Interest on Loans...interest free

Redemption Method: Lump-sum redemption of the entire loan amount; however, all or part of the loan amount may be redeemed in advance.

Reimbursement Deadline...Within 15 days from the date of receipt of high-cost nursing care (prevention) service payment.

Note: Please contact the section in charge for the required documents and application procedures.

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division (Ext. 2085/3145)

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

Okinawa City Library News

Book Readings & Hand Games: Saturdays, January 11, 18 & 25 starting at 3:00 pm.

Days Closed: December 28 (Sat) through January 3 (Fri) for New Year's Holiday, Address: 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City BC KOZA (Old Korinza Mall) (1F) TEL: 098-929-4919



Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you? Let us know!

Email: 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**

4-1-3 Chuo, Nankai Product Building

1st Floor Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: kipokinawa@gmail.com

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

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.



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

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