

GINOWAN CITY

NEWSLETTER

📍 1-1-1 Nodake, Ginowan City | 📞 098-893-4411 | 🌐 @ginowancity.multilingual | Issue 75

WATER SHORTAGE



Okinawa is currently experiencing its worst drought in 10 years. This is due to low rainfall since September 2023. If the drought worsens and water supply continues to dip, **the government will consider imposing restrictions to limit water use.** Let's do our part to **conserve water now.**

WHAT CAN WE DO?



Toilet levers are marked with 小 (small) and 大 (big). Using 小 (small) flush instead of a 大 (big) flush...
can save 2L more water per flush!



Combining smaller wash loads into one...
can save up to 150L of water per load!



Cutting your shower by just 1 minute...
can save up to 12L of water!



When brushing your teeth, for every minute you turn off the tap...
you can save up to 6L of water!



When washing dishes, for every minute you turn off the tap...
you can save 12L of water!



Skip the automatic car wash, hand wash instead!

PHASE II OF MR (MEASLES & RUBELLA) VACCINATION



Children who have reached the age to receive phase II of the MR vaccine should do so before March 31 (Sunday) or risk losing their eligibility to get vaccinated for free. Currently, 373 eligible children remain unvaccinated.

If your child has reached the eligible age group but have not yet been vaccinated, please bring your Mother and Child Handbook and pre-vaccination questionnaire to a designated hospital as soon as possible. The city has already mailed out the pre-vaccination questionnaire in the mail earlier this fiscal year. For more information, please contact the Health Promotion Division at 098-898-5596.

SUBSIDY FOR SMALL-MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES

The city will provide a subsidy to local small and medium sized businesses to counter **energy price hikes.**

▶ Eligibility criteria

1. A corporation or small business that operated in the city as of July 1, 2023 and who continues to operate in the city as of the day of application for this subsidy.
 - Those who are freelancing and do not own/rent a property to do business must have an address in Ginowan City in order to be considered eligible.
2. The business will continue to operate
3. Affected by energy price hikes, the accumulated total of energy and utility costs incurred between 01-JUL-2023 and 31-DEC-2023 exceeds 50,000 yen for corporations or 30,000 yen for small businesses.

*See our website for more details →



▶ Subsidy amount

- Corporations: ¥50,000; Small businesses: ¥30,000

▶ Expenses covered

- Energy: gasoline, diesel, heavy oil, etc.
- Utility: electricity, gas, kerosene

▶ How to apply *Forms downloadable from our website.

Mail the following documents to the Ginowan City Society of Commerce and Industry.

- ① Application form
- ② Agreement form
- ③ Document proving the applicant operates their business in the city
- ④ ID
- ⑤ Copy of bank book (cover and first page)

▶ Application deadline

April 1, 2024 - June 28, 2024

*May change depending on the progress of the subsidy program.

Ginowan City Society of Commerce and Industry

📞 098-897-0111

📍 1-11-11 Mashiki, Ginowan City 901-2224

SCHOOL UNIFORM HAND-ME-DOWN PROJECT



Has your child grown out of their school uniforms? Don't throw them away just yet, donate them to children in need!

The city's school uniform recycling program is managed by the Welfare General Affairs Division and was created to support children in the community. Your donation will help families struggling financially and teach children about the importance of valuing the things we have.

We are looking for donations of:

- Municipal elementary or jr. high uniforms and PE uniforms
- Municipal jr. high tracksuits
- Elementary school uniforms

*Please clean the uniforms before donating.

If you would like to DONATE or RECEIVE a donation, please call us!

TEL 098-893-4411 (ext. 3133)

HELP PREVENT FIRES AT THE WASTE PROCESSING PLANT

Help us prevent fires at Ginowan City's waste processing plant, the Kurahama Sanitary Facilities Association, by separating your trash properly!

• **Rechargeable batteries such as lithium-ion batteries marked with a recycling symbol** and **button-cell batteries** should be taken to a **collection box** (found at any recycling partner retailer)



- **Lighters** are considered **harmful waste**
- **Spray bottles** and **gas canisters** should be emptied and thrown out as **recyclables**

If you have any questions, please call Environmental Affairs Division at 098-893-4140.

APPLICATION BEGINS APRIL 1 FOR FY2024 NATIONAL PENSION SPECIAL PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS

All residents of Japan over 20 years of age regardless of nationality are required to enroll in pension and make contributions. However, students can apply to have their payments deferred if their income from last year falls below the income cap calculate below. This is known as the Special Payment System for Students.

The income cap can be calculated as follows:

- 1,280,000 yen + (number of dependents X 380,000 yen)

▶ Who's eligible for the Special Payment System for Students?

Students currently enrolled in a university, graduate school, junior college, high school, vocational school, and other schools where the period of study is longer than one year.

*The school must be in the Japan Pension Service's list of designated educational institutions.

▶ What documents are required for the application?

1. Application form (available at the city office)
2. ID
3. Student ID (copies are accepted - if the expiry date is on the underside of the card, please provide a copy of both the front and back of the card) OR a letter of enrollment (must be original)

*Those who resigned or was dismissed from their job may be asked to provide additional documents.

*A letter of authorization is required in order to apply on behalf of an individual who belongs to another household.

▶ Application period

An application can be submitted retroactively going back two years and one month.

▶ Regarding the period of time under the Special Payment System for Students

1. This period will be counted as a period of premiums paid for the Old Age Basic Pension. However, the amount of pension that this individual can receive will be less than individuals who have made full payment.
2. This period will be counted as a period of premiums paid for the Disability Basic Pension and Pension for the Bereaved with the exception of if the application for the Special Payment System for Students was submitted late.
3. You may choose to make payment for this grace period retroactively within 10 years. However, if the premiums are to be paid after the third fiscal year following the approved period, an additional amount will be added to the premiums according to the elapsed period.

▶ If you received approval in FY2023 (Reiwa 5) and will continue to be a student FY2024 (Reiwa 6)

The Japan Pension Service will mail you a postcard titled “学生納付特例申請書” (Application form for the Special Payment System for Students) in late March. You can file an application for FY2024 using this form. Once completed, please put the postcard in a postbox nearest you.

*Depending on when you submitted the application for FY2023, it is not guaranteed that you will receive this postcard. If you do not receive a postcard, please submit a separate application.

Applications can also be filed through Myna Portal using your My Number Card!

For more information, please visit the Japan Pension Service website (<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/international/index.html>) or contact us Resident Affairs Division at 098-893-4411 ext. 2763 and 2764.

