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From Edo to Present; Incessant Transformations of Sakurajosui



Sakurajosui station / Photo by Moriyoshi Tokuni

Sakurajosui is located on the border of Suginami Ward to the north and Setagaya Ward to the south. Sakurajosui Station is a very convenient station on the Keio Line where rapid and express trains stop, and it takes only about 15 minutes to Shinjuku. The station has been facing a serious problem that the railroad crossing does not open easily during rush hours. But Keio Corporation is now elevating the level of the station and it is said that the construction will be completed by 2030. The original name of the area is related to Tamagawa-Josui, which flows near Sakurajosui. The locals called the area "Sakurajosui" because the beautiful rows of cherry blossoms were once lined at the banks of Tamagawa Josui. Tamagawa Josui was a waterworks system built by Tokugawa Shoemon and Seiwemon brothers in 1653 during the early Edo period to alleviate the shortage of water. The system was constructed over a total length of 42.7 km between Hamura and Yotsuya on the Tama River with a height difference of 92.3 m. It took only 8 months to build. Although it is now culverted for about two kilometers, rows of cherry blossoms can still be seen.

In 1966, Kamikitazawa was

divided into two, and the eastern half was named Sakurajosui. Before the division, Kamikitazawa and Sakurajosui were a village called Kamikitazawa Village. Kamikitazawa is an old village, and the Shori Hachiman Shrine was built in 1026 during the Heian period and is probably the oldest Hachiman shrine in Setagaya Ward. Akatsutsumi Dori, which starts from York Mart to Hachimanyama Station has been called Kofuchu Dori since the Taika Reformation. Kofuchu Dori was an important road connecting Fuchu with Hitomi Kaido via Shimomotojuku Dori in Kitakarasuyama. This was the main road before the Koshu Kaido was completed in 1604 and the economy in the Yamaya area to the north of the village improved. Another ancient road, Takizaka Road split off a Y-shape and connected to the original Koshu Kaido at Takiizaka at the end of Senkawa River leading to Fuchu. This indicates that Kamikitazawa Village has been a major transportation hub since ancient times. It is also said to have been a good place to live because of its abundance of water and suitability for rice cultivation. Kamikitazawa was developed remarkably since

the Warring States Period. After the battle between the Takeda clan of Kai and the Odawara Hojo clan, the Suzuki clan who were warlords of the Hojo clan moved to Kamikitazawa and ruled it as their territory. After the fall of the Hojo clan, they returned to farming in the area and devoted themselves to the development of the region as the feudal lords of the area for generations. The residence of the Suzuki's was located near the current Midorigaoka Junior High School and Sanae Kindergarten, which is near Nihon University Sakuragaoka High School. The Sanae Kindergarten area is said to have been the front yard, and Midorigaoka Junior High School, the residence area. The approach to the site is along the road on the west side of Sanae Kindergarten, and there is a large thatched gate around the fence of Midorigaoka Junior High School, and the main house was located in the school yard. Unfortunately, no structures remain due to air raids and other reasons. But there remains a 390-year-old pine tree called "Brother Pine of the Edo Castle Surrounding Pine". As the name suggests, these are the same black pine saplings that were planted in Edo Castle as the pine fence.

Also, two large old trees with magnificent branches stand on the south side seemingly overhanging the road from the fence.

In the Meiji era (1868-1912), Kamikitazawa Village merged with Akatsutsumi and Matsubara to form Matsuzawa Village. At that time, there was a trend to build residential areas in the suburbs under the name of "Garden City". In Kamikitazawa, the number of residential areas increased rapidly.

Sakurajosui is one of the towns that students at Nihon University Sakuragaoka High School have a lot of ties with. However, if you think about it, it's likely that many of them don't know much about the town other than the route they take to school. Sakurajosui has developed through transportation, water flow, and Mr. Suzuki. It seems that there was a major move in April 2023 to elevate Sakura Josui Station. There are high expectations for future development.

By Shiori Saito, Sho Kanno,
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ENTERTAINER

Ease of living in Hachimanyama



Hachimanyama station
Photo by Ryoya Suda

Hachimanyama is a safe and very livable town. It is a quiet residential area, and there are many facilities for daily use such as nature, supermarkets, and restaurants.

Although Hachimanyama Station does not stop for express trains but only for local and rapid trains, it takes only 18 minutes to Shinjuku without transfer and 23 minutes to Shibuya with one transfer. It is convenient for commuting to work and school, so there are many students and families with children. The area

is safe because there are many residential areas and low-rise condominiums. The national highway is well maintained nearby. Various transportation options are available by car or bus, making it easy to travel. There are many kindergartens and parks bustling with people, probably because of the large number of people raising children. There are two police boxes within a 7-minute walking distance from the station, which is a good crime prevention measure. Last year's crime rate was overwhelmingly low at 0.46% in Setagaya Ward, where Mt. Hachiman is located. As compared to 0.64% in Tokyo's 23 wards, it indicates that the number of crimes is low. There are few bars and many streetlights so women and children can live safely.

Hachimanyama is also conveniently located with a variety of stores. Making it easy to shop. There are supermarkets on both the north and south sides of the station, which only a 2-minute walk are away making

shopping easy no matter which side of the station you live on. There's a supermarket directly connected to the station and 30 stores including clothing stores, bookstores and a 100-yen store are all available making it very convenient to stop by on the way home. In particular, the Keio Store Hachimanyama offers a wide selection of goods and is open relatively late from 10:00 to 23:30, making it possible to shop even late at night. Hachimanyama has a shopping street called Shofukukai Shopping Street, which is loved by many residents. The shopping street serves a major role in the local events.

Above all, Hachimanyama has a lot of nature. There are more than 10 parks in Hachimanyama where many children usually play and exercise. One particularly large park, Hachimanyama Park is next to Hachimanyama Kindergarten and has swings, bars, a netted sandbox, and a large playground complex. There are two slides, a net playground, a suspension bridge, and many

other athletic elements. This is a popular spot for children because they can exercise and play. If you go a little further south, there are several small parks, so you can visit several parks depending on the playground equipment.

In addition, Hachimanyama has set a goal of becoming "a town with a park-like environment surrounded by greenery and spaciousness," and is promoting the creation of a livable town by improving urban infrastructure such as roads, parks, and green spaces. Hachimanyama would be loved even more if it holds other events that attract many people.

Therefore because

Hachimanyama has enough commercial facilities, it is easy to live for people who have various needs. It's also safe town. Therefore, it can be said that Hachimanyama is a good place to live.

By Airi Wada, Maho Kawamoto,
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Chitose Karasuyama. Pioneer of Point-Card System in Japan

There are 13,408 shopping streets all over Japan but it is said that only 2% of all shopping streets all over Japan are thriving and the remaining 98% are in danger of decline. Actually, there is a shopping street in Chitose Karasuyama of Setagaya Ward is still bustling with people today despite the presence of commercial districts such as Shinjuku and Kichijoji in the vicinity. The shopping street called Ermor Karasuyama started in 1950 as a neighborhood shopping street for local residents, mainly selling fresh food, clothing and household goods. With the development of Chitose Karasuyama Station, the number of residents increased as more houses were built in the residential area and it developed into a community-type shopping street that attracted people from the surrounding area. The mascot characters of Erumor Karasuyama, Eru and Mo-ru were

designed from crows, according to the fact that Karasu(crows in Japanese) is in Chitose Karasuyama. Point-card system have long supported the prosperity of this shopping district. Although the point system in which one point is awarded for every 100 yen spent on purchases has now penetrated every store in Japan, It is said that the origin of such point-card system was actually born here in Chitose Karasuyama.

The point system in Chitose Karasuyama is very different from others. The points are added high value. People having the point card can use the accumulated points for shopping, movie and concert tickets, etc. They have a value comparable to cash and are circulated locally as a "second cash". In addition, people having this point card can earn points from same means. For example, no-wrap points, which are given for refusing getting plastic bag and wrappings,

plastic bottles points can be exchanged for 70 points per plastic bottles collection earned by putting empty plastic bottles into machines for plastic bottles. Volunteer points are also available for those who join in cleaning activities in shopping street every month. The advantage of this points is that people having it can save points through environmentally friendly activities. The Karasuyama Summer Festival, Chitokara Performance Carnival and Illumination Sale are the main annual events that have become established in this shopping district. In addition environmental improvement construction on the main shopping street completed in 2011 reduced the width of the road by 2 meters and widened the sidewalks. At the same time, the shopping street has been made barrier-free with a universal design that is easy on people with physical disabilities. The materials



Chitose Karasuyama's train crossing
Photo by Ai Ogata

used for the roads and sidewalks have been Ingenuity designed to repel water and prevent puddles. The surface temperature also drops about 15 degrees Celsius when water evaporates.

In addition to Ermor Karasuyama, Chitose Karasuyama has various other facilities such as entertainment facilities and restaurants. This town is probably still lively today.

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Koki Sudo and Takuto Morita

ENTERTAINER

Shimotakaido: The Commercial Hub of All Times

Shimotakaido has an area located in the valley of the Tama River. This area is known as one of the most popular areas in Tokyo because of its residential neighborhoods and easy access from central Tokyo. Many commercial facilities are clustered around Shimotakaido Station. For example, Shimotakaido Shopping Center is a large-scale commercial facility selling fresh food and daily necessities and many fashion items. There is also a 100-yen store, a drugstore, and a convenience store within a few minutes' walk from the station. Furthermore, you will find the Tama River Ryokuchi, a beautiful spot along the Tama River if you take the Keio Line from Shimotakaido Station. It is a vast park stretching along the banks of the Tama River, where you can enjoy nature with its seasonal flowers, trees, and birds. The Tama River Ryokuchi is a great place for sports. The Shimotakaido area is also well-known for its cultural facilities.

For example, the Tama Art Museum has hosted numerous art exhibitions and is well known to those interested in the arts. The Shimotakaido area will continue to be loved by many people as an attractive area with mixed of culture and nature.

Shimotakaido is an area with a long history and its origins can be traced back to many years ago. People began to live in this area in the early Edo period. Initially, a farming community and a local community was formed. Over time, Shimotakaido gradually became more urbanized and its commercial aspect was strengthened. Especially in the Meiji era, a shopping district was formed along with the development of the neighborhood and it brought new vitality to the local economy. Shimotakaido was also the scene of historical events. The area experienced a turbulent history during the Warring States Period and the turmoil at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Many buildings, temples, and shrines were constructed in the

area and many of which remain as testaments to its history. In the modern era, Shimotakaido developed as a highly convenient area close to the city center. With the development of the transportation network and the expansion of residential areas, many people came to live in this area. Local specialties and traditional events also took root in the area and deepening ties with local residents. During the Showa period, the area was developed as a residential area and commercial facilities and schools were built. The opening of Shimotakaido Station also contributed to the development of the area. During the postwar reconstruction period, new residences were built and a community was formed. In modern times, Shimotakaido has flourished as a residential area, shopping streets, parks, and schools becoming the community's distinctive features. The blend of modern life along with historical elements makes Shimotakaido an important place for local residents. The history

of Shimotakaido is rich and diverse and its progress has been accompanied by the development of the community. Through the efforts and cooperation of local residents, the historical value of the area will be preserved and will continue in the future.

The Keio Line is scheduled to be elevated in Shimotakaido as part of the construction between Sasazuka and Sengawa, and this will cause a change in the streetscape. Shimotakaido will become even more convenient and comfortable in the near future. We cannot take our eyes off the further development and growth of Shimotakaido.



Shimotakaido Kosyu Street
(<https://setagayadigitalmuseum.jp/collection/39489/detail/6143781/>)

By Yuma Omata, Kai Kikuchi,
Hiroki Kawamura, Ayato Yabuki
and Rimpei Shimoyama

Urban development in Kyodo



Odakyu Kyodo building and Kyodo Station
(<http://octadecyl.blog133.fc2.com/blog-entry-59.html>)

The Suzuran shopping street from "Honmachidori" to "Suzuran-dori" which intersects at Kyodo Station was called "Tosando" in old and ancient time and a major thoroughfare in Muromachi era. It is older than "Koshukaido" which is one of the "Gokaido" established by Tokugawa shogunate. In 1868, there were 32 houses in Kyodo, but even if it became 1920, there were only 76 houses. At that time, Kyodo was rural which is far from central Tokyo. It was unbelievable for locals to build a railroad.

In 1925, construction of

Odakyu line was started. Rail lines were constructed on fields, Station building and platform of Kyodo station was built. Trains depot which contain many trains were built next to kyodo station.

Odakyu did not sit idly by and developed residential areas along the line and sold houses. Around Kyodo Station, houses were built on Suzuran Street and other major streets. In addition, schools opened one after another. Nihon University Sakuragaoka High School (1950) is one of them. The construction of a succession of schools also improved public safety.

In 1960, at the beginning of the high growth period, the three-story Kyodo Store was built on the south side of Kyodo Station. This year marked the beginning of a new period of growth for Kyodo.

Kyodo, which was initially empty, was transformed by the opening of the railroad, the efforts

of local residents, and the changes of the times. The small population grew, and various buildings were erected in the empty town, which became Kyodo as we know it today.

Opening of the Odakyu Line and Kyodo Station.

On April 1, 1927, Kyodo Station opened with the establishing of the Odakyu Line. From early in the morning, the low-pitched motor sound of trains leaving the depot echoed throughout the area, and people watched with delight as the brand-new steel trains carrying passengers ran by.

When the Odakyu line first opened, Kyodo was a purely rural area. The train was running through the vast fields of rice paddies, as can be imagined from the landscape photographs taken at that time. The following photo was taken from looking toward Gotokuji Station. A house about 300 meters from Kyodo Station.

People at that time felt as if they had moved to the countryside far away from the city where they had lived until then.

At the time of the opening of the line, a direct train, equivalent to an express train, stopped at Kyodo. Kyodo was a predominantly rural station. However when it first opened, it was a rural station with few passengers, just like the others. In an old Odakyu newsletter, the following passage was introduced. There is a true story about a young man who was assigned to Kyodo Station and went there expecting to find a bustling town where express trains also stops. His mother scolded her son for what he had said, but when she went there herself, she found that her son was right and came back crying. The "direct" train did not stop at Kyodo in 1934.

By Hana Amemiya, Tomoya Mine,
Yuina Nakagawa and Kai Hasagawa

ENTERTAINER

Safety in Kamikitazawa



Kamikitazawa Station/Photo by Rio Nomiyama

Kamikitazawa located about 15 minutes by Keio Electric Railway from Shinjuku Station is said to be a safe town. That is understandable when looking at all aspects such as low crime, traffic safety, and disaster prevention efforts.

This report introduces how Kamikitazawa maintains its safety. First of all, the table 1. shows that Kamikitazawa has less crime.(The crime rate is defined as the number of crimes

divided by the population of the district.)While the total crime rate of Setagaya Ward as a whole is 0.09 percent, the area around Kamikitazawa Station is 0.04 percent, which is below the crime rate of Setagaya Ward as a whole.

This shows that residents can live with peace of mind. Another attraction of Kamikitazawa is that it is a quiet place where residents can get a sufficient quality sleep at night. In addition, there are many houses instead of apartments

but, it is close to the city center and convenient for commuting. For these reasons, it is a popular area among people with children. There are also many street lights in residential areas so residents can walk around the streets safely at night. Besides, people can live in Kamikitazawa with less anxiety even in the event of a disaster. This is because Setagaya Ward is said to have the second largest number of fields among Tokyo's 23 wards after Nerima Ward which is the first. Having fields near the houses can help people with many things. The merit about having fields is that there are only a few buildings in the field so people won't get crashed underneath the building when an earthquake occurs. Another upside is that there are pipe houses in the fields so that can protect people from winter cold, provide food in disasters and it has fire spread prevention effect if a fire breaks out. Therefore, there are many fields that have signs that say "Setagaya Sodachi" for children to temporarily evacuate and make themselves safe."Setagaya Sodachi" is not only for residents but also for everyone to use. Furthermore Kamikitazawa Kumin Center near the station is the place where people can stay during disasters. There are many bridges where people can stay in the event of a disaster so, people can rest at ease. Plus, the hazard map tells us that Kamikitazawa doesn't have many dangerous circumstances which happens after a disaster. From these passages, we can say Kamikitazawa is a wonderful place. While there are many security guarantees, some people are concerned about safety in

some areas. For example, the shopping district in front of the station is dotted with pubs, and the chaos caused by the drunk crowds. Additionally, many users of Kamikitazawa Station are troubled by the high number of bicycle thefts.

For that reason, residents need to be extremely careful when parking their bicycle near the station. However, since there's a police station near Kamikitazawa Station and patrols are carried out regularly, there's no risk that the public safety in Kamikitazawa will deteriorate dramatically. As you can see, there are some concerns about Kamikitazawa but on the other hand, there are many safety features that outweigh these. So, it can be said that it is a very livable city. There is no doubt that this quiet residential area will continue to remain secure and peaceful.

Number of Crimes near Kamikitazawa Station

Type of crime	Kami kitazawa station	Setagaya
Thug	0.00% (1 case)	0.01%
Violent criminal	0.03% (10 cases)	0.06%
intrusion robbery	0.01% (2 cases)	0.02%
Sum	0.04% (13 cases)	0.09%

Source:
https://sumika.live/column/chian/kami-kitazawa-eki/#index_id1

By Riichiro Tanaka,
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