



SAKURA TIMES

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Class 9

Residents-Friendly Town, Kyodo



Photo by Sora Azumaya



KYODO DOWNTOWN

Photo by RUA KATAGIRI

Many Japanese people have the impression that parts of Setagaya Ward in Tokyo, such as Seijo and Kyodo, are high-class residential areas where many wealthy people live. In fact, Kyodo is a popular town that has good access for commuting to work and school, and has two shopping

streets. Kyodo is located in Setagaya Ward, with an area of 0.996 square kilometers and a population of 19,469 people. The place name, Kyodo is written in two letters in Chinese characters. The character Kyo means a sutra, and Do means a hall of a temple. It is said that it was named Kyodo because Kyodo looked

like Kyoto.

It is one of the things that everyone is probably concerned about is the ease of living. Kyodo has become a comfortable area to live in. The reason for this is that there is a shopping street on the Tokyo University of Agriculture Daiichi High School side where there are entertainment facilities, and a shopping street on the Nihon University Sakuragaoka High School side where there are many supermarkets, etc. Also, there is an impressive little art on the stairs of Kyodo Corti. One of the features of this store is that it has chain stores that everyone knows about, as well as stationery and daily necessities that everyone uses frequently in their daily lives, making it easy for families and the elderly to shop. Even if you are busy with work, Ozeki is right next to Kyodo Corti, so you can stop by on your way home from work. There are also many

supermarkets and schools, so it can meet the needs of families, couples, and those living alone. In addition, although there are many crimes such as bicycle theft and shoplifting at Kyodo Station, the overall crime rate for murder, molestation, burglary, and violent crime is low, making it a relatively safe area in Setagaya Ward. Also, it is connected to Shinjuku without changing trains, and you can go to city centers, such as Tokyo and Shibuya, with one transfer. There is also a bus stop near Kyodo Station, so you can go anywhere in this area. For these reasons, Kyodo can be said to be a relatively livable area in Setagaya Ward. Therefore, many people, including families and the elderly, can live happy lives with peace of mind without encountering such crimes, incidents, or accidents.

By Yu Hayase

ENTERTAINER

Cherry Blossom Town, Sakuajosui



Photo by Nozomi Yamaguchi



Photo by Tota Honma

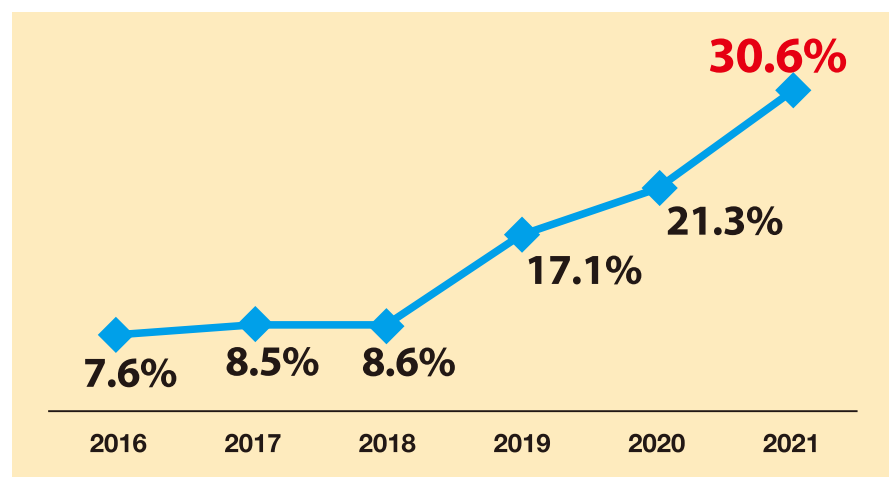
As the station name suggests, there was once a row of cherry blossom (Sakura) trees in the town of Sakurajosui, and the station was named Sakurajosui after that. The best thing about this town is that it has good access to the three major subcenters of Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Ikebukuro. Passengers can reach any of these location in 10 to 30 minutes. In addition, the transportation is convenient, with express trains stopping there. In addition, the town actively manage to create a livable environment; it divides non-smoking areas from smoking areas and carries out greening activities, making the area safe and efficient in reducing artificial heat. The number of crimes in FY 2020 is very small at 11 in total. However, on the other hand, there are problems that make it difficult for residents to live there. For example, there are few supermarkets. There are not many supermarkets and the number is far less as compared to other stations. In order to solve this problem, the local government tries to build a brand new one, but they run into a big problem. There is a severe lack of land. Because there are small conger fields and residential areas are flourished, it is difficult to build new structures. One possible

solution for this matter would be rebuilding the old buildings in an attempt to effectively use the limited amount of land the area has. For example, in order to use land more effectively, Sakurajosui Station itself could be elevated, separating the train path from the pedestrian path, making it easier to cross the station.

Another issue observed in this area is the diminished human interactions among the local people. One way to increase interactions between residents would be to differentiate residential spaces from social interaction spaces. Sharing volunteering opportunities among the residents or planning community networking events may also be effective to make changes. Another target in Sakurajosui is the noise issue. At the Sakurajosui South Exit, there are no major roads and only general vehicles pass by, so it is quiet, but at the Sakurajosui North Exit, which connects to the Koshu Highway, the noise from cars bothers the residents 24/7. Therefore, residents of the area seek quiet residential areas to live their daily lives away from main roads.

By Touta Honma

Aiming for a Safer Town



Average trends over time

Source: JAF

Japan's first traffic light was built in 1915. At first, most people ignored it because they didn't know what it was for. What about

Made by JAF now? Ignoring a red light is a violation and will be policed. That's why most people follow traffic lights. However, not all

crosswalks have traffic lights. In fact, from Sakurajosui Station to Sakuragaoka High School, there are crosswalks without traffic lights in areas with a lot of foot traffic. On the other hand, traffic lights are often seen on narrow roads with few people. The above figure shows a survey conducted by JAF on 8,281 vehicles passing through crosswalks without traffic lights at 94 locations nationwide. The percentage of cars stopped when pedestrians were about to cross increased by 9.3% compared to last year. However, at the same time, it can be seen that approximately 70% of cars do not stop temporarily. This is

extremely dangerous.

Moreover, traffic lights should definitely be installed in Sakurajosui, where there are many students. In this way, it is easy to say that it should be installed; however, the actual installment requires a certain amount of time and money. Therefore, this ward conducts fundraising activities and volunteer activities to make life safer and more comfortable through elderly support, childcare support, welfare support, and etc. In this way, the area has been becoming to a more livable town..

By Touta Honma

ENTERTAINER

Various Initiatives in Hachimanyama



Photo by Aika Houshido

Hachimanyama is a city that takes into account not only on the comfortableness of its residents but also on protecting the environment. Walking around Hachimanyama Station, there were strict rules regarding smoking. In front of the station, there was a pillar with specific smoking rules written on it.

And, after a short walk, there was a smoking area with strict smoke control measures. This smoking area is said to have a built-in device that removes 95% of cigarette odor components. For this reason, Hachimanyama is a town that takes into consideration for both smokers and non-smokers. Additionally, Hachimanyama has a local

currency app called Setapei that supports shops in Setagaya ward. Currently, there are 4,347 stores in the ward that can use this, making it very popular. Hachimanyama Shopping Street is where many of these stores are lined up. Early morning radio exercises are held here every summer. The shopping district also holds its own festival in the

fall. In this way, Hachimanyama has many initiatives in its lively shopping district. Such initiatives have become one of the most popular aspects of Hachimanyama among residents.

By Yura Maebai

A Livable City for Residents

Hachimanyama is located in the northern part of Setagaya Ward. It is adjacent to Kamikitazawa on the east side, Kasuya and Minamikarasuyama on the west side, Funabashi on the south side, Chitosedai on the southwest side. Hachimanyama has an area of 0.659 and a population of 7,800. Hachiman Shrine is the shrine where Mt. Hachiman's name originates. Although the era and origin of its founding are unknown, it is said to have a long history. In the past, the Hachimanyama area was a gently rolling hill through which the Karasuyama River flowed. The remains of a village from the middle of the Jomon period and a charcoal kiln from the Edo period

have also been excavated, and were called the Hachimanyama ruins from the neighborhood. It has been a place for friendship since ancient times, and the shrine seems to have been built in the Edo period. Although it is a small shrine, it has a quiet environment. Hachimanyama is an accessible town from some of the subcenters in Tokyo. In Hachimanyama Station, both local and rapid trains stop on the Keio Line. From Hachimanyama Station, passengers can reach to stations in the three major subcenters in about 30 minutes. This is one of the benefits of living in Hachimanyama. Also, the benefits of living in Hachimanyama are not limited to transportation. There

are two police boxes within a 7-minute walk around the station. The cleanliness of the streets and the abundance of public facilities and restaurants also give a sense of safety. In this way, Hachimanyama is a very comfortable area to live in. However, Hachimanyama Station has the disadvantage; the Keio Line is the only line that passes through. If more lines were connected, people would not have to be bothered by congestions in the station, and the city will become a more livable place. There are many high schools around Hachimanyama station, so the number of students and young people who visit Hachimanyama will increase as transportation becomes more convenient.



Photo by Aika Houshido

By Yura Maebai

ENTERTAINER

Urban Development to Foster Human Connections

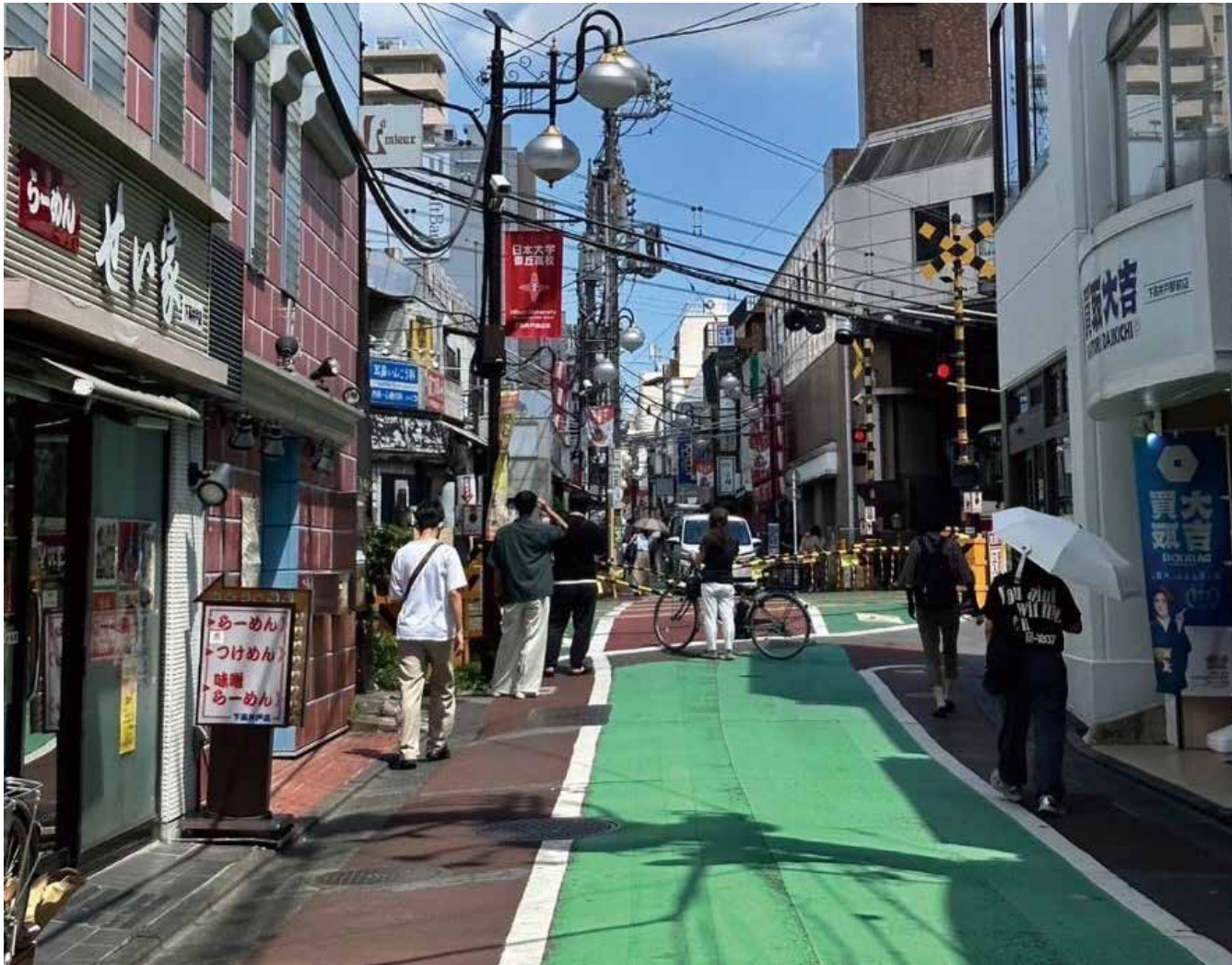


Photo by Anri Shimizu

There seem to be three main possibilities in which a city can continue to flourish. One is to create an environment where multiple generations can learn, grow, and play an active role. The second is to create an environment where they can interact with their families and local people. Finally, it is to create a city where residents are at the center of the community. In order to realize such a community, one of the efforts should be made is to increase the number of places for learning and activities, such as workshops and cafes. Moreover, increasing the number of places for relaxation, gathering places, and children's play areas may also help gather more people to the area. It is also important for the residents to interact with not only with the locals but also visitors to the area, such as students or shoppers. Those people could also be utilized to revitalize the community.

By Anri Shimizu

Creating Town where People Gather

Shimotakaido is located in a location that is easily accessible from the city center, but it is also an area rich in nature with three parks. The 400-year-old yew plum pine tree, which has been designated as a natural monument by the ward, is also famous. There are three main types of community development efforts in Shimotakaido: creating lively stores, making effective use of suitable land in front of the station, and holding community development councils around the station. However, awareness

of this initiative is low, so we are planning events to spread the word. There are many supermarkets and shopping streets around the station, as well as major convenience stores. Privately-run stores in shopping districts are only open during the day, but most supermarkets and convenience stores are open 24 hours a day, so the advantage is that you can shop even if you get home late. There are a variety of restaurants, including fast food restaurants, and restaurants that people can order take-outs. There

are also restaurants specializing in Chinese and Japanese cuisine. In addition, Shimotakaido is close to the city center and is crowded with many people. At this station, there is a place called Shimotakaido Shopping Street just beyond the Keio Line tracks. There is a famous takoyaki/taiyaki restaurant here. Also, Shimotakaido is an easy place to live in, with relatively low rents even within Setagaya ward. There are approximately 20 schools around Shimotakaido Station, which are used by many people

during school hours, resulting in congestion on the narrow streets of the shopping district. On the other hand, the number of users at Shimotakaido Station is approximately 56,000, including the Setagaya Line and Keio Line. Residents have commented that the roads are narrow and there is a risk of collisions, so we believe it is important to ensure that pedestrians are not thrown out of sideways.

By Anri Shimizu

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