



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2021

KEEP UP WITH JUNIUS HEIGHTS HAPPENINGS AT [JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG](http://JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG) AND [FACEBOOK.COM/JUNIUSHEIGHTS](https://FACEBOOK.COM/JUNIUSHEIGHTS)

## A STREETCAR NAMED JUNIUS HEIGHTS

In 1956 the last streetcar ran in Dallas. The automobile age arrived, and streetcars were viewed as an archaic form of transportation. Inner city neighborhoods were abandoned as the automobile enabled residents to flee to the suburbs in pursuit of the elusive American Dream.

Junius Heights owes its existence to the streetcar. In 1906, as Dallas was growing rapidly, the Dallas Consolidated Electric Streetcar Company built rail lines to Junius Heights, an undeveloped land on the east fringes of Dallas. On September 2, 1906, the Dallas Streetcar Co. offered free rides to anybody who wished to view the newly platted neighborhood of Junius Heights. Since it was a Sunday, no sales could take place. At midnight, a pistol was fired and the great Junius Heights Land Rush began. Within forty minutes, two hundred lots reportedly were sold.

The late Polly Pou, who lived on Parkmont, came from a family of streetcar operators. Both her husband and father-in-law worked for the streetcar companies. The men bought their own clothes; nothing was furnished. The uniform consisted of a white long-sleeved shirt, a blue serge suit, a tie, and black shoes. There was no air-conditioning and even though the windows would be down in the summer, it was still hot. Sometimes the men would come home during the day to get a second clean shirt. Mrs. Pou recalled many hours washing and ironing those shirts!

In 1956 the remaining streetcars in Dallas clanged their way through downtown towards oblivion. They were dismantled and sold for scrap metal, bringing between \$100 and \$125 each.

**One of the few to escape this fate was the Junius Heights Streetcar.** Purchased by the Spaghetti Warehouse as a nostalgic curiosity and featured as a dining spot inside that cavernous restaurant, it was protected for years from the elements and so the interior woodwork remains beautifully preserved.

It was built in either 1926 or 1927 by the Peter Witt Streetcar Company of Cleveland. In 1926 the window frames were wooden and by 1927 they were built from brass. When we have a chance to examine it better, we will be able to pinpoint the date more accurately. Either way, this streetcar comes from the zenith of the streetcar days of Junius Heights. Peter Witt Streetcars were notable for their design: patrons could enter by a front door and exit out of a middle door, improving their efficiency.

For several years, Junius Heights held Summer Sizzlers in the Junius Heights Streetcar at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

Appetizers and conversation never were better!

Alas, the Spaghetti Warehouse is no more and the current owners do not have a need for it. It has been partially dismantled and labeled. **It needs a new home and the current owners have offered it to the Junius Heights Historic District.**

Matt Wood, who is helping spearhead the drive to bring our streetcar home, has this to say:

"I am thrilled to share that we have found temporary storage for the Junius Heights Streetcar! Thanks to Kristin and Mark, who created the social media buzz, local business owners Angela and William Hildeson reached out offering space available for that ever-so-wonderful price of FREE! It is just over a mile from the former Spaghetti Warehouse location. In the future, you will be hearing more about our new friends at Smart Dog Dallas (pet sitting, training and day-care) who have offered use of the space.



I've been speaking with John Landrum at McKinney Avenue Transit Authority as well as our contact at Corgan, James Adams (who is overseeing the renovation at the former Spaghetti Warehouse), about the move. Based on recommendations from John, James and I are working on the logistics for moving the metal exterior frame in the near future. All other pieces (hundreds of them) can be moved on my 16' trailer immediately. There are many windows that need to be wrapped/protected and would ride better in the back of an SUV."

**So here's how you can help! Our first move day will be next Saturday, June 12 at 8am.** We need additional hands, moving blankets, pickup trucks, trailers and SUVs. Sign up at [JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com](mailto:JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com) to receive additional details.

To paraphrase Tennessee Williams, "Magic, Yes, Yes, Magic!" We hope to bring the Junius Height Streetcar home!

—Rene Schmidt

## ABRAMS BIKE LANES ALMOST READY TO ROLL

Construction on Phase 1 of the Abrams/Columbia Complete Streets project, which includes pedestrian improvements and protected bike lanes between Richmond and Beacon, is wrapping up! By the time you read this newsletter, the Department of Public Works expects Phase 1 to be complete. The final work includes pavement markings and completion of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RFFB) at the Ridgeway intersection.

This project is a part of the 2017 City of Dallas Bond program, instigated by a coalition of neighborhood associations including Junius Heights, Peak's Suburban Addition, and Lakewood Heights to calm traffic along the high-speed Abrams/Columbia/Main corridor. When Phase 2 is complete in 2022 we will be able to ride our bikes in protected bike lanes all the way from the Lakewood Shopping Center to Deep Ellum. —Michael Karnowski

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY & STAY IN THE KNOW: JOIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT TODAY!**  
ONLY \$25 PER YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD | [JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG/JOIN-US](http://JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG/JOIN-US)



## DART REDESIGNS BUS SYSTEM

Did you know that the current DART bus system was designed in the 1980s and that some of the lines have been running the same routes since before World War II? Well, DART has decided that it is finally time to update their bus system due to years of falling ridership. Last year they engaged one of the preeminent transportation planning firms in the country, Jarret Walker and Associates, to develop a new high-frequency bus network. The new network eliminates low-performing and redundant routes, allowing DART to focus on running buses more frequently along key corridors, providing better job access and more reliable service on the same limited budget.

**What does this mean for us?** Currently Junius Heights is served by two bus lines: the 19 Ann Arbor/Lakewood short line that runs every 20 minutes from Downtown to the Lakewood

Shopping Center along Gaston, and the 76 Mockingbird Station that runs every 40 minutes from Downtown to Mockingbird Station up Columbia/Abrams.

Under the proposed draft system plan, the 76 would become the 14 Columbia line and would get upgraded to 30 minute rush hour frequencies, with tweaks to the route that include eliminating many of the twists and turns near downtown. The 19 would receive a major overhaul, combining with the current Jefferson line to become the 9 Jefferson-Gaston. This new line would be a high-frequency route providing 15-minute headways at all times.

The draft proposed system map and a survey on the proposed changes can be found at [DartZoom.org](http://DartZoom.org). —*Michael Karnowski*

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## YARD OF THE MONTH SIGN HONORS GARDENERS

Our front yards are our neighborhood's biggest shared green space. Your gardening brings pleasure to others when they walk by. Blooming flowers in a pot or a flowering shrub bring a smile. Strangers who drive by see your flagstone path or vigorous green hedge and enjoy the view of our thriving front porch community.

Junius Heights Historic District works with the Junius Heights & Friends Garden Club to select a front yard for our Yard of the Month sign. Large or small, filled with flowers, or specially landscaped to complement the style of the house, each yard is unique. The sign has honored many gardeners' efforts over the years. Nominate a yard today at [JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com](mailto:JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com).

—*Martha Heimberg*

## "BEAUTIES" AT WORK ON COLUMN PARKS

Maybe you saw the daffodils around the Column Parks in March, noticed the big pecan trees trimmed, or the gardens weeded and mulched. The JHHD Beautification Committee ("Beauties") and friends gather monthly to beautify our parks on Abrams.

Committee Chairman Noel Aveton had the trees trimmed right before the BIG FREEZE, and the limbs were stacked neatly on the curb. The next day, folks were there with big saws and trucks to load up with firewood. Even green wood was hard to find before the snows hit. Thanks to all the volunteers for planting, weeding and keeping our parks inviting. Want to join the group? Email [JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com](mailto:JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com) to hear from Noel.

—*Martha Heimberg*

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## CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR HOME THAT DON'T CHANGE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**A Certificate of Appropriateness (CA) is required for any exterior work done on your home or a building in the Junius Heights Historic District.** The goal is to preserve the streetscape of an early 20th-century neighborhood. In addition, residents are assured that something inappropriate can't be constructed next door. 70% of the structures in JHHD have maintained their original architectural integrity. JHHD contains the largest collection of homes in the metroplex built under the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, and also has significant examples of Tudor, Prairie, Folk Victorian and others. We live in a neighborhood worth protecting.

**The front façade of your home or building and 50% of the adjacent front sides are protected.** Modifications to the original structure may be made provided that they (1) are in the back 50% of the building, (2) any new height in the rear is not taller than buildings on the block and (3) the application has been reviewed by the Junius Heights Task Force and approved by the Landmark Commission.

Junius Heights does not have restrictions on paint colors other than fluorescents not being allowed. Applicants are encouraged to select appropriate historic colors. Exposed brickwork on any structure should not be painted.

Windows are important features. Repairs can usually be done by qualified tradesman. These antique windows were built using high quality virgin timber not obtainable today. If you see any

wavy glass in your windows, you have the real thing! Back then, manufacturing had not yet perfected the art of uniformity. Today these "imperfections" are prized as part of the patina of an older home.

Routine maintenance does not have to go through the Task Force and Landmark Commission. CA requests for routine maintenance can typically be handled quickly by the city's staff.

Other than getting the appropriate permits from the city, there are no restrictions on the interior of your home.

**The best thing about the CA process is that it is FREE!** In addition, there are tax incentives available. Save your receipts! There is a sliding scale, but if you spend enough money on your restoration or improvement, your city taxes may be forgiven for 10 years.

To help you understand the CA procedure:

- 1) Go to [JuniusHeights.org](http://JuniusHeights.org) and click on "Resources" for details and FAQ. Our city staff person is Jennifer Anderson, who can answer your questions and guide you through the process. Email her at [Jennifer.Anderson@DallasCityHall.com](mailto:Jennifer.Anderson@DallasCityHall.com).
- 2) Read through the JHHD ordinance, also available on [JuniusHeights.org](http://JuniusHeights.org) under "Resources." It gives specific details on what is allowed in the JHHD.

## Neighborhood Tips

### GIFTS FROM YOUR GARDEN

If I am thinning cannas or iris tubers, or cuttings of ivy or purple heart, I put them in plastic pots on the curb with a FREE sign. Ditto with clumps of Mexican ruellia or jasmine I can easily pot. They go fast!

—*Martha Heimberg*

### GARBAGE INS AND OUTS

**Every Friday morning**, your big grey garbage bin and big blue recycle bin are picked up. Sometimes early. Good to put them out Thursday night. **Every third Monday of the month** is bulky trash pickup — tree limbs, leaf bags, old furniture and other junk. Lots of stuff is picked up by scavengers before it is collected.

### JHHD SWAG FOR SALE

Put your neighborhood pride on display with a Junius Heights T-Shirt (\$12), Pint Glass (\$10), Polo Shirt (\$20), Stemless Wine Glass (\$10), Canvas Tote (\$10), Coffee Mug (\$5) or Metal Sign (\$50). Proceeds benefit your neighborhood. To purchase, email Shelley Vatzlavick at [ShelleyVatz@gmail.com](mailto:ShelleyVatz@gmail.com).