



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

Courtesy of the Junius Heights Historic District Board of Directors

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SPRING FLING IS IN THE AIR! SATURDAY, APRIL 27 | 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M. | PARKMONT STREET

SPRING FLING SPONSORED BY



Mark your calendars, bring your neighbors and come to the annual Spring Fling block party on Saturday, April 27, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Check in at the entry table at Parkmont and Junius. **Entry is FREE to current Junius Heights Historic District (JHHD) members and only \$35 to non-member households. Entry fee includes an annual membership to the JHHD.** Junius Heights shirts, caps and sign toppers will also be available for purchase.

Once checked in, neighbors will enjoy complimentary Junius Heights Brew Club beer, yummy snacks, live music and fun for the whole family. Everybody likes to sample the Chili Cook-Off and Bake-Off entries. Don't forget to pick up your raffle tix at the check-in table! Great prizes donated

by our local businesses will be awarded every hour to lucky ticket holders.

Activities include face painting, craft tables and a story-telling circle for youngsters. Meet representatives from other non-profit organizations who share our mission of historic preservation and community. Don't miss a free photo op with a life-size historic Junius Heights streetcar photo and a real live smiling conductor.

If you want to volunteer, donate, or plan to enter the Chili Cook-Off or Bake-Off, email Junius HeightsHD@gmail.com

— Martha Heimberg

VOTE YES FOR PROP B ON MAY 4 | \$60K FOR RESTORATION OF COLUMNS INCLUDED IN BOND

In mid February, Dallas City Council finalized the 2024 bond package allocations to be voted on in a May 4 election. After months of community input and debate, the final proposition includes over \$340 million for the city's parks and recreation centers, which is almost a third of the total bond allocations.

Thanks to District 14 Council Member Paul Ridley and Council District 14 Park and Recreation Board Member Rudy Karimi, the funds we requested for the restoration of our Junius Heights columns are part of that package. Now, Dallas voters must decide whether to approve the overall package on May 4. Ridley led the council members in favor of each district having "district specific funds" to utilize in neighborhood parks.

To support our request for funding many months ago, engineering bids to repoint and repair the 30-foot masonry columns were gathered by Michael Karnowski, architect and JHHD Beautification Committee member, and Noel J. Aveton, JHHD Board President. The columns were built in 1917 at Tremont and Glasgow to mark the gateway to Junius Heights, and were moved to their current site in 1975 when the Columbia-Abrams Road was cut through the neighborhood.

Karimi is working with the Park and Recreation Department to ensure the iconic structures are fully stabilized until all bids are in and restoration work is approved and completed.

— Martha Heimberg

FORWARD DALLAS LAND USE PLAN BEING REVISED

Dallas is currently revising the *ForwardDallas* Land Use Plan that establishes guidelines on how public and private lands should be used and what the city will look like in the future. The plan will be reviewed by the Central Plan Commission with a final vote by the City Council as early as June.

Dallas is landlocked and to continue its vitality it must address issues of density, commute times, air quality, and

the value of the urban life experience. Ideas run the gamut from modifying minimum lot size in future developments to eliminating single-family housing as we currently know it.

Public input is appreciated and sought. The next public meeting will be held April 3 at 6 p.m. at Samuel Grand Park.

— René Schmidt

MEET THE 2024 JHHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS Eric Folkerth, Past President; Noel J. Aveton, President; Shelley Vatzlavick, VP Membership; Mark Reeves, VP Communication; René Schmidt, VP Zoning and Historic Preservation; Nora Rogney, Secretary; Ron Sekerak, Treasurer
AT-LARGE MEMBERS Michael Blair, Susan Bowersox, Barbara Cohen, Michael Driscoll, Richard Gallagher, Eric Graham, Martha Heimberg, Brian Jackson, Shelby Lance, Richard Marvin, Tam Pham, Kendall Scudder, Mark Wootton

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ABOVE AVERAGE ALLEY

What a difference a cleanup makes! JHHD Beautification Committee Chair Susan Bowersox rallied half a dozen committee members and neighbors to spend a couple of Saturday mornings in February and March to clean up the city-installed paved alley walkway just off Fulton, between Junius and Worth streets. The first Saturday was mostly cleanup, raking and trimming. In March, the volunteers returned to do some planting. “We planted bearded irises, Mexican petunias, and Texas native wildflower seeds,” Susan said, adding that, “Ella StClair (gardener and longtime JHHD Beautification Committee member) provided “other native plants” for the walkway. The group planted “about a third” of the borders along the concrete paving, she said, but considered the effect well worth the effort. Shout out to “beauties” and friends who worked on one or both Saturdays: Susan, Ella, Richard M., Noel, Barbara, Juliette, Betty, Michael B., Shelly, Ron, Martha, Brian and Susan’s son Alek. Good neighbor awards to all!

— Martha Heimberg

GARDENERS SPRINGING UP ALL OVER

When trees bloom and the weather is fine, even folks with a brown thumb feel the urge to plant flowers and trim trees. Whether you’re a longtime gardener or getting your hands in the dirt for the first time, you might want some help.

Junius Heights and Friends Garden Club has plant swaps a few times a year, and knows a lot about what to plant where. Their next plant swap will be Sunday, April 7, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Lakewood Library parking lot. To join the club, search for “Junius Heights and Friends Garden Club” on Facebook.

Barbara Cohen, landscaper and JHHD Board Member, has great advice for those with gardening questions, whether about when to prune or what to plant. She recommends the Dallas Master Gardener help line, a great resource for us Blackland Prairie gardeners facing Texas summers. For articles, questions, and how to enter a Master Gardener program, email dallasmg@ag.tamu.edu

— Martha Heimberg

JHHD NEEDS VIPs FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Hey neighbor, interested in helping reduce crime in Junius Heights? We’d love to have you join the Junius Heights Crime Watchers (JHCW) and become a VIP!

JHCW was formed in 2023 after a few neighbors were frustrated with repeated crimes in Junius Heights. JHCW members are asked to take quarterly Dallas Police Department (DPD) Volunteers In Patrol (VIP) Training. VIPs perform “non-confrontational patrols” of zoned segments of our neighborhood, and document time and any findings. VIP Captain and JHHD Board Member Brian Jackson will collect monthly and report to the DPD Neighborhood Police Unit. With every hour of

neighborhood watch logged by JHCW members, the DPD will match their time with patrols of Junius Heights.

So far, four JHCW members have completed the VIP training class required to patrol. **The next class is Saturday, May 18, starting at 10 a.m. Registration is required, and closes May 1. To register, email erika.brown@dallaspolice.gov**

Simply want to learn more about JHCW and attend their next meeting? Please reach out to Brian Jackson at juniushightscrimewatchers@gmail.com

— Zan Farrow

JUNIUS HEIGHTS HISTORY

Did you know that we once had a night club in Junius Heights? In 1953, the Munger Place Club operated from 5304 Junius Street. Alas, it only lasted a year.

In addition to the night club, there were two grocery stores in the same part of the block where the Garden

Cafe now operates. The Vogal Package Store and the L. A. Doran Food Store, a drug store and barber shop, a laundry and cleaners, and the Southern Ice Company also did business there.

— Eleanor and Eric Graham

PROTECT YOUR OAKS FROM WILT

With their sprawling branches and beautiful fall colors, red oaks are popular trees in Dallas. Unfortunately, while all families of oak trees are at risk to oak wilt, red oaks are particularly vulnerable. The fungus that causes this disease handicaps the water-conducting system of the tree and leads to the wilting of the leaves and eventual

death. Oak wilt can be spread by beetles that carry the spores to pruned, or weather-related, wounds on a tree. In Texas, it is recommended that pruning not be done on oaks from February-June, when the sap is rising.

— René Schmidt

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Cap \$25



Koozie \$5

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