



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2024

Courtesy of the Junius Heights Historic District Board of Directors

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## 2024 BOND ELECTION FUNDS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

On May 4, voters approved the 2024 Bond Package, which included over \$345 million for city parks, almost a third of allocated funds! The great news for Junius Heights is the \$60,000 included for the restoration of our two 30-foot masonry and stone Junius Heights columns, built around 1907. Rudy Karimi, our District 14 Parks and Recreation Board Representative, said he is pushing to include the columns repair in the first round of projects, starting October 2024 to October 2025. "I think we have a good case because Parks maintenance staff are aware of the need to get going with this project quickly," said Karimi.

Nearby Willis Winters Park will receive \$300,000 in funds for a new playground. Junius Heights holds regular events at this popular park, just across Glasgow from Woodrow. Karimi hopes to get the design and input phase started in 2025 and the construction completed in 2026. The city is currently briefing park board members on the breakdown of what projects will start in fiscal year 2024 and beyond. Karimi posts regular reports to District 14 constituents, so we can look for start-up dates in the next few weeks.

— Martha Heimberg

## HISTORY OF THE JUNIUS HEIGHTS COLUMNS | THE GATEWAY TO JUNIUS HEIGHTS



Dallas Morning News | November 25, 1909

The sale of lots in the Junius Heights First Addition famously started with a gunshot at midnight on Sunday, September 2, 1906.

Lawrence Miller, who worked for Hann & Kendall and prepared the advertising and supervised the sale, reported on the sale: "People didn't demand much in those days. If a lot had streetcar service and elevation, that was enough. They knew that paving, walks and utilities would come later. All day Sunday, people came to the addition on streetcars, in buggies and on foot. Even a few came out in the new transportation outfits—automobiles. Every lot was tagged with a lot and block number and the price. Buyers wanted to pull the tags and present them for contracts at the field office but were restrained from doing so as the sale was advertised for Monday and no lots could be sold on Sunday. As evening came on, many purchasers began to camp on the lots. Some asked when would Monday begin and it was decided immediately after midnight and that a pistol shot would indicate the hour. At the sound of the pistol the customers grabbed their tags, rushed to the sales office, and signed sales contracts. At 2 a.m. everyone was gone. A check was made, and it was discovered that out of 343 lots only three remained unsold."

The sale of the First Addition was so successful that Hann & Kendall immediately planned the Second Addition. But the sale of lots was delayed until November 1909 because of a class action suit, Mary B. Suttle vs. Highland Realty Co. et al, filed in 1907 over title to 171 acres in the Robert Moore survey.

The Second Addition was marked with columns on Tremont, three lots east of Ridgeway, which were later

moved when Abrams was constructed through the area. They were probably built in 1907. The photo in the Dallas Morning News is dated 1909.

The gates consisted of two large columns connected by an iron arch, with two smaller flanking columns and electric lanterns. They were part of the promotion by Hann & Kendall of the Junius Heights subdivision. Note that the trolley lines don't appear in this photo as they terminated at Ridgeway, about half a block back.

According to Terri Raith, "one of the columns was at 5918 Tremont on the south side, and the other at 5923 Tremont on the north side, between Glasgow and Ridgeway. This 5900 block of Tremont became the 1500 block of Abrams as we know it today. There is still a bit of the foundation of the small column in the yard at 1523 Abrams. The 1518 side was lost to create four more lanes for Abrams."

They remained in place until 1973 when, in May of that year, they were due to be demolished to make way for the connection of Abrams and Columbia as part of the Dallas Thoroughfare Plan. A small group of neighbors raced to raise \$12,000 to relocate the columns before the demolition could happen.

By June, they had raised \$600 and employed the Texas Masonry Company to dismantle the columns. The company allowed the group to make a series of payments. By July, \$2,000 had been raised and Mattie Longmore and Representative Jim Mattox laid the cornerstones for the columns in the 6100 block of Tremont. Lone Star Gas donated matching gas lanterns for the reconstruction.

By June of 1975, all the funds had been raised, the columns re-constructed, and a ceremony was held to present the columns to the City of Dallas. A list of donors was placed inside one of the columns.

One good thing the construction of Abrams did is create a series of pocket parks. Two are at the site of the columns, referred to as the Junius Heights Column Parks. There are eleven other small parks strung out along Abrams from Beacon to Tremont.

— Eric Graham

# JUNIUS HEIGHTS RESIDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FROM PRESERVATION DALLAS

Preservation Dallas recognized several Junius Heights residents for Achievement Awards on May 21, 2024. The ceremony was held at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only theater designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Receiving **Preservation Achievement Awards for Residential Renovation** were (1) 701 Dumont, Leslie Nepveux of VeuxDeux Design, Michelle and Nate Ball, owners, and Villa Maya Custom Homes, (2) 714 N. Beacon, Tam Pham of Steel Toe Stiletto, and (3) 4311 Skillman (The Bourn House), Quentin Hartley of Hartley Remodeling.

The renovation of the Pavilion at Willis Winters Park was granted an **Achievement Award for An Historic Park Restoration**. Junius Heights residents and Founders of the nonprofit Friends of Willis Winters Park, Barbara

Cohen and Mary Mesh, were among those recognized.

The prestigious **Gail Thomas Patterson Award**, which recognizes an outstanding restoration project done to exacting standards, was given to Tam Pham and her company Steel Toe Stiletto for restoring 714 N. Beacon. This home had been abandoned and was in such a stage of neglect, it had been condemned. The Dallas Fire Department wanted to do a controlled burn as part of their training program. Tam came to the rescue and restored it beautifully into a quintessential craftsman bungalow.

Preservation does pay, and we are grateful for these residents for preserving the beauty and heritage of Junius Heights!

— René Schmidt

## HELP SUBMIT JUNIUS HEIGHTS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation, and we are currently working to add Junius Heights Historic District to the register. Munger Place, Peak's Addition and Swiss Avenue are already on the National Register, and they successfully applied some years ago when the listing process was much easier. It is now a more complicated, time-consuming procedure. As the first step, we need to produce five pages of documentation for each of the approximately 750 homes in the District. It's a labor-intensive process, but we are now nearing the end.

Once completed, hopefully, by the end of the year, and if it is approved by the Texas Historic Commission, we then have to submit a detailed history of the District.

When approved, all contributing structures will be added to the National Register. Currently we have only one house in the district listed on the Register, the Roger D. McIntosh House—"The Shack"—at 1518 Abrams Road.

To be included on the list, the structure must have been built before 1941 and should retain its historic architectural character. Listing on the National Register does not restrict what you can do with your house, but it will allow you to buy a plaque stating that your house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If you have an interest in helping to document and compile the history of the structures in the District, please email JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com.

— Eric Graham

## WORK DAYS & THIRD THURSDAYS

Are you interested in contributing to the charm of Junius Heights? The JHHD Beautification Committee is getting together for two Beautification Work Days this Summer on Saturday, July 13 and Saturday, August 17. Follow the JHHD Facebook or Instagram accounts to receive updates on where the crew will be meeting and how you can volunteer!

As the temperature continues to rise outside, join your neighbors at The Garden Cafe for a cold drink every Third Thursday of the month for a Junius Heights Hangout. Pull up a chair to grab a bite and enjoy half price bottles of wine. This is the perfect opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn what's going on within our community. See you there!

— Zan Farrow

## JUNIUS HEIGHTS CRIME WATCHERS

Do you like to walk through the JHHD neighborhood? Learn how you can turn that time into matching patrol hours by the Dallas Police Department, as well as other programs that build awareness and strengthen our community. Help keep Junius Heights safe by becoming a member of the Junius Heights Crime Watchers. Email Brian Jackson at JuniusHeightsCrimeWatchers@gmail.com for more info.

— Brian Jackson



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