



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2025

Courtesy of the Junius Heights Historic District Board of Directors

FOLLOW US AT JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/JUNIUSHEIGHTS | INSTAGRAM.COM/JUNIUSHEIGHTSHISTORICDISTRICT

BRING ON THE SPRING FLING! SATURDAY, APRIL 26 | 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M. | PARKMONT STREET

SPRING FLING SPONSORS:



Warmer temperatures are on their way, which means it's time for our annual Spring Fling, hosted by the Junius Heights Historic District (JHHD) Board of Directors. Join your neighbors to enjoy live music, delicious food, face painting, crafts, and to sample the Chili Cook-Off and Bake-Off entries. The event will take place on Saturday, April 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Parkmont Street.

Check-in will take place at the Junius entrance to Parkmont. **Admission is free to current JHHD members and only \$35 to non-member households. Entry fee includes an annual membership to the JHHD!** After checking in, you can pick up great swag including shirts, hats, and sign toppers!

Don't forget to pick up your raffle tickets at the check-in table! Great prizes donated by our local businesses will be awarded every hour to lucky ticket holders.

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 our real live smiling conductor, JHHD Past President René Schmidt!

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

— Zan Farrow

TEXAS HISTORIC PLAQUE DEDICATION | SUNDAY, APRIL 6 | 3 P.M. | ABRAMS COLUMN PARK

Junius Heights Historic District will dedicate its official Texas Historic Plaque on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. at the Column Park, 1623 Abrams Road. This plaque will commemorate the Junius Heights Land Rush of 1906, when at the stroke of midnight on September 2, 1906, a pistol was fired and most of the lots were quickly sold in what the *Dallas Morning News* labeled the "record sale of Dallas and Texas." The community of Junius Heights was born and a century later, in 2006, the Dallas City Council created the Junius Heights Historic District.

The Junius Heights columns that originally served as the entry to the neighborhood were removed during the widening of Abrams Road. The columns were rebuilt in their current location and rededicated in 1975. This event marked the beginning of the preservation movement in Dallas, leading to the eventual creation of Preservation Dallas.

Martha Heimberg was present at the rededication of the columns fifty years ago, and a reception was held at her

Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home at 1523 Abrams Road, where one of the columns originally stood. Martha will be one of the keynote speakers on April 6, and a reception will again be held at her home from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited.

Junius Heights is a Preserve America Community, a White House initiative begun by Laura Bush. This prestigious award is given to communities that demonstrate a commitment to their heritage. A proclamation by Laura Bush will be read on April 6. Speakers will include District 14 City Council Member Paul Ridley and personnel from Preservation Dallas, the Dallas Office of Historic Preservation, and the County's Historic Commission.

Because parking is limited, walking or bicycling is encouraged. Street parking is available on the 1500 block of Abrams Road as well as on the adjacent blocks.

— René Schmidt

JHHD BOARD APPROVES TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE TO HELP KEEP JUNIUS HEIGHTS COOL

For the well-being of all residents, positive contribution to the environment, and to keep Junius Heights one of Dallas' coolest historic jewels, the Junius Heights Historic District Board of Directors voted in 2024 to approve a multi-generational initiative coined "Trees for Tomorrow."

The program was simple and well received. Homeowners who were interested in receiving a 10'-12' tall free tree, planted to be visible from the public street, had only to meet basic criteria and fill out a simple form. Fifteen

applications were approved, and trees were planted on January 31, 2025. Tree selections included Chinquapin Oak, Red Oak, Autumn Blaze Maple, Chinese Pistache, and Cedar Elm.

"Urban tree canopy plays a critical role in the health of all residents. It is important to maintain and establish new trees to ensure quality of life for future generations, hence 'Trees for Tomorrow,'" said Noel J. Aveton, Junius Heights Historic District Board President.

MEET THE 2025 JHHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS Eric Folkerth, Past President; Noel J. Aveton, President; Michael Driscoll, VP Membership; Mark Reeves, VP Communication; René Schmidt, VP Zoning and Historic Preservation; Julia Davis, Secretary; Ron Sekerak, Treasurer
AT-LARGE MEMBERS Barbara Cohen, Partha Datta, Richard Gallagher, Eric Graham, Martha Heimberg, Robert Humphreys, Brian Jackson, Jacquie Kin, Shelby Lance, Richard Marvin, Tam Pham, Nora Roney, Mark Wootton, Tyler Wright

SAVE THESE *great dates*

MARCH Third Thursday 3.20 **APRIL** Junius Heights Texas Historic Plaque Dedication 4.06
Third Thursday Hangout 4.17 | Beautification Work Day 4.19 | Spring Fling Block Party 4.26
MAY General Membership Meeting 5.06 | Third Thursday 5.15 | Beautification Work Day 5.17

PRE-K IS A-OK AT LIPSCOMB ELEMENTARY | 2025-2026 REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1

Lipscomb Elementary School, built in 1920 and designated a Texas landmark in 1986, has long been an educational and social center for Junius Heights, Swiss Avenue and Munger Place, the school's main feeder neighborhoods.

Now, parents, teachers and community members are launching a fresh initiative to increase enrollment at the familiar brick building, currently getting a new addition linking classrooms to the existing gymnasium. Like many public schools, Lipscomb has lost enrollment to increasing numbers of private schools and the ability in DISD to transfer to other schools in the district. Lipscomb is also now accepting applications from students outside their zones of attendance.

Junius Heights residents Michael and Maggie Karnowski say Lipscomb is a first-rate school for their two sons, who started preschool there. Michael coaches a Little Lions soccer team, and is heading up a group to get the word out about Lipscomb's strengths. "Our bilingual program is first-rate because of skilled teachers and the strong native Spanish-speaking enrollment," he said. Karnowski also points to good reading and science programs, a theater group and a coding club — among many options.

The school has impressive community support, as well. JHHD Neighborhood Association regularly helps fund teacher lunches, field trips and playground improvements.

At a recent building tour, several former Lipscomb students, now attending J. L. Long Middle School, talked about how much it meant to make that big step together with so many grade school friends. From Long, they move to Woodrow Wilson High School. So many good reasons to go to Lipscomb!

In his online newsletter, Lipscomb Principal Isaiah Carter reminded children how very capable they are, as they prepare for Spring assessments: "A positive mindset can make all the difference. Lipscomb is a place where students rise to challenges because they know they have a team — at school and at home — cheering them on." Way to go, Lions!

Pre-K Registration for 2025-2026 opens on April 1 and seats are first come, first served. If you have a child entering Pre-K, apply early to secure a spot. **Scan the QR code for answers to frequently asked questions.**



— Martha Heimberg

TAX INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC HOUSES

Junius Heights is a Historic District and all properties in the district are eligible for two types of tax exemptions:

- **Rehab** — spend 25% or more of the improvement value of the structure and you obtain an exemption of 100% of the City taxes for 10 years.
- **Maintenance** — spend 3% or more of the improvement value of the structure and obtain an exemption of the added value of the City taxes for 3 years.

Scan this QR code to read more about the city's tax incentives for historic houses.



— Eric Graham

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A Certificate of Appropriateness (CA) is a permit that allows for exterior alterations, including landscaping, construction, or demolition of a contributing or noncontributing house in a historic district such as Junius Heights.

A CA does not replace a Building Permit, which must be obtained separately if required for your project.

Scan this QR code to read how to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness.



— Eric Graham

NOT A MEMBER OF JHHD? HERE ARE 3 GREAT REASONS YOU SHOULD JOIN TODAY!

- 1. Build stronger community with your neighbors!** The annual Spring Fling and Holiday Happening are the ultimate gatherings where neighbors, friends, and families come together for unforgettable times of fun, delicious food, refreshing drinks, friendly competitions, and nonstop excitement.
- 2. Meet new people and make new friends!** Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, joining JHHD opens up opportunities to meet new people and make lifelong friendships right here in Junius Heights. Take advantage of informal "clubs" in the neighborhood like the beer club, garden club,

pickleball... or start your own!

- 3. Make your neighborhood a better place!** Get involved and make a difference. Join us for our monthly Beautification Work Days to keep our community looking its best or help out with other neighborhood initiatives. You'll be playing a key role in shaping our wonderful historic district. Let's work together to make things even better!

Scan the QR code and join JHHD today!



— Michael Driscoll



Darlene N. Rosen
drosen@briggsfreeman.com
214.532.3510

Briggs | Sotheby's
Freeman | INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Historic Home Specialist and
Junius Heights resident since 1999.
Unearthing what home means to you.



Marsue
WILLIAMS
— REAL ESTATE

Marsue Williams
Vice President
Allie Beth Allman & Associates
williamsrealtor.com
214.762.2108