



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2026

Courtesy of the Junius Heights Historic District Board of Directors

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## SWING OVER TO SPRING FLING SATURDAY, APRIL 27 | 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M. | PARKMONT STREET

### SPRING FLING SPONSORS:



Mark your calendars, bring your neighbors and come on over to Parkmont Street on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for our annual Spring Fling block party! Check in at the event table just off Junius Street. **Entry is free to Junius Heights Historic District (JHHD) members and only \$35 for non-member households, which includes a one-year JHHD membership.** Credit cards accepted. JHHD shirts, caps and sign toppers will be available for purchase. Pick up raffle tickets at the gate to win great prizes donated by our local businesses.

Neighbors will enjoy complimentary Junius Heights Brew Club beer, yummy snacks, live music, and fun activities for the whole family. Everybody likes to sample the Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Bake-Off entries.

**Want to join other talented neighborhood musicians providing entertainment for Spring Fling? Contact**

**music coordinator Bob Ackerman:**  
**bob@theackermans.com or text 214-789-8513.**

Other activities include face painting, craft tables, and a story-telling circle for youngsters. Gardeners won't want to miss the Junius Heights and Friends Garden Club's plant exchange. You can also 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 Junius Heights Streetcar photo and a real live smiling conductor, JHHD René Schmidt!

**If you want to help with activities or set-up/clean-up, plan to enter the Chili Cook-Off or Dessert Bake-Off, or would like to donate to Spring Fling, email us today at JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com**

— Martha Heimberg

## EAST DALLAS GAMES | SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | HELP JUNIUS HEIGHTS BRING HOME THE GOLD!

**Join us on Saturday, April 25 for the East Dallas Games and Picnic. This year's event will take place at Buckner Park from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The historic neighborhood districts of Junius Heights, Peak's Addition, Swiss Avenue, and Munger Place will compete in fun family-friendly games to see which neighborhood will be named the East Dallas Champion! The event is free, and gives neighbors an opportunity to meet each other while enjoying family-oriented fun including a potluck picnic, field games, food drives, children's activities, music, and introductions to many local churches, businesses, and

non-profits. Bring your skills to support Junius Heights receive the first-place prize!

To help make this event special, we need volunteers to set-up/clean-up, help with the sign-in table, keep score, watch the kids, and judge the games. You can still be a contestant, just volunteer for a time that doesn't conflict. **Want to volunteer or be a sponsor and community partner? Email Noel Aveton at Noel.Aveton@gmail.com**

— Eleanor Graham

## JHHD GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | TUESDAY, MAY 5 | OPEN TO JUNIUS HEIGHTS RESIDENTS

Attention ALL Junius Heights residents!

**Join us at the Lipscomb Elementary Library on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. for the Spring JHHD General Membership Meeting, hosted by the JHHD Board.**

Open to JHHD members and all Junius Heights residents who want to know what's happening in Junius Heights and how to get involved.

This year, the Board created a new position of President Elect, who will understudy the President for six to twelve months and then assume the position of President. A vote on the position will be held at the meeting.

**If you would like to apply for this position or to nominate someone, email JuniusHeightsHD@gmail.com**

— Eric Graham

## MEET THE 2026 JUNIUS HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT 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; Julia Davis, Secretary; Ron Sekerak, Treasurer

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS** Beth Ann Blackwood, Barbara Cohen, Partha Datta, Richard Gallagher, Lin Gold, Eric Graham, Brian Jackson, Jacque Kin, Shelby Lance, Lindsey Landman, Sean McCort, Tam Pham, Nora Rogney

**GET INVOLVED & SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. JOIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT TODAY!  
ONLY \$35 PER YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD | JUNIUSHEIGHTS.ORG/JOIN-US**



## LIPSCOMB BATTLE OF THE BANDS CELEBRATES MUSIC, FAMILY & FUN | SATURDAY, MARCH 28

**The annual Battle of the Bands takes place Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lipscomb Elementary School.** Presented by the Lipscomb PTA, this family-friendly event brings together students, families, and the community for an afternoon of live music, food, and school spirit. All proceeds support the PTA, helping fund programs and experiences that benefit our students.

There will be five bands, including the Rowdy Dowdys and the Woodrow Jazz Band. Lipscomb students will also perform, as well as several school staff members,

lip-synching songs for the show. Kids will love the bounce house. The Whimsical Wagon is providing crafts materials. Speciality grilled food will be cooked by the Watch Dogs, the Lipscomb dads group.

Kudos to PTA President Ryan Walton-King and event chairs Hilary Vitale, Daizha Rioland, and Leslie Nepveux!  
**Tickets are \$10 for students, \$20 for adults. For tickets and more information, check out LipscombLions.com**

— *Martha Heimberg*

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## JUNIUS HEIGHTS SUBMITS APPLICATION TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

We have submitted the application to the Texas Historic Commission to add Junius Heights to the National Register of Historic Places.

Hopefully, they will review the application at their May meeting. We expect to go through at least one or two rounds of revisions.

If you are interested in contributing to the process or are just interested in how it all works, the Preservation

Committee meets on the first Sunday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. at René Schmidt's house, 715 Parkmont. Please feel free to join the meetings.

Our addition to the National Register will recognize Junius Heights as a place of historical and architectural significance. Listing on the National Register does not restrict what homeowners can do with their house.

— *Eric Graham*

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## GRAHAMS RECEIVE 2025 JUNIUS HEIGHTS HERITAGE AWARD

Congratulations to Eleanor and Eric Graham, recipients of our 2025 Junius Heights Heritage Award.

The Grahams have served Junius Heights for many years, donating countless hours and their combined talents to improve our community. Eleanor has collected photos and stories celebrating our neighborhood Yards of the Month, as well as writing articles and helping to edit the neighborhood newsletter. Eric has served on the JHHD Board and multiple committees for many years. He has been at the forefront of important efforts including Junius Heights' application to the National Register of

Historic Places, updates to the JHHD bylaws, managing JHHD members, coordinating Block Captains, and ongoing historic preservation.

The award, established in 2008, is given to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to preserving the history and legacy of Junius Heights. The presentation ceremony was rained out at last year's Saturday Stroll, but our gratitude for these great neighbors continues, rain or shine. Thanks for all you do, Eleanor and Eric!

— *Martha Heimberg & Mark Reeves*

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## DALLAS CITY HALL — FIX IT OR DEMOLISH IT?

On Wednesday, March 4, Mayor Eric Johnson called a special meeting of the city council to discuss the future of Dallas City Hall. The council room was packed. The vast majority of the citizens who were registered to speak urged the council to not tear the building down but to repair and upgrade it. After the city council closed the public hearing, the council debate went on until after 1:00 a.m. With fatigue and tempers flaring, the council finally voted 6-9, as reported by the Dallas Morning News on 3/8/26, to:

1. Study moving 311 and 911 operations out of City Hall.
2. Explore both relocation and repair of City Hall.
3. Create a 10 year-maintenance plan for City Hall.
4. Identify lease/purchase options for a future City Hall.
5. Forbid consultants who were involved in the initial assessment of City Hall to place bids for future work.

The iconic city hall is an architectural treasure. Designed by the renowned architect I.M. Pei, it was built, in part, as a unifying symbol after the assassination of JFK. The city looked forward, with a vision of greatness and solidarity. The architectural style is called Brutalism, a popular

movement during the 1950s and 1960s that emphasized clean modern lines, exposed materials, and function. The decorative nuances of the past were no longer treasured. The current city hall is a statement of time and place.

At the public hearing, backers of preserving city hall expressed concern that the process was rushed. It was also suspected other interests coveted the land. Those fears were heightened when the DMN (3/10/26) reported that consultants gave a group of unnamed council members tours of potential locations for city services. The full council and the public were not informed. Paul Ridley, our district council representative, said it was "unfair" and "inappropriate" that not all members of the council were invited to have access to the same information (DMN 3/11/26).

At the time of this writing, the fate of Dallas City Hall is unknown. It would take a supermajority—twelve votes—of the city council to move any department out of city hall. Stay tuned.

— *René Schmidt*