



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | FALL 2020

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

## SUPPORT JUNIUS HEIGHTS ON NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY ON SEPT 17 GATHER (AT SOCIAL DISTANCE) THURS, SEPT 10 AT HEIMBERG/SEKERAK YARD, 1523 ABRAMS, FROM 6-8 PM

North Texas Giving Day is September 17. This 18-hour online event lets people give back to their community by supporting local non-profits. Last year, more than \$50 million was raised to support almost 3,000 local non-profits. This is the largest community fundraising event in the nation. Junius Heights Historic District is on the list.

JHHD supports the food pantries at Lipscomb Elementary, Woodrow Wilson High School, and J. L. Long Middle School. JHHD provides gifts, classroom materials, and faculty lunches at Lipscomb, the grade school in the heart of our neighborhood. We are installing new street sign toppers, affirming our civic pride. We fund the landscaping and maintenance of the Column Parks. Our annual Home Tour promotes our homes, the people who live in them, and the businesses that support us. Our three neighborhood parties are the happy glue holding us all together: Spring Fling, Summer Sizzler, and Holiday Party. (Due to COVID-19, we are canceling Spring Fling, Summer Sizzler, and Home Tour.) We are reinstating our quarterly newsletter, thanks to editor and JHHD President Rene Schmidt.

Your contribution helps sustain the civic goals of Junius Heights. There are two ways to donate:

1. On **Thursday, September 17**, go to <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/> and look for the Search tab. Find Junius Heights and make a donation.
2. On **Thursday, September 10**, from 6-8 PM, stop by the home of Martha Heimberg and Ron Sekerak, 1523 Abrams. We're hosting a neighborhood social. Beer, wine and refreshments will be provided. We'll explain what we're doing, why, and our past and future philanthropy projects. Meet new neighbors and admire the new sidewalks. We will accept cash, checks or credit cards if you want to donate. Because of COVID-19, we will be outside, distancing, wearing masks, and providing hand sanitizer. Bring your own cup.

Any donation is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you!

—Bill Williams

## FRIENDS OF WILLIS WINTERS PARK CELEBRATES IMPROVED COMMUNITY ACCESS

Friends of Willis Winters Park celebrated improvements in 2020 expanding the historic park's accessibility for East Dallas community members. The 16.3-acre park established in 1922, formerly known as Randall Park, was renamed Willis C. Winters Park in honor of the former Dallas Park and Recreation Department Director who retired in 2019.

Access to the center walkway of the park was restored in March 2020 when the main gates of the park softball and baseball fields were reopened. Community members can now visit Will's Place memorial plaza and pavilion, built in honor of Winters' late son, located inside the main entrance gates.

In June, park access was expanded after fencing was removed along a portion of the park facing the Santa Fe Trail. New park visitors like walking dogs, enjoying the view from the bleachers, and having picnics on the big grassy at the center of the park.

Recent park improvements to the white pavilion, located closest to Juliette Fowler, include evening lighting, picnic tables, new benches, and trash cans. Visitors enjoy walking paths, a playground, and recreation space for baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, and other sports.

Friends of Willis Winters Park welcomes neighbors to enjoy our park nestled between the Junius Heights Historic District and Mount Auburn neighborhood at 100 S. Glasgow. Our Friends group hosts park litter cleanup events. Contact us at [williswintersparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:williswintersparkfriends@gmail.com) with any questions, and like/follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

—Katherine Unmuth Karimi

## NEW BIKE LANES "SHRINK" ABRAMS THIS SUMMER

Bike lanes and new ADA-approved sidewalks are being installed on Abrams Road between Beacon and Richmond this summer. The bike lanes run along both sides of Abrams, reducing the six-lane major to four lanes, and slowing speeding cars. On-street parking is still allowed for JHHD homes facing the 1500 block of Abrams between Ridgeway and Glasgow, a shared lane designated by a solid white line. Despite the dust and rubble of breaking up existing sidewalks and driveways, residents think Public Works Project Director Linda Majeed ([linda.majeed@dallascityhall.com](mailto:linda.majeed@dallascityhall.com)), and contractors Gibson & Associates and Axis Contracting, have been most responsive to their concerns. The hardworking crews are real craftsmen, and the driveways and sidewalks installed so far are first-rate work.

The current work is part of a larger project to slow traffic and increase walkability along a three-mile stretch known by three names: Main Street, Columbia Avenue and Abrams Road. The Columbia Avenue portion will also receive bike lanes. The Main Street portion, from Canton to Columbia, will be reduced from six-lane to four, but will not have bike lanes.

The entire \$8 million project was fully funded through a street and transportation bond program approved in 2017. The three-phase project is scheduled to be completed by September 2021, according to the website.

Old East Dallas neighborhood associations adjoining the bike lanes are requesting additional funding for landscaping, pedestrian lighting, enhanced street crossing, traffic signals, and park amenities along the new wide sidewalks.

—Martha Heimberg

## GARDEN CAFÉ SEEKS NEW ZONING

The Garden Café has applied for a change in zoning to allow them to serve wine and beer. The proposal will first go to the Central Plan Commission in early September and then on to City Council. Residents in the notification zone will get an official ballot to voice their opinion. For more updated information contact the City Planner in charge, Carlos Talison at [Carlos.Talison@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Carlos.Talison@dallascityhall.com) or call 214-670-4209. The case number is Z190-283.

## JUNIUS HEIGHTS CELEBRATES 114 YEARS SEPT. 2020 THE JUNIUS HEIGHTS LAND RUSH OF 1906

On September 2, 1906, a new Junius Heights streetcar ran for the first time. Prospective buyers were encouraged to take the Elm Street or the Junius Heights Streetcar to view the newly platted properties. Ads in the DMN proclaimed that Junius Heights was the “prettiest lot sub-division in the City of Dallas, destined to become the fanciest residential property in Dallas.” The land was “higher than all buildings in downtown,” an important selling feature before the days of air-conditioning.

Since sales were prohibited on Sundays, at midnight, a pistol was fired and the Junius Heights land rush began. Within forty minutes, two hundred lots were sold. By Wednesday all remaining lots were purchased. The Dallas Morning News called it the “record sale of Dallas and Texas.”

Early residents of Junius Heights included Howard Blakeslee who won the Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1937. He lived at 5532 Tremont from c. 1913 to 1916. He was the Manager of the Associated Press in Dallas. His home, which was built around 1910, was one of the first to be restored after Junius Heights became a Landmark District. Sub-contractors suggested demolishing the structure but as one of the current owners said, “God doesn’t make anymore 1910s bungalows, so who am I to tear it down?”

—René Schmidt

## JUNIUS HEIGHTS HISTORY

Looking down Dumas Street 2020



Looking down Dumas Street 1920



A view looking down Dumas Street from Junius Street one hundred years apart. The six bungalows on Dumas were built by A. R Eckert in 1920. Except for the corner house, they all have the same floor plan but different facades. They were built with concrete foundations, brick veneer, lath and plastered wall and oak floors. Each house had a garage with a servant room and a fenced backyard. They had alternating light or dark brick, red or green asphalt roof shingles with a gable facing the street on alternating houses. In 1920, they sold for \$12,000 to \$15,000.

If you would like to how to research the history of your house, go to [juniusheights.org](http://juniusheights.org) and click “Resources”.

—Eric Graham

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## JUNIUS HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT RESOURCES

### SIDEWALK REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

Improve the appearance of your sidewalk! Reduce the risk of liability from accidents! You are responsible for the maintenance of your sidewalk but the City of Dallas will split the cost 50-50.

### TAX INCENTIVES

If you are considering a major remodel, the City of Dallas offers tax incentives to property owners completing rehabilitation projects to historic properties. Your house must be a contributing structure in the Junius Heights Historic District. To qualify, you must invest 25% of the pre-rehab value of the structure.

### CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

If you live in the Junius Heights Historic District, you need to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness before you do ANY work on the exterior of your house, including painting and routine maintenance or landscaping, including fencing. You also cannot demolish a structure in JHHD without approval. The goal is to preserve and enhance the streetscape of an early twentieth-century community.

Go to our website [juniusheights.org](http://juniusheights.org) and click “Resources” to see the details.

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## JOIN THE FUN — BECOME A MEMBER OF THE JUNIUS HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT! A GREAT WAY TO MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND GET INVOLVED

Junius Heights Historic District Membership dues are \$25.00 per year, per household.

There are two easy ways to join:

1. Pay your dues at our website [juniusheights.org](http://juniusheights.org)
2. Send a check payable to “Junius Heights Historic District” and provide the following information

Mail to: Treasurer, Junius Heights Historic District, P.O. Box 141004, Dallas, TX 75214

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call or text Lori Haspel at 214-842-0402