

Connect: Facebook.com/groups/East Montrose and www.eastmontrose.org or Mail: PO Box 131363 Houston, TX 77219

It is the mission of East Montrose Civic Association to serve the interests of East Montrose, to promote the safety and welfare of its residents, to foster a sense of community, and to celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of the area. These goals are accomplished through the efforts of its volunteers and elected officers.

EMCA 2021 Calendar

February 16 -Reg meeting -via zoom

March 16— Reg meeting-via zoom

April 20-**Reg Meeting**-via zoom

May 18 -Reg Meeting-via zoom

June 15—No meeting -summer break

July 20—No meeting -summer break

August 17—No meeting -summer break

September 21—Reg Meeting -tbd

October 5—National Night Out

November 16-Reg Meeting -tbd

December 7—Social—Holiday Party / Elections



Now You Know ...

by Dan Ritchel



What's the 4-1-1 on the City's 3-1-1

Have you driven around East Montrose and hit a pothole? Or, walked down our sidewalks and tripped on the broken or uneven cement? Or, complained to neighbors or on Facebook about streetlights that are not working or too dimly lit? Many of us have. What can we as a community do about it, and, how are our tax dollars being put to good use?

Well, after driving down my street the other day and hitting the drop-off of the deteriorating asphalt, to say I was motivated to find out, would be an understatement.

A few clicks later on the Internet, and I found the City of Houston's 3-1-1 website (www.Houston311.org), and their phone number 311. A great domain & call center where any citizen can report an issue and receive response quickly. Apparently, in 2001, the City launched the service to make the government more user-friendly and responsive to residents. From sewer concerns, to pothole problems and drainage issues, to unsafe buildings, Houstonians can speak with an agent or file online a Service Request to address an issue. Each Service Request can be tracked from start to finish by the City, and by any citizen. Many of the typical requests have been predefined to route to the appropriate city department to ensure it is recorded, assigned and prioritized within their division.

I am pleased to say, three days after my little incident on my street, a few clicks on their website, my Service Request was input and the street was fixed by the City.

As your neighbor, I encourage each and every one of you to leverage this service, and let's keep East Montrose pothole free, clean, and safe/bright at night.

Editors note: there is also a 311 app that can be used to report issues as you find them.





Q & A with Nell Stewart...



A few weeks after the country's oldest president and first woman vice president were voted into the White House, a noisy birthday parade filed past an East Montrose house. In the crowd were carefully masked adults, babies in strollers and one gloriously maintained Model T.

Watching from the lawn stood a woman who had not only lived through a previous pandemic, but had grown up in a Montrose filled with children, and even seen original Model Ts on the road: Nell Stewart, who has lived in the same Montrose house her entire life.

It was her birthday and she was 100 years old.

Even at 100, Stewart is quick-witted and elegant. When she's up and about, she favors crisp pants and a blazer, looking not a little like her movie-star contemporary, Katherine Hepburn. Her house is immaculate, its walls bearing a few landscapes from her years after receiving her art history degree at the University of Houston, and two mantel-



piece vases lovingly placed in those spots by Stewart's mother close to a century back.

Shortly before the neighborhood rolled past for her birthday, Ms. Stewart sat down to share some reflections on her life in always -changing Montrose.

Q: You last sat down for a published interview about five years ago. What's changed?

A: Five years ago this month I was 94. In the last five years, I suppose what has changed is that I no longer know anybody. My generation – they're gone. I miss going places and doing things with old friends and ladies from work. There's nobody you can say, "Do you remember so and so?" with. You're the last leaf on the tree. And having to stay at home can get a little boring. I don't get out to Montrose meetings now, so haven't met any new people. When you are almost 100 years old you have to slow down a little. My friend Mark used to walk his dog past here, and he went to Galveston. Part of my earliest memories were going to Galveston. My father loved water. He'd get us up early in the morning to drive on the beach and go for a plunge, and then go back to go to work.

Q: Especially a few months ago, the neighborhood got much quieter, with more foot traffic and fewer cars. Do you remember it like this?

A: In a way it does remind you of another century. There were a lot families. I was 21 before anyone moved out of our home. When I was a child, there were families with children all around. And it was quiet when I was growing up. It's very quiet now. In the interim, there were some very noisy years!

Q: You've lived through a pandemic before. What was it like?

A: There was a time when we were definitely afraid of polio, before the vaccine. A young boy in neighborhood died. That scared us very much. There was no vaccine so you lived in fear every time there was an outbreak. There were people who had recovered and were crippled in some way. There was no mention of masks. We just took our chances. We were all afraid of it. You just hoped. There was a polio aftercare center on Montrose, where they did therapy. And there was a period when the mansions on Montrose became doctors' offices. That was before the Medical Center.

Q: We've just elected a new president. What does it make you think about? I remember you telling me an FDR program found work for you to pay for college.

A: I hope Biden can unite the country. I think we're not exactly united now. I didn't think I'd live to see a woman vice president. If she succeeds Biden – that would have been unthinkable when I was growing up. We never would have imagined it. When I was young, most of us thought we could not have any other president than Franklin Roosevelt, which is why he was elected so many terms. He came in two or three years after the Depression set in, with programs. He had the WPA for older men and CCC for

East Montrose Biennial Home Tour ...

by Bill Maxey

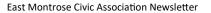
Because of the CV-19 Pandemic, our biennial home tour will be pushed to a later date to be announced. This was a tough decision to make since this it the major fund-raiser for the East Montrose Civic Association.

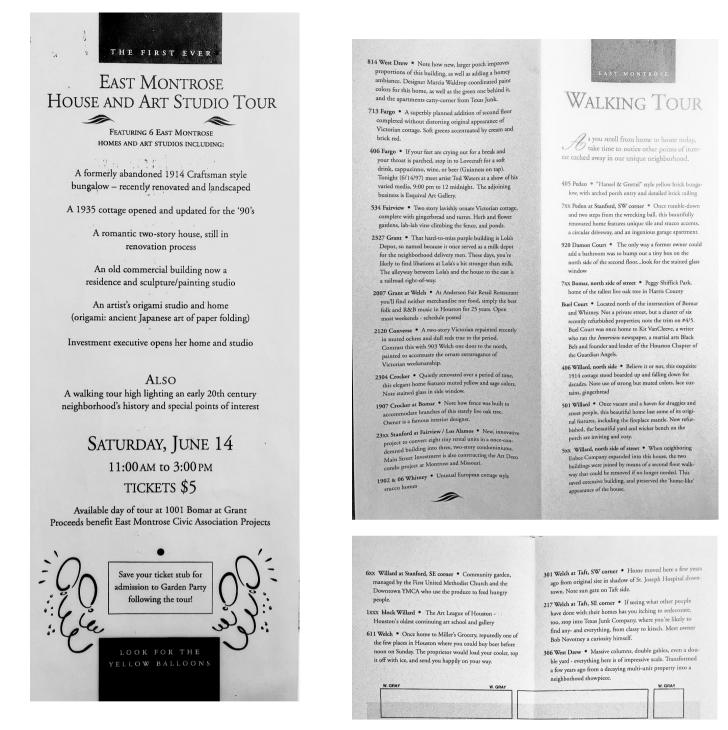
To ease the pain a bit, here is a bit of a blast from the past— the brochures and tickets from the first ever East Montrose House and Art Studio Tour in 1997!

Sadly....some of the homes on the home tour and walking tour are no longer standing.



Drawing of an East Montrose home by Debbie Grou





(Continued from page 2)

younger men. We all thought we had to have Roosevelt forever.

Q: Looking back, what things have made you happy?

A: Good friends. Jobs that I liked. Looking back: being able to be independent physically -- longer than most people. My longest friendship was from college days to about three years ago. Velma. She married Dr. Whitaker, during World War II. He was in the Navy and went to Boston and she flew to Boston and married him. They knew when they were in middle school they would be married. I was very happy when I was a young adult. Parties: We had them frequently. If anyone wanted to know where to have a party I'd raise my hands. We'd have a gathering of friends, played the piano. My mother had as much fun as we did.

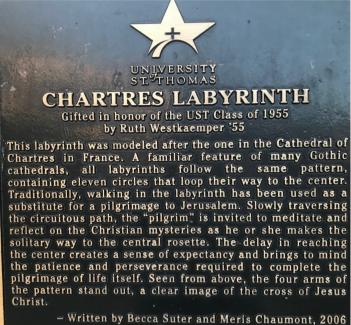
Q: What would you say were your smartest decisions?

A: I never made any big decisions. I'm so glad I didn't move. Having spent 100 years here I would feel strange somewhere else.

Art & About



There are two labyrinths in walking distance of East Montrose. To the south and slightly west there's one at the chapel of the University of St. Thomas. To the north and slightly east in Freedman's Town (Valentine @ Ruthven) is the Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Labyrinth. Both are based on the labyrinth at Chartres, France.



 Written by Becca Suter and Meris Chaumont, 2006 University of St. Thomas students

Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Prayer Garden Historic Freedmen's Town Labyrinth

The Historic Freedmen's Town Labyrinth was created in the center of the Mt Carmel MB Church Prayer Garden through the collaborative efforts of more than 150 volunteers including students from the Boniuk Institute's Sacred Sites Quest 4, the creative genius of Reginald Adams LLC, and the guidance of labyrinth coach Jay Stailey. The project was completed in the spring of 2014 and dedicated on June 7, 2014.

The design chosen for this labyrinth is a replica of the eleven circuit medieval labyrinth found on the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France. The term "circuit" refers to the number of times the path goes around the center. The outside circuit of this particular labyrinth has been diverted at each of the four corners to create a "bastion" or "ear" to the Chartres design. A mosaic designed "Heart of Serenity" bench created by the Sacred Sites Quest students has been placed within each bastion to provide a place for pilgrims to sit, reflect and/or meditate.

Labyrinths are used to quiet the mind, to encourage meditation and self-reflection, and to reduce stress. They are open to all people as a non-denominational, cross-cultural blueprint for well-being.

Welcome!





If you would like to get more involved in keeping East Montrose a great place to live—then here is your chance! Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

Block Captains / Clean Up Crew / Home Tour

Please contact EMCA President Mary Quinn at <u>President.emca@gmail.com</u> or EMCA Vice President Karen Brohn at <u>vicepresident.emca@gmail.com</u> to volunteer.

Area crime reports can be found at the excellent and current <u>www.spotcrime.com</u> The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

Food for Thought...



It's that time of year when the weather is perfect for comfort food on a cold day. And likely time to go ahead and break one of your New Year's resolutions. So, I say, go for it. I love this recipe my mother shared with me for cornbread. She usually had served it with Slow Cooked Beef Stew, or Texas Chili, or Greens, or.... Well, you get the idea. Neighbors, I hope you enjoy! And, don't ask me the calorie count.

Dan Ritchel

SOUTHERN COMFORT CORNBREAD

WHAT YOU NEED:

2 packages of White Cornbread mix (6 oz size pkgs)
1 & 1/3 cup of Half & Half cream
2 eggs
1 can of Sweet Corn (drained)
1 cup Extra Sharp Cheddar Cheese (buy the block & shred it yourself)
1 cup White Onion (diced)
1/2 cup jar or hot Jalapenos (drained & diced)
4 slices Bacon
2 T Sugar
Pinch of Salt
Cast Iron skillet (10.5" in diameter). YES, it must be cast iron!!

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Cook bacon slices in cast iron skillet until crispy; and reserve the bacon grease in the skillet.

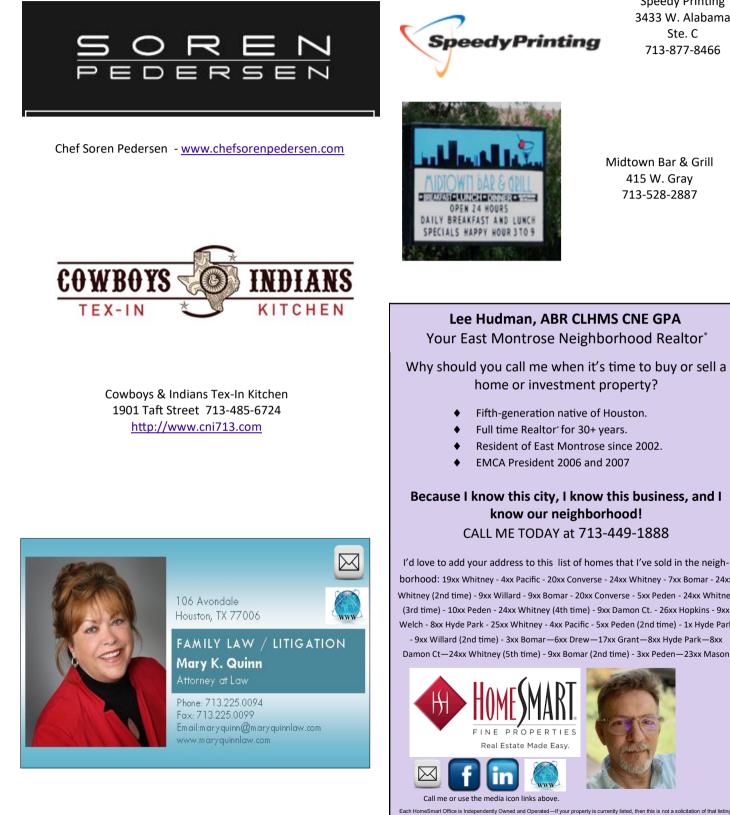
Combine in large mixing bowl the 2 packages of cornbread mix, cream, eggs, corn, cheese, diced onions, diced jalapenos, chopped cooked bacon, sugar and salt. Pour mixture back into the HOT cast iron skillet containing the bacon grease. This will start the cooking process and provide a crispy crust on the cornbread.

Bake the filled skillet at 425 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown on top. Serve



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I'd love to add your address to this list of homes that I've sold in the neighborhood: 19xx Whitney - 4xx Pacific - 20xx Converse - 24xx Whitney - 7xx Bomar - 24xx Whitney (2nd time) - 9xx Willard - 9xx Bomar - 20xx Converse - 5xx Peden - 24xx Whitney (3rd time) - 10xx Peden - 24xx Whitney (4th time) - 9xx Damon Ct. - 26xx Hopkins - 9xx Welch - 8xx Hyde Park - 25xx Whitney - 4xx Pacific - 5xx Peden (2nd time) - 1x Hyde Park - 9xx Willard (2nd time) - 3xx Bomar—6xx Drew—17xx Grant—8xx Hyde Park—8xx Damon Ct-24xx Whitney (5th time) - 9xx Bomar (2nd time) - 3xx Peden-23xx Mason



East Montrose Civic Association Newsletter

Our District C City Council Member: Abbie Kamin

Contact Ngan Nguyen <u>districtc@houstontx.gov</u>—832-393-3004

City of Houston Community Liaison Carl Davis—832-393-4063

Harris County Precinct One—Commissioner Rodney Ellis Contact: Matala Idi <u>Matala.idi@cp1.hctx.net</u>—346-286-1900

> Council Member At Large #5—Sallie Alcorn Contact: Mike Watkins <u>Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov</u>—832-393-3017

January Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance			\$8,609.15
Monies In:			
	Membership	\$325.00	
Monies Out:			
	Storage Unit	(\$61.00)	
	Zoom Meeting Subscription	(\$15.98)	
	Newsletter printing	(\$382.50)	
	PayPal Fees	(\$12.36)	
Ending Balance:			\$8,462.31

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

February 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
February 3	Wednesday	Heavy Trash— JUNK
February 8	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
February 15	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
February 22	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
March 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
March 3	Wednesday	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE

This trash schedule comes from the Rollout app and is subject to change. ***holiday schedule / not confirmed

Join EMCA Today!

Membership is open to neighborhood residents or business owners/operators. Payment of dues will apply to current year.

___ Single or Guest \$15.00 ___Household \$25.00 ___Business \$30.00

Name(s):______

Address:______

Home Phone:______Alt. Phone:_____

Email:____

Mail to: PO Box 131363 Houston, TX 77219

OR pay via PayPal at <u>www.Eastmontrose.org</u>

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Mary Quinn —<u>president.emca@gmail.com</u> V-Pres: Karen Brohn —<u>vicepresident.emca@gmail.com</u> Treasurer: Malisa Galvan-<u>treasurer.emca@gmail.com</u> Secretary: Mike McHam—<u>secretary.emca@gmail.com</u> Past President: Sherry Weesner—<u>pastpresident.emca@gmail.com</u> At Large 1: Julia Schafer—<u>rep1.emca@gmail.com</u> At Large 2: Dan Ritchel — <u>rep2.emca@gmail.com</u> Neartown Liaison: Julie Young—<u>wallpaperlady@att.net</u> Newsletter: Lee Hudman—<u>newsletter.emca@gmail.com</u> HPD's PIP: Julie Young—<u>wallpaperlady@att.net</u> Security: Mark Weesner <u>mdwpsbn@gmail.com</u> Trees for EM: Josh & Helen Dubach - <u>isdubach@gmail.com</u> Peggy Shiffick Park: Ellen Yarrell - <u>ellen@eayatty.com</u> FB Admin: Lee Hudman - <u>EastMontrose@groups.facebook.com</u> Yard of the Season: Betsy Anderson — <u>bsatexas@sbcglobal.net</u>

The following volunteer positions are currently open:

Block Captains: **OPEN**—block captains are needed for each street in the boundaries of East Montrose Cleanup Crew: **OPEN** Home Tour: **OPEN**

Please contact the EMCA Pres or VP to volunteer. We need you!

Extra printed newsletter copies can be found in the mailbox at Peggy Shiffick Park. Digital PDF versions are on the "files" tab of the East Montrose Facebook page and on Eastmontrose.org. Newsletters are normally printed only four times per year. Digital issues are available every month. Send your name, address and email to <u>treasurer.emca@gmail.com</u> for a PDF newsletter receipt by email each month including print months. Deadlines for newsletter article submissions is always the 20th day of the previous month. Article submissions are always welcome. No self promotion please!

I would like to help in the following way:

_____Safety and Security: Promote safety and security in East Montrose through HPD's Positive Interface Program (PIP), Crime-Out activities, and Citizens Crime Patrol.

__Membership: Encourage membership enrollment, maintain records.

____Volunteer: Database Administrator

Volunteer: Newsletter Team

___*Volunteer:* Biennial Home Tour

Want to submit an article for the newsletter? Please email your article to newsletter@eastmontrose.org.