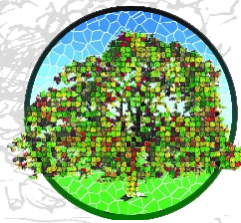


# East Montrose

## Civic Association Newsletter



Connect: [Facebook.com/groups/East Montrose](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastMontrose) and [www.eastmontrose.org](http://www.eastmontrose.org) or Mail: PO Box 131363 Houston, TX 77219

November 2025

*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 2025 Calendar

11/15—Neighborhood Clean-up, 9A

12/11—Holiday party

More dates to follow.

All EMCA meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month unless noted otherwise.

### Security Survey Update:

Thank you to all who participated in the survey. We are analyzing your responses and will share an update on the direction of the SEAL patrol program in the weeks to come.

To learn how YOU can help make trash pick-up more efficient, please read the guidelines linked below:

[COH Curbside Collection Guidelines](#)



EMCA has an Instagram account! Give us a follow @eastmontrose for neighborhood updates, photos, and more!

Area crime reports can be found at the excellent and current [www.spotcrime.com](http://www.spotcrime.com).

The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.



## Annual East Montrose Civic Association Holiday Party and Election Night

The Annual East Montrose Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange will take place Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Quinn, EMCA Past President, 305 Fargo Street. The EMCA Board will provide some holiday munchies along with water and soft drinks. We ask everyone to bring their own adult libations and an appetizer, snack or food item to share if possible.

Members will be entered into a drawing for a raffle prize. Non-members are welcome to attend with a \$5.00 donation.

Remember each person who wants to participate in the gift exchange must bring a wrapped (or at least disguised) white elephant gift for the gift exchange.

At the beginning of the evening, we will be electing a Secretary, Treasurer and an At-Large Director. If you would like to run for one of these positions, please email the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Karen Brohn @ [president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com).

# Things to do in Houston this Month

1. **Dia de los Muertos Parade and Festival:** the 5th annual parade returns to Houston with live music, a wonderfully colorful procession, delicious foods, interactive arts and more! Join the festivities to honor the dead and celebrate the living.

November 1, Sam Houston Park, 4PM

2. **French Festival:** French art, cuisine and culture arrive at POST. Enjoy the music, flavors, innovation and see how they tie into Texas culture. Live music, art exhibitions, iconic French brands, bistro style buffets, and open wine and champagne bars await.

November 13, POST Houston, 6:30PM

3. **Nicholas Payton Quartet:** Grammy Award-winning trumpeter will be playing here in Houston, showcasing a variety of contemporary and traditional styles. He calls his work postmodern New Orleans" and is a must see.

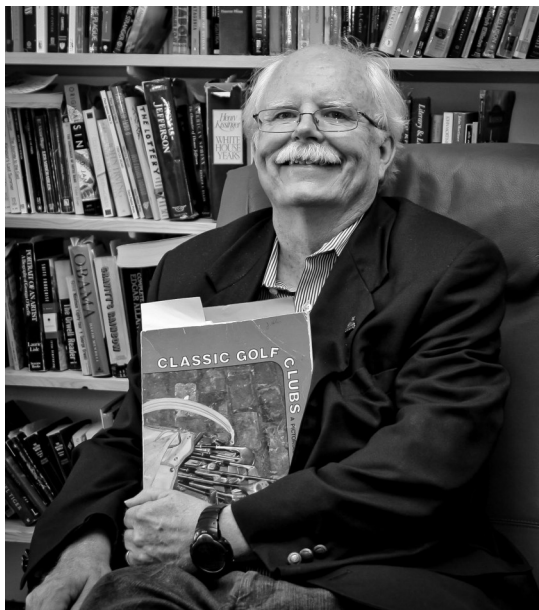
November 14, Wortham Theater, 8PM

4. **A Christmas Carol:** We all know and love him, its Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformative encounters with the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Check out this wonderfully Dickensian story about rediscovering the true spirit of Christmas.

November 16 and 30, December 7, 14, and 21 at Alley Theater, 6:30PM

5. **Anarkali Re-imagined:** The unbelievably true, legendary Mughal love story of Anarkali and Prince Salim will be performed in Houston for 4 nights. The production brings to life rich history, romance, and incredible dance numbers within the Mughal court. This is the story of love and empire. Dress to impress in your Mughal best (optional). Playbill includes translations of all songs.

November 20-23, at 3300 S Jenson Drive, Ste B, 8PM. Limited to 80 seats per night.



Our dear friend and neighbor Jeff Skarda (Willard St) passed away on Sunday, September 28, and we miss him. Jeff was a creative soul with a heart of gold and a longtime supporter of the EMCA. Our hearts go out to his wife Penny Cerling who loved him dearly.

## EAST MONTROSE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP!!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 2025 AT  
9AM

MEET AT PEGGY H SHIFFICK PARK

Contact George Boos with any ques-  
tions at [george.boos@att.net](mailto:george.boos@att.net)

SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED



## **EMCA holds a successful National Night on Tuesday October 7**

The weather cooperated, the community came out, the dignitaries showed up, food was aplenty, and the raffle gifts were amazing! Thanks so much to all the Board and all the volunteers who helped make the event a fun success. A huge round of applause belongs to Tim Leatherwood and Cindy Shung who once again gave us access to Anderson Fair to stage our event. Tim and Cindy made sure we had drinks/tables and chairs and a bathroom!!

Many thanks to Midtown Bar and Grill and Pepperoni's Pizza for donating the fabulous chicken kabobs and pizza's to EMCA for the event. And kudos to all the residents who brought food items to share.

The Board and our members want to also thank the many local businesses who donated superb items for the gift raffle: Demi's Dog House, Reeves Antiques, Little Dreamer Coffee, Pinot's Palette, Texas Art Supply, In Bloom Florist, Stretch Yoga, origami artist Joan Son, Boheme, Hungry's Restaurant, Fletcher's Bike Studio, and Memorial Assistance Ministries.



## **Candidate Bios for EMCA Election**

The nominating committee recommendations and a short bio for each candidate are as follows and are posted online at [www.eastmontrose.org](http://www.eastmontrose.org).

### **Secretary – Jamie Flatt/Joey Zamora**

Joey Zamora and Jamie Flatt moved into East Montrose in 2019. Both native Houstonians, they are committed to the area and have been active in various community-based organizations locally for years.

Jamie was a Girl Scout Troop leader, Elementary School PTO President (Poe), and is now a Central Houston Inc. Board Member.

Joey prefers building community less formally by organizing neighborly gatherings, connecting with immediate neighbors and more recently establishing a micro-bird habitat to enliven Stanford Street and entertain the four family cats.

Joey and Jamie have been actively involved with EMCA for several years now, starting with supporting the SEAL Patrol initiative. Leveraging her day job as an architect (and the graphic capabilities that brings), Jamie enjoys helping make sure EMCA communications as clear as possible.

### **Treasurer – Betsy Anderson**

Betsy Sears Anderson is the interim Treasurer of East Montrose Civic Association, a position she has held since this past summer. She has been an active member of EMCA since moving here from Meyerland in 2013. She is currently the chair of the Yard of the Season Committee and assists in our neighborhood projects whenever possible. In her past life, she was the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Treasurer of Energy Planning, Inc., an energy consulting firm for the natural gas industry. She was the Chairman of the Bellaire High School Mathematics Department for over 8 years, having taught HS math for over 20 years. She has volunteered for the Houston Livestock and Rodeo for 14 years, the Nutcracker Market for over 5 years, the Houston Sports Authority for over 8 years. She is a sucker for any organization that supports the lives of animals and the protection of our earth. She has run 15 Full Marathons, and countless Half Marathons, including what will be her 15<sup>th</sup> Houston Half in January. If elected to the position of full-time Treasurer, Betsy hopes to encourage all our residents to become active members of the East Montrose Civic Association. To be a part of EMCA shows your interest in our community and helps ensure our voices will be heard by the City on questions that affect East Montrose.

### **At-Large – Mary Dedeaux-Swinton**

Mary Dedeaux-Swinton is a native Houstonian who has lived in a number of cities around Texas and the mid-west. She and her husband Jeffrey bought their home in East Montrose in October 2024 and are in the neighborhood to stay! Mary believes that the more people involved in the neighborhood, the safer and enjoyable it is for everyone. She has the time and energy to dedicate to the work of the association and looks forward to making a difference.

Mary is carefully considering where to get involved in her new community. She has volunteered in her previous neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, and city boards, developing skills in board governance, member engagement, fundraising, relationship building, and collaboration. Most recently, Mary served on the Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, and she chaired the inaugural Minneapolis Community Commission on Police Oversight. She served in numerous roles in organizations including the Junior League, the Twin Cities Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Haven Housing Board of Directors (a homeless shelter for women and children), Domestic Abuse Project Board of Directors, the Texas State Association of Parliamentarians, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Outside of her work in the community, Mary enjoys sewing and crafts, traveling, and baking.

All members in good standing (meaning your dues are up to date) are eligible to vote. You can check your status by reaching out to Betsy Anderson at [treasurer.emca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.emca@gmail.com).

If you are unable to attend the Holiday Party, you can complete an absentee/proxy ballot and drop it off at 503 Welch Street or email it to [president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com).

# Recipe of the Month

Grab some crusty bread and get ready to dip into this hearty, warm lamb stew. The perfect one pot recipe for chilly nights. Recipe by Lena Abraham

## Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 lb. lamb shoulder roast, cubed into 1" pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and cut into rounds
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- 6 cups low-sodium beef broth
- 1 cup red wine
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 lb. baby potatoes, halved
- 2 tsp. cornstarch, optional
- 2 tsp. cold water, optional
- 1/4 cup freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

1. In a large Dutch oven or pot over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add lamb and cook on all sides until seared, 10 minutes, working in batches if necessary. Transfer to a plate.

2. In the same pot, cook onion, carrots, and celery until soft, 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add garlic, tomato paste, cumin, and paprika and cook until garlic is fragrant and tomato paste has darkened, 2 minutes.

3. Add lamb back to Dutch oven then add broth, wine, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, and bay leaves.

4. Bring to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and let simmer until lamb is tender, 30 minutes.

5. Add potatoes and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender and stew has thickened, 30 minutes. (If potatoes are tender but stew is not as thick as desired, whisk cornstarch with 2 teaspoons cold water in a small bowl until dissolved, then add to stew, bring to a boil, and stir until thickened, about 1 minute.)

6. Remove bay leaves and rosemary and garnish with parsley before serving.



**Mayor's Assistance Office:**

James Ronje—832-393-5958

[James.ronje@houstontx.gov](mailto:James.ronje@houstontx.gov)

**Our District C City Council Member: Abbie Kamin**

Contact Kate Dentler

[districtc@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtc@houstontx.gov)—832-393-3004

**City of Houston Community Liaison**

Carl Davis—832-393-4063

**Harris County Precinct One—Commissioner Rodney Ellis**

Contact: Matala Idi

[Matala.idi@cp1.hctx.net](mailto:Matala.idi@cp1.hctx.net)—346-286-1900

**Council Member At Large #5—Sallie Alcorn**

Contact: Mike Watkins

[Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov](mailto:Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov)—832-393-3017

**TIRZ 27**

email [info@montrosehtx.org](mailto:info@montrosehtx.org) website [montrosehtx.org](http://montrosehtx.org)

**Representative, CD7**

Lizzie Fletcher—713-353-8680

<http://fletcher.house.gov/contact>

**East Montrose C/A Contacts**

President: Karen Brohn — [president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com)

V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle— [vicepresident.emca@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresident.emca@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Betsy Anderson— [treasurer.emca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.emca@gmail.com)

Secretary: Jamie Flatt, Joey Zamora— [secretary.emca@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.emca@gmail.com)

Past Pres.: Mary Quinn— [pastpresident.emca@gmail.com](mailto:pastpresident.emca@gmail.com)

At Large 1: Katy Macalla and Alyssa Ketner — [rep1.emca@gmail.com](mailto:rep1.emca@gmail.com)

At Large 2: Beth Shook — [rep2.emca@gmail.com](mailto:rep2.emca@gmail.com)

Neartown Liaison: Karen Brohn — [president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com)

Neartown Alt Liaison: Jamie Flatt— [secretary.emca@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.emca@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Sofie Shoaib— [newsletter.emca@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.emca@gmail.com)

HPD's PIP: OPEN

Security: Hugo Ovalle— [safety.emca@gmail.com](mailto:safety.emca@gmail.com)

Trees for EM: Josh & Helen Dubach - [jsdubach@gmail.com](mailto:jsdubach@gmail.com)

Peggy Shiffick Park: Gloria Lyons— [globella@icloud.com](mailto:globella@icloud.com)

FB Admin: Bill Maxey - [EastMontrose@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/EastMontrose/)

Yard of the Season: Betsy Anderson — [bsatexas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsatexas@sbcglobal.net)

Clean up Crew: George Boos — [george.boos@att.net](mailto:george.boos@att.net)

Home Tour: Bill Maxey — [bmaxey@mediadesigninc.com](mailto:bmaxey@mediadesigninc.com)

| 2025 Treasurer's Report                        |                            |             |  |             |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| For the period January 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025 |                            |             |  |             |
| <b>EMCA</b>                                    |                            |             |  |             |
| Beginning Balance                              |                            |             |  | \$7,411.00  |
| Monies In                                      | Membership                 | \$1,155.00  |  |             |
|                                                | Advertising Revenue        | -           |  |             |
|                                                |                            | \$1,155.00  |  | \$1,155.00  |
| Monies Out                                     |                            |             |  |             |
|                                                | Paypal Fees                | \$42.95     |  |             |
|                                                | Insurance                  | 720         |  |             |
|                                                | Newsletter                 | 671.2       |  |             |
|                                                | Spring Fling               | 520         |  |             |
|                                                | Storage Fees               | 300         |  |             |
|                                                | PO Box                     | 226         |  |             |
|                                                | Zoom                       | 159.9       |  |             |
|                                                | Neartown Association Dues  | 100         |  |             |
|                                                | Quickbooks                 | -2.31       |  |             |
|                                                | Billsby                    | 111.24      |  |             |
|                                                |                            | \$2,848.98  |  | \$2,848.98  |
| Ending Balance                                 |                            |             |  | \$5,717.02  |
| <b>Security</b>                                |                            |             |  |             |
| Beginning Balance                              |                            |             |  | \$28,219.64 |
| Monies In                                      | Security Reserve less Fees | \$16,337.68 |  | \$16,337.68 |
| Monies Out                                     |                            |             |  |             |
|                                                | SEAL Payments              | \$23,173.00 |  |             |
|                                                | Insurance                  | 1,442.00    |  |             |
|                                                | Billsby                    | 472.58      |  |             |
|                                                |                            | \$25,087.58 |  | \$25,087.58 |
| Ending Balance Subscription                    |                            |             |  | \$19,469.74 |
| Combined Ending Balance                        |                            |             |  | \$25,186.76 |

**Total EMCA Members: 248**

**Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 199**

**2024 Greater EM Security Subscribers: 91**

The treasurer's reporting month is being changed to coincide with the newsletter being created prior to month end.

**The following volunteer positions are currently open:**

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

**Please contact the EMCA President or VP to volunteer.**

**We need you!**

**TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

|             |           |                               |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| November 3  | Monday    | Regular Trash & Lawn          |
| November 5  | Wednesday | Tree Waste                    |
| November 10 | Monday    | Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle |
| November 17 | Monday    | Regular Trash & Lawn          |
| November 24 | Monday    | Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle |
| December 1  | Monday    | Regular Trash & Lawn          |

This trash schedule comes from the Rollout! app and is subject to change.

\*\*\*holiday schedule / not confirmed

Want to submit an article for the newsletter? Please email your article to [newsletter.emca@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.emca@gmail.com). All submissions are welcome, but submission does not guarantee that the submission will be published.



**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 [www.Eastmontrose.org](http://www.Eastmontrose.org) or via Zelle to [treasurer.emca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.emca@gmail.com)**

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

East Montrose Civic Association

Proxy Ballot

December 11, 2025

Election of Officers in Accordance with By-Laws

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being a member in good standing of the East Montrose Civic Association, hereby vote for the following named persons to serve as officers of the Association from January 2026 – December 2027.

Please accept this as my absentee vote for the below-named candidates being considered on December 11, 2025.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Roster of Candidates:

Secretary: Jamie Flatt/Joey Zamora      Write-In Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Betsy Anderson      Write-In Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

At Large: Mary Dedeaux-Swinton      Write-In Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Please complete and email to [president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com) or complete and mail/drop off at 503 Welch Street by 5 PM on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.