

East Montrose

Civic Association Newsletter



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

February 2026

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 2026 Calendar

02/17—EMCA Meeting at Midtown Bar and Grill w/ speaker from TIRZ
03/24—EMCA Meeting, location TBD
Spring Fling—04/19
More dates to follow.

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

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 The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

Happy New Year!

We hope the New Year has started off well for everyone!

East Montrose Civic Association ended 2025 with our annual meeting and white elephant gift exchange on December 11th. As always, wonderful food, great fellowship, and of course the fun and laughter with the white elephant gift exchange. As always a special thanks to our host, past-president Mary Quinn.

We had a quorum of members present so elections were held. Members voted in favor of Jaime Flatt and Joey Zamora as co-secretary; Betsy Anderson as treasurer and Mary Dedeaux-Swinton as at-large director. Karen Brohn (President), Hugo O’Valle (Vice President) and Katy Dunbar and Alyssa Ketner (co-at large position 1) are continuing on in their roles.

Our first association meeting of 2026 was held on Tuesday, January 20th at Midtown Bar & Grill. Members discussed goals for 2026 and potential topics for upcoming member meetings. Our next member meeting is Tuesday, February 16th. Updates will be posted on our [website](#) as well as on our Facebook [page](#).

If you have any questions, you can reach Karen at president.emca@gmail.com.

Hope to see everyone at our meetings and around the neighborhood.

Karen Brohn

President

East Montrose Civic Association

Things to do in Houston this Month

1. Harlem Globetrotters: On their 100 Year Tour, this unforgettable basketball team comes to Houston to play against their longtime rivals, the Washington Generals. The event will showcase pre-game experiences, autograph sessions for all fans, an all new *Golden Basketball* and more! Don't miss this epic team's insane tricks.

February 7, 1PM, Toyota Center

2. Texas Lunar Festival: With 17 days of Lunar New Year celebrations, there are tons of events to choose from all month long, but we are highlighting the dragon dances, lantern displays, music, and delicious foods at the Texas Lunar Festival. Enjoy the celebrations with firecrackers and don't forget to pass out hongbao's (red envelopes)!. Welcome to the year of the horse!

February 14, Alief Career Center

3. Mardi Gras Galveston: The largest Mardi Gras celebration in Texas comes packed with events and activities. A street circus, parade, prizes, performances, excellent food, a fun run, and live music can all be found just a short drive away from EM.

Galveston, February 6-17th

4. Monster Jam: All of your favorite monster trucks return with high flying stunts and action-packed excitement. Don't miss this wild event!

February 7, 14, 15 at NRG Park.

5. World Championship BBQ Contest: Kicking off the Rodeo season, the best BBQ competition in town returns! More than 250 teams will compete in this epic contest. Visitors can enjoy live music, barbecue, and the carnival.

February 26-28, NRG Stadium

From the editor

February brings Valentine's Day, a holiday that reminds us to pause and appreciate the people and places that make our lives a little brighter. In our neighborhood, that appreciation shows up in many forms—friendly hellos on evening walks, familiar faces at local shops and cafes, kids playing together after school or on weekends, and neighbors looking out for one another in big and small ways.

This time of year is a great opportunity to celebrate not just romantic love, but community love. Consider supporting a local business, checking in on a neighbor, or simply taking a moment to enjoy what makes our corner of the world feel like home. Those everyday connections are what truly give our neighborhood its heart.

As always, we're grateful to be part of such a thoughtful, engaged community. After a short break, we are resuming our monthly newsletters, and hope this issue brings you useful updates, local highlights, and maybe even a little inspiration to spread kindness—this Valentine's Day and beyond.

With neighborly love, *Sofie*

In memory of our beloved neighbor and longtime EM resident, Tom Little.

Tom had owned his home here on Bomar near Tx Art Supply since 1976 and was the anchor member of our block. He retired from UHD as the theater director a few years ago & was well known in the community as he would get out and walk every morning. He always walked West & would stop at Christy's donuts for breakfast. Seeing him out everyday & saying hello brought a sense of stability to the world. He would drag all the immediate neighbors' trash cans up into their driveways once trash was emptied as part of his daily routine on trash days. It was one of those little gestures that made a big difference in the life of the neighborhood. A large group of the Bomar neighbors attended the service for him. It was a wonderful celebration of his life attended by 150-200 people.

All of us over here on this end of Bomar miss him greatly but a silver lining is that his departure has brought the neighborhood closer together.. something we are certain Tom would be thrilled by.

ELECTION CALENDER!

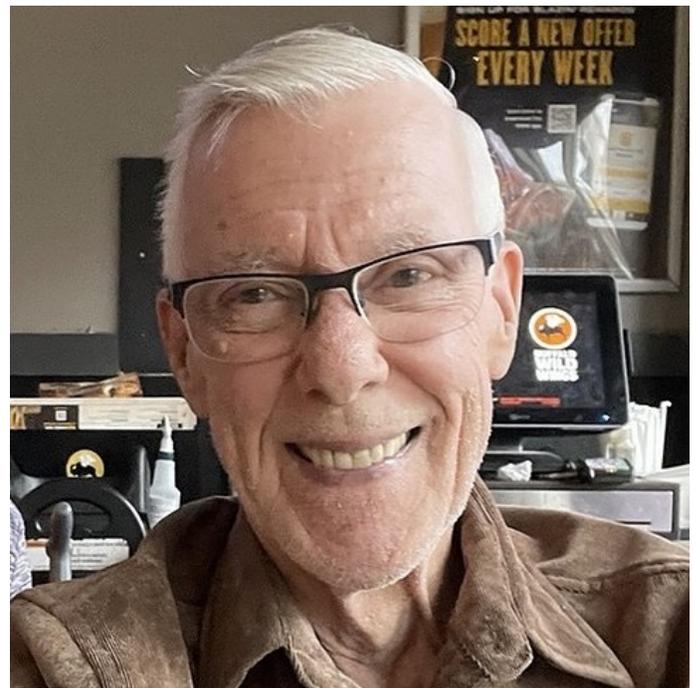
Democratic and Republican Primaries

- Early voting: Feb. 17–27
- Election Day: March 3

City Council District C Special Election

- Early voting: TBD
- Election Day: April 4

To view your primary ballot visit this [link](#).
The closest polling center to EM is the Metropolitan Multi Service Center on West Grey.



Tom Little

ELECTION 2022 ELECTION 2022 ELECTION 2022

YOUR VOICE

YOUR VOTE

ELECTION 2022 ELECTION 2022 ELECTION 2022

City Heavy Trash Schedule Change!

Traditional monthly heavy trash pick up services are ending after this month, February.

Residents will need to request pick up through 311, and Solid Waste will assign a pick up appointment (estimated to be completed within 5 working days).

Each address will be allocated 4 heavy trash collections per calendar year, with the new system launching March 2.

Yard of the Season

Our Yard of the Season winning home for the months November 2025 through February 2026 is the large, totally remodeled, cream and black saltbox-type home at 408 Welch Street. With a New England feel, the two-story home has a symmetrical façade with a large porch across the front. The homeowners, James and Frank, moved into East Montrose in January 2025, after having lived in Los Angeles and the Bay Area in California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. They chose East Montrose because of its welcoming community, walkability, and our neighborhood's wonderful character. Their household also includes a very calm, beautifully marked French bulldog, Bruce.

Both Frank and James love gardening and their home and yard reflect that interest. The head gardener and creative influence on the outside décor is Frank. James loves to put Frank's designs into reality. Frank's special Halloween design and flowers were inspired. And for the holidays the home was a wonderland of white lights with green wreaths. During a major renovation of the home a few years ago a new living space was added above the garage. If you walked by in the evening during the holidays, reindeer were in flight above the addition. Currently, you will see touches of Valentine's Day. And spring will bring color! These homeowners are excited to put down new roots in East Montrose and have loved making their home and yard a reflection of the warmth they feel in our community.





Wishing Nell a belated happy birthday on her big 105th!!! Nell was born right here on Crocker St and lived in East Montrose for most of her life, over 100 years. She worked at Wilson Elementary School, then at the law firm which used to be on Crocker St (now private residence).

Update on the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project:

The project was slated to start in early 2026. However, there has been another delay. The TIRZ board has found additional funds and now needs more time to figure out what streets can be added to the list of those receiving new sidewalks (which is currently just about all of East Montrose.)

Where did this new money come from? Turns out that part of Taft between Welch and W. Gray has, for a while, been slated for improvements through the Public Works Dept. The speaker at the last TIRZ meeting mentioned "big changes coming," but didn't elaborate further, except that the plan includes new sidewalks for that stretch of Taft. Since Public Works is paying for those sidewalks, the TIRZ doesn't have to, and can use the funds previously allocated to Taft for new sidewalks on additional area streets.

Additionally, trees in EM in general are not as large as those in another neighborhood that was used as a guideline, and don't need as many "checker plates" to protect roots. So that leaves us even more funding which can be redirected to additional sidewalks.

To sum it up:

We're going from renovations on 4-5 miles originally planned, to nearly 9 miles of new sidewalks, between East Montrose and North Montrose. Approx \$8 million plan now upped to roughly \$10 million.

Not a bad perk for our tiny little corner of Montrose!

New target start date is mid-2nd quarter of 2026.

Recipe of the Month

Sweet and Spicy Gochujang Chicken Bowls are a perfect one-pan, 30 minute meal that is sure to impress. Recipe by Ambitious Kitchen

For the sauce:

- ½ cup filtered water
- ¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
- 2 to 3 tablespoons gochujang
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar (or coconut sugar)
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons arrowroot starch or cornstarch

For the chicken:

- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
- 6 scallions, thinly sliced (white and green parts divided)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large red bell pepper, chopped
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound lean ground chicken (or turkey)
- ⅓ cup roasted or toasted cashews
- ½ cup fresh Thai basil or sweet basil, torn

To garnish:

- Toasted sesame seeds
- Reserved scallions (green part only)
- Extra fresh torn basil
- For serving:
- Cooked white or brown rice

1. Prepare the sauce: In a medium bowl, whisk together the water, soy sauce, gochujang, sesame oil, rice vinegar, brown sugar, ginger, garlic and arrowroot starch (or cornstarch). Set aside.

2. Cook the chicken and vegetables: Add 1 tablespoon sesame oil to a large skillet and place over medium heat. Once oil is hot, add in scallion (white part only), peppers and garlic and season with ½ teaspoon kosher salt and a few grinds of freshly ground black pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 to 3 minutes, then move peppers to the sides of the pan and add in the ground chicken. Quickly begin to break up the meat and cook, until it is no longer pink, stirring occasionally, about 5 to 6 minutes.

3. Stir in sauce: Once meat is cooked, turn heat to low and add in the roasted cashews and the sauce. Cook, stirring occasionally, 2 to 4 minutes more to allow flavors to develop and sauce to thicken up. Remove from heat and stir in basil, or reserve the basil for garnishing (up to you!)

4. Garnish and serve: Serve warm in shallow bowls over rice of choice and garnish with sesame seeds, sliced green onion (green part only) and a little extra torn basil.

Mayor's Assistance Office:

James Ronje—832-393-5958

James.ronje@houstontx.gov

Our District C City Council Member: Abbie Kamin

Contact Kate Dentler

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—346-286-1900

Council Member At Large #5—Sallie Alcorn

Contact: Mike Watkins

Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov—832-393-3017

TIRZ 27

email info@montrosehtx.org website montrosehtx.org

Representative, CD7

Lizzie Fletcher—713-353-8680

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Karen Brohn —president.emca@gmail.com

V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle—vicepresident.emca@gmail.com

Treasurer: Betsy Anderson—treasurer.emca@gmail.com

Secretary: Jamie Flatt, Joey Zamora—secretary.emca@gmail.com

Past Pres.: Mary Quinn—pastpresident.emca@gmail.com

At Large 1: Katy Macalla and Alyssa Ketner —rep1.emca@gmail.com

At Large 2: Mary Dedeaux-Swinton— rep2.emca@gmail.com

Neartown Liaison: Karen Brohn —president.emca@gmail.com

Neartown Alt Liaison: Jamie Flatt—secretary.emca@gmail.com

Newsletter: Sofie Shoaib—newsletter.emca@gmail.com

HPD's PIP: OPEN

Trees for EM: Josh & Helen Dubach - jsdubach@gmail.com

Peggy Shiffick Park: Gloria Lyons—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

Clean up Crew: George Boos —george.boos@att.net

Home Tour: Bill Maxey —bmaxey@mediadesigninc.com

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

February 9	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
February 16	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
February 23	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
March 2	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
March 9	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn

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

2026 Treasurer Repo EMCA			
For the Period January 1, 2026 - January 31, 2026			
Beginning of Month Balance			\$ 5,210.74
Monies In			
Membership	105.00		
Total In			\$ 105.00
Monies Out			
PayPal Fees	1.24		
Storage Unit	125.00		
Misc Remibursement	(145.00)		
Total Out			\$ (18.76)
End of Month Balance			\$ 5,334.50
Reserve in Security Account			\$ 2,938.02
Combined Ending Balance			\$ 8,272.52

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

Total EMCA Households: 99
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.



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 or via Zelle to 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

Pictures from the year-end Annual Holiday Party.

