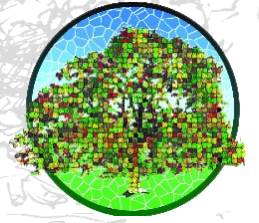


East Montrose

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

May 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

5/19—EMCA meeting, Midtown Bar and Grill
10/6—NNO
10/24—Biannual Home Tour
More dates to follow.

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

Special thank you to our contributors:

- Julie Young · Katy Macalla
- Penny Cerling · Alyssa Ketner
- Beth Shook

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 The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

Montrose TIRZ Community Updates

Safe Routes to School: \$9.4M project awaiting city approval. Neighbors will receive a door hanger prior to work beginning on their street. The board plans to start seeking bids from contractors soon. A small number of trees will be removed and notifications will go out in May to affected residents.

Montrose Boulevard Improvement Project: Phase I, including the HAWK at West Clay and pedestrian bridge at Allen Parkway, is mostly done. Street lights have not been turned on yet. Timeline for Phase II (W Dallas to W Clay) has been pushed back. Speakers expressed safety concerns regarding the turning radius at Allen Parkway next to the pedestrian bridge.

The Board has approved the 2026 budget, but city council has not voted on it yet because the board has not responded to questions from District C Council Member Abbie Kamin.

Survey responses will be discussed at the May meeting.

May Election Dates

May 16: District C City Council Runoff

Early voting April 29 – May 12

May 26: Primary Runoff Elections

Early voting: May 18–22

Two low turnout elections where your vote really counts. Visit harrisvotes.org for more details.

Things to do in Houston this Month

1. Full Moon Hike: Don't mistake this for Halloween haunts—this is your chance to explore nature, ground yourself, and take a break from the hustle and bustle in the city. Memorial Parks trails are an incredible (not so) hidden gem right here in the city. Make new friends as you explore the trails by night!

May 1, 7:45PM-9:30PM Memorial Park

2. Montrose Art Party: We love highlighting events here in our backyard—Art League Houston's "MARTY" fundraiser supports the Healing Art Program to provide free studio sessions for adults with chronic illness and disability.

May 2, 6-8PM Art League Houston

3. Panda Fest: Making its Houston debut, PandaFest brings to life Asian food and culture, markets, music, performances, and of course a giant inflatable panda.

May 8-10, Water Works Park at Buffalo Bayou

4. Runway to Asia 2026: In its second year, this fashion show by the Asia Society in collaboration with TOOTSIES highlights visionary talents of Asian and Asian American heritage. Designer Bach Mai will be the spotlight designer this year, showcasing his artistic journey.

May 14, Post Oak Hotel, 11:15AM-1PM

5. National Treasure Hunts Heist Night: Test your history, science, logic and trivia skills as you work to solve escape-room puzzles in this incredible whodunnit deep within the Museum of Natural Science.

May 21, 6:30PM Houston Museum of Natural Science

From the editor

May in Houston has officially arrived—and if the past few days are any indication, we're stepping right into that familiar mix of warm sunshine, rising humidity, and the occasional afternoon thunderstorm. It's the season of blooming flowers, but also one where keeping an umbrella nearby becomes second nature!

Sudden showers and thunderstorms are part of our rhythm this time of year, so it's always wise to keep an eye on the forecast and watch for those quick-changing skies. We got lucky with a beautifully breezy, cloudy afternoon for our annual Spring Fling.

With the school year winding down, many families are celebrating graduations, planning summer activities, and enjoying these last weeks of routine. And as we celebrate Mother's Day this month, it's a wonderful reminder to slow down and appreciate the people who make our community feel like home.

As always, we encourage you to get involved, say hello to a neighbor, and continue making our community a welcoming place for all.

Wishing you a safe, sunny (and occasionally rainy!) May in East Montrose!

Warmly

—Sofie

This year, Arbor Day fell on April 26. It's an annual holiday dedicated to planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees, while cleaning our air, absorbing flood water, combatting climate change, and beautifying our landscapes. Arbor Day was established in 1872. Here in East Montrose, its roots go way back, too. Nell Stewart, our Neighborhood Historian, who was born and lived in her home at Crocker and Welch for over 100 years, recalls events of the holiday.

Did you know that, to encourage planting, the City used to give away free trees? Back then, this was done down at the park around Buffalo Bayou, where there would be crowds of people visiting and collecting a tree seedling or two. Nell tells of watching couples and families strolling up Stanford and then down to Allen Parkway – with many women donning their Easter bonnets festooned with colorful spring flowers, while dutiful husbands walked along obligingly, often in white seersucker with a pastel colored handkerchief in the breast pocket.

Many of the trees they toted back and planted still stand and enrich our neighborhood today.

When I moved here in 1988, the City was still giving away trees, although the location had changed to parks and community centers. One year, I came home with two baby pine trees. As a new homeowner, I was thrilled to plant these icons of southeast Texas out in the greenspace between the sidewalk and the street. That would be the 600 block of W. Drew, approaching the stop sign.

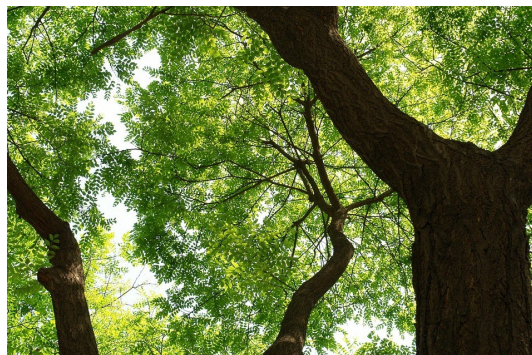
But those aren't the same three trees you see out there today. Nope. My trees had been out there a few years, and had gotten pretty tall – maybe eight feet. Then, one morning, I went outside and – they were gone. Yes, GONE! How do entire trees disappear?

We got to discussing it on the East Montrose Yahoo page (this was back before Facebook or Instagram). Turns out, that same morning, many neighbors had discovered their landscaping plants stolen! Potted plants, bedding flowers, shrubs, even whole trees. Someone reported having heard what sounded like the engine of a semi-trailer truck, idling outside his/her window during the wee hours, then moving down the block, and idling again. Hmmm.

I was so sad to have lost my beautiful pine trees. Was lamenting this to the young folks across the street (same house where Frank Billingsly used to live, and I would see him sitting on the front stoop and we'd chat). Well, turns out the City was still giving away Arbor Day trees, and this couple had brought home three pines that they really didn't have a place for. So they cheerfully gifted them to me.

So now I had a trio of fledgling trees to squeeze into the space between the Live Oak to the west and the concrete driveway to the east. This spread them pretty much from my large living room window (another East Montrose story on that window ... but a tale for another time), to past the koi pond. Over the years, those trees have thrived. And the shovel-wielding 18 wheelers have stayed away. They've grown three stories tall, and keep the southern sun from beating into the window, and block the herons from lunging on my fish.

All thanks to Arbor Day – and a few good neighbors. Hope you enjoyed your April 26, an environmentally rich holiday! And maybe continue to plant trees.



Recipe of the Month

When I found this recipe, I knew I needed to make this, and I hope you do too! These are Tieghan Gerards *Layered Jalapeño Cheddar Biscuits with Salted Honey Butter*

- 3 ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- 2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1-2 jalapeños, seeded, if desired, and chopped
- 2 sticks (16 tablespoons) cold salted butter, cubed, plus melted butter, for brushing
- 1 cup cold buttermilk
- 4 oz cold cream cheese, sliced into 3 slices
- 4 tbsp salted butter, at room temperature
- 3 tbsp honey
- flaky sea



1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a food processor, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, and butter. Pulse until the mix clumps together to form larger pea-size balls. Add the cheddar and jalapeños, pulsing 1-2 times to combine. Drizzle in the buttermilk until the dough is "shaggy" looking. The dough will be a little dry.
3. Turn the dough out onto a clean surface and pat into a 1-inch thick square. Cut the dough into 4 pieces. Add 1 slice of cream cheese to 3 of the squares, gently pressing to flatten. Stack the cream cheese topped pieces on top of each other. Add the final piece (with no cream cheese) on top of the stack (see above photos). Press down to flatten. Dust the surface with flour and roll the dough into a 1 inch thick rectangle. Cut into 12 biscuits. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet and freeze 10-15 minutes, to chill.
4. Remove the biscuits from the freezer and brush with melted butter. Transfer to the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes, until golden on top.
5. Meanwhile, make the honey butter. In a small bowl, combine the butter, honey, and a pinch of flaky sea salt. Serve the biscuits warm with honey butter and flaky salt.

Chatting with Sana, owner of Diwaan 8, our new local Indo-Pak bodega

Note: Diwaan 8 is located at W. Dallas and Taft, in North Montrose, just a short walk from our doorsteps here in East.

Tell us a bit about yourself: My name is Farzana ,but my nick name is Sana and my father always called me his Fairy. Around the time I was born, he started doing well in his business and bought small home. So he called me Fairy because I brought him luck.

What made you choose Montrose for your new business? I don't remember much about back home but I have memories of people walking around all the time. It always felt lively. When I was looking for a place, and believe me while I searched around Houston and outside of Houston, I never thought I would come across a place like this.

My requirements were simple: I wanted to be close to my son whom I adopted from Pakistan, (I am his Ammi (Mom)/baba (father)/uncle/aunt/his friend. The one thing that always made light up in the suburbs was whenever he would come home on the school bus and just run over and hug me. His face would light up seeing me as was mine. It is the most satisfying experience I have had since I became a parent and I can't really explain it. But because I was an interior designer, I couldn't do that often because I was away with clients. Plus figuring out who will pick him up —it was constant struggle in my head. I prayed and prayed to Almighty to show me the path for past 10 years.

Finally, I found this neighborhood where my son and I can walk to Buffalo Bayou or just walk from home. His school is right across the road, and so close to the store here, and most important the Ismaili Center is here—I can drop him off so he can go pray/do his volunteer duty/meet his friends. My son's social life is not disturbed but most importantly when he comes from school, that 2 seconds of hug and smile and waving—ahhh that is the most satisfying part of my day! This neighborhood brought me back to the things I forgot were important in life, where you know people, and there is a sense of community, people who just check up or check in on you. So often members of the community stop in just to check in on us, that it makes me sure this was the right neighborhood for us. So many things I am experiencing which I didn't expect. My son is growing up here in this neighborhood around these kinds of people and I am so excited for our journey.

What is new or upcoming at Diwaan 8? We have started to serve prepared meals. Often I am the cook, I think samosa's are essential and biryani is always yummy. Chicken boti rolls, butter chicken, lamb shank Ni-hari. Chana masala, okra, cauliflower curry with peas and potatoes. Homemade fresh Roti's. I have tons of recipes from my father which I can't wait to share with everyone. I dream of expanding to serve traditional breakfast with tea and coffee. I believe the Almighty is always listening to us so you should dream big and ask big . So breakfast can happen. I want to expand the business and for my father to believe his legacy is continuing. He would make samosas by hand, bake snacks and melt in your mouth mithais (desserts). He supplied pastries to many businesses in his day.

Currently we deliver within one mile, and are working to expand that radius as well. If customers have any questions about what is in stock, or have special requests, they can always call to inquire. We want to make sure we have the ingredients and foods that customers are looking for. We have had many Persian and South Indian customers request specialty snacks and we love to source the foods and flavors they miss from home. We are also planning to add pet food, kitchen essentials, and cleaning supplies. We have a WhatsApp group where we announce the daily menu, and when fresh produce and halal meats are

Our East Montrose neighborhood is fortunate to have both Art Exhibition centers and Gallery spaces in our neighborhood and close by.

Exhibit spaces include Art League Houston at 1953 Montrose Blvd, PAC Art at 1919 Whitney and Freedmen's Town Conservancy Visitors Center Exhibition Space at 1204 Victor.

Exhibit spaces are non-profit and apt to show International, National and Local artists, sometimes showing objects concerned with a topic much like a museum exhibit. Work might or might not be for sale in an Exhibit space and is often displayed for longer than a month.

Galleries have work that is for sale, on view usually for a month. Close by Galleries include Koelsch Gallery @ 1020 Peden, Reeves Gallery @ 2415 Taft, Seven Sisters @ 805 Rhodes Place #500, Archway Gallery @ 2305 Dunlavy and Basket Books & Art @ 115 Hyde Park. (Basket Books & Art sometimes straddles the space between exhibition and gallery space.)

The newest exhibit space in East Montrose is PAC Art Exhibit and Residency Space is at 1919 Whitney. PAC Art is a contemporary arts organization committed to fostering meaningful dialogue between Houston and the International arts communities. PAC Art residency started in 2022 at a different location and they are very happy to be here in Montrose following a year of renovation on the old office building at Willard & Whitney. There are studio and living spaces for artists on premises.

PAC Art Exhibit and Residency space is currently showing the work of native Houstonian Mel Chin, who grew up in 5th Ward, and is now based in North Carolina. Mel Chin's work is beautiful with layer after layer of meaning. To see Mel's work is to watch ideas unfold. Check the web space for viewing availability.



PAC Art Exhibit and Residency Space

Spring Cleaning?

Turn your closet clean-out into something *meaningful*.



CLOTHES DRIVE!



SUPPORT ZONTA

Funds raised support Zonta's mission to empower women and girls.



EARN FUNDS

Phill the Box pays Zonta ~\$0.20/lb based on the total weight collected.



GOOD FOR THE PLANET

Items that can't be resold are recycled into insulation or "bricks" — keeping textiles **out of landfills**.

Drop off anytime:

MAY 8 – JUNE 6



Drop off at:

**323 W DREW ST
(MONTROSE)**

Clean out. ♥ Give back. ♥ Make an impact.



ZONTA
CLUB OF HOUSTON

BUILD A BETTER
WORLD FOR
WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPRING FLING RECAP

The East Montrose Civic Association's annual Spring Fling was a wonderful success this year, bringing neighbors together for an afternoon of food, fun, and community connection.

Held on Sunday, April 19th, the event was hosted by Alyssa Ketner and Katy Macalla, who created a warm and festive atmosphere for families and friends to gather and celebrate the season. Attendees enjoyed a lively setup that offered something for everyone - from a bounce house that kept the kids entertained for hours, courtesy of White Castle Events, to great music by local favorite David Wheeler.

Guests were once again treated to delicious street tacos from the Las Terascas taco truck, generously sponsored by Kari Parsons of Sotheby's Realty. The food was a highlight of the day, drawing neighbors together to mingle and enjoy a shared meal.

A special congratulations goes to George Boos, the winner of the El Tiempo gift card, also sponsored by Kari Parsons.

With beautiful weather, great company, and strong community spirit, this year's Spring Fling was a memorable event and a testament to what makes East Montrose such a special place to call home. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

March 2026 Meeting Overview

1. Cole Wilbur Infrastructure and Planning Coordinator – District C
 - a. Joint Session Apartment Inspection Ordinance & Compliance Forum – March 30th – deadline to sign up to speak March 27th
 - b. Rain barrel event – April 19th – sign up by April 2nd
 - c. Solid Waste – Customer Service line launch 832-394-1453
2. Sr. Officer Lucia Viera – Houston Police Department
 - a. PIP Meetings – First Tuesday on the Month
 - b. Violent Crime down, Theft/Vandalisms down
 - c. Response Time discussions
 - d. Homeless Services
 - e. Alert Slips for HPD notifications (i.e. – cars running stop signs)
 - f. Noise Ordinance
3. Joe Panzarella – District C Runoff Candidate



GORDON EDUCATION

HISTORICAL FILMMAKING
June 8-12 · Ages 9-13

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING
June 29-July 10 · Ages 13-17

CHANGEMAKERS FILMMAKING
June 15-19 · Ages 9-13

NARRATIVE FILMMAKING
July 10-17 · Ages 9-13

2026 FILMMAKING

SUMMER CAMP

Find out more at:
gordoneducation.org



Photo Credit Asia Society Texas / Chris Dunn

The graphic features a collage of images showing diverse young people engaged in filmmaking activities, such as operating cameras, using microphones, and holding props like a pink umbrella. The text is overlaid on a blue and yellow background.

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

May 4	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 11	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
May 18	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 25	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
June 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle

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 \$25.00 ___ Household \$50.00 ___ Business \$75.00

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