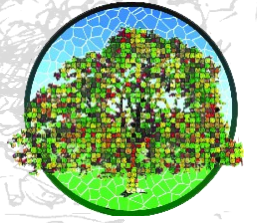


# East Montrose

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

June 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

No meetings June-August

9/15—Meeting at Midtown Bar & Grill,  
7PM

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



Special thank you to our  
contributors:

- Julie Young      · Betsy Anderson
- Penny Cerling   · Bill Maxey
- Jamie Flatt

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 neigh-  
borhood 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almost always out of date.

Nell Jean Stewart passed on May 22, 2026 at the age of 105. She was born on November 25, 1920 on Crocker St in East Montrose. A graveside service will be held at **Forest Park Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale Street, Houston 77023 on June 4, 2026 from 11:30-11:30AM.** Anyone who wishes to may send flowers, share support or memories [here](#).

A memory:

For many years, the house directly across the street was home to a law firm. Here is from an employee (who became a decades-long friend): “When I met Nell, in 2003, she told me she was 85 and had just retired (from elementary education) for the 3rd time. Being impressed with the conversation they had with her, the law firm offered her a position to do part-time filing. The understanding was she would come in on weekends and work a few hours. But in true Nell fashion, she thirsted for more. She walked across the street daily, quickly learned our software, and became a valued employee for 4 1/2 years.”

# Things to do in Houston this Month

**1. Beats on the Bayou:** The summer concert series continues with live music from 6-9PM. Bring blankets and lawn chairs while you enjoy an evening of music. The first 50 guests will receive East River branded towels.

June 5, 2920 Riverby Road 6-9PM

**2. Breaking Bread:** A new series presented by the Hobby Center, James Beard Award-winning chef, Chris Shephard will host a Michelin Roundtable with 3 of Houston's Michelin chefs: Emmanuel Chavez (of Tatemo), Felipe Riccio (of March), and Mayank Istwal (of Musaafer).

June 5, 7:30-9:30PM at the Hobby Center

**3. 48th Annual Pride Festival and Parade:** Featuring vibrant resources, vendors, and immersive entertainment, this is the event that draws thousands to the city every summer. The Festival will take place all day, ending with an evening parade starting at 7PM.

June 6, City Hall

**4. Spice Routes, The Cardamom Challenge:** Celebrating the global influence of cardamom, the Ismaili Center will transform into a culinary marketplace with food tasting, drinks, a bazaar, tours through the art collection and gardens, as well as a Chopped themed throwdown challenge with guest chefs including Aaron Bludorn, Suu Khin and Omar Pereney .

June 7, 11AM-1:30PM, Ismaili Center

**5. Bat Chats:** The Buffalo bayou Partnership presents its Summer Species series, this time on bats!. The Houston Area Bat Team will teach guests about Houston's native bat species every Friday evening at 105-B Sabine St, 7:15PM

## *From the editor*

June has arrived, bringing with it the unmistakable start of summer in Houston. As temperatures rise and school lets out, many of us are looking forward to family vacations, neighborhood gatherings, and making the most of the longer days ahead.

This month also brings excitement on a global stage as the FIFA World Cup continues to capture the attention of fans around the world. Houston is proud to be one of the host cities, welcoming visitors from across the globe and showcasing the vibrant culture, diversity, and hospitality that make our city such a special place to call home.

Closer to home, you'll notice continued progress on several neighborhood improvement and renovation projects. While construction can sometimes be inconvenient, these enhancements are investments in our community's future and will help improve our shared spaces for years to come.

As we enjoy the summer season, we encourage residents to stay connected, support local businesses, and take advantage of the many events and activities happening throughout Houston. Whether you're cheering on your favorite World Cup team, spending time outdoors with family, or simply enjoying a quiet evening with neighbors, we hope June brings plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories.

Warmly,

—Sofie

## *Yard of the Season...* by Betsy Anderson

Our Yard of the Season winners, Cate and Don Sabatini, live in the corner home at 323 West Drew. They moved to East Montrose two years ago, to be near their son, daughter-in-law and ten-month old grandson, Cameron. And it has worked out just as they hoped. They are spending fun times with family, walking, exploring, and feeling a part of our community, especially the vibrant Fairview area.

They moved from San Jose, California where Don owned a real estate brokerage firm. He is retired now, and Cate works from home as an executive coach, with clients across the country and internationally. One of Cate's favorite things to do in California was to be outside in the yard. Recently, the Sabatinis connected with their neighbor, Frank Williams, a long-time Montrose resident who shares their gardening passion. He helped them reimagine their corner, by providing design and landscaping resources. The plantings are best viewed by walking and looking over the garden wall. Inside the wall are unusual plants leading to the fenced side yard, which is equipped with a bar-b-que pit and relaxing places to sit and enjoy our outdoors. The plantings include leopard plants, coleus, caladiums, bugleweed (lining the pavers), and different varieties of ivy. This is the time of year to enjoy tropical Houston's gardens and weather. 323 West Drew is a good place to start!



*Remembering Nell in life:*

## **A Century In Montrose: From The Corner of Welch And Crocker A Changing World, And A World of Change, Can Be Seen**

The two-story gray house at Welch and Crocker looks unremarkable: neither battered nor sparkling, neither historical treasure nor blinding new construction like the townhouses that now surround it. But for just shy of a century, Nell Stewart has watched from its windows as Montrose – and the surrounding world – changed almost unimaginably.

Stewart, now 94, is willowy and limber with crisp blue eyes. From the week she was born, she has lived in this same gray house, first owned by her grandparents, then her parents, and now herself. But Stewart has also lived a great deal on the outside of the house. Decade after decade, she has made new friends as they moved in around her, and has watched the neighborhood's vertiginous shifts with interest and amusement. That sense of humor has had a lot to do with her ability to enjoy a wildly changing Montrose for so many years.

That humor, and Stewart's capacity to recall nearly everything.

The helicopter parents of Montrose were on a tear. Every year, the neighborhood schools' May Fete unleashed a communal mania. Fathers left work early to build giant wooden ziggurats for their children's performance; mothers of six-year-olds hand-sewed them frocks as if they were readying for the Miss America pageant.

The year was 1930, and nine-year-old Nell Stewart was caught up in the frenzy. The year before, her entire family had gone to see her pose in her new green dress at [Woodrow Wilson Elementary](#)'s fete. This year they would watch her waltz around the maypole at her new school, [Wharton Elementary](#).

But these were different times, long before the self-esteem movement was born.

"Just before the show, the teachers told me and two other girls we weren't allowed to dance. We were too tall," says Stewart. "At that age, you never, ever forget a wrong. And that is the big grudge I have harbored since grade school."

For a woman in her 90s, Stewart is in spectacular form. She moves like someone 30 years younger, navigating stairs and recently climbing unaided into a neighbor's Jeep. She cleans her house singlehandedly, reads fat history books pressed on her by friends, and does her own shopping alongside a neighbor once a week.

*Article continues [here](#).*

*Additional news clips celebrating Nell's 100th birthday can be found [here](#) and [here](#).*

# Recipe of the Month

A Dutch Baby taste delicious all year long, and is a breakfast staple in our home. Something about the addition of summer berries makes this recipe magical.

This is Tieghan Gerards [Strawberry Jam Dutch Baby recipe](#).

## Strawberry Jam

- 6 cups fresh sliced strawberries
- 1/3-1/2 cup maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean powder (or 2 tsp vanilla extract)

## Dutch Baby

- 4 tablespoons salted butter, plus more for serving
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2/3 cups whole milk, at room temperature
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



1. Preheat the oven to 450° F.
2. To make the jam. Add the strawberries, maple syrup, lemon juice, and vanilla to a medium-size pot set over high heat. Bring the mixture to a boil, once boiling, use a spoon to break down and mash the berries. Continue to cook for 5-8 minutes or until the jam has reduced and thickened by 1/3. Keep warm.
3. Meanwhile, bake the Dutch baby. Using an electric mixer, whisk together the eggs, milk, flour, salt, vanilla, and 2 tablespoons melted butter until the batter is smooth, about 1 minute. Make sure no large clumps of flour remain.
4. Melt the butter in a 10-12 inch cast iron skillet set over medium heat. Allow the butter to brown until it smells toasted and is a deep golden color, about 3-4 minutes. Pour the batter into the hot skillet. Place the skillet in the center of the oven and bake for 15 minutes or until the pancake is fully puffed and browned on top. DO NOT open the oven during the first 15 minutes of cooking or you might deflate your Dutch baby.
5. As soon as the Dutch baby comes out of the oven, top it with pats of butter, then warm jam. Cover the surface with jam! Add whipped cream if you'd like, Enjoy!

**Freedmen's Town Conservancy Visitors Center & Exhibition Space**, close by our neighborhood, opened last year. It is next to the African American Library at the corner of Victor & Cushing Streets, located in three restored row houses with a deck across the back for outdoor Porch Talks.

Freedmen's Town Conservancy Visitors Center Exhibition Space is in partnership with:

- **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**
- **Inprint Writing Workshops.**

**Inprint** writing workshops are held every few months. If interested, call or write to be put on the email list.

The current exhibit is **Blackball: Baseball, Barbecue & Blues**. The exhibit illuminates Freedmen's Town's contributions to baseball, particularly at this time when the Negro League statistics are finally being integrated into Major League Baseball's official records.

For an exhibition schedule send a request to be put on their email list.

**Juneteenth Celebration** at the Conservancy will be held:

**Wednesday June 17** beginning at noon with a Porch Talk in the evening.

All are welcome.

You can book a Heritage Tour of Freedmen's Town by going to:

[www.tinyurl.com/BookAFTTour](http://www.tinyurl.com/BookAFTTour)

For more information or to be put on the email list:

[info@HoustonFreedmensTown.org](mailto:info@HoustonFreedmensTown.org)

713 366 4212

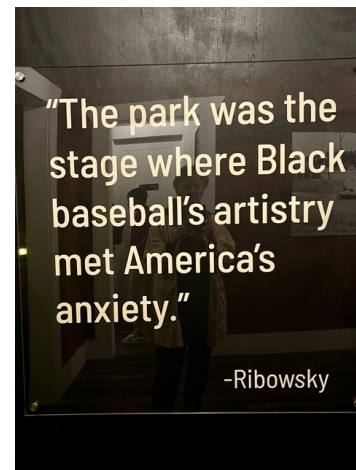
Hours:

Closed Sunday & Monday

Open:

Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 10a-5p

Thursday 10a-6p - Saturday 9a-1p



## **EMCA May Member Meeting Recap**

- Meeting was held at Midtown Bar and Grill at 7pm on May 19th and 15 people attended
- Karen Brohn gave several updates
  - o Next member meeting will be in September (taking the summer off)
  - o National Night out will be October 6th
  - o EMCA Home Tour and Art Walk will be October 24th
  - o PAC Art is a new business member featuring studio space and an artist in residence program. See [pacartresidency.org](http://pacartresidency.org) for more information
  - o Montrose TIRZ update: 1700 people completed the parking survey. See findings at [montrosehtx.org/projects/Montroseparkingsurvey](http://montrosehtx.org/projects/Montroseparkingsurvey)
  - o City of Houston Garbage, sign in to get notices. For heavy trash call 311 or go to the solid waste website for information.
  - o A new short term rental law is going into effect. There is a complaint hotline (713-636-5365) and a webpage (<https://www.houstontx.gov/ara/str.html>). Bad actors who are identified through these channels will have their license for a short term rental revoked and forced to delist their property.
- Featured guest speaker: Kris Larson, President and CEO of Downtown Houston+ (DTH+) – the non-profit group responsible for providing the thought leadership, long-term planning and implementation of the redevelopment and revitalization of Downtown Houston for nearly 40 years – and its affiliate organizations, the Houston Downtown Management District (HDMD) and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA).
  - o The organization originated in 1983 as business leaders facing the oil shock came together to diversify industry and collectively work to improve and plan for a thriving downtown.
    - 40 years later, significant diversification has been achieved:
    - Professional sports venues are now downtown: Baseball, Basketball
    - Major new Parks: Discovery Green, Trembly Park
    - Significant Park/Public Space improvements: Market Square Park, Main Street Promenade
  - o In addition to physical improvements, the organization also manages cleaning, tree trimming, safety, and security, they collaborate on addressing homelessness and lead economic development efforts downtown.
- Featured topic: World Cup
  - o Brief background on what the World Cup is and the scale and global significance of the event.
  - o Houston spent 7 years pursuing the opportunity to be a host city. Reliant Park is undergoing some

**Cont'd from page 7—EMCA Meeting Recap**

changes to accommodate a soccer pitch – which is significantly wider than a football field.

o This World Cup features 48 teams, a significant expansion from previous World Cups. There will be 104 games. The first game starts June 11<sup>th</sup> in Mexico City. There will be 39 days of the tournament with 2-5 games played each day.

o There will be a Fan Fest in EADO, located just south of Shell Stadium (where the Dynamo play). Fan Fest will be a free zone for fans to watch the games (on big screens) together. Fan Fest capacity is 5,000.

o Shell Stadium will be open for watch parties and to support fans, with a special focus on the Mexican National team and it's fans.

o Significant watch parties will be held throughout the city as communities gather to cheer on specific teams.

o Specific details regarding transit, commuting, and highest impact days can be found in this Business

Readiness Playbook compiled by Downtown+ using the first QR code:

o Information about all of the World Cup related events happening around town can be found using the second QR code:

o Houstonians are encouraged to meet this special moment with pride as our city is thrust onto the world stage. Note that this event for Houston was never about the money. Costs for changes needed are being covered by the major sponsors of the event. The City has used the deadline

to make significant improvements that will be enjoyed by everyone for years to come including 410 lane miles of streets resurfaced.

o Changes made downtown to improve the fan experience will endure as well. In total \$39.5 million worth of urban infrastructure improvements have been achieved.



**East Montrose Civic Association**

**HOME TOUR**  
*& Art*  
**Walk**

**Saturday • October 24**  
**10am to 4pm**

**Attention East Montrose Artists:**

If you want to open your studio for the ArtWalk please contact Joan Son ...  
joanson23@gmail.com

## East Montrose C/A Contacts

### 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>

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: Mary Dedeaux-Swinton— [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

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](http://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)

### 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

June 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
June 8	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
June 15	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
June 22	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
June 29	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.

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 Remibusement	(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

*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](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