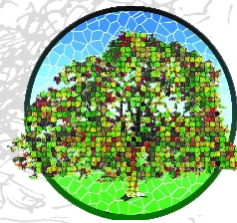


East Montrose

Civic Association Newsletter



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

April 2020

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.

To all my East Montrose friends and neighbors:

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy in this upside down world right now. I keep trying to look on the bright side: More folks are outside, walking, riding bikes with their families. I am talking to neighbors I'd never met before, all while keeping our 6 ft social distance of course! Normally our own Frank Williams on Willard, landscaper extraordinaire, would be back in the NW for the summer. But he is stuck down here and that's to our benefit! Just look at the plants he has donated and what he's voluntarily done in Peggy Shiffick Park ("PSP")! There was also some major clean-up work done earlier by Frank's crew and EMCA contributed to those costs. However, Frank donated the plants and all his time! So when you see him tell him "thanks!" Frank has made the request that all those folks who use the park regularly to please be sure to water the plants! With summer rapidly approaching, all Frank's hard work will go to ruin unless we all remember to keep the plants watered! So if you are going by the park, take a gallon jug of water and give the flora a wee drink.

The downside on PSP: apparently someone with the city parks department saw the mailbox and told Ellen Yarrell, the PSP liaison, that the city will take it down because it wasn't approved. Something about it could be used for "drug drops". (sigh) They also gave Ellen some grief about the plantings but Ellen cleverly faded the heat on that. So I want a shout out to Ellen here because she is another PSP hero! She also keeps all the doggie poo bags replenished in the park.

As most of you are aware, we are having to postpone the Shredding Event until a later date because of Covid-19. The Board was hopeful that this would be an event that would be of benefit to members. If y'all have time, and we know you do since most everyone is working from home, shoot me an email and let me know if you do plan to take advantage of the shredding when we are finally able to schedule it. This will help us plan for the timing of the event, which we are now hoping will be in the fall.

People are asking me what's happening with all the construction work on my street Fargo and in the area. The city had to connect three homes on my block to the sewer lines that now run in front of our homes. My home and the two others to the west of me all were connected to the old clay pipe sewer that ran on the easements behind our homes. When I had a plumbing issue and my plumber came out to repair the line, he discovered the city's pipe was disintegrating. Understandably so, since it was ancient. When the city came out to look, they announced they would have to reconnect my system out to the pipes under the street. They had to tunnel under my driveway all the way to the back of my house! All things considered, the construction guys and the city did a good job.

I hope everyone is also helping to support our local businesses by doing take out! Cuchara's has daily specials for just EM! So check them out!!!

Stay safe everyone. This too shall pass.

Mary Quinn
President, EMCA

The next EMCA meeting is schedule for May 19.

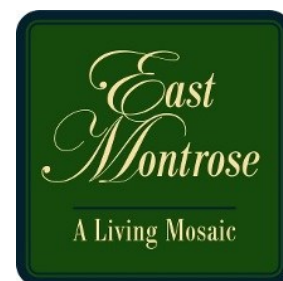
See page 2 for more information.

Membership Drive

In February, EMCA kicked off a membership drive by sending out postcards to our residents. We are so excited to announce we added 15 new memberships! As promised, we picked a winner for our drive. Congratulations Joshua! Enjoy your East Montrose Living Mosaic sign!

Also, a new order of signs is on the way! Get yours by contacting Julia today at

Treasurer.emca@gmail.com



From the Vice-President

by Karen Brohn



Our next member meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19th at 7pm**. The location TBA. Our scheduled speaker will be from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center ("HMRC") and will give us some information about researching our neighborhood.

Founded in 1976, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC), Houston Public Library is an archives and special collections library dedicated to the history of Houston. Staff collects papers, maps, photographs, books, oral histories, and architectural drawings to make them accessible to researchers wanting to discover our city's story. HMRC Staff also provide presentations related to each of the collecting areas to Houstonians.

To highlight HMRC's architectural resources and how to use them, Architectural Archivist **Samantha Bruer** has developed a program giving a basic overview of how to research historic properties and which materials are most beneficial.

Given the Stay Home Work Safe order, the date, time and location of this event is scheduled to change so stayed tuned to our website <http://www.eastmontrose.org> or updates on Facebook for dates and times of this wonderful presentation.

If you have any topics which you think would be enjoyed by your neighbors, let us know. Please send them along to vicepresident.emca@gmail.com.

Art and About...

by Joan Son



Way back in February, before our world shifted so radically, I discovered this lovely (my 2 cents) sidewalk graffiti next to Texas Art supply, just across from The Art League. An excellent destination for an afternoon walk.

Those are my fancy new boots from Target ... all man made material.

I am endeavoring to be a little more vegan.

- Joan Son



Good Food & Healthy Living.....

by Malisa Galvan



During these uncertain times, it always is reassuring to know our neighbors and neighborhood businesses are here for us! I would like to share two of them here.

The first is how fabulous has **Cuchara** Restaurant been during these times? Who knew that we needed a neighborhood bodega to run to and pick up milk, produce, margaritas, beer, fresh agua frescas and the most incredible food! They even offer salsa kits to help you hone your salsa making skills. I just read on the facebook group that **Ana** is even selling masks! Every week we order at least one or two meals from them. We love looking at their daily lunch specials and who could miss Taco Tuesday with \$2 tacos. It's a great place to pick up your next meal. Some of our favorite things to eat are the guacamole (get the roasted serranos on the side if you don't like spicy), chicharrones, tacos chelos, flautas and their amazingly delicious and light cinco de leches cake. Their margaritas are fabulous and my favorite is the coconut. Additionally, Ana is posting specials for EMCA residents on a periodic basis, so give them a try! It is worth it.

The second is a resident, Jim Tucker on 507 Welch. On Saturdays, he is helping an organization Plant it Forward, by selling fresh produce in East Montrose. He is posting on the facebook group Saturdays what kind of produce he will have. I had the pleasure of picking up a share of delicious vegetables, salad greens, spinach, green onions, carrots sweet potatoes, and kale. It was great! We enjoyed it for the next week. And, the beauty of it was it reduced my time in the grocery store, because I had all my veggies taken care of. Check it out!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

"I've been selling Plant it Forward vegetables from the front porch at 507 Welch the past few Saturday and Sunday afternoons. If you do not know Plant it Forward, they place refugees onto donated dedicated plots around Houston, as many of these folks come from agrarian backgrounds. These New Houstonians use organic techniques, and you can't find fresher produce that you do not grow yourself. You might have seen one of their plots near the Rothko Chapel and St. Thomas University.

I met Sarment, one of our vendors at our Memorial Village Farmers' Market, when we started in October 2015, and he is the only vendor who has not missed a week since then. Once the newest guidelines came out, our market was classed as a grocery, and we restricted vendors to produce, eggs, meat, and packaged prepared foods and baked goods, not to be eaten on site. We spaced out the vendor tents, and it has worked well recently. However, restaurants are not buying as much/any produce these days, and when they planted in January, the farmers could not imagine our current crisis, and with our weather, lots has been growing.

So, come by on weekend afternoons, 2-5 or 6 or so, and get your fresh vegetables, and meet your neighbors, at a safe distance, of course. I post the weekly selection when I know it on Fridays on the EMCA Facebook site. Be safe."

Jim Tucker

507 Welch Street"



Take the Census from the Safety of your Own Home

Now is the time to make Houston count! Practice social distancing and self-respond to the 2020 Census survey online at my2020census.gov. Or, you can simply call 1-844-330-2020 to be included in the census survey today.

The census is safe and your responses are confidential.

You will not be asked to provide your citizenship status, banking information, or social security number.

Being counted in the 2020 Census can even help secure funding and resources for public health concerns such as coronavirus!



District C Update — April 17, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The City of Houston made another huge stride this week and doubled our daily testing capacity from 1,000 to 2,000 individuals. This means that now the City is testing anyone who wishes to be tested. You or your family member can call 832-393-4220 where you will be provided a unique identification code and directions on where to go.

As we continue to adjust to the new normal under COVID-19, several District C civic clubs have begun meeting virtually, including West End and Rice Military. Please let our office know if your neighborhood is interested in doing this; we have compiled a list of best practices and creative ideas for virtual community engagement and will be happy to share this with you.

For any COVID-19 related needs, our office is here for you and ready to help. This week we called 12 senior facilities located in the district to check in on our seniors and their caregivers. We are taking proactive steps and connecting residents to resources and assistance. As a reminder, at the bottom of this email is our District C [COVID-19 resources guide](#) including how to find and give assistance.

As a reminder, the District C office remains open and we are ready to answer your questions and follow up on constituent cases. The best way to reach us is by email at districtc@houston.tx.gov, or you can call our office 832-393-3004 and leave a voicemail with your name and callback number. For more frequent updates you can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We are here to serve you and connect you throughout.

COVID-19 Resources and Information

[Official City of Houston Coronavirus updates](#)
[COVID-19 Testing Locations and Information](#)
[City Departments and Services Impacted by Coronavirus](#)
[HISD updates](#)
[METRO Coronavirus updates](#)

For more information and resources, check the [District C COVID-19 resources page](#), which includes resources for seniors, school-aged children, food/basic needs assistance, and more. If you would like to suggest a new resource for us to include, please fill out [this survey](#).

Mayor Turner Launches Campaign to Support Local Restaurants

Houston and Texas Restaurant Associations Partner with the City on #TakeUsToYourTable Campaign

April 16, 2020 -- Today, Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the City of Houston is partnering with the Houston and Texas Restaurant Associations to encourage Houstonians to support local restaurants.

COVID-19 has changed our city and disrupted our routines. Businesses across the state are suffering, and that includes the restaurant industry. According to the Texas Restaurant Association, the restaurant industry has a \$70 billion impact in Texas. The restaurant industry is the 4th largest employer in the Houston area, with more than 300,000 employees.

To help the restaurant industry, Mayor Turner announced the "Take Us to Your Table" campaign in partnership with the Houston and Texas Restaurant Associations. While you may not be able to get a seat at your favorite restaurant, they can certainly have a seat at yours.

"Houston is a foodie town, and our restaurants reflect the city's diverse culinary tastes and vibrant culture. The COVID-19 public health crisis is having a devastating effect on the men and women who work in the foodservice industry," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "I want to encourage the public to support local restaurants through delivery and curbside takeout. It's important to support the restaurants that make Houston so special. If we work together, we will get through this challenging time together."

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.

Houston Public Works Withdraws Brazos Street Bridge Revamp Plans

Reprinted by permission of Matt Dulin/Community Impact Newspaper

Houston Public Works has pulled proposals to permanently close the Brazos Street bridge and implement new pedestrian features around a corridor threaded between the Montrose area and Midtown.

"Please be advised that the Houston Public Works Department along with Mayor Turner has made the decision to resume the project with the original design," reads a Public Works notice sent to stakeholders on April 2.

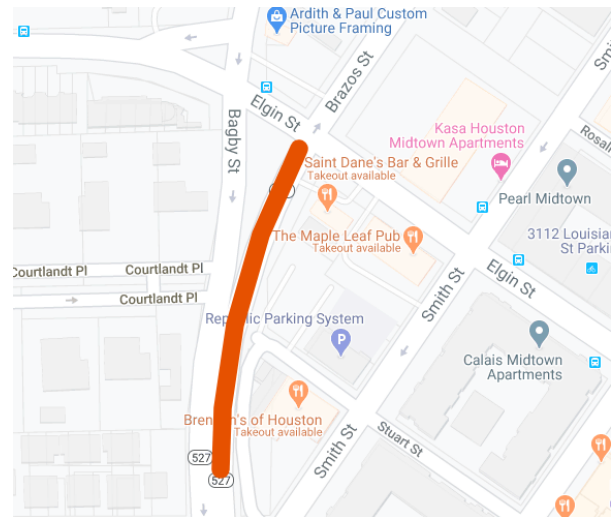
The decision came amid the city's heightened focus on the stay-at-home order and on responding to the coronavirus outbreak, but a specific reason was not provided for the decision.

The proposals envisioned a park-like green space and other traffic modifications. The area around Hawthorne, Holman, Bagby and Brazos streets was identified as a priority area for [Houston's Safer Streets initiative](#), endorsed by Mayor Sylvester Turner in 2018.

"We're very disappointed. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Bill Marshall, president of the Westmoreland Civic Association, a neighborhood adjacent to the intersection. "It was always at the mayor's discretion ... and with unemployment and wanting to keep construction crews working right now, that's hard to argue with." draws Brazos Street bridge revamp plans



The steel structure of the Brazos Street ramp onto Spur 527 remained exposed in March. The city has decided against looking further into alternatives for the area and will proceed with replacing the bridge surface. (Matt Dulin/Community Impact Newspaper)



IT'S PROPERTY TAX TIME!

At our January Member Meeting, we received some great information from our speaker and former EMCA resident, Richard Hudson, on how to review and, if necessary, protest your property taxes. By now, property owners should have received their valuations from the Harris County Appraisal District. If you have not, you can view your account value and download any necessary documents at the Harris County Appraisal District ("HCAD") website located at <http://www.hcad.org>.

According to the HCAD website, the deadline to submit a protest is May 15, 2020 or 30 days after your value notice was mailed.

EMCA Sponsors and Advertisers

EMCA would like to thank our sponsors and advertisers!
The best way to show appreciation is by supporting their businesses!

The logo for Soren Pedersen features the name "SOREN PEDERSEN" in a white, sans-serif, all-caps font. The letters are arranged in two lines, with "SOREN" on top and "PEDERSEN" on the bottom, separated by a thin horizontal line.

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Lee Hudman,
ABR CLHMS CNE GPA
713-449-1888

A portrait photograph of Mary K. Quinn, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a red jacket over a black top.

106 Avondale
Houston, TX 77006

FAMILY LAW / LITIGATION
Mary K. Quinn
Attorney at Law

Phone: 713.225.0094
Fax: 713.225.0099
Email: maryquinn@maryquinnlaw.com
www.maryquinnlaw.com

Our District C City Council Member: Abbi Kamin

Contact Ngan Nguyen
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

February Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance			11,600.89
Monies In:	Living Mosaic	\$225.00	
	Membership	\$610.00	
Monies Out	Newsletter Printing	(\$315.00)	
	Living Mosaic Signs	(\$441.00)	
	Storage Unit	(\$122.00)	
	Website Hosting (4 years)	(\$138.72)	
	PayPal Fees	(\$23.92)	
	P. Shiffick Park Maintenance	(\$550.00)	
Ending Balance:			\$10,845.25

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

May 4	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
May 6	Wednesday	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE
May 11	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 16	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
May 25	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
June 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle

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 www.Eastmontrose.org

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Mary Quinn —president.emca@gmail.com

V-Pres: Karen Bohn —vicepresident.emca@gmail.com

Treasurer: Julia Schafer —treasurer.emca@gmail.com

Secretary: Mike McHam —secretary.emca@gmail.com

Past President: Sherry Weesner —pastpresident.emca@gmail.com

At Large 1: Bill Maxey —rep1.emca@gmail.com

At Large 2: Malisa Galvan — rep2.emca@gmail.com

Home Tour: **OPEN**

Neartown Liaison: Julie Young —wallpaperlady@att.net

Newsletter: Lee Hudman —newsletter.emca@gmail.com

Newsletter Coordinator: Natalie Holder —nnavellier@gmail.com

HPD's PIP: Julie Young —wallpaperlady@att.net

Security: Mark Weesner mdwpsbn@gmail.com

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

Peggy Shiffick Park: Ellen Yarrell - ellen@eayatty.com

FB Admin: Lee Hudman - EastMontrose@groups.facebook.com

Webmaster: **OPEN**

Yard of the Season: Betsy Anderson — bsatexas@sbcglobal.net

Extra printed newsletter copies can be found in the mailbox at Peggy Shiffick Park and on the "files" tab of the East Montrose Facebook page in digital PDF format.

Newsletters are normally only printed in March, June, September and December. Send your name, address and email to treasurer.emca@gmail.com 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

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