East Montrose
Civic Association Newsletter

Connect: Facebook.com/groups/East Montrose and www.eastmontrose.org or Mail: PO Box 131363 Houston, TX 77219

May 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

05/06/2025—HPD PIP Meeting, 7PM
05/20/2025—EMCA Meeting (District Director for TX Senator, Molly Cook will present) at Midtown Bar and Grill
06/16/2025—No meeting, summer break
07/15/2025—No meeting, summer break
08/19/2025—No meeting, summer break
09/16/2025—TBD
10/07/2025—National Night Out
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The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

A NOTE FROM THE EMCA PRESIDENT

I have seen several posts about burglaries. I ask everyone to do the following.

1. Keep your eyes and ears open.
2. Call HPD immediately. Even if they are unable to come out immediately, the reported crime stats can be used for discussions with them.
3. If you are a subscriber of the EMCA security patrols, please contact SEAL as well. Even if they are not on patrol, they should have the details so when they are on patrol, they have all previous reports.
4. If you have not subscribed to the security patrol, please consider joining. The more subscribers, the more patrols we can cover. Info is available on our website at eastmontrose.org.
5. Send information to the Security Committee at safety.emca@gmail.com so the team is aware and can discuss options.

You can also reach out to me directly at president.emca@gmail.com if you would like to discuss further.

Have a blessed day,
Karen Brohn

President

Things to do in Houston this Month

1. Drunk Shakespeare: A one of a kind theatrical experience which combines Shakespeare with alcohol, improv and comedy—5 actors meet and perform one of Shakespeare's plays. The catch? One of them has 5 shots of whiskey. Each show is different!

Recurring weekly every night (except Mondays) at 7:30 at 412 Travis Street

2. Jazzy Sundays: Water Works Park at Buffalo Bayou will have live jazz Sunday afternoons from 4PM-7PM. Bring a picnic and enjoy the beautiful weather while you can!

Sundays 4-7P, Water Works Park

3. Arboretum Goats: If you thought that was a mistype—you would be wrong. Goats are *back* at the Arboretum this month, all day, every day. They have a very important job to do—clearing the woodland understory and mowing invasive species helps increase biodiversity in the parks. Make sure to stay on the sidewalks and trails for goat sightings and do not try to pet the goats!

May 7-20, 7A-7P, Houston Arboretum

4. International Festival USA: Known commonly as the iFEST, this is the *official* celebration of multiculturalism and diversity, and promotes peace, love, and friendship. Where better to host this than Houston? You can hear beautiful music from all corners of the world, share in gourmet food, and more festivities.

May 20 at Discovery Green

5. **Makers Market—Spring Edition! :** Markets for Makers returns to Houston with 90+ vendors, DIY stations, photo opps, incredible food and drinks, and a free tote (for the goods you are sure to walk away with).

May 17-18 11AM-5PM at the POST Houston

From the Editor...

by Sofie Shoaib

For all you 'NSYNC fans out there—It's gonna be May!

A quick reminder for everyone that Mother's Day is coming up (5/11) so I have compiled a few suggestions for things to do if you haven't yet planned anything for that special mother in your life. And if you are, instead, someone looking for fun events going on, these are great for anyone just looking to get out this month.

Rooftop Cinema Club will be screening Mamma Mia! 1 and 2 with additional touches (photo ops, gifts, sweets). Plenty of restaurants are offering complimentary cocktails if you're looking for a good brunch spot! Georgia James, Duck N Bao, Bari, Ostia and Ninfa's are just a few that I found. If you're more into botanicals, the Bayou Bend Gardens are offering complimentary snacks along with live music, while the Botanic Gardens will host a gift basket workshop where you can make pressed flower cards, candles, and pot plants. They'll have an artists market, live music and photo ops in the gardens. La Colombe D'Or is planning a tablescaping masterclass (proceeds go to Operation Smile). And finally, Miller Outdoor Theatre will have a weekend of free performances by the Houston Ballet.

Tons of great indoor and outdoor offerings this month. If you make it out to anything fun, send us pictures for a feature! Or if you have anything else you would want to submit, we love to hear from readers.

Cheers,

Sofie

HPD PIP Meeting 5/6

Where: 1602 State Street

When: May 6, 2025 at 7PM

The PIP or Positive Interaction Program is an initiative at the Houston Police Department, geared toward hosting monthly community meetings featuring speakers from different divisions with the goal of better explaining how each division operates. They also take citizen concerns and complaints. The platform provides an opportunity for members of the community to be heard directly and foster a relationship with the HPD members who are assigned to that area. Why is this important?

Recently, there have been a number of reported break-ins, thefts, car break –ins, and suspicious persons trying to gain entry to homes during the night here in East Montrose. These concerning incidents need to be addressed and the HPD PIP meeting will be the best time for East Montrose residents to voice their concerns about HPD presence and patrol. Please make every effort to attend the meeting!

Updates on Yard Waste by Julie Young

You know those many MANY piles of green bags filled with fallen leaves and yard clippings, that have been sitting at the curb all around East Montrose for WEEKS? Some starting to decompose and disintegrate and spill. Today (April 14) the trash truck driver gal and I had a lengthy conversation. She told me to report to 311. What a simple solution! She made it sound so easy. After my attempt to fill out the on-line form was met with "The System Does Not Recognize Your Request," I took them at their word to "Call Anytime" and picked up the phone at 8:30 p.m. and dialed 311. I got a live person. How's that for good service?!
I gave the gal the streets and intersections of the bags closest to me. Her voice had that weary sound of "Been There, Done That." She said, "Well, I can make a report, but the system's just going to close it out immediately." She went on to explain that the service is a few weeks behind, and will eventually catch up. Well, we already knew that, didn't we?

But don't think you can get away with cheating by putting leaves into your black trash bin. I've got 11 green bags lined up along my curb. Yet a few strays managed to find their way into the bottom of my trash bin. On top was a good 2' of honest trash, broken misc., and cat litter. I was standing outside waiting to roll the emptied bins back up our driveways. When the driver finished dumping mine, she put her truck in Park, got out, and walked over to talk to me.

You know how we've heard that there are cameras on those trucks? Well, it's true. The driver can see what's tumbling out of our trash bins and into the hopper. So, yeah, caught! She saw my couple gallons of oak leaves. So she came over to explain.

Turns out, the city tells us not to put leaves in the trash bins, not only because we want to be environmentally-minded and ensure that they get to the compost yard. But another reason is that the tiny, slippery pieces can clog up the mechanism that funnels the trash into the body where the waste is compacted. When that happens, the operator has to take other measures to un-clog everything and to get functioning again.
So, sounds like we're all in the market for more of those green bags. Just FYI, Southland Hardware has bunches of 10-pk boxes on an eye-level shelf in the back room, near the household section.

Updates from the Montrose TIRZ Meeting on Monday 4/21

Construction on the Montrose Boulevard Improvement Project started earlier this month and excavation is underway.

Design is underway for the Montrose Safe Routes to School project with a goal of 90% of design completed by June. Some unspecified changes have been made to the plan which will need city approval before a meeting in June to discuss with the public. The project's scope may expand to include Dallas St. Partnerships with the Fourth Ward TIRZ are being discussed.

District C Council Member Kamin presented on the city's proposal to partner with the Montrose TIRZ to reallocate $11.5M of funds previously earmarked for the old Freed-Montrose Library to capital improvements at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray. The board voted in favor. Public engagement meetings will be held for the Multi-Service Center improvements.

Additional sidewalk improvement plans in planning stages: a North East Montrose Sidewalk Improvement Project and a South East Montrose Sidewalk Improvement Project, both utilizing outside funding. The Cherryhurst area sidewalks are due to begin work this summer, with light improvements coming to Mandell Park.

TIRZ board meetings are open to the public and held on the third Monday of every month, with details posted at https://montrosehtx.org/meetings closer to the date.

Shout out to Kevin at Fletcher Bike Studio, Taft at Fairview. I was there last week to use the tune up gift certificate I was lucky to win at National Night Out (thanks, Trice & Mike!). Kevin also fixed a snapped brake cable, adjusted a few other things, suggested future maintenance, and gave me useful information re tire pressure (who'da thought a bike tire would take twice the pressure as my 1/2 ton work truck?!), and other riding tips. All at a reasonable price. Whether you've got a utilitarian model like mine, or a fancy racer, Fletcher will keep you rolling. And he's long been a supporter of EMCA.

—submitted by Julie Young

Pictures from fletcherbikestudio.com

Recipe of the Month

Savory breakfast quesadillas are on the menu this month! Very easy and quick to make, not to mention, very customizable!

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil, divided
- 2 large eggs
- 2 (8-inch) tortillas of choice (whole grain, gluten free, flavored, etc.)
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- ½ cup mashed roasted sweet potato (or butternut squash)
- ¼ cup mild or medium diced roasted green chile

Instructions:

Add eggs to a bowl with a few teaspoons of water (this helps keep them fluffy and moist) and whisk until well combined. Add ½ tablespoon olive oil to a large skillet and place over medium-low heat. Add eggs and scramble, cooking until just done. Remove eggs from pan and transfer to a plate.

Next add in ½ tablespoon of oil and place the same skillet over medium heat. Add 1 tortilla, then sprinkle ¼ cup shredded cheese, followed by mashed sweet potato, green chile, scrambled eggs, remaining ¼ cup cheese, and your second tortilla. Cook for 2 minutes or until golden on one side, then flip quesadilla and cook on the remaining side until nice and golden. Transfer to a cutting board and use a pizza cutter to cut into triangles. Serve with avocado, yogurt and salsa if desired. Serves 2.

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
http://fletcher.house.gov/contact

February, 2025 Treasurer's Report			
For the period February 1, 2025 - February 28, 2025			
EMCA			
Beginning Balance			$ 7,536.93
Monies In	Membership	$ 300.00	
Monies Out			
	Paypal Fees		$ 10.40
	Storage		$ 50.00
	Billsby		$ 45.00
	Zoom		$ 159.90
	PO Box renewal		$ 226.00
Ending Balance			$ 7,345.63
Security			
Beginning Balance			$ 24,717.30
Monies In	Security Reserve	$ 787.50	
Monies Out	Paypal Fees		
	Stripe Fees		$ 25.25
	Security Refund - Overayment		$ 167.50
	SEAL Payments		
Ending Balance Subscription			$ 25,312.05

Total EMCA Members: 248
Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 199
2024 Greater EM Security Subscribers: 89

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

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Karen Brohn —president.emca@gmail.com
V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle—vicepresident.emca@gmail.com
Treasurer: Joel Dudley—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: Beth Shook — 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
Security: Hugo Ovalle—safety.emca@gmail.com
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
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 5	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 7	Wednesday	Tree Waste
May 12	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
May 19	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 26	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
June 2	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. 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 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