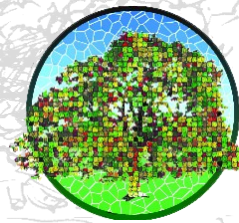


East Montrose

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

September 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

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

10/6—National Night Out

10/18—Neighborhood clean up, 9AM,
Peggy Shiffick Park

10/24—Biennial Home Tour

11/17—Meeting, location TBD

More dates to follow.

East Montrose Civic Association will host our 15th biennial Home Tour & Art Walk on Saturday, October 24th. Tour goers can glimpse how the architecture has transformed over the years, showcasing unique renovations characteristic of this distinctive, eclectic neighborhood.

Tickets are on sale at www.eastmontrose.org/news-events/home-tour/ The Art Walk is free.

We need volunteers to greet the guests. The morning shift runs from 10 to 1 and the afternoon shift runs from 1 to 4. Invite your friends to volunteer with you! As a docent, you'll get to see all the homes for free plus a thank-you party afterward. This is our big fundraiser and all proceeds benefit the East Montrose Civic Association.

Our tour wouldn't be possible without your help, can we count on your support? Just text, call or email; we really appreciate it.

Mary Quinn PastPresident@Gmail.com 281-630-4476
Bill Maxey BMaxey100@Gmail.com 713-545-2909

Thank you to our contributors!

Karen Bohn

Mary Dedeaux-Swinton

Bill Maxey

Penny Cerling

Betsy Anderson

Peter Bohn

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The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.



Things to do in Houston this Month

1. Japan Festival: The annual cultural fair is back to showcase Japanese tradition and influence. The event will feature live music, dance performances, martial arts performances, food, drinks, tea ceremonies, and a variety of demonstrations in the cultural arts.

Sep 12, 13 at Hermann Park

2. Viet Cultural Fest: Welcoming the largest Vietnamese festival to Houston for one day, there will be tons of traditional games, competitions, foods, music, and more entertainment.

Sept 12, Reliant Park

3. Houston Wing Festival: Houston's BEST wing spots are going head to head in intense cook off competition and visitors will help select the winners. That's right, visitors get to try wings from every vendor, watch the wing-off competitions, enjoy music, and vote for your favorites. Complimentary tasting experiences provided by St. Arnold Brewing, and separate Kid Zones make this a perfect day.

Sep 13, Buffalo Bayou at 105-B Sabine St

4. El Grito: Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with the Consulate General of Mexico, who are hosting the annual El Grito ceremony, followed by award winning Mariachi performances.

Sep 15, Miller Outdoor Theater, 7:30PM

5. Houston Jazz Festival: Presented by the Houston Jazz Collective, this year's Jazz Fest features the NOLA Resistance Quintet, who will showcase the rich traditions of New Orleans mixed with contemporary influence.

Sep 18, Miller Outdoor Theater, 7:30PM

From the editor

September brings a welcome return to the rhythm of neighborhood life. As summer begins to wind down, we're looking ahead to a particularly active October—and we hope you'll make plans to join us.

One of the things we're especially happy to announce is the return of our monthly EMCA meetings. These gatherings are an important part of staying connected, sharing neighborhood news and ideas, and hearing from one another about what's happening in East Montrose. We're looking forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new members as we get back into our regular meeting schedule.

And October will give us plenty of opportunities to come together. We'll be celebrating National Night Out and preparing for our biennial Home Tour and Art Walk, two wonderful occasions to connect with neighbors and celebrate the character and community that make East Montrose special.

For now, enjoy these last weeks of summer and take some time to appreciate the neighborhood around you. Stop by a local business, say hello to a neighbor, and keep an eye out for the October calendar. There's a lot ahead, and we're excited to share it with you.

Warmly,

—Sofie

Neighbors Explore the New Ismaili Center in Houston

Mary Dedeaux-Swinton

This summer, twenty-two East Montrose neighbors got a chance to tour the new Ismaili Center Houston, located at Montrose and Allen Parkway. The Ismaili Center Houston is the first Ismaili Center built in the United States and one of only seven in the world. The building clocks in at 150,000 square feet and is truly a marvelous space.

During the tour, we explored the extensive artwork, viewed the state-of-the-art Black Box Theater, visited classrooms, and spent some time in the stunning prayer room, the Jamatkhana, whose name translates to “the house of the community.” We walked through the three atriums that help flood the inside of the building with warm natural light.

The surrounding grounds are just as impressive. There is a peaceful reflection fountain inspired by the Taj Mahal, over 800 trees and native plants, and a number of beautiful water fountains. We were awe struck by the view from the largest atrium that overlooks the grounds toward Allen Parkway. It is truly a sight to see!

The Ismaili Center is a spectacular facility surrounded by nine acres of parklike grounds. It was designed to be a welcoming, open space for people of all faiths and backgrounds. As such, the Ismaili Center Houston hosts a number of events that are open to the public including art exhibits, yoga, theatrical productions and movie screenings.

These tours were a wonderful opportunity for us to get a firsthand look at the facility, learn about its purpose, and see how it will bring our wider community together.



EMCA members on tour at the Ismaili Center

Yard of the Season... by Betsy Anderson

Our **Summer** 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!





Tuesday, October 6, 2026

6:30-8:00 p.m.

East Montrose National Night Out

Organized by the East Montrose Civic Association

Come join your neighbors in enhancing Police/Community Relations

Outside Anderson Fair located at corner of Grant and Welch

2007 Grant Street, Houston, TX 77006

ALL AGES WELCOME

Interact with attendees from the Houston Police Department and local officials

Potluck – bring a dish to share if you are able – labeled so folks know what they are trying

Water provided - BYOB or beverages can be purchased at Anderson Fair

Special thanks go out to Tim Leatherwood & Cindy Shung of Anderson Fair for Logistical Support

Raffle Prizes for Current EMCA Members

To check your membership status, contact treasurer.emca@gmail.com

Go to our website to renew or join EMCA - www.eastmontrose.org/about-us/membership/

Thank you to the following local businesses for supporting our raffle.

EMCA Member Businesses - Demi's Doghouse, Reeves Art and Design

Local Businesses – Art League Houston, Dirt Bag, Fletcher's Bike Shop, In Bloom, La Mexicana, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Pinot's Palette, Southwestern Paint

Others to be announced in future communications.

If you would like to join the above list or volunteer, please contact At-Large Board Member, Mary Dedeaux-Swinton at rep2.emca@gmail.com and President Karen Brohn at president.emca@gmail.com.

Yard of the Season... by Betsy Anderson

The East Montrose Civic Association is happy to announce that 406 Bomar has been selected as our **Autumn** 'Yard of the Season' for the period August through October 2026. The owner, Wayne, purchased this charming property in January of this year and officially moved in March following some light renovations. Prior to moving to East Montrose, Wayne lived in the downtown high rise known as 'The Marlowe' for the past 6 years.

While he enjoyed residing in the heart of the city and taking a leisurely stroll to the office each morning, a job change drove him to consider leaving the downtown area for a more peaceful and quainter neighborhood while still having access to the amenities he enjoys. Wayne was drawn to East Montrose with its residential feel, affording walkable convenience and a more relaxed lifestyle. He especially enjoys the beautiful tree-lined streets, neighborhood cats, along with the access to so many restaurants and neighborhood shops.

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Wayne has worked in the petrochemical industry for over 27 years. Houston has been his home since graduating from Penn State University. His hobbies include running, traveling, and entertaining family and friends.

406 Bomar was originally built in 1930 and previously underwent extensive renovations by the former owners, one of which was a talented local architect. Since purchasing the home, Wayne has made some light updates to revive its appeal, including all new exterior and interior paint, new turf front to back, and professional landscaping. There is also a unique garage with a two-story loft apartment at the rear of the property. The driveway is lined on both sides with planters that add more greenery to his inviting yard.

The 'Yard of the Season Committee' is happy to welcome Wayne to East Montrose and pleased to recognize his special home.



MONTROSE TIRZ 27 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS CONNECTION PROJECTS UPDATE

By Karen Bohn, President East Montrose Civic Association

In our July 2026 newsletter, we provided details about the upcoming sidewalk work related to this project. Historical newsletters can be found online at www.eastmontrose.org/newsletter/.

In the last couple of weeks, we received notice the work will begin during September 2026.

Door hangers with project details should have been delivered to all impacted East Montrose residents. The door hanger included a link to the project details which can be found online at www.montrosehtx.org/projects/srts/ including the project map shown below. To provide feedback or comments on the project via email, contact info@montrosehtx.org. Please ensure to copy president.emca@gmail.com so we can help support any issues our residents are experiencing. Future doorhangers are projected to be distributed within one/two weeks prior to work commencing.



TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER, GREENER
EAST MONTROSE

EAST MONTROSE CLEANUP

**SUNDAY
OCT 18TH
AT 9:00 AM**

**PEGGY SHIFFICK PARK
700 BOMAR ST**

*Many Hands
Make Light Work!*

GLOVES PROVIDED

VESTS PROVIDED

TRASH GRABBERS PROVIDED

BAGS PROVIDED

LET'S COME TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER, GREENER COMMUNITY!

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

KOELSCH HAUS GALLERY - 1020 Peden

In our neighborhood, at the corner of Peden and Montrose, is a gem of an art and fashion gallery, the Koelsch Haus Gallery.

Seventh generation Houstonian, Franny Koelsch Jeffries, began her career in fashion. As time went on she started collecting art, meeting with and talking to artists. In 1994 she decided to open her own gallery, moving to the Peden Street location in Spring of 2019.

Koelsch Haus Gallery shows both fashion and art. Artists who show with Franny Koelsch say it is a pleasure to work with her, that she listens intently and is as passionate about showing the work as they are about making it. I know at least one artist who has stayed with her for over 20 years - a rarity in the art world.

On Thursday September 10, Koelsch Haus Gallery will open its doors to artists Kelly Moran and Gail Siptak. The show continues through Saturday October 10.

Kelly Moran (left picture) will be showing work from the "Time Keepers" series. Gail Siptak's (right picture) work will be from the "Rescue" series.

KOELSCH HAUS GALLERY
Showing Art & Fashion
1020 Peden



Mayor's Assistance Office:

James Ronje—832-393-5958

James.ronje@houstontx.gov

Our District C City Council Member: Joe Panzarella

Contact Anna Smith

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>

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Karen Bohn — 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 Bohn — 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

Sep 7	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
Sep 14	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
Sep 21	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
Sep 28	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
Oct 5	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 \$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