East Montrose
Civic Association Newsletter

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

November 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

**11/17—Meeting, Midtown Bar and Grill**
**12/8—Annual Meeting/Elections and Holiday Party, 7PM**

**All EMCA meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.**



*Great turnout at the October neighborhood clean up! Thank you to all volunteers!*

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The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.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 TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (TIRZ) 27**
**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS (SRTS) CONNECTION PROJECTS UPDATE**
By Karen Brohn,
President, East Montrose Civic Association

In the October newsletter, I provided background on the upcoming improvements planned throughout East Montrose by the Montrose Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) 27 as part of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Connection
Projects. That article is available on the
https://www.eastmontrose.org/newsletter/.
As promised, I will continue sharing updates as new information becomes available.

**Project Status and Timeline**
The project is expected to take approximately **12 months to complete**. Construction will occur in phases, meaning work will not begin simultaneously throughout the neighborhood. The project is still awaiting final approval from Houston City Council. HR Green, the project's engineering consultant, has advised that it is incorporating revisions requested during the most recent City Council review. Once those revisions are completed, the project will return to City Council for consideration. Following formal approval, construction activities can be scheduled, and a more definitive timeline should become available.

**Preliminary Notices on Fargo Street**
Several residents along Fargo Street received door hangers this week from PSI, a project subcontractor, indicating a potential construction start date of **October 26, 2026**. **Please note that this is a preliminary date, not a confirmed construction start date.** Final scheduling remains dependent on project approval and coordination. The notices may identify potential impacts to individual properties, including landscaping, fencing, or driveway access. If you have questions about any items checked on your notice, I encourage you to contact PSI directly using the telephone
number provided. They should be able to offer more specific information regarding your property.

**Staying Informed**
I understand that construction projects can raise questions and concerns, particularly when work may affect access to your home or existing landscaping. I will continue coordinating with project representatives and sharing information with the neighborhood as it becomes available.
If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance obtaining additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at president.emca@gmail.com.

**Additional Project Information**
For residents interested in reviewing the proposed improvements in greater detail, the latest publicly available project presentation can be found here: https://montrosehtx.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Montrose-SRTS-Presentation-corrected.pdf

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to keep East Montrose informed throughout this process.

EAST MONTROSE
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**Annual Member Meeting/Elections and Holiday Party**

The East Montrose Annual Member Meeting and Holiday Party will take place Tuesday, December 8, 2026, from 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Charles Lambert and Aaron Sonnier, 611 Peden Street. The EMCA Board will provide some holiday munchies along with water and soft drinks. We ask everyone to bring their own adult libations and an appetizer, snack or food item to share if possible.

Members will be entered into a drawing for a raffle prize. Non-members are welcome to attend with a $5.00 donation.

Gift Exchange - each person who wants to participate in the gift exchange must bring a wrapped (or at least disguised) gift for the gift exchange not to exceed $25 in value. Humorous gifts are encouraged.

At the beginning of the evening, we will be electing a President, Vice President and two At-Large Directors. If you would like to run for one of these positions, please email the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Quinn, at pastpresident.emca@gmail.com.
All members in good standing (meaning your dues are up to date) are eligible to vote. You can check your status by reaching out to Betsy Anderson at treasurer.emca@gmail.com.
If you are unable to attend the Holiday Party, you can complete an absentee/proxy ballot and drop it off at 2101 Whitney or email it to pastpresident.emca@gmail.com no later than Sunday, December 6, 2026.

The nominating committee recommendations are as follows and are posted online at https://www.eastmontrose.org/holiday-party/.

**<u>President - Karen Brohn</u>**

Karen Brohn is the current President of EMCA. She has been an active member of EMCA since moving into the neighborhood over 14 years ago including holding the roles of Vice President and A-Large Member on the EMCA Board. In these roles she has led the Yard of the Season Committee, coordinated National Night Out events and is the liaison for the Neartown / Montrose Super Neighborhood #24 where she is currently the Chair of the President's Council. Outside of EMCA, Karen is a CPA and Chief Administrative Officer for a real estate investment firm. She and her husband enjoy spending time with friends and family and their two rescue dogs. She enjoys the outdoors, participating in triathlons, playing volleyball and has been a Texans season ticket holder since day one of the franchise. Karen has enjoyed working on both the social and civic areas within East Montrose and getting to know the residents and business owners. If re-elected, she looks forward to continuing working on ensuring East Montrose remains a Living Mosaic.

V**ice President - Mary Dedeaux-Swinton**

Mary Dedeaux-Swinton is a native Houstonian who, with her husband Jeffrey, has called East Montrose home since October 2024. Her belief that neighbors working together make a community safer, stronger, and more enjoyable inspired her to run for the East Montrose Civic Association board, where she now serves as Member at Large 2. Mary brings volunteer experience in board governance, member engagement, fundraising, and collaboration. She looks forward to continuing to share her time, energy, and experience with the neighborhood she and Jeffrey have made their home. Outside of her community involvement, Mary enjoys sewing and crafts, traveling, and baking.

**At-Large 1 - Alyssa Ketner/Hugo Ovalle**

**Alyssa Ketner** is an active member of EMCA and has served as a part-time board member alongside Katy Macalla for the past three years. As a native Houstonian and mother to two daughters, she is deeply committed to the well-being and growth of the neighborhood. She has a strong connection to the area, having grown up close by, and is dedicated to maintaining the qualities that make it such a wonderful place to live. In addition to her personal ties, she has had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Spring Fling event with Katy Macalla and has participated in previous Home Tours. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends and exploring everything East Montrose has to offer. Whether it is enjoying the local restaurants, visiting nearby museums, or simply taking in the unique charm of the neighborhood, she is constantly reminded how special our community is. Alyssa is eager to bring her dedication, local knowledge, and community involvement to the EMCA and looks forward to the opportunity to continue contributing to our neighborhood's growth and success.

**Hugo Ovalle** is the current Vice President of the East Montrose Civic Association and is running for the at large position. He and his wife, Claudia, moved to East Montrose in 2020 with their children, Lucia and Eric, and their three dogs, Sansa, Red, and Rocket. Before becoming Vice President, Hugo served on the EMCA Security Committee and as At-Large 1 Board Member. Hugo is committed to making the neighborhood safer and better for everyone. He has been a strong advocate for Safe Routes to School, a program that received a federal grant and is set to begin implementation by year end in East Montrose. If re-elected, he looks forward to seeing that project through and advocate for repaving of some of the roads in our neighborhood.
Professionally, Hugo is a petroleum engineer with a consulting firm in downtown Houston.

**At-Large 2 – Lance McKnight**

Lance McKnight purchased a home in the neighborhood in November of 2023 and spent the next two and a half years restoring that house to its former glory. He moved in June of this year and became a resident of East Montrose. Other than the two and a half years in a Midtown apartment he has been a resident of Montrose since 2003. As a long time board member of the First Montrose Civic Association, he brings a depth of knowledge about the issues facing the civic associations in the Montrose area. Lance is a practicing engineer in the construction industry and is an active member of the City of Houston General Appeals Board. He looks forward to serving on the East Montrose board.

**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**
emailinfo@montrosehtx.org website montrosehtx.org
**Representative,CD7**
Lizzie Fletcher—713-353-8680
http://fletcher.house.gov/contact

| | FY 2026 Treasurer Report<br>As of August 31, 2026 | EMCA |
|---|---|---|
| Beginning of year balance | | $ 5,210.74 |
| Monies In | | |
| | Membership | $ 2,630.00 |
| | Ads | $ 160.00 |
| | Living Mosaic Sales | $ 75.00 |
| | Donations | $ 40.00 |
| Total In | | $ 2,905.00 |
| Monies Out | | |
| | PayPal Fees | $ 68.63 |
| | US Post Office Box Rental | $ 230.00 |
| | Go Daddy Subscription | $ 46.38 |
| | Near Town Donation | $ 100.00 |
| | Zoom Subscription | $ 159.90 |
| | Storage | $ 325.00 |
| | Newsletters | $ 424.40 |
| | Insurance | $ 2,162.00 |
| | Spring Fling | $ 966.99 |
| | Miscellaneous Reimbursement | $ (145.00) |
| Total Out | | $ 4,338.30 |
| YTD Income | | $ (1,433.30) |
| August 31 Bank Balance EMCA | | $ 3,777.64 |
| August 31 Reserve in Security Account | | $ 2,938.02 |
| Combined Ending Balance | | $ 6,715.66 |

*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:KarenBrohn—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
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**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November 2 | Monday | Regular Trash & Lawn |
| November 9 | Monday | Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle |
| November 16 | Monday | Regular Trash & Lawn |
| November 23 | Monday | Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle |
| November 30 | 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 through 12/31/27.
___ 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 security in East Montrose through HPD's Positive Interface Program (PIP) and Crime-Out Activities and Citizens Patrol Program
____**Membership:**Encourage membership enrollment, maintain records.
____**Volunteer:**Database Administrator
____**Volunteer:**Newsletter Team
____**Volunteer***:* Biennial Home Tour

East Montrose Civic Association

Proxy Ballot

December 8, 2026

Election of Officers in Accordance with By-Laws

I, _____ being a member in good standing of the East Montrose Civic Association, hereby vote for the following named persons to serve as officers of the Association from January 2027 – December 2028 with the At-Large 2 position serving the remainder of the vacated term from January 2027 – December 2027.

Please accept this as my absentee vote for the below-named candidates being considered on December 8, 2026.

Signature _____Date_____

Roster of Candidates:

President: Karen Brohn or Write-In Candidate:_____

Vice President: Mary Dedeaux-Swinton or Write-In Candidate:_____

At Large 1: Alyssa Ketner/Hugo Ovalle or Write-In Candidate:_____

At Large 2: Lance McKnight or Write-In Candidate:_____

Note: Please complete and email to pastpresident.emca@gmail.com or complete and mail or drop off at 2101 Whitney Street by 5 PM on Sunday, December 6, 2026.