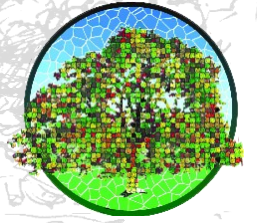


East Montrose

Civic Association Newsletter



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

April 2023

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 2023 Calendar

- 4/15—Neighborhood Clean-Up, 9AM at Peggy Shiffick
- 4/30—Spring Social! Family event
- 5/16—EMCA meeting, location to be confirmed
- 6/20—Summer break, no meeting
- 7/18—Summer break, no meeting
- 8/15—Summer break, no meeting
- 9/19—EMCA meeting, location to be confirmed
- 10/3—National Night Out with HPD and elected officials, family event
- 11/21—EMCA meeting, location to be confirmed
- 12/5—Annual elections and holiday party

All EMCA meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month unless noted otherwise.

Come hang out with your fellow East Montrosians at this years Spring Fling! Families welcome, see below for details!

You're invited
to the
East Montrose Civic Association
SPRING FLING
Sunday, April 30th
615 Welch St.
2PM to 5PM

Family-friendly entertainment including
a performance by Viejo & a Bouncy House for the kids!
Food & Ice Cream Truck Onsite!
BYOB

*No need to be a member to attend!
Become an EMCA member at the event!*

Have questions? Email repl.emca@gmail.com



EMCA has a new Instagram account! Give us a follow @eastmontrose on Instagram 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 The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

East Montrose Neighborhood Cleanup

Come help keep our "Living Mosaic" beautiful!
Saturday, April 15th
9AM

Meet at Peggy H Shiffick Park (Bomar Street)
Supplies provided

Please email George.boos@att.net for details!

EMCA Safety Update

The East Montrose Civic Association (“EMCA”) is kicking off their 2023 S.E.A.L. Security campaign to rehire S.E.A.L. Security through the end of December 2023. S.E.A.L Security will cost ~\$7,000 per month. We need to have a minimum of 170 neighbors sign up before we can rehire S.E.A.L. Security.

To help protect your neighborhood, please sign up by completing one of the payment options below. Once you have subscribed, please email safety.emca@gmail.com your contact information (name, address, email, phone number). This information will help us in providing you with updates, including when we reach the 170 subscribers!

Payment Options:

(Please include your name, address, email and phone number with all payments)

1. Send a \$500 payment via Zelle at treasurer.emca@gmail.com
2. Drop a check for \$500 payable to EMCA in the (locked) mailbox at 402 Welch Street.
3. Pay via PayPal or credit card using one of the options below:

3 Month Subscription*



12 Month Subscription*



*Subscriptions can be cancelled by the subscriber via PayPal at any time. Additional PayPal fees of 3.5% are included in the subscription prices.

Additional Security Information:

Our EMCA boundaries will stay the same: Genesee Street to the east, W. Gray Street to the north, Montrose Street to the west and Fairview Street to the south. The patrol area would be defined in the contract post orders, focusing on the areas around those who have subscribed and may include coverage for subscribers immediately outside the boundaries of EMCA.

Subscribers receive the following benefits:

1. 24 Hour Hotline Number (a card will be delivered to each subscriber at their designated address)
2. Vacation Watch
3. Welfare Checks
4. Yard Sign indicating support for the program
5. [Click here for Q&A with S.E.A.L. COO James Alexander on Saturday, Feb 5th, 2022.](#)

All questions and concerns can be sent to safety.emca@gmail.com.

Things to do in Houston this Month

- 1. 10th Annual Houston BBQ Festival** Houstons favorite BBQ fest is back! For \$80, enjoy unlimited smoked delights from the best barbeque joints and smokehouses around.
Humble Civic Center, April 2
- 2. Easter Brunch** Enjoy a jazzy brunch at Backstreet Café to kick off your Easter celebration. Serving strawberry rhubarb muffins, beignets, artichoke soup, braised lamb shank and carrot cake. Yum!
Backstreet Café in River Oaks, Sunday April 9
- 3. HPL Warehouse Sale** Doors open for the April book sale at Houston Public Library! Come seek out your new favorite nonfiction, fiction, adult and children's books.
April 1, 10AM-2PM.
- 4. Artrageous** The centennial anniversary of the Miller Outdoor Theatre continues celebrations with performances by the Artrageous Troupe—"Watch as artists create large-scale masterpieces before your very eyes, set to exciting music and captivating choreography. This multidisciplinary show celebrates the arts with a visual journey punctuated with passionate energy from the assembled artists, singers, dancers and musicians that make Artrageous come alive."
April 7 at 8PM
- 5. 36th Annual Art Car Parade** Watch 250 of the whackiest and coolest cars roll down Allen Parkway at 2PM. Come early for a closer look at the line up, and to enjoy snacks from an array of food trucks.
April 15, starting at 9AM

From the Editor...

by Sofie Shoaib



We are hitting the books this April!!

Literary adventures continue this month, as I am reintroduced to author's I have not visited in a long while, and some authors entirely new to me. Come along for book readings, and discussions with authors that are visiting this month!

A bit of context, I attended Mehdi Hasan's discussion of his new book "How to Win Every Argument" in March and was inspired to seek out other authors who might drop into our city.

I went to a discussion hosted by Jeanette Wells when she first published "The Glass Castle" (gosh, I think I might have been in high school then), and lo and behold, she will be here talking about "Hang the Moon", her newest book at St Thomas Presbyterian on 4/10. I am looking forward to hearing her once again as I dive into her newest novel. ABC-13's Melanie Lawson will be discussing "Nightcrawling" with author Leila Mottley, who will also be doing readings from the new book! How cool does that sound? Come out to Alley Theater for this event on April 17. I'll be keeping an eye out for other author events happening around the city.

Cheers,

Sofie



Demi's Dog House

239 W. Gray, Houston, TX 77019

713-942-0688

www.demisdoghouse.com

Daycare 🐾 Grooming 🐾 Boarding



NOTE: Deadline for submission of newsletter content is ALWAYS the 20th day of the previous month. Email your content to newsletter.emca@gmail.com.

Recipe of the Month

A bit of Louisiana inspo in this month's recipe—**beignets!** Recipe by Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons warm water (120° to 130°), divided
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1 package (1/4 ounce) quick-rise yeast
- 1 large egg
- 3-1/4 to 3-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- Oil for deep-fat frying
- Confectioners' sugar
- Berries and whipped topping, optional

*Prep time 25min, cook time 25 min.
Makes 4 dozen beignets.*

Directions

Beat butter, sugar, salt and cinnamon until crumbly. Beat in 1/2 cup water and evaporated milk. In another bowl, dissolve yeast in remaining 2 tablespoons water; add to milk mixture. Beat in egg until blended.

Add 2 cups flour; mix until well blended. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky). Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover; refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Bring dough to room temperature. On a floured surface, roll dough into a 16x12-in. rectangle. Cut into 2-in. squares. In a deep cast-iron skillet or deep-fat fryer, heat oil to 375°. Drop beignets, a few at a time, into hot oil. Fry until golden brown, about 1 minute per side. Drain on paper towels. Dust with confectioners' sugar. If desired, serve with assorted berries and whipped topping.

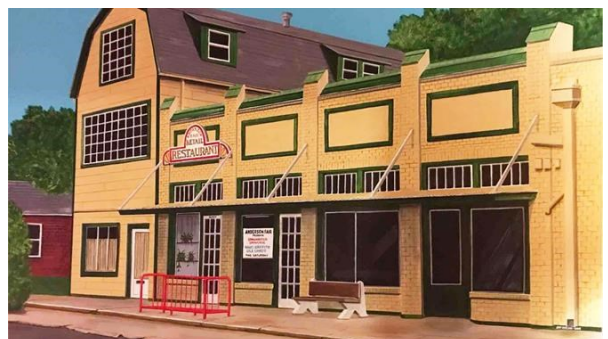
ANDERSON FAIR SPRING SCHEDULE

Since 1970 this iconic music venue, right here in our East Montrose neighborhood, has been presenting original singer/ songwriters LIVE in our vintage listening room. If you've never been, make it your first time this year. All shows are live streamed as well... at no charge, though donations are appreciated. The link is posted the evening of the concert on the website. www.andersonfair.net But the very best way to experience the music is live in the listening room. You'll be glad you came! You can also watch the documentary about Anderson Fair at <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1537279/>

Spring 2023

Friday, March 31—Shake Russel and Anthony Klonaris
Thursday April 6—Matt Harlan hosting Ali Holder and Brad Boyer
Friday, April 7—Dana Cooper

Doors open at 7:30 and shows start around 8:45
2007 Grant Street, just off Montrose behind Texas Art Supply.



All shows are live streamed at no charge, though donations are appreciated. The link is posted the evening of the concert on our website. More info will be announced on the website as more concerts are booked. 2007 Grant Street. www.andersonfair.net

Many things have changed here in East Montrose over the 35-odd years I've been here. When I see these new structures going up on this lot at Crocker & Fargo, I can't help but think of what stood on that lot, and the people who touched it, over the many years.

Way back a long time ago, the lot always was partially vacant. But on the north end of it was a ramshackle frame structure; it had probably served as a garage to a home that once sat on the lot. It had long ago lost its paint, and it was leaning to the side. Above it was a garage apartment, equally tattered. Both parts of the building sat vacant for years.

Late one night there was commotion and sirens, firetrucks – the dumpster on the property had caught fire! Passers-by, probably, had thought it would be fun to toss burning flammables into the pit. OK, a fun lark. *But not when it backs up to a wooden building!* Luckily for all, HPD was on the site quickly, and the fire extinguished, with little more damage than smoke stains on the west side of the shack.

But it was becoming clear that this structure was becoming a source of menace to the neighborhood. Even more so when it was discovered that vagrants had found their way inside and taken up residence in the 2nd floor apartment. Within a very short time, it became known that the building was being used to make and sell crack (the smokeable form of cocaine). Shady characters came and went at all hours. Yes, our neighborhood was now home to a thriving crack house.

But, really, they weren't hurting anybody (except themselves). Live and let live. Until – Bobby Shriver heard about the drug activity. You see, Bobby ran Houston Aftercare, which was a drug & alcohol rehab place. The outfit owned several homes here, mostly along Welch, and a few other streets, all east of Stanford. All of them were older frame bungalows, all painted white. Bobby and his classy-sassy wife Davita lived in a 2-story white frame house on Welch. The "clients" would start out in the most strict home, and, as they worked their way through the AA steps, would progress to less supervised living in the half-way houses that dotted the area. Here they learned structure like waking up at the same time each day, dressing appropriately, holding down a job, resisting "slips," and etc.

I noticed that people who went through the Houston Aftercare program were invariably quite "gung-ho" on the AA steps and traditions. I remember running into one of the guys on the sidewalk and starting an innocent conversation about something like mowing the lawn – and he would morph from grass into how a higher power had brought him to confront his weaknesses and overcome them. Bobby ran a tight ship, and Houston Aftercare had one of the best recovery records in the industry, and one of the lowest recidivism rates.

The Aftercare properties also included a meeting house, which was a low white frame building next to the Shriver's house. Bobby was involved in the neighborhood, and for a while we held our EMCA meetings in their building. Houston Aftercare held a holiday toy drive connected with St. John's Methodist Church downtown. They would collect the

Continued on page 7





The building at the corner of McGowen & Main has been taken over by street artists and all of these images are on one side or another. Someone must be thinking about pigs since there are two of them. Sometimes we pass the building and see even more new work. Very talented and imaginative artists are hard at work on the building.

Neighborhood Sightings...

An anonymous submission

Secretive construction was going on in a vacant commercial building for six weeks at 711 West Gray. Materials were loaded into the building. A construction dumpster filled and removed. Pneumatic hammers were used inside the building for a week. There have never been any permits posted and still are not. Several calls to 311 and the help of our Councilperson Abby Kamin's staff 711 finally got the place red tagged. Which might only delay the inevitable. The 711 W Gray proprietor's stated intention is to open a Hookah Bar, like A'dor at 403 W Gray, with outdoor seating and music. They want to get a mixed beverage restaurant liquor license. 711 W Gray is across the street from Wharton Elementary, which should preclude the chance for a TABC license. Maybe they'll go BYOB. The 711 people applied for a restaurant permit in August which was rejected. Their liquor license was also recently rejected. The secret construction may be to bring it up to restaurant code. A'dor is a colossal, loud, crowded nuisance ruining the quality of life for those on that end of Peden. Traffic is slowed and blocked and there is zero parking on West Gray down there all day. A'dor is not even open all day. Departing A'dor customers pee, barf and do drugs in the yards of people on Peden between Stanford and Taft.

If you would like to get more involved in keeping East Montrose a great place to live—then here is your chance!

Volunteers are needed for the following positions:
Block Captains / Clean Up Crew

Please contact EMCA President Karen Brohn at President.emca@gmail.com or EMCA Vice President Hugo O'Valle at vicepresident.emca@gmail.com to volunteer.

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

Extra printed newsletter copies can be found in the mailbox at Peggy Shiffick Park. Digital PDF versions are on the "files" tab of the East Montrose Facebook page and on Eastmontrose.org. Newsletters are normally printed only four times per year. Digital issues are available every month. 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!

Continued from page 5

toys ... and then have to wrap them. Only problem was ... they were guys. Guys don't know how to wrap gifts. (No offense to all the men reading this story!) So, for a couple of years, I remember the civic club (mostly women LOL!) joining them in the meeting house, toys and wrapping paper spread all over the floor, tape and scissors flying, and we helped them get their packages wrapped.

The guys were also big on Bar-B-Q. Just about every afternoon they'd be standing outside of "the Big House" with a huge smoker going and meat on the grill. Several times, they provided meat for our annual National Night Out street party.

The guys spent a lot of time sitting out on the front porches of these white bungalows. They kept an eye on goings-on in the 'hood. If you ever needed help with anything, they were ready to jump in. From my house at Stanford & W. Drew, I could see their house (and BBQ smoker!) at Stanford & Welch. One day I was wrestling a galvanized washtub full of soil and English ivy. One of the guys saw me struggling and ran down to help carry it onto my front stoop.

Bobby had them do "good deeds," too. Like helping with maintenance on the 1800's home of the "old lady" across the street ... Turns out that "old lady" was our precious Nell Stewart, who, 35 years later, is 102 years old and still entertaining people with her witty quips. She's moved to a facility off Gessner, but her home still stands, and is being renovated right now.

Some good guys from there continued to have ties to the 'hood even after "graduating" from the AA program. I hired some of them to dig my koi pond years ago. All they wanted was \$50 and lunch from McDonalds. (Side note: The pond was supposed to be 3' deep. At 30", they hit our famed gumbo soil. The shovel literally broke in two. One of them looked up at me and asked, "Miss Julie ... HOW deep did you say you wanted this to be?" LOL! We decided that 30" was fine!) Daniel Williams started a lawn service company and had many clients here. He and I were good friends for years, until he went off to Iran during that conflict. Curtis Moore used the home repair skills he learned working on Nell's house and started his own business, which more or less continues to this day (slowing down as nearing retirement). Curtis remains a close friend of Nell, and connects with her every week.

OK, circling back to the crack house ... Bobby Shriver loved his guys, and he passionately intended for them all to beat their addictions. And he was a man who didn't take no sh!t. No way was he going to stand for drugs / temptation anywhere near his guys. So he set a date, connected with HPD, contacted the city for permits, hauled boards and plywood, and rounded up a bunch of his hammer-handy guys. They descended on the building, the cops roused and tossed out the thugs, there was a flurry of activity, and within a few short hours the structure was boarded up and secure from drug-gies and threats. Oh, and the dumpster was hauled away.

Some EM residents didn't like the Houston Aftercare outfit. The "guys" didn't look like most of us, and they spent a lot of time sitting idly on their porches, watching people. In truth, it was an asset to the community. And immensely beneficial to the clients it served. There are very few drug / alcohol recovery programs that were so well-run or so successful. Sadly, the driving force, Bobby Shriver, fell victim to a merciless bone cancer. He succumbed within a year. Houston Aftercare left shortly after that. You can find a Chronicle story on-line by Googling "Houston After Care Leaves East Montrose" dating to 2004. (Information for that story was submitted by Gayle Ramsey, who is a whole 'nother EMCA newsletter story in itself!)

Houston After Care left, most of the white frame bungalows were torn down, townhomes and single-family residences were erected. Eventually the wooden garage on the vacant lot was razed. For a long time, the cab of a semi-tractor trailer was parked on that lot overnights. Probably the owner / driver lived in one of the homes or apartments near there. Made sense to me. But I guess some residents didn't like it (it didn't look like most of us??), complained, and it eventually disappeared.

Oh, and there was also a shooting next door ... but this story is getting long, so I'll save that tale for another newsletter issue. It'll be shorter – I promise.

The lot held a lot of water, for some reason, so it was often marshy. Don't know if that had to do with it, but in recent years a fairy ring would appear on the lot. What's a fairy ring? A fairy ring is a naturally-occurring phenomenon made of mushrooms. They appear right after a rain, and they grow in a perfect circle, maybe 10' diameter. In English and Celtic folklore, it's said that they're caused by fairies or elves dancing in a circle. Some say they bring good luck, some say bad luck. Step into one – or not? Whatever, this being Montrose, the allure is too hard to resist. I recall driving past some evenings after a rain when the circle had popped up, and seeing free spirited-looking folk sitting on the grass inside the circle.

Now the grass, tree, and fair ring are gone. A residential community is sprouting up on this plot of East Montrose history. I'm looking forward to meeting the new homeowners, and telling them about our neighborhood.

Mayor's Assistance Office: Jack Valinski
jack.valinski@houstontx.gov, 832-393-5958

Our District C City Council Member: Abbie 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

East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Karen Brohn —president.emca@gmail.com
 V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle—vicepresident.emca@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Malisa Galvan—treasurer.emca@gmail.com
 Secretary: Rachel Tucker—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: Lewis Goldstein — rep2.emca@gmail.com
 Neartown Liaison: Julie Young—wallpaperlady@att.net
 Newsletter: Sofie Shoaib—newsletter.emca@gmail.com
 HPD's PIP: Julie Young—wallpaperlady@att.net
 Security: Hugo Ovalle—safety.emca@gmail.com
 Trees for EM: Josh & Helen Dubach - jsdubach@gmail.com
 Peggy Shiffick Park: Ellen Yarrell - ellen@eayatty.com
 FB Admin: Bill Maxey - [EastMontrose@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/EastMontrose/groups)
 Yard of the Season: Betsy Anderson — bsatexas@sbcglobal.net
 Clean up Crew: George Boos —george.boos@att.net

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

April 3	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
April 5	Wednesday	Junk
April 10	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
April 17	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
April 24	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
May 1	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
May 3	Wednesday	Tree Waste

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.

January, 2023 Treasurer's Report			
For the period January 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023			
EMCA			
Beginning Balance			\$ 9,483.08
Monies In	Membership	\$ 50.00	
	Sign Sale	\$ 75.00	
Monies Out	Storage Unit		\$ 60.00
	Christmas Party		\$ 21.39
	Quickbooks		\$ 31.98
Ending Balance			\$ 9,494.71
Security			
Beginning Balance			\$ 13,708.25
Monies In	Security Reserve	\$ -	
	Security Reserve 2023	\$ 2,750.00	
Monies Out	S.E.A.L.		\$ 3,500.00
Ending Balance Original Subscription			\$ 10,208.25
Ending Balance New Subscription			\$ 2,750.00
Combined Ending Balance			\$ 22,452.96

Total EMCA Members: 190
Total Greater EM Security subscriptions as of 12/31/22: 174

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 \$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

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