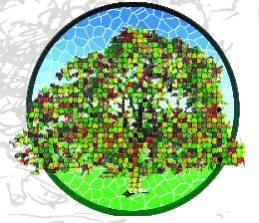


East Montrose

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

September 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

9/19—EMCA meeting, Bar Boheme 7PM

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.

UPCOMING!!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

CHECK OUT THE FLYER INSIDE FOR DETAILS!!

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 The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

Letters from our readers:

For those wondering who is responsible for the unusual metal sculptures placed on the triangle across from the new Elro restaurant, wonder no more: Fred Sharifi and his partner Amir Sabzevari. As many of you already know, Fred, a UT petroleum engineer by education is also a Houston land baron, owning considerable acreage containing some of our neighborhood's fav restaurants. He is joined by his partner/son in law Amir Sabzevari who is equally passionate about the area. Fred and Amir own the building that houses Cuchara, Postino's, Baba Yaga (that he tells us will be completed by the end of the year with luck), the property that Elro occupies, the strip shopping center across from Elro and the triangle where the gallery Mixed Emotions used to be which will be occupied by two additional restaurant concepts (Jethro's and Gatsby's) as well as HAM bicycles. They also own the two lot acreage behind Cuchara where he plans to build Montrose Beer Garden opening sometime next year. Also about to open is the Fusion Eats restaurant across Taft from Cuchara painted in the Astro colors. They also own Hungry's Restaurants in (Rice Village, Memorial and Tanglewood (coming soon)).

So Fred and Amir are "invested" in East Montrose. Karen Brohn and I recently met with Fred to discuss his plans and to request that he clean up the lot (Frank and Ted's old house that Fred purchased last year) behind Cuchara which had not been mowed in months. He promised us it would be done before the weekend was over and he kept his promise. He told us he loves the area and wants to be responsive to our needs.

By Mary Quinn

S.E.A.L. Security kept us safe. Just before 1a.m. on Monday July 31, 2023, I heard noises at our front door. It was a middle-aged man dressed only in his underwear and one sock. After attempting to open the front door he sat down leaning against it with a thump. My husband and I simultaneously called 911 and S.E.A.L. Security. 911 put me on hold, S.E.A.L. answered immediately and dispatched an officer, Amir, who professionally handled the situation. 911 finally took my call but a Houston police officer never arrived. Not sure what we would have done without S.E.A.L. Security we are very glad to be members and support our neighborhood security.

By Gwendolyn, Fargo Street.

Things to do in Houston this Month

1. BIG Salsa Fest Not to be mistaken with the food, a musical festival showcasing the genre of salsa will be taking place in Houston with dance performances, food (maybe salsa), classes, and dance parties late into the night.

September 1-4 at the Westin Galleria

2. Houston Jazz Festival With tickets available September 15, the Jazz Collective presents the American Masters Series featuring the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Paul Mercer Ellington and Jack Whitten. They will have a special focus on Texas influences on jazz, particularly Houston influences!

September 16, 3-5PM at the Miller Outdoor Theatre

3. Fiestas Patrias Celebrate with mariachi, Aztec dance, folklore, live music and more!

September 17 at Gray Expo

4. BEYONCE Can we talk about things to do in Houston without mentioning the return of native Houstonian, Queen Bey?? No description needed here. The Renaissance tour lands in Houston!

September 23 and 24 at NRG Arena, 7PM

5. Country, Folk and Blues Festival Concerts, arts, barbeque, and tons of fun for the whole family await!

September 30 10AM-9PM at Town Green Park in the Woodlands

From the Editor...

by Sofie Shoaib



In a *still* boiling summer, I have been looking for even more to do indoors and the answer has finally appeared. **WE'RE BACK AT THE MOVIES BABY!**

What a phenomenal lineup. Enough movies to stay glued to the big screen (or bigger screen, looking at you IMAX) for the rest of this heatwave. First Mission Impossible, then the greatest weekend opener in a very long time—Barbenheimer—and a great lineup of films to come. A new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (animated, obvi), Gran Turismo for all of your racing meets gaming needs, Challengers spiking to new dramatic heights in the world of tennis, the Haunted Mansion just in time to get ready for spooky season, and the Blue Beetle which is tentatively looking like a DC redemption.

And if you make it through the summer at the cinema, there is a great fall line up waiting for you as well.

Sounds like Hollywood finally heard us all saying "*Kenough with the remakes!*" I think its safe to say 2023 has reignited the spark we were dearly missing from the film industry.

Stay cool, get your pink on for Barbie, and settle in for a long dramatic evening with Nolan's Oppenheimer.

Sofie

Pet of the Month



Name: Rocket

Age: 8

Breed: German short-haired pointer

Favorite activities: taking walks, swimming, playing fetch, and stalking birds.

Dislikes: taking a bath and going to the doctor

If you see me out on a walk, come say hello!



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 3, 2023
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

Interact with attendees from the Houston Police Department, Harris County Constables and local officials

Potluck – bring a dish to share if you are able – please try to mark your item so folks know what they are trying

Water provided

BYOB or beverages can be purchased at Anderson Fair

Raffle Prizes for Current EMCA Members

Membership table where you can join EMCA

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Brohn via email at president.emca@gmail.com.

Recipe of the Month

Last fall I had **Saganaki** in Greece and have been looking for a good variation on that—this recipe by Christian Hernandez comes very close!

Ingredients

Spiced Honey

½ cup honey
6 rosemary sprigs
2 whole coriander seeds
½ teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon black pepper

Lemon Yogurt

⅓ cup plain whole-milk yogurt
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest plus 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
¼ teaspoon kosher salt

Nectarine

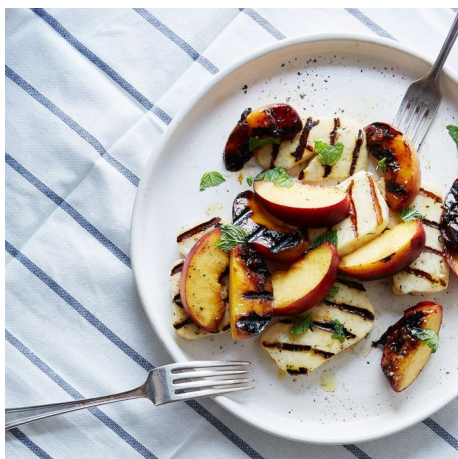
2 teaspoons clarified butter or neutral cooking oil (such as canola, grapeseed, or vegetable oil)
1 medium (6-ounce) nectarine, halved and pitted
2 tablespoons (1 ounce) brandy

Halloumi

¾ cup clarified butter (from 1 [7 1/2-ounce] jar) or neutral cooking oil (such as canola, grapeseed, or vegetable oil)
1 (4-ounce) Halloumi cheese block (2- x 2- x 3-inch) (such as Alambra), drained
25 cup finely chopped fresh mint
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh oregano

Additional Ingredients

¼ cup Sun Gold or multicolored cherry tomatoes, halved lengthwise (about 1/3 cup)
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Flaky sea salt, for garnish



Directions

Make the spiced honey:

Combine honey, rosemary sprigs, coriander seeds, salt, and pepper in a small saucepan; cook over low, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes. Pour through a fine wire-mesh strainer into a small heatproof bowl. Discard solids. Let spiced honey cool 15 minutes.

While spiced honey cooks, make the lemon yogurt:

Whisk together yogurt, lemon zest and juice, and salt in a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Make the nectarine:

Heat clarified butter in a medium-size nonstick skillet over medium-high. Brush cut sides of nectarine halves evenly with some of the brandy. Place nectarine halves, cut side down, in skillet, and brush tops evenly with some of the brandy. Cook, undisturbed, until cut sides are golden, 2 to 3 minutes. Flip nectarine halves, and cook until golden, 1 to 2 minutes, brushing liberally with brandy every 10 to 15 seconds. Remove from heat. Transfer nectarine halves to a cutting board. Cut into bite-size oblique pieces, and set aside.

Make the Halloumi:

Wipe skillet clean, and add clarified butter. Heat over medium until butter shimmers. Cut Halloumi evenly into 2 (1- x 1- x 3-inch) pieces, and pat dry with paper towels. Add cheese pieces to skillet, and cook, turning occasionally, until golden brown on all sides, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Transfer cheese to a plate. Stir together mint and oregano in a shallow dish. Spread 2 tablespoons spiced honey on all sides of cheese. (Reserve remaining spiced honey for another use.) Dip cheese in mint mixture until evenly coated, pressing gently to adhere. Cut each cheese piece in half lengthwise to create 4 (1- x 1/2- x 3-inch) pieces.

Divide lemon yogurt evenly among 2 shallow bowls. Top evenly with cheese pieces. Arrange nectarine halves evenly on and around cheese. Arrange tomato halves evenly on and around cheese. Drizzle evenly with extra-virgin olive oil, and garnish with flaky sea salt. Serve immediately.



Important Notice:

From September 15 - December 2 - Art League Houston (Montrose between Willard and Bo-mar) will present work by Vincent Valdez, an important young American artist. Valdez's work concerns social issues and he has a good hand. Valdez has close ties to Houston and San Antonio and his work is in major museums across the country. We are privileged to have easy access to see this work in our own neighborhood. Please take advantage of this rare opportunity.

Walking about with a few questions:

A new sculpture is being constructed on the curve where Fairview becomes Tuam.

When will it be finished?

Who's the artist?

What will be on the small pedestals?

Will there be lights? - is that the reason for the solar panels?



East Montrose Civic Association Elections

In December we will be voting on three positions –

- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Treasurer
- ⇒ At-Large

A nominating committee will be handling the elections. If you are interested in participating in the nominating committee or have interest in volunteering on the Board of Directors, please send an email to

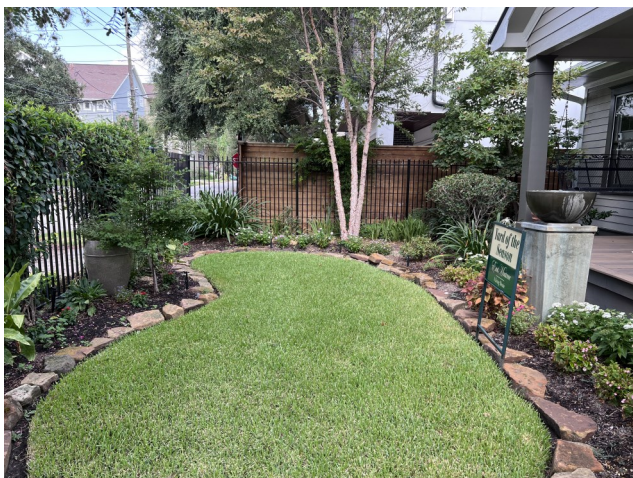
president.emca@gmail.com and/or pastpresident.emca@gmail.com.

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!

Our **Yard of the Season** home for July through September 2023 is the charming bungalow at 612 Willard, owned by Frank Williams. The following is Frank's description of his home in his own words:

“When I first saw this sad, rundown, rental bungalow in 1998 with its south facing front, I had to have it. It reminded me of the house where I grew up. In hindsight, I should have bought the whole block. Renovations took a year with occupancy in early 2000, preserving as much of the old character as possible while updating everything and adding some square footage. In the beginning, the property was covered in trees, so much so that when you observed it from the air, it was undetectable as a home. I lost the last original tree this year from disease, while hurricanes and adjacent property sales accounted for the loss of others. But I quickly replace what I can squeeze in. In the front yard, I have a River Birch with its peeling bark, a Sassafras tree in the back corner with its aromatic roots and stunning fall color, in the front corner, Eves Necklace, a Texas native related to the Mountain Laurel, and finally a small Parsley Hawthorn, another native. Along the fence line: Mexican Butterfly vine, hardy (survived the big freeze) with yellow flowers that morph into seed pods resembling butterflies. Besides perennials, I change out annuals according to the season. In the back yard is a small courtyard observed from a screened porch. The main feature there is a Chinese Fringe tree, planted when I first moved here, which puts on a stunning show of white fringe in spring, followed by dark blue berries in fall. Irrigation is provided by a micro system on timers, and lighting, a combination of electric power and solar. I aim for seasonal interest, water features, fragrance, texture, and a sense of Zen. In addition, I experiment constantly and move plants around like living room furniture. I have no furry family, but the neighborhood stray cats love to lounge on my front porch.”

Please go by Frank's home and see what plants you can identify by his descriptions. You will see why the cats love his place!



Out and About

Our trash truck came down the street late Monday, and the gal was having trouble with cans falling over, or being too close together. I saw her put it in park and get out several times to straighten out the cans, so the machine could grab them and dump them in the truck. The workers don't have to get out and do that, so I was really impressed. In fact, they're not supposed to get out of the truck. So, when she got up to my house, I flagged her down and told her I noticed, and that we appreciate her efforts. I think that made her feel good. When I got inside, I called 311 (city help line) and reported it, too. A few months back I saw a man driver doing the same thing. When I talked to him, he actually said, "This is my route, and I want to treat it as if it were my own home." ???!! I also reported that guy. For some reason, that time I got personal communication from their boss. He said that compliments like that really make the workers happy and motivated. You know that most of the time, people are proly bitchin' them out.

I hardly ever drive east on Fairview, because of the completely awful minefield of pavement that has plagued that stretch, particularly the 200 block, for decades. But when I remember that recent repairs have left the road smooth now, I find it more

pleasant than many of the other neighborhood streets. Fewer stop signs, too. 😊

So last Saturday, I took Fairview to get on Hwy 59. This was about noon, mid-July, and approaching 100*. I was amazed at the activity and the throngs of people! Along the south side, clubs Buddy's, Barcode, Ripcord, and George, one after the other, were all jammed with patrons - and outside on the patios, too. Heading east toward the restaurants, Cucharita had a wait line ... interspersed with 20-something gals in colorful summer attire. Boheme's clients were spilling out the doors. Reeve's Antiques (but it's actually mostly cool mid-century artwork!) was abuzz with people passing in and out the door. Across the street, the new restaurant coming to the old Ziggy's / Gratify was announcing it's soon opening. Cuchara was a riot of color and activity, with its mini-Mexican marketplace, and scores of people dining and chillin' on the patio. Yes, even in scorching heat. Two blocks further, the brand new Elro is already attracting masses of people; the patio was full! You'll see this place described as a pizza joint. But don't go expecting red sauce, Italian sausage and green peppers. We have Pepperoni's for that. At Elro you'll want a translation guide to decipher the ingredients, and your plate will showcase a drizzle of this and a snipped garnish of that. Reviews have been overwhelmingly thrilled with the place.

So, grab a shade umbrella and take the occasion soon to walk down to our east segment of Fairview. So vibrant and full of life!
Next month, maybe my van will turn west and we'll see what's up at La Mexicana and Tex Chick. And good old dependable Lola's!

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: OPEN
 Newsletter: Sofie Shoaib—newsletter.emca@gmail.com
 HPD's PIP: OPEN
 Security: Hugo Ovalle—safety.emca@gmail.com
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 Peggy Shiffick Park: Gloria Lyons—globella@icloud.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!

June, 2023 Treasurer's Report			
For the period June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023			
EMCA			
Beginning Balance			\$ 8,341.17
Monies In		\$ -	
Monies Out	Storage Unit		\$ 72.00
	Quickbooks		\$ 31.98
	Storage		\$ 50.00
	Newsletter		\$ 430.00
Ending Balance			\$ 7,757.19
Security			
Beginning Balance			\$ 54,085.10
Monies In	Security Reserve 2023	\$ 2,020.00	
	Sales Tax Refund	\$ 3,848.80	
Monies Out	Paypal Fees	\$ 20.12	
Ending Balance Original Subscription			\$ 612.45
Ending Balance New Subscription			\$ 59,933.78
Combined Ending Balance			\$ 68,303.42

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

September 4	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
September 6	Wednesday	Tree Waste
September 11	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
September 18	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
September 25	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
October 2	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle

This trash schedule comes from the Rollout! app and is subject to change. ***holiday schedule / not confirmed

Total EMCA Members: 191
Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 174
2023 Great EM Security Subscribers: 115

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

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

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