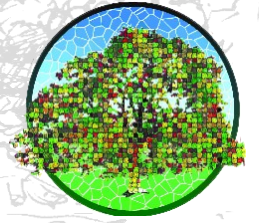


# East Montrose

Civic Association Newsletter



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

June 2024

*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 2024 Calendar

- 6/2024—Summer break
- 7/2024—Summer break
- 8/2024—Summer break
- 9/17—TBD
- 10/1—National Night Out (HPD, elected officials)
- 10/26—Home tour
- 11/19—TBD
- 12/5—Holiday party and annual elections

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

### Security update

Help protect our neighborhood! The East Montrose Civic Association (EMCA) is kicking off our 2024-2025 campaign to rehire S.E.A.L. Security through the end of May 2025. The campaign will cost ~\$4,500 per month and we need a minimum of 120 neighbors to participate.

Why do we need private security? Because HPD can't patrol enough or respond fast enough.

Please sign up by selecting a payment option below. Once you have subscribed, please email your contact information (name, address, email, phone number) to [safety.emca@gmail.com](mailto:safety.emca@gmail.com)

We are migrating to Billsby, an app to manage our subscriber database. You should have received an email asking you to update your information in Billsby. If you paid anytime between 1/2023 and 6/2023, your next payment will be due on 6/15/2024 for the same (yearly, quarterly or monthly) plan as you were previously enrolled. Payments are handled by Stripe credit, debit and ACH payment gateway.

The patrol cost has decreased a bit and we are offering the following plans:

- ⇒ Yearly \$450.00
- ⇒ Quarterly \$112.50
- ⇒ Monthly \$37.50

To sign up or change payment plans, please click on this link <https://www.eastmontrose.org/security/>

Note you must be a member of EMCA to subscribe to our security patrol, please join here <https://www.eastmontrose.org/about-us/membership/> Don't like electronic payments? You can drop a check payable to EMCA in the (locked) mailbox at 503 Welch Street.

Subscribers receive the following benefits:

- ⇒ Dedicated security phone number for East Montrose
- ⇒ Yard Sign indicating support for the program
- ⇒ Vacation Watch
- ⇒ Welfare Checks
- ⇒ Safety escorts when on duty

We believe that retaining SEAL provides our neighborhood with protection during critical time periods. We currently schedule SEAL for ~24 hours weekly with increased patrols during holidays and events, and we plan to add more hours as we gain additional subscriptions.

The Security Committee and the EMCA Board (all volunteer) needs your help:

- Distribute flyers
- Canvass the neighborhood for new subscribers
- Contact previous subscribers via phone, text, and email

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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](http://www.spotcrime.com).

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

**Community news!** LYLE LOVETT played a benefit concert for KPFT, our community Pacifica radio station, on April 20th, at Anderson Fair. Lovett, a folk and country singer, songwriter, music producer and actor has recorded 14 albums, released 25 singles, and has a number of accolades to his name including Grammys for Best Male Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Album. His song, “Cowboy Man” ranked number 10 on the U.S Billboard Hot Country Songs chart. Lovett began his professional music career, right here at Anderson Fair, so this was certainly a welcome back moment for East Montrose.

Tim Anderson, of Anderson Fair, has been a longtime supporter of the EMCA. To celebrate this homecoming, and to honor Tim’s continued support, we presented Lyle Lovett and Time Anderson with keys to the neighborhood!



## From the Editor...

by Sofie Shoailb



Mid-May, a derecho blew through inner Houston, with wind gusts up to 100MPH. Though short-lived, it left power outages, downed trees, death and destruction in its wake.

A bit of background: a derecho is a *straight-line* windstorm coupled with severe thunderstorms that mainly occurs in the warm weather of summer months. Thunderstorm activity which results in mesoscale convective systems (basically, large interconnected thunderstorms) form where the drafts split into upper and lower level airflows, causing new storm cells to form in the lower level flows. When the convections start moving in linear patterns, the pressure starts to build. Downward air currents coupled with the high pressure following the convections leads to strong storms. Summers are particularly dangerous for derecho formation because the cooler winds in those downward air currents meet the warmth and moisture near ground level and create the right environment for atmospheric instability. Bingo derecho.

In Houston, many still remain without power, and with the temperatures rising, it is vital to check in on your neighbors, family, and friends. Cooling centers are open, and FEMA is providing support on the ground.

Hope you are all safe and keeping cool,

*Sofie*



Our Yard of the Season home for May through July 2024 is one of the inside townhomes on Fargo Street, 314 Fargo. The owners have made a truly gorgeous oasis of white and green in their front garden.

Moving to East Montrose eleven years ago, Jason from El Paso, and Antonio from the San Francisco Bay Area, the two listed East Montrose as one of their top choices of places to call home. They like that East Montrose is a vibrant part of Houston, with restaurants and parks so close. They work in the energy and medical professions so East Montrose provides a close commute for each of them. Both believe in supporting local business and they

try to patronize local restaurants and other businesses as much as possible. Walks along the bayou, attending local festivals, and traveling to new places, especially around Mexico, is high on their list of fun things to do. The diversity of our area, the sense of community and the almost infinite culinary options make them happy citizens of East Montrose. Please walk in the block of Fargo closest to Taft to see how a front garden, with a small space, can be transformed with creativity and some Mother-Nature-provided shade, into a soothing garden plot in our neighborhood. Jason and Antonio welcome folks admiring their green patch.

## **Things to do in Houston this Month**

**1. Juneteenth Parade and Festival** Commemorating the end of slavery in Confederate states, this is a chance to reflect on the strength and resilience of those who fought for liberation, and those who continue to fight for equality and justice. March in the parade, and celebrate at the Jubilee festival with activities, performances, and food.

Acres Homes Multipurpose Center June 15 (parade starts at 10AM!)

**2. New Faces of Pride** Houston's biggest pride parade and festival will be themed Rainbow Revolution, and will feature performances, vendors, performances, and storytelling.

Downtown Houston, June 22

**3. VET FEST** For the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Keepers of Chaos will be hosting this celebration in celebration of the Southeast Texas Veterans Group. Support the vets!

Orange, TX on June 8

**4. 34th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival** The only state sanctioned blueberry festival in Texas invites you to enjoy live music, blueberry picking (of course!), auto exhibits, shopping, restaurant specials, competitions and fun galore!

Nacogdoches, TX June 8

## In remembrance of Josena Arquieta



Our dear friend and neighbor Josena Arquieta (Peden St) passed away on May 9th, and we miss her dearly. Josena owned a metal recycling business, and, back in the day, you'd see bags of aluminum cans dropped behind her gate, as she encouraged neighbors to recycle at her place. She was a rare woman running an industrial company. She was also proud of her brightly painted Peden Street Free Library, which she kept stocked with books. When she retired, she had time to devote to her love of art and creating and got a studio space at the Silos. Known for her mastery of pastels, drawing, and painting, Josena's artistic talents captivated all who had the privilege of experiencing her work. She strove to paint images of original bun-

galows in East Montrose before they disappeared. Josena was a longtime supporter of East Montrose Civic Association. Rest in peace dear Josena. Your artistry and love will forever echo in our hearts and memories.

Below are images of paintings Josena created (417 Willard, 802 Bomar).



## **EMCA Neighborhood Meeting Recap**

On Tuesday, May 21 st at 7pm at Fusion Eats, 30 EMCA members gathered for the May monthly member meeting. Joe Webb, Chair of TIRZ 27 (also known as Montrose Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone), gave a brief talk to the assembled members and then answered specific questions. Because Fusion Eats observes Ta-co Tuesday (and offers discounts you might want to check out), the restaurant was full and it was difficult to hear the conversation. Highlights and links to get more information are provided here as a high level recap to all EMCA residents.

Note that much of the information summarized below is available to review in detail on the website: <https://montrosehtx.org/>

### *History of the Montrose TIRZ*

In 2015, the adjacent TIRZ which covers Midtown started the process to annex Montrose into it's coverage area. Local civic leaders learned about this and agreed that Montrose and Midtown are distinct areas with distinct concerns and worked through connections at Houston City Council to prevent the annexation. Within 6 months, the team of residents had completed steps necessary to create the Montrose TIRZ. Joe Webb is Chair of the TIRZ Board and leads the Project & Planning and Finance Committees. He is one of 6 listed board members, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor and Joe is also Principal of Webb Architects.

### *What Montrose TIRZ is doing*

The boundary's of TIRZ 27 are shaped in a way that resembles window panes (see the zone map). This allows the TIRZ to reach into every neighborhood in Montrose to provide improvements. Among the projects Joe mentioned are: two completed school Spark Parks (Wharton and Arabic Immersion), the completed work on Waugh/Commonwealth bikeways, and Hawthorne Safe Street connection to

Woodhead. He also mentioned that a full roadway reconstruction of Fairview is on the potential project list – but he has no idea when that might happen.

### *How projects have been identified*

Projects have been developed after several detailed studies to both identify specific infrastructure conditions and solicit community input. They conducted a walk/bike study and a drainage study among others. Montrose area drainage is really old, Joe cited his street where the system is 110 years old and the old practice of draining to the ends of the street is not adequate. TIRZ 27 got grant funding from HGAC (the Houston Galveston Area Council) to conduct a Livable Centers Study of Montrose. That study identified 10 priority projects.

### *Montrose Boulevard Project (Drainage and Mobility)*

<https://montrosehtx.org/projects/blvd-improvements-project/>

Improvements to Montrose between the US 59 bridge and Allen Parkway is the biggest project identified. The Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project was designed to address drainage issues while improving mobility, safety, and overall beauty. Planning has been underway for a long time and continues. The project is

## **EMCA Neighborhood Meeting Recap cont'd**

divided into two phases. Segment 1 is from Allen Parkway to West Clay. Segment 2 is from West Clay to the US 59 bridge. Segment 1 has been designed and the proposed project has been submitted to the City. Joe said it is now 100% in the hands of the city but TIRZ 27 has asked for variances on City requirements per neighborhood input, including the request to avoid placing a sidewalk along the edge of Magnolia Cemetery to avoid disturbing trees and graves. That segment is first and urgent because TIRZ 27 is trying to get ahead of the Ismaili Center which is currently under construction at the corner of Montrose and West Dallas. Joe noted that there has been a lot of confusion about the planned work on Montrose and encourages everyone to get the facts. A primary driver of the project is the need to significantly improve drainage along the street and surrounding neighborhoods. Information about the drainage improvements are available on the TIRZ website. All of the trees in the median will be preserved and an individual protection plan has been developed for each of the trees. No traffic lanes will be removed or narrowed as part of the project. On the TIRZ 27 website there are details showing exactly what is planned and why: <https://montrosehtx.org/projects/blvd-improvements-project/>.

Several residents asked what they could do to move the project along. Joe referred them to a letter which was distributed to all community presidents. If you would like more information please reach out to president.emca@gmail.com.

Joe reassured residents that Segment 2 has not yet been designed in detail and there will be time for the community to participate in planning to be sure that community priorities are incorporated. He encouraged everyone to attend TIRZ meetings, held at St. Stephens at 6:30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month and to submit any questions or concerns to [info@montrosehtx.org](mailto:info@montrosehtx.org)

### Other Projects Impacting EMCA

The project to improve pedestrian safety accessing Wharton School is just getting started. During design there will be a series of public meetings to confirm the details. Joe expects construction to start in approximately a year because that's how long the design, planning, and engagement process takes. He expects the public meeting schedule to be developed within the next 30-60 days and encourages everyone to find out when and where they will be by checking the website.

#### **Security update continued:**

The Security Committee and the EMCA Board (all volunteer) needs your help:

- Distribute flyers
- Canvass the neighborhood for new subscribers
- Contact previous subscribers via phone, text, and email

We have an additional option which is to donate any amount in multiples of \$50 for our pilot program which consists of installing a Flock Safety camera(s) in our neighborhood to help police fight crime and to keep our neighbor safe. Cameras work 24/7, they have license plate recognition and will alert police if a wanted vehicle is in our area and the artificial intelligence creates a fingerprint for each vehicle to help identify characteristics on each vehicle and help law enforcement in any investigation related to our neighborhood. More information can be found here <https://www.flocksafety.com/>

Please talk to your neighbors about subscribing. Encourage them to email us at [safety.emca@gmail.com](mailto:safety.emca@gmail.com) or raise questions at our civic meetings. Also join the Security Committee. This is an uphill battle and the more people we have lending a hand, the sooner we will reach our goal.

Thank you,  
EMCA Security Committee

We're proud of our neighborhood school, Wharton Elementary, right up on W. Gray. Many area kids attend there, and will emerge fine citizens, ready to make their mark on the world.

Fun fact about the school: What famous entertainer also emerged a fine graduate of Wharton. Nope, not Lyle Lovett - His ties to East Montrose are Anderson Fair folk music venue on Grant (long the site of our huge annual National Night Out anti-crime street party), where Lyle got his start.

The Wharton alumni is country / crossover music artist **Kenny Rogers!** For those of you young'uns who missed Kenny's heyday in the '80's, look up songs like "The Gambler," "Coward of the County," "You Light Up My Life," and that mug-swingin' beer hall sing-along "Luille." Kenny also starred in motion pictures.

So, kiddies – see how it pays off to graduate from grade school?

## Spring Fling Recap!

Thank you to everyone who came to the 2024 East Montrose Spring Fling! Special thank you to **Viejo** for the live music, **Tirzo** for the face painting, **Tarascas** for providing delicious food, **Kari Parsons** from Sotheby's International Realty for sponsoring the food and \$100 raffle to El Tiempo! We were able to meet new neighbors and catch up with old ones. It was a delight to also have neighbors from North Montrose join us to collaborate on what's happening with Wharton Elementary and this years events. We can't wait for next years!



Third installment in the walking pictorial series.



Can't pass the Guild Shop without a quick tour.

1. Moss outside.
2. Treasures inside. Real fur coats.
3. Rodeo attire.
4. Antique clock
5. The Titan Atlas bearing the weight of the heavens on his shoulders.

### **Needed: Artists for ArtWalk!**

**Saturday, October 26**

Open your home studio to the public for the bi-annual  
**East Montrose Home Tour & ArtWalk**

Let the world see your art. It's fun and helpful to your evolution as an artist. There is NO charge.

It's an opportunity to show your work and sell it too.

Contact Joan Son with your info to get signed up and

stay updated at

**[joanson23@gmail.com](mailto:joanson23@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](http://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](mailto: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!



# Recipe of the Month

Try this Instapot **Chicken Curry** by Jess Apfe and let us know what you think!  
Recipe makes four servings.

## Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil or ghee, divided
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, cubed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh gingerroot
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- Hot cooked rice or naan
- Chopped fresh cilantro

## Directions

1. Select saute or browning setting on a 6-qt. electric pressure cooker. Adjust for medium heat; add 1 tablespoon oil. When oil is hot, brown chicken. Remove. Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to pan. Add onion, curry, turmeric and cumin. Cook and stir until onion is tender, 3-5 minutes. Add broth, stirring to loosen browned bits from pan. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, garlic, ginger, sugar, chicken and salt.
2. Lock lid; close pressure-release valve. Adjust to pressure-cook on high for 5 minutes. Let pressure release naturally. Select saute setting and adjust for medium heat. In a small bowl, whisk together cornstarch and 1 tablespoon water. Add cornstarch mixture to pot and let simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes.
3. Serve in shallow bowls with rice or naan. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Bonus: Double the recipe so you have enough for leftovers!

**Mayor's Assistance Office:**  
**Our District C City Council Member: Abbie Kamin**  
 Contact Kate Dentler  
[districtc@houstontx.gov](mailto: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](mailto:Matala.idi@cp1.hctx.net)—346-286-1900

**Council Member At Large #5—Sallie Alcorn**  
 Contact: Mike Watkins  
[Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov](mailto:Mike.watkins@houstontx.gov)—832-393-3017

**TIRZ 27**

## East Montrose C/A Contacts

President: Karen Brohn —[president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com)  
 V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle—[vicepresident.emca@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresident.emca@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Joel Dudley—[treasurer.emca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.emca@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Jamie Flatt, Joey Zamora—[secretary.emca@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.emca@gmail.com)  
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 Neartown Alt Liaison: Jamie Flatt—[secretary.emca@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.emca@gmail.com)  
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 Peggy Shiffick Park: Gloria Lyons—[globella@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:bsatexas@sbcglobal.net)  
 Clean up Crew: George Boos —[george.boos@att.net](mailto:george.boos@att.net)  
 Home Tour: Bill Maxey —[bmaxey@mediadesigninc.com](mailto: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

April, 2024 Treasurer's Report			
For the period April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024			
<b>EMCA</b>			
Beginning Balance			\$ 6,371.24
Monies In	Membership	\$ 320.00	
Monies Out	Storage (Apr & May)		\$ 100.00
	Quickbooks (Apr & May)		\$ 63.96
	Paypal Fees		\$ 14.11
	Website Hosting - 4yr renewal		\$ 178.58
Ending Balance			\$ 6,334.59
<b>Security</b>			
Beginning Balance			\$ 35,667.98
Monies In	Security Reserve	\$ 500.00	
Monies Out	Paypal Fees		\$ 15,059.00
	SEAL Payments		\$ 21,108.98
Ending Balance Subscription			\$ 21,108.98
Combined Ending Balance			\$ 27,443.57

### TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

June 3	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
June 5	Wednesday	Junk
June 10	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
June 17	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
June 24	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
July 1	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](mailto:newsletter.emca@gmail.com). All submissions are welcome, but submission does not guarantee that the submission will be published.

**Total EMCA Members: 212**  
**Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 174**  
**2024 Greater EM Security Subscribers: 121**

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](http://www.Eastmontrose.org) or via Zelle to [treasurer.emca@gmail.com](mailto: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