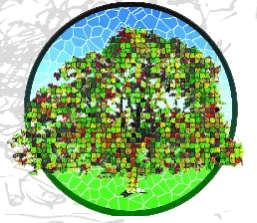


East Montrose

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

December 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

**12/5—Holiday party and annual elections
7PM-9PM**

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

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almost always out of date.

Annual East Montrose Civic Association Holiday Party and Election Night

The Annual East Montrose Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange will take place Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Quinn, EMCA Past President, 305 Fargo 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.

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

Remember each person who wants to participate in the gift exchange must bring a wrapped (or at least disguised) white elephant gift for the gift exchange.

At the beginning of the evening, we will be electing a President, Vice President and an At-Large Director. If you would like to run for one of these positions, please email the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Quinn @ pastpresident.emca@gmail.com.

The nominating committee recommendations and a short bio for each candidate are as follows and are posted online at www.eastmontrose.org.

At this time, the following candidates are running for the above mentioned open positions:

- * **Karen Brohn**
- * **Hugo Ovalle**
- * **Alyssa Ketner**
- * **Katy Macalla**

Please read through the bio's provided on the next page for a better understanding of each candidate!

A ballot can be found on the last page of the newsletter and should be submitted at 2101 Whitney by December 3rd.

Nominee Bios for the EMCA Board Election

President – Karen Brohn

Karen Brohn is the current President of the East Montrose Civic Association, a position she has held for two years. She has been an active member of EMCA since moving into the neighborhood over 12 years ago including leading the Yard of the Season Committee, coordinating National Night Out, and being a Neartown Association representative. Outside of the EMCA Board, Karen is a Corporate Controller and enjoys the outdoors in her free time. She and her husband enjoy spending time with friends and family and their two rescue dogs. She enjoys participating in triathlons and volleyball leagues and is a longtime Houston Texans fan. Karen has enjoyed working on both the social and civic areas within East Montrose and getting to know its residents and business owners. If re-elected, she looks forward to staying involved to ensure that East Montrose remains a Living Mosaic.

Vice President – Hugo Ovalle

Hugo Ovalle is the current Vice President of the East Montrose Civic Association, running for re-election. He moved to East Montrose in 2020 with his wife Claudia, his children, Lucia, and Eric, and their three dogs Sansa, Red and Rocket. He has served the EMCA as part of the security committee and as the At-Large 1 Board Member. He enjoys working towards a safer, better neighborhood. He has actively advocated for safer routes to schools, a program which recently received a grant from the federal government and will start implementation here soon. Hugo is a Petroleum Engineer for a consulting company in downtown Houston.

At-Large Director – Alyssa Ketner/Katy Macalla

Alyssa Ketner is an active member of EMCA and has served as a part-time board member alongside Katy Macalla for the past two 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 assisting with the upcoming Home Tour. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, 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.

Katy Macalla, a proud native of Houston, has been an engaged part-time board member of EMCA alongside Alyssa Ketner for the past two years. Together, they have been instrumental in launching and hosting the beloved Annual Spring Fling, a highlight for the community each year. Outside of her board responsibilities, Katy embraces life with enthusiasm. She is an avid fitness enthusiast, revels in the creative art of needlepointing, and treasures quality time with friends and family. A passionate advocate for animal welfare, she dedicates her efforts to supporting local rescue shelters, embodying her commitment to making a meaningful impact in her community. With a unique blend of professional expertise and genuine passion, Katy is dedicated to bringing her skills and vision to better our civic association and our community.

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 Joel Dudley 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 Street or email it to pastpresident.emca@gmail.com.

Things to do in Houston this Month

1. The Nutcracker: This holiday classic is back! Come check out the Houston Ballet's performances all month long at the Wortham Theater.

Houston Ballet, Nov 29-Dec 29

2. Home for the Holidays: Old Town Spring's 44th annual Home for the Holidays festival will feature spectacular holiday lights, family friendly activities, and photos with Santa. Plenty of shopping opportunities abound as you cross off names on your holiday gift lists.

Old Town Spring, Nov 9-Dec 24

3. ARTECHOUSE Holiday Spectacular Setting up their first ever holiday show, ARTECHOUSE is creating a new exhibit featuring art, technology and interactive designs. Some of the rooms include Spectacular Factor, Tingle Bells, and Intangible Forms. This will be a holiday themed retreat for the mind, body, and soul, creating an oasis of peace in the middle of the holiday hustle.

ARTECHOUSE, Nov 22-Jan 5

4. Teddy Bear Tea A wonderful event to share with the children in your family—enjoy an afternoon tea with a puppet show, magic show, cookie decorating, letters to Santa and balloon animals. Guests are welcome to bring a new teddy bear to donate to the Houston Area Women's Center.

St. Regis Houston, reservation required.

5. Rooftop Cinema Club Christmas classics will be playing all month long! Check out your favorite movies at the coolest movie spot in town—Home alone, Die Hard, The Holiday, and many more.

Dec 1-31

Message from Abbie Kamin's Office

Anna here with Council Member Kamin's office, I hope this finds you well! Our office wanted to notify our neighborhoods of an update regarding Short Term Rentals regulations.

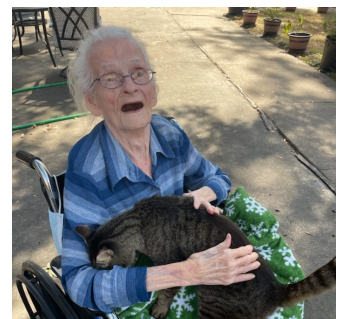
As you may know, the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department (ARA) and City Legal recently presented at the Quality of Life Committee on this topic - you can find that presentation and more information on it here. In this presentation, District C was identified as having some of the highest numbers of STRs and 311/HPD calls.

ARA has now published their draft of the proposed STR Ordinance, as well as a "Feedback Form" for residents to share their input on the ordinance as it is drafted. Both of these documents, as well as the Department's Committee presentation, can be found here: <https://www.houstontx.gov/ara/business-licensing.html>.

ARA has informed our office that the feedback form will remain up on their site for at least 30 days. Please feel free to share this information with your neighborhood, as our office wanted to ensure residents were aware.

-Anna Smith, External Affairs Director

Wishing a very happy 104th(!) birthday to Nell , who was born right here in East Montrose at the corner house on Crocker at Welch and lived in EM until just 3 years ago.



Recipe of the Month

Butter Toffee, a timely treat for the holidays. Recipe by Joy Manning

Ingredients

- 2 cups unblanched whole almonds
- 11 ounces milk chocolate, chopped
- 1 cup butter, cubed
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cold water



1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a shallow baking pan, toast almonds until golden brown, 5-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool. Pulse chocolate in a food processor until finely ground (do not overprocess); transfer to a bowl. Pulse almonds in food processor until coarsely chopped. Sprinkle 1 cup almonds over bottom of a greased 15x10x1-in. pan. Sprinkle with 1 cup chocolate.
2. In a heavy saucepan, combine butter, sugar and water. Cook over medium heat until a candy thermometer reads 290° (soft-crack stage), stirring occasionally.
3. Immediately pour mixture over almonds and chocolate in pan. Sprinkle with remaining chocolate and almonds. Refrigerate until set; break into pieces.

Security Update

Thanks to all who have subscribed to the 2024-2025 campaign. We have reached the minimum number of subscribers needed to continue with SEAL – covering the highest risk hours each week. We still need more neighbors to join in order to expand the number of hours covered, so if you've been waiting, now is a great time. Details for how to sign up and billing options are on the website at <https://www.eastmontrose.org/security/>.

New yard signs are coming this month – we will distribute to those who have subscribed as soon as we have them in hand.

Thanks again to everyone and happy holidays!
EMCA Security Committee

Art and about... by Penny Cerling

A look back at some of the spooktacular Halloween decorations in our neighborhood this year.



Montrose Musings... by Julie Young

Art in unexpected places. I was walking along Converse on a November Sunday morning, looked down, and my eye was caught by this natural composition.



The East Montrose Home Tour and Art Walk was a success thanks to the efforts of so many people. I think almost everyone would agree that the neighborhood pulled together truly as “a Living Mosaic”: homeowners, sponsors, artists, and volunteers. There is a lot of creativity and we are proud to provide a glimpse of this talent and are grateful to the artists for opening up their studios.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the incredible artists and local restaurants whose generous contributions helped make the 14th Biennial East Montrose Home Tour a success. A special thank you to the artists at Art League Houston, including Beili Liu and Kathy Vargas, as well as Cindy Shung, artist-in-residence at Anderson Fair. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Sylvia Riff & Rebecca Nolen for sharing their abstract and watercolor works, Constance Braden for her books and drawings, and Julian Sierra for his paintings. We are also grateful to Koelsch Gallery, HTX FRAMES, and Bayou Rob's Small Sculptures and Other Oddities. Also a special thanks to Bryan Haworth for sharing his vibrant watercolor paintings.

We also appreciate the support of our local restaurants, including Boheme, Fusion Eats, Anderson Fair, Midtown Bar & Grill, and Xiaolong Dumpling, for helping to create an inviting atmosphere and providing unique culinary treats for our guests throughout the tour.

Your involvement brought the East Montrose community together in a truly special way, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support!

A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers for the fall neighborhood clean up—we appreciate your efforts in making sure our neighborhood is safe, clean and one we can all be proud of. Please join us for the next neighborhood clean-up if you can!



Mayor's Assistance Office:

James Ronje—832-393-5958

James.ronje@houstontx.gov

Our District C City Council Member: Abbie Kamin

Contact Kate Dentler

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 Brohn —president.emca@gmail.com

V-Pres: Hugo Ovalle—vicepresident.emca@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joel Dudley—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: Lewis Goldstein — 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

Security: Hugo Ovalle—safety.emca@gmail.com

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

December 2	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
December 4	Wednesday	Junk
December 9	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
December 16	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
December 23	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
December 30	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn

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

October, 2024 Treasurer's Report			
For the period October 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024			
EMCA			
Beginning Balance			\$ 5,577.13
Monies In	Membership	\$ 265.00	
	Home Tour	\$ 2,340.00	
Monies Out			
	Quickbooks - Aug	\$ 31.98	
	Paypal Fees	\$ 91.16	
	NNO - Gift Cards	\$ 105.00	
	Newsletter	\$ 428.01	
	Home Tour Costs	\$ 734.17	
Ending Balance			\$ 6,791.81
Security			
Beginning Balance			\$ 33,815.87
Monies In	Security Reserve	\$ 2,500.00	
Monies Out	Paypal Fees		
	Stripe Fees	\$ 62.77	
	SEAL Payments		
Ending Balance Subscription			\$ 36,253.10
Combined Ending Balance			\$ 43,044.91

Total EMCA Members: 248
Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 174
2024 Greater EM Security Subscribers: 80

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.

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 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

East Montrose Civic Association Proxy Ballot

December 5, 2024

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 2025 – December 2026.

Please accept this as my absentee vote for the below-named candidates being considered on December 5, 2024.

Signature _____ Date _____

Roster of Candidates:

President: Karen Brohn

Write-In Candidate: _____

Vice President: Hugo Ovalle

Write-In Candidate: _____

At Large: Alyssa Ketner/Katy Macalla

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 Tuesday, December 3, 2024.