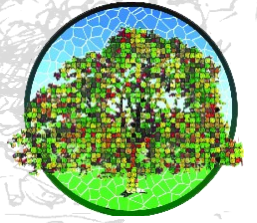


# East Montrose

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

February 2025

*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 2025 Calendar

02/28—EMCA meeting, 7PM, Fusion Eats

More dates to follow.

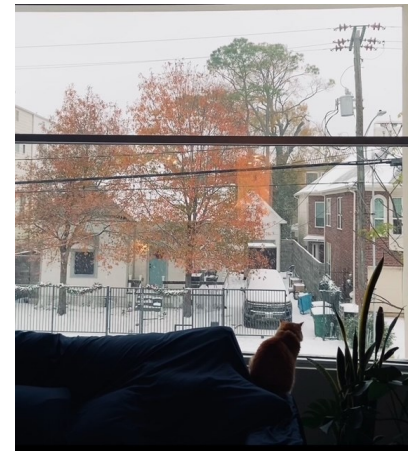
All EMCA meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month unless noted otherwise.

## Security Update

For those who have joined the 2024-2025 security campaign, we have yard signs to distribute. You can pick them up at the neighborhood meeting or we will be working to deliver them to your homes.

Note that more support is always needed – if you have not yet joined please go to <https://www.eastmontrose.org/security/> and you're your neighbors today in helping improve safety in our neighborhood.

Be on the lookout for an update next month that looks at the impact that our security patrol has had on safety and the rate of crime in the neighborhood.



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 The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

Snow day fun from that historic Tuesday in January.

Certainly one for the books.



# Things to do in Houston this Month

**1. Radiant Nature:** The Chinese lantern festival has taken over the botanical gardens, with 50+ installations across a mile-long path. New attractions include interactive additions, a waterfall, and an umbrella tunnel.

Houston Botanic Garden, 6PM daily until February 23

**2. Cirque du Soleil:** The newest production, called, ECHO, will tell the story of connection, purpose and harmony between humans and animals. Be amazed by the vibrance, mesmerizing music, lights, projects and incredible acrobatic performances.

Sam Houston Park, daily until March 23

**3. Houston RV Show** Indulge in your vacation dreams by exploring motorhomes of all classes, trailers, toyhaulers, and pop-ups.

February 12-16, NRG Stadium

**4. Houston Symphony—Star Wars** Re-live The Empire Strikes Back on the big screen, accompanied by the live orchestra performing John Williams movie score.

February 21, 22 at Jones Hall

**5. World Championship BBQ Contest** 250+ teams will be competing ahead of the Rodeo. Visitors may enjoy the public venues and carnival. Complimentary BBQ will be available in the Chuckwagon.

February 27-March 1, NRG

*From the Editor...* by Sofie Shoaib

Happy Lunar New Year! And if you follow the Chinese zodiac, welcome the year of the snake.

As you may have guessed by its name, the Lunar New Year marks the beginning of the lunar or lunisolar calendar. Many cultures and religions around the world celebrate, and you may have seen some festivities in town already. Widely, Jewish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese traditions follow the lunisolar calendar, which combines the lunar cycles with the solar year (adding a 13th month every second or third year), while the Islamic and Javanese traditions follow the lunar calendar (12 months, about 10-11 days shorter than the traditional calendar). Right now, you'd be seeing celebrations for the East Asian Lunar New Year.

It is a 2-week long celebration of the arrival of spring, and is marked by a deep home cleaning (to rid the home of previous bad luck), brooms then put away, and homes decorated with lanterns, flowers and plants. Doors are adorned with auspicious wishes, the wearing of red (the color of good luck, joy, and prosperity) is highly encouraged, and a reunion dinner is held where families gather to celebrate. Firecrackers, lion dances, and red envelopes are common sights at parties and festivals.

If you get the opportunity, take part in the celebrations! There are festivals taking place all month long.

Cheers,

*Sofie*

*Lost family*  
ESTATE  
SALE

Friday & Saturday  
February 7 & 8  
11am to 5pm both days  
904 Welch, 77006

Amazing costume jewelry, watches, Jackie Kennedy reproduction jewelry, Wedgwood china, Waterford crystal, purses, scarves, linens, silver, Tiffany style lamps, Faux furs, fun glasses, original paintings, and many things still in their original packaging.

joanson23@gmail.com

# **Montrose Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (“TIRZ 27”) Project Info and Updates**

For those who are new to the neighborhood, you may be asking what is a TIRZ and what is TIRZ 27?

Simplistically, a TIRZ, tax increment reinvestment zone, is a tool used by local governments to fund public improvements in a specific area. The City of Houston currently has 24 active TIRZs. All budgets and project plans are approved by City Council. More detailed information can be found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/development/prop-tax/ch311/about-tirz.php>.

Why was TIRZ 27 created? In 2015, TIRZ 27 was created by action of the Houston City Council to create and extend capital improvement projects for the purpose of attracting the investment necessary to benefit and revitalize communities with the Zone. More detailed information about TIRZ 27 can be found at [www.Montrosehtx.org](http://www.Montrosehtx.org).

At the latest Board Meeting of TIRZ 27 which met on Monday, January 13, 2025 the following projects which directly impact East Montrose were discussed. Below are updates as provided by TIRZ 27.

## Montrose Boulevard Improvements Projects – Segment I

1. Designed to address drainage issues while improving mobility, safety, and overall beauty within the Montrose community and was originally presented in 2019.
2. Current Status – TIRZ 27 has approved final design plans for Segment I (which differ from what I see on the website) and have submitted them to the City of Houston. Approval of the final plan is currently pending review by the City of Houston.
3. Projected cost for Segment I is \$14.7 million.
4. Construction timeline will be determined following review and subsequent approval of the final design plans by the City of Houston.
5. Original project details can be found at <https://montrosehtx.org/projects/blvd-improvements-project/>.
6. Updated Roadway Schematic is located at <https://montrosehtx.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Montrose-BLVD-2025-01-09-Roadway-Schematic.pdf>
7. Updated Tree Inventory is located at <https://montrosehtx.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Montrose-Blvd-Tree-Inventory.pdf>

## Montrose Safe Routes to School Connections Project

1. Aims to enhance safety and accessibility for students and parents as they walk and bike to school.
2. Funding for the project was awarded to TIRZ 27 in 2023 through the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Transportation Policy Council.
3. Further details are pending.

As more information is available, we hope to provide updates.

# Recipe of the Month

Go big or go home this Valentines with a homemade dinner, sure to impress!  
Make this **Gochujang Carbonara** for a lovely Korean twist on a classic pasta.

Recipe by Ambitious Kitchen

## Ingredients

### • For the pasta:

- 10 ounces thick-cut bacon
- ¾ cup (3 ounces) grated pecorino romano or parmesan cheese, plus more to garnish
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2 to 3 tablespoons Gochujang, depending how spicy you like it
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 12 ounces pasta (I love fettuccine, conchiglie or shellbows for this!)\*
- 1 cup reserved pasta water

### • For garnish:

- 2 scallions, thinly sliced
- Toasted sesame seeds (black and white are great!)
- Lemon zest, optional for brightness



• Cook the bacon: Add bacon to a large skillet or pan and place over medium heat, cook bacon on both sides until golden brown. If the pan starts to smoke at any point, simply lower the heat. I always cook my bacon on medium to medium low heat. Once bacon is done, transfer to a cutting board and blot with a paper towel to absorb excess grease, then coarsely chop and set aside.

• While the bacon cooks, make the sauce and pasta: In a medium bowl, whisk together the parmesan, eggs, Gochujang, salt, garlic powder and lots of freshly ground black pepper until well-combined. Set aside.

• Cook the pasta: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add pasta and boil until al dente, according to the package directions. Reserve 1 cup of pasta water, then remove from heat and drain. Add pasta back to the pot, immediately add the egg and cheese mixture, and use tongs to quickly and thoroughly coat the pasta with the mixture. The warmth of the pasta will transform the eggs into a creamy sauce; it should not be curdled or chunky. Stream in ½ cup pasta water and toss again to coat the noodles so they are glossy and creamy. Add more pasta water, as necessary, to create a creamier sauce. Taste and season with more salt, as needed.

• Serve: Divide pasta between bowls or plates. Top with bacon pieces and sprinkle each bowl with about 1 tablespoon of grated or shaved parmesan and scallions. If you'd like a little brightness, I suggest adding a little lemon (or lime!) zest on top. Finish it off with a sprinkle of sesame seeds and dig in! Serves 4-6.



**Mayor's Assistance Office:**

James Ronje—832-393-5958

[James.ronje@houstontx.gov](mailto:James.ronje@houstontx.gov)

**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**

email [info@montrosehtx.org](mailto:info@montrosehtx.org) website [montrosehtx.org](http://montrosehtx.org)

**Representative, CD7**

Lizzie Fletcher—713-353-8680

**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)

Past Pres.: Mary Quinn—[pastpresident.emca@gmail.com](mailto:pastpresident.emca@gmail.com)

At Large 1: Katy Macalla and Alyssa Ketner —[rep1.emca@gmail.com](mailto:rep1.emca@gmail.com)

At Large 2: OPEN — [rep2.emca@gmail.com](mailto:rep2.emca@gmail.com)

Neartown Liaison: Karen Brohn —[president.emca@gmail.com](mailto:president.emca@gmail.com)

Neartown Alt Liaison: Jamie Flatt—[secretary.emca@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.emca@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Sofie Shoaib—[newsletter.emca@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.emca@gmail.com)

HPD's PIP: OPEN

Security: Hugo Ovalle—[safety.emca@gmail.com](mailto:safety.emca@gmail.com)

Trees for EM: Josh & Helen Dubach - [jsdubach@gmail.com](mailto:jsdubach@gmail.com)

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)

Yard of the Season: Betsy Anderson — [bsatexas@sbcglobal.net](http://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

**Please contact the EMCA President or VP to volunteer.**

**We need you!**

**TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

February 3	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
February 5	Monday	Junk
February 10	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
February 17	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
February 24	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
March 3	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle

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

December, 2024 Treasurer's Report			
For the period December 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024			
<b>EMCA</b>			
Beginning Balance			\$ 6,722.88
Monies In	Membership	\$ 875.00	
Monies Out			
	Quickbooks - Nov & Dec		\$ 74.62
	Paypal Fees		\$ 17.26
	Storage		\$ 50.00
	Billsby - Dec		\$ 45.00
Ending Balance			
			\$ 7,411.00
<b>Security</b>			
Beginning Balance			\$ 34,669.97
Monies In	Security Reserve	\$ 1,935.00	
Monies Out	Paypal Fees		\$ 10.55
	Stripe Fees		\$ 49.28
	Billsby (May - Nov)		\$ 315.00
	SEAL Payments		\$ 8,010.50
Ending Balance Subscription			
			\$ 28,219.64
Combined Ending Balance			
			\$ 35,630.64

**Total EMCA Members: 248**  
**Total Greater EM Security subscriptions : 209**  
**2024 Greater EM Security Subscribers: 86**

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.

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