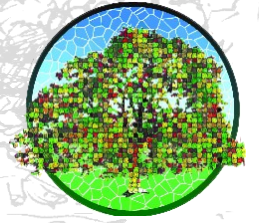


# East Montrose

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

March 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

03/18—EMCA meeting, 7PM, Midtown Bar and Grill

More dates to follow.

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](http://www.spotcrime.com). The City of Houston crime database is almost always out of date.

## Safe Routes to School TIRZ Community Meeting Updates:

First, the Montrose Boulevard rebuild project is slated to start the late March / early April. Starting at the south side of Buffalo Bayou and heading south to W. Clay, so it will be a while before they get to our area here in East Montrose. Phase I ends at W. Clay. Should future phases be approved and funded, we'll get the new driving pavement, new drainage, and intact, wider sidewalks in our end of the boulevard. They will be starting a "public engagement" program via post cards, social media, civic club notifications, tent signs, etc., to alert users and residents of the upcoming construction / disruption.

Good news on the Safe Routes to School project, which will bring new, flat, intact, wider sidewalks to parts of North Montrose and parts of East Montrose. The good news is that additional funding has been found, so they were able to expand the program to several more blocks... with most lying in East Montrose. Affected sidewalks will be flat and level, and expanded to 5' wide. To accommodate trees in the right of way, sidewalks will go to 4' wide. Most land taken for this expansion will come from the city right of way / easement. This will probably mean the loss of some landscaping. If they need to take down fences in order to get the 5' width, they will. They say they will give homeowners notice before tearing down a fence.

Please see this map shared during the meeting for a detailed street view of the plan.

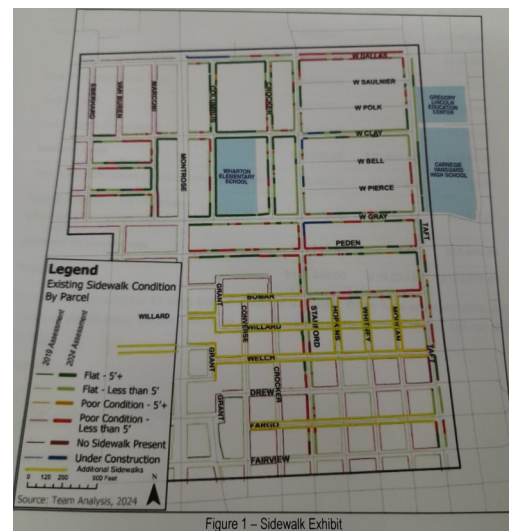


Figure 1 – Sidewalk Exhibit

It is human nature, in my opinion, to want/need to live in a safe, clean, fun environment. There are things we can do to support those wants and needs if we all pitch in together. I wish to address several issues in East Montrose of which we all should be aware and hopefully all do the work to make our streets more livable.

Spring is around the corner and in Houston that usually means lots of rain. Rain in Houston often means street flooding, especially in old neighborhoods like ours where the drainage system is awaiting much needed upgrading. (Our city commissioners tell us our EMCA streets/sidewalks/and sewer are finally getting to the top of the city's list for fixing.) Perhaps some of you are unaware that the drainage grates on the street corners are EMCA resident's responsibility to keep clean and clutter free to allow proper drainage.

Please do not allow your landscapers to blow leaves and other debris into the streets and gutters. They should bag the leaves and yard waste and haul them away. "If you see something, say something." Please take the time to check the drainage grates on your street on a regular basis and shovel away any debris that prevents the ground water from easily reaching the sewer. It only takes a few minutes and a little muscle. This will absolutely help prevent street flooding.

You may also not know that it is each homeowner's responsibility to keep the trees trimmed that exist on the berm between the sidewalk/space in front of your house and the street. The only responsibility of the city is to come along and trim the tops of the trees to keep them out of the utility lines. That can result in basically cutting huge V shapes into the tops of the trees. If however a homeowner has an arborist or landscaper (I have a great one whose number I will share if you contact me) come and trim the trees every few years, it saves the beauty of the trees, prevents the big trucks that come down our streets from ripping off low branches and also allows more light onto the streets.

More light on the streets is clearly an important aspect of street safety. If you see a street light that is out, you can contact CenterPoint Energy at 713 297 2222 and make a report. If you think your area needs a street light you can contact Houston Public Works at 832 395 3000. Once again, see something, say something and I'll add here "do something". Don't assume it's someone else's problem to deal with....it is OUR problem. Be proactive.

Lastly, let's talk trash. Do NOT assume that trash will be picked up every Monday and recycle every other Monday. Things happen that mess with that schedule: holidays/even our recent snow. If you are not sure, a quick call to 311 will provide the schedule. That way your trash/recycle bins don't sit outside on the streets for DAYS and run the risk of being knocked over and scattering garbage. On the morning of trash days I and several neighbors throughout the hood pick up beer bottles, napkins, Styrofoam containers on our street that the visitors to our bars and restaurants dump from their cars. It is easy to fill up a Kroger plastic bag and then toss it in my bin. It literally takes only 10 minutes and makes a HUGE difference. Please think about doing this on your street.

To paraphrase JFK, former US president, "ask not what your neighborhood can do for you, ask what you can do for your neighborhood.

We all live here. Let's take care of our homes and be good neighbors.

Mary Quinn, Past President, EMCA

# Things to do in Houston this Month

**1. Houston Holi:** the 16th annual Festival of Colors returns to Houston. Enjoy musical performances, great food, shopping, and of course, color games. Make sure to wear white!

BH Ranch, March 1, 2025 11AM-5PM

**2. Zoppe Italian Circus:** Be delighted by acrobatic stunts, equestrian endeavors, clowns and more. This circus is steeped in old-world charm and is worth the drive over to Galveston.

March 7-31, Stewart Beach, 15% off with code ISLANDTIME15

**3. Kiss me, I'm Irish:** St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl in Midtown! Start off at Leon's Lounge to claim your wristband and celebrate through the neighborhood's favorite bars with free entry, drink specials and more.

Saturday March 15 and Monday March 17

**4. Diversity, by Apollo Chamber Players** Kick off Persian New Year (or Nowruz) with some beautiful music, special guests will include composer, Reza Vali, and Pejman Hadadi on percussion. This is the third (out of four) installments of the We the People season.

Friday March 21, 7PM

*From the Editor...* by Sofie Shoaib

Continuing our trend of celebrating new years—Happy Nowruz or Persian New Year! The new year begins Thursday, March 20th, and is marked by the spring equinox.

Traditionally, the holiday begins with celebrations on the last Wednesday before the new year. These celebrations include setting off fireworks and jumping over fires. Adults and children alike wear costumes and go door to door, drumming with spoons and plates, receiving snacks or candy at each home. Fruits, nuts, sweets, flowers, and an abundance of greenery are displayed in beautiful table settings. The holiday lasts thirteen days, where the last day is marked with outdoor picnics and taking in nature.

The Asia Society will be hosting a Nowruz celebration, Saturday March 15th with music, crafts, and storytelling in a family friendly festival.

As someone who has not previously celebrated Nowruz, I am excited to take part in this lovely ode to the arrival of spring.

Cheers,

*Sofie*

EAST MONTROSE  
NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Your participation helps create  
a healthier, more beautiful  
neighborhood.

Come with your family and  
friends. Let's clean up and  
green up together!

**MARCH 30, 2025**  
9AM Start  
Peggy Shiffick Park  
700 Bomar St.

## Recipe of the Month

Yakamein, by Brian Jupiter. This warm and cozy Chinese/Creole fusion soup is a New Orleans delicacy, perfect for the transition to spring.

### Ingredients

- 4 pounds beef bones, roasted
- 2 heads garlic, cut in half
- 1 medium (6-ounce) onion, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1/2 bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup oyster sauce
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 8 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 medium (3-ounce) tomatoes, chopped
- 9 cups water
- 1 (2-pound) boneless chuck roast, trimmed
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 2 teaspoons black pepper, plus more to taste
- 1 pound spaghetti, cooked according to package directions
- 1/2 bunch scallions, trimmed and sliced (about 1/2 cup)
- 4 hard-cooked eggs, halved

### Directions:

Place bones in a large stockpot. Add garlic, onion, celery, bell pepper, oyster sauce, soy sauce, mushrooms, bay leaves, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, and tomatoes. Cover with water and simmer 4 hours. Skim fat from top of stock. Pour stock through a fine-mesh strainer into a large clean pot; discard solids.

Season chuck roast with salt and pepper and sear in a large skillet over medium-high until browned on all sides, about 8 minutes. Add chuck roast to stock and simmer until tender, about 2 hours. Transfer roast to a large bowl, and let cool at room temperature, about 20 minutes.

Shred or chop meat and return to large bowl, removing and discarding any large chunks of fat.

To serve, reheat stock over medium heat until simmering. Divide spaghetti and meat evenly among 8 bowls. Top each with scallions and 1 egg half; ladle about 1 cup stock over top. Serve with additional soy sauce and hot sauce.

## East Montrose Security Update

The EMCA Member Meeting held at Anderson Fair on January 28th focused on security in the neighborhood. Multiple officers based out of the Central Patrol Station joined us to share some safety insights and answer questions.

- Captain Jennifer Kennedy serves out of the Central Patrol Station which is the station closest to our neighborhood. The phone number is 713-247-4400. Captain Kennedy spoke at some length about her work on a committee working with the Mayor's Office of the Homeless to reduce homelessness in partnership with the Coalition for the Homeless through outreach to identify where individuals are on the pipeline to receive housing assistance, strict enforcement of areas that have been cleared of homeless individuals, and maintenance through programming (essentially creating positive events in spaces that might attract unhoused if they are not in use by the general public).
- Lieutenant Ryan Mahnke leads the Crime Suppression Team. These are proactive, plain-clothes investigators who lead efforts to investigate situations and complaints and attempt to reduce crimes in an area.
- Sergeant Chad Wall supervises the Differential Response Team (DRT). DRT are focused on quality of life issues, they will help to address abandoned property reports and other concerns.

### Suggestions for Particular Situations:

- **Witness a Crime in Progress**  
Stay safe, do not engage the perpetrator. Call 911 as soon as possible. If you are able to take a photo of the perpetrator/crime in action from a location where you are at no risk of being observed, that is fine, but the strong advice is to avoid putting yourself in any danger. Crimes in progress are a Code 2 and will get a quick response. Code 1 is for situations where a life is in danger.
- **Non-Emergency Property and other Crimes**  
Reporting is important because it lets HPD know where crimes are occurring. The victim of the crime can either call the non-emergency dispatch line: 713-884-3131 or go to [www.houstontx.gov/police/online\\_report.htm](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm). Note that the online report option is limited to only certain crimes including lost property, non-vehicle related theft below \$30,000 in value, vandalism/criminal mischief up to \$5,000 in damage, and illegal dumping.
- **Noise Complaints**  
There is a loud noise unit at HPD that are very good. There must be a complainer in order for them to investigate. They will come out and measure the volume with a sound meter.

*Continued on page 6...*

Continued from page 5...

- Mentally Challenged Individual in distress  
HPD has a Mental Health Division which was formed to provide a more professional and humane response to people in serious mental health crisis. They have a unit called Crisis Call Diversion (CCD) which diverts non-emergency mental health related calls received through dispatch away from emergency response to appropriate mental health services. For general concerns about a person or situation involving mental illness that does not require an immediate police response, call 832-394-4200.
- Strongly suspected criminal activity (observed suspicious activity that makes you concerned for your property or personal safety)  
Either call the non-emergency dispatch line above, or email Lieutenant Mahnke and the Crime Suppression team at: [Ryan.Mahnke@HoustonPolice.Org](mailto:Ryan.Mahnke@HoustonPolice.Org)

#### Other Suggestions for Home Security:

- Consider reinforcing your door frame In breaking and entering situations, when a door is 'broken in' it is not actually the door that fails in most cases. Typically the door frame gives way. A simple fix to increase the strength of your door is to replace the standard length screws that connect your frame to the structure of your house with longer screws.
- Keep your phone nearby  
In the event that you hear someone breaking in or something suspicious, having your phone near you (vs. downstairs for example) allows you to call 911 and seek help from wherever you may be in your home.
- Improve exterior lighting
- Consider putting exterior floodlights on motion sensors if your street is dark. Individuals are encouraged to contact our city councilmember (Abbie Kamin) in order to get streetlights repaired.

Captain Kennedy was asked how crime rates are trending in our area, and noted that UCR crime statistics are typically about 2 months late due to delays caused by the need to validate the data before it is published.

Please note that new 2024-2025 Security Patrol signs are available and will be distributed to active members. We encourage those who have not yet joined our efforts to make the neighborhood safer to do so. Please visit <https://www.eastmontrose.org/security/> to subscribe.



**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

<http://fletcher.house.gov/contact>

**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**

March 3	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle
March 5	Wednesday	Tree Waste
March 10	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
March 17	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn & Recycle
March 24	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn
March 31	Monday	Regular Trash & Lawn& Recycle

**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			
<b>EMCA</b>			
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
<b>Security</b>			
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](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