



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

FIRST QUARTER • 2022

HC MUD 81 Board of Directors

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Have a question?

-  **WATER BILL**
MUD 81 MAIN OFFICE:
281-392-8112 (M-F, 8am-2pm)
MDS: 281-290-6500 (24/7)
-  **WATER OR SEWER ISSUES**
MDS: 281-290-6500 (24/7)
-  **TRASH SERVICE**
BEST TRASH:
281-313-2378
-  **TAX BILL/PAYMENT**
WHEELER & ASSOCIATES:
713-462-8906
-  **GENERAL QUESTIONS**
ABHR/LEGAL:
713-860-6400

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 81

805 Hidden Canyon
Katy, Texas, 77450
281-392-8112
hcmud81@comcast.net
hcmud81.com

Note from the Board of Directors

Happy New Year from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors! As we say goodbye to 2021 and ring in the new year, we all are hoping for a return to more normal times. At the same time, as discussed in the last newsletter, MUD 81 expects 2022 to be a year of transition as we undertake a number of water, sewer, and drainage projects to rehabilitate aging facilities, reduce the risk of future flooding in hurricane or other significant rainfall events, and improve the performance of our facilities during future winter storm events. The MUD 81 Board encourages you to visit <http://www.bjconcepts.com/hcmud81/signup.html> to sign up for our voluntary e-mail and text alert system to receive the latest MUD 81 information directly to your inbox or text app. We thank you for your patience as we ready our system to continue to serve you for many years.



Free Community Shred Event April 30, 2022

The MUD 81 Board and its garbage and recycling provider, Best Trash, are pleased to welcome MUD 81 residents to a free community shred event on April 30, 2022, at the parking lot across from the MUD 81 administration building, at 805 Hidden Canyon, Katy, TX 77450. This event will give MUD 81 residents the opportunity to shred up to five boxes of paper during the three-hour period between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. A shred truck will be parked in the parking lot to receive paper goods.

Shredding documents is an excellent way to get rid of important papers and protect you from identity theft. You can watch as your material is shredded on-site and enjoy peace of mind that your information has been destroyed. Please bring a current MUD 81 utility bill as proof of residence. For more information, please visit <http://hcmud81.com/ShredDayApr2022.pdf>

Administration Building Sidewalk Repairs

Like many other areas within Harris County, the sidewalks around the MUD 81 administration building, located at 805 Hidden Canyon, and the adjacent overflow parking lot had become uneven due to natural settlement and the growth of tree roots from nearby mature trees. In order to improve accessibility and walkability for our residents, MUD 81 recently completed a repair project to level the sidewalk panels and regrade and restore the adjacent landscaping. The MUD 81 Board is committed to improving our facilities to better serve you.

Storm System Improvements

For more than three years, MUD 81 has been coordinating with Harris County regarding Harris County's proposed drainage improvements within MUD 81 for the Memorial Parkway Subdivision and Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5. Harris County has hired the MUD 81 Engineer, BGE, Inc. (BGE), to provide engineering services for both projects, and the engineering work is underway. As discussed in previous newsletters, the purpose of the projects is to improve the District's decades-old drainage system and reduce the risk of future flooding within the community. Costs for the projects will be shared between Harris County, MUD 81, and as appropriate, other area MUDs that will benefit from the improvements. MUD 81's share of the drainage improvements will be funded by the issuance of bonds, which were authorized by MUD 81's voters at the election held on May 1, 2021.

Cimarron Sections 2,3,4, & 5:

BGE has completed the required surveys, and the environmental work and geotechnical field work are complete. The final design plans for the proposed drainage improvements were submitted to Harris County for final approval on November 18, 2021. Pending Harris County approval, advertisement for bids is expected to occur in January 2022, with construction expected to begin in late February or March 2022. The proposed improvements include upsizing storm sewer lines, installing additional surface drains, and upsizing the outfall into the adjacent Harris County Flood Control District channel to help increase drainage capacity.

Memorial Parkway:

BGE has completed the field work and is continuing with the design of the Memorial Parkway drainage improvements. The proposed improvements include upsizing storm sewer lines, installing additional surface drains, and constructing a new detention pond underneath the power lines north of Highland Knolls. In late August 2020, Harris County notified MUD 81 that the County had redefined the scope of the Memorial Parkway project to include significant additional detention/mitigation capacity, which they stated would be required due to new drainage criteria. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the design and location of new detention facilities. Because of the regional benefit that the detention facilities would provide, MUD 81 has requested and Harris County has agreed to coordinate with other nearby MUDs to request that those MUDs also share in the costs of the project.

Future Improvements to Barker Reservoir:

Improvements to the drainage systems as outlined in the two projects above are expected to impact Barker Reservoir. Barker Reservoir's operations and improvements are controlled by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Any future mitigation/detention projects within Barker Reservoir will affect all MUDs that contribute stormwater to this reservoir. It is anticipated improvements to Barker Reservoir would be considered as a regional improvement and, therefore, costs will be shared by all affected MUDs.

Ongoing Construction Projects:

- **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Memorial Parkway Sections No. 1 & No. 2:** MUD 81 advertised for competitive bids for the Memorial Parkway Sections 1 and 2 sanitary sewer rehabilitation project and has awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Texas Pride Utilities, LLC. Work is in process.
- **Alternate Fill Lines for Ground Storage Tanks at Water Plant No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4:** MUD 81 advertised for competitive bids for the addition of an additional fill line for the ground storage tanks at water plant nos. 1, 2, and 4 and has awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Blastco Texas, Inc. Work is in process.
- **Disinfection System Upgrades at WTPs No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4:** MUD 81 advertised for competitive bids for the upgrade of disinfection systems at all four water plants and has awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, W.W. Payton, Inc. Work is in process.
- **Winterization Improvements at Water Plant No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4:** At its November 18, 2021, meeting, the MUD 81 Board authorized its operator, Municipal District Services (MDS) to install secondary controls at each water plant. During the Winter Storm Uri event in February 2021, certain sensor and other control equipment froze and became inoperable, limiting the functionality of MUD 81's water plants. The improvements project will enhance the resilience of the MUD 81 water plants during future low temperature events by creating a new control system that will continue to operate during wintry conditions.



Wastewater System Feasibility Study

Due to the age of its system, the MUD 81 Board has authorized its engineer to conduct an evaluation of the wastewater collection system, including sanitary sewer lines and lift stations, to ensure the system is operating at an optimal level and risk of service interruption is minimal. The feasibility study will address if any projects are warranted for rerouting collection lines and upgrading lift station and collection facilities.



Prepare Now for Potential Freezing Weather Events



It's time to protect your pipes. Although we live in a warm climate and last December had many unseasonably warm days, severe cold weather sometimes occurs in the Houston area, as it did last year with Winter Storm Uri. As many people found out, when a severe storm occurs, and you haven't made adequate preparations, the results can be disastrous. When water inside a pipe freezes, it expands. The resulting pressure can cause the pipe to burst. A few simple steps now can save you a lot of money later. The MUD 81 Board recommends the following: changes. We've put together a few tips that will help you prepare for cooler months:

- Insulate any and all pipes that are exposed to cold air. Hardware and building supply stores sell pipe insulation materials that are easy to install. If you use electric heat tape, be sure it is UL listed and that any extension cords are properly grounded.
- If the temperature is expected to stay below freezing for several hours, it's a good idea to cut off the water to your home at the house valve where the water line enters the structure and drain the pipes.
- Many water lines are installed behind cabinets and in the attic. Keeping the doors to cabinets, closets, and the attic open during the coldest periods may allow your interior heat to help protect the pipes. **IF YOU LEAVE CABINETS OPEN, PLEASE REMOVE ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES OR CHEMICALS TO KEEP CHILDREN OR PETS FROM GETTING TO THEM!**
- If you plan to be away for several days during expected freezing weather, don't turn off your heat. Keeping the air in the 60s will help keep your pipes warm. Better yet, cut off the water to your home at the house valve where the water line enters the structure and drain the pipes.

For more information, please contact a licensed plumber or building professional.

Help Protect Our Bayous, Channels, and Creeks

MUD 81 needs your help in protecting our bayous, creeks, and other water bodies. You may not be aware that the storm drains along the street in front of your home are separate from the sanitary sewer drains that collect wastewater in your home from your sink, toilet, shower, and other appliances. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm sewers transfer rainwater and other substances deposited in the storm drains directly out into the bayous, channels, and creeks in your community. Because the water usually is not treated, contaminants placed in the storm sewers can travel directly into our waterways, potentially harming local plants and wildlife.

In order to help protect our waterways, please do not place anything into the storm drains. The only thing that should be going into the storm drains is rainwater! Some of the most common contributors to storm water pollution in our area include grass clippings and other yard waste, paint and other household chemicals, and fat, oil, and grease. We appreciate your efforts in helping us keep our waterways clean!

West Harris County Regional Water Authority Fee Increase

Effective January 1, 2022, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) is increasing its mandated groundwater pumpage fee from \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons, to \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons. This Harris Galveston Subsidence District (Subsidence District) mandated fee, reflected as a separate line item on your water bill, is paid directly to the WHCRWA and is used to design, build and operate new infrastructure, which in the future is expected to deliver surface water to MUD 81. For more information about the WHCRWA, please visit their website, at <https://www.whcrwa.com/>. For more information about the Subsidence District, please visit their website, at <https://hgsubsidence.org/>.

Municipal Utility District No. 81

Get with the System: Nothing but Water Should Go Down Our Storm Drains.

Storm drains are just for rainwater. That's because the water that goes down them is not treated—it goes straight to Galveston Bay and carries our pollution with it, contaminating all of our waterways in the process. So get with the storm drain system and follow these guidelines:

- ⊘ **They are not garbage cans.** Don't toss your food wrappers, cups or trash down there.
- ⊘ **Positively no paint.** Paint and storm water don't mix, so don't pour your leftovers down the drain. While you can throw cans of dried up latex paint in the trash, oil base paint should be taken to a hazardous waste disposal site.
- ⊘ **Doggy doo is a don't.** Curb the urge to put your pet's droppings down the drain. Instead, wrap them properly and toss them in the trash.
- ⊘ **Definitely no grass clippings.** Don't blow your yard clippings or leaves down the drain, and don't toss tree limbs there. Either bag your yard waste properly and put it out for pickup, or use the clippings in a natural compost site.
- ⊘ **Don't use them as your personal drain.** That means don't pour grease, motor oil, or kitchen waste down the drain. And be careful not to over-fertilize your lawn, because the fertilizer can run off into our waterways.

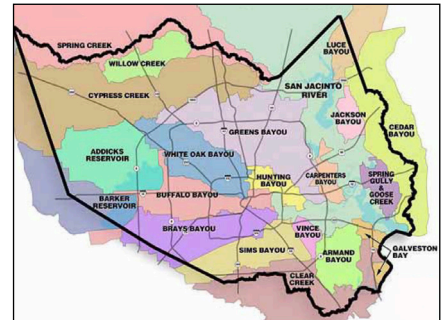
So get with the system. Because you help keep our storm drains clean, you're also keeping our waterways clean. For more information, log onto www.cleanwaterways.org.

Where does your storm water go?

Harris County is divided into 22 geographical areas defined by nature that we call watersheds. Rainwater from each of these areas flows into a body of water such as a bayou or creek. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Right now, we invite you to 'go with the flow,' and find yours. It's a good idea to know in case of severe weather alerts or emergencies.

Harris County Watersheds:

Addicks Reservoir	Cedar Bayou	Jackson Bayou	Spring Gully & Goose Creek
Aramand Bayou	Clear Creek	Little Cypress Creek	Vince Bayou
Barker Reservoir	Cypress Creek	Luce Bayou	White Oak Bayou
Brays Bayou	Galveston Bay	San Jacinto River	Willow Creek
Buffalo Bayou	Greens Bayou	Sims Bayou	
Carpenters Bayou	Hunting Bayou	Spring Creek	



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