



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

SECOND QUARTER • 2022

HC MUD 81 Board of Directors

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Have a question?

WATER BILL
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 Spring from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors! As we head into warmer weather and the pandemic appears to be receding, the MUD 81 Board is looking forward to removing COVID-19 restrictions on rentals of the administration building and returning as much as possible to normal operations.

This spring and summer, Harris County and MUD 81 will be kicking off multiple improvements projects throughout the community, which are designed to improve the resiliency of our facilities, reduce future flood risk, and prepare our infrastructure to serve all of us for another generation. Although MUD 81 will use its best efforts to minimize the impact of these projects, they will require temporary disruption to certain neighborhood streets, sidewalks, driveways, and other areas.

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 understanding and patience as we work to complete these important improvements to our system.



REMINDER: Free Community Shred Event April 30, 2022



As discussed in the last newsletter, this is a friendly reminder that the MUD 81 Board and its garbage and recycling provider, Best Trash, would like 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>.

Storm System Improvements:
For approximately three and a half 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.



Sign up for MUD 81 email and text alerts at
<http://www.bjconcepts.com/hcmud81/signup.html>

Harris County Municipal Utility District No.

Cimarron Sections 2,3,4, & 5: **ATTENTION!**



Following advertisement for competitive bids, Harris County recently awarded the Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 drainage improvements project to the lowest qualified bidder. Work is expected to begin soon. 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.

On March 23, 2022, Harris County held a public meeting for affected residents and other interested members of the public to discuss the improvements project. The areas expected to be most impacted are shown on the enclosed map. Residents in these areas may experience street, sidewalk, and driveway disruptions as work progresses in their area. Please be on the look out for additional information regarding closures in those areas.

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 Water Plant 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.

Save Water, Save Money

With the warmer weather comes higher water usage as irrigation systems and sprinklers are run to support landscaping through the hot and often dry summer months in southeast Texas. Often more water is used than necessary to maintain the health of your grass and plants! Consider adjusting irrigation settings to water twice a week to save water and money. Additionally, make sure to perform regular maintenance on your system to avoid wasteful and costly leaks.

JOIN OUR GRASSROOTS TEAM

Healthy lawns require watering no more than twice a week, and if it rains, even less. Overwatering causes shallow root systems and weakened plants which are more susceptible to diseases and pets.



St. Augustine grass watered no more than twice a week.

St. Augustine grass watered every day.

THREE SMART WAYS TO FIX SUMMER WATER BILLS

If you have a typical household, you expect your water bill to go up in the summer. With much of the Houston area hovering in the high 90s and low 100s, the heat wave drives up water used for showers, washing clothes and keeping our plants alive.

Because Summer brings the biggest drain on our water resources and highest water bills for us, it is time to think seriously about ways to save water with our sprinkler systems.

Three components to consider

How water reaches your plants - whether it's the lawn or the petunias - is the most basic element of a sprinkler system. The efficiency of that delivery process will either save or waste water. Efficiencies lie in the sprinkler heads themselves, the small components called "nozzles" and the use of drip irrigation.

#1 - Address sprinkler heads that spray water too high or are misting because they are wasting water and money. When water seeps out of the heads after the watering cycle stops, those heads are also wasting water. Newer technology has given us better sprinklers that control water pressure - and even the size of the water droplets - so that the water lands where it needs to fall without misting and floating away in the breeze. Consider upgrading to newer sprinkler heads. The key term when you shop is "pressure regulating."

#2 - Upgrade to newer nozzles. These are the tiny plastic parts at the top of the sprinkler heads. Depending on the nozzles you have, you will either use or save a lot of water. By retrofitting existing heads with more efficient nozzles, you can cut water use by 50% or more. Prices vary, but for around \$6 per nozzle, you can save a lot of water. New nozzles can pay for themselves in little time.

#3 - Save water one drip at a time. With drip irrigation, water never floats away in the breeze or runs down the gutter. It goes right to the root zone of the plant where it is needed most - and that makes drip the most efficient way to water every plant in the yard - except the lawn. Converting less water-efficient spray heads to drip irrigation is a smart way to cut your water bill.

Remember the maintenance Even with newer, better technology, sprinkler systems are still mostly made of mechanical parts. Sprinkler heads get out of adjustment, underground sprinkler lines can crack and leak, and electrical valves that direct water throughout the system can break.

Periodically turn on the system to see how it is operating. Then make the adjustments and repairs to keep the system operating efficiently. You'll save water and money in the process!



50%

Did you know that during the summer months, half of our water consumption is for outdoor use. **Are you watering wisely?**



GETTING READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

» www.readyharris.org

Although it may be hard to believe, hurricane season will be here before you know it. Make a plan now so that you and your family will be ready when a flood, hurricane, or other emergency event occurs. One step you can take is to assemble an emergency essentials kit now to avoid the large crowds later! Please visit Harris County's emergency preparedness website, <http://www.readyharris.org>, to sign up for emergency alerts and for more important information.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

- Water - at least a seven day supply (one gallon per person, per day)
- Food - at least a seven day supply of non-perishable/canned food (Change out stored water and food supplies every six months)
- First aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- Medications and special items (pain relievers, diapers, etc.)
- Tools and supplies
- Sanitation (toilet paper, person hygiene items, etc.)
- Change of clothes and bedding
- Cash
- Important family documents (birth certificates, insurance/bank account information, etc.)
- Food, water and medicine for your pets
- Kennels or crates for pets

HURRICANE WARNINGS

When a hurricane warning is issued by the National Weather Service and the Houston metropolitan area, including MUD 81, is threatened, you should:

- Monitor your local TV and radio stations
- Fuel your vehicle and generators
- Check your disaster supply kit
- Consider whether to cover windows
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, toys, and other objects
- Take pictures of your property and possessions for insurance purposes
- Evacuate immediately if directed by government officials

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- In the event of an emergency, dial 911
- MUD 81 24-hour line for water/sewer issues: (281) 290-6500
- Harris County: (713) 755-5000
- Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: (713) 881-3100
- Harris County Toll Road Authority Roadside Assistance (daily from 5:00 am - midnight): (281) 584-7500



ReadyHarris

Be #ReadyRoundtheClock