



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

FOURTH QUARTER • 2021

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 Fall from the MUD 81 Board of Directors! As we look forward to cooler weather and the upcoming holiday season, the Board is pleased to announce the resumption of rentals of the MUD 81 administration building, at 805 Hidden Canyon, as well as the return of our free community shred events. Please visit the MUD 81 website, <http://hcmud81.com>, for more information regarding the terms and conditions for building rental during the COVID-19 pandemic, and read on for more information about the upcoming shred event. We also are undertaking a number of water, sewer, and drainage improvements projects to rehabilitate aging facilities originally built in the 1970s and 80s, and to help reduce the risk of flooding in future hurricane or other significant rainfall events. The MUD 81 Board appreciates your patience and understanding as some streets, sidewalks, and other areas may be temporarily closed or impacted by ongoing construction projects. We are working hard to ensure our system is ready to serve the next generation of MUD 81 residents, and we wish you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season.



New Email/Text Alert System

In order to improve communication with MUD 81 residents, particularly during significant weather events or other emergency situations, the MUD 81 Board is pleased to offer a new voluntary text and e-mail alert system. Signing up for text and/or e-mail alerts will allow MUD 81 to deliver important news directly to your inbox or text app. For more information or to sign up for text and/or e-mail alerts, please visit <http://www.bjconcepts.com/hcmud81/signup.html>.

Free Community Shred Event October 16, 2021



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 October 16, 2021, 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/ShredDayOct2021.pdf>.

Storm System Improvements

For nearly 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, both located in Harris County, Precinct 3. 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. Final design of the proposed drainage improvements is underway and expected to be completed by October 2021, at which time the project will be advertised for bids. The contract is expected to be awarded in November 2021, with construction to begin by the end of 2021 or early 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 expected to begin shortly.
- **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 expected to begin shortly.



- **Force Main Replacement:** Design is underway to replace the existing decades-old sanitary sewer force main from the Park York Lift Station to the terminating manhole in Memorial MUD, for treatment at the Cinco Regional Sewage Treatment Plant. This project will replace the aging line and relocate it to avoid potential conflict with the proposed Harris County drainage improvements project.

Preparing Your Home for Winter

Although it may be hard to believe, winter will be here before you know it! As many of us unfortunately experienced during Winter Storm Uri, preparing your home and yard for winter may help you conserve water and reduce the risk of costly home and irrigation system leaks and repairs when the temperatures drop below freezing.

It's Time to Winterize Your Lawn and Irrigation System!



As the temperature drops, your lawn goes into hibernation and undergoes some physical changes. We've put together a few tips that will help you prepare for cooler months:

1. Beginning in October through March, add no or very little water to your lawn. St. Augustine is dormant during the fall and winter.
2. Check the level of mulch in your landscaping. Mulch helps winterize your yard by keeping soil temperatures moderate.
3. Mow once per month at the most.



West Harris County Regional Water Authority Notice of Anticipated Fee Increase

MUD 81 is within the boundaries of the Harris Galveston Subsidence District (the Subsidence District), which regulates groundwater withdrawal from water wells like those operated by MUD 81. The Subsidence District has adopted regulations requiring reduction of groundwater withdrawals through conversion to alternate source water (e.g., surface water) in certain areas within the Subsidence District's jurisdiction, including the land within MUD 81. The Subsidence District imposes disincentive fee penalties, currently \$9.58 per 1,000 gallons of water, for groundwater use that exceeds its regulations.

In 2001, the Texas legislature created the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (the Authority) to, among other things, reduce groundwater usage in, and to provide surface water to, the western portion of Harris County and a small portion of Fort Bend County. MUD 81 is located within the boundaries of the Authority. The Authority has entered into a Water Supply Contract with the City of Houston to obtain treated surface water from Houston. The Authority has developed a groundwater reduction plan (GRP) and obtained Subsidence District approval of its GRP. The Authority's GRP sets forth the Authority's plan to comply with the Subsidence District regulations, construct surface water facilities, and convert users from groundwater to alternate source water (e.g., surface water). Harris County MUD 81 has not yet been converted to alternate source water, but instead currently is required to pay pumpage fees to the Authority for all groundwater pumped from MUD 81's wells.

The Authority has notified MUD 81 that, beginning on January 1, 2022, the Authority anticipates the need to increase the pumpage fees charged to MUD 81 and other water providers within the Authority's boundaries by \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons, to \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons. If approved by the Authority's Board at their November 10, 2021 meeting, you will see this increase reflected on your water bills for usage on or after January 1, 2022 on the "WHCRWA" line item. For more information on the Authority and the rising cost of water, please visit <https://www.whcrwa.com>.

DON'T FLUSH TROUBLE!

THESE ITEMS BELONG
IN THE TRASH CAN!



DIAPERS, NURSING PADS
& BABY WIPES



HAIR



USE THE TRASH CAN,
NOT THE TOILET!



CLEANING WIPES



FACIAL WIPES



TAMPONS & PADS

The label might say "flushable," but disposable wipes and other products are clogging our sewer lines and damaging pumps and other equipment. Not only are these problems expensive to fix, they can also cause raw sewage overflows into homes, businesses and local waterways. So, think trash, not toilets!

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