



# Harris County

## Municipal Utility District

No. 81

FOURTH 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 Fall from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors! This year has been a busy one for MUD 81 as we have been working on and will be continuing with 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. We also are excited to be preparing for our second community shred event of 2022. Read on for more information about all the upcoming activities in MUD 81.

The MUD 81 Board encourages you to visit <http://www.bjconcepts.com/hcmud81/signup.html> to sign up for text and/or e-mail alerts that will allow MUD 81 to deliver important news directly to your inbox or text app. We wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.



### Save the Date for Fall Community Shred Event



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 15, 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/ShredDayOct2022.pdf>.

### Storm System Improvements

For the past four 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 re-advertisement for competitive bids, Harris County recently awarded the Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 drainage improvements project to the lowest bidder. Construction is expected to begin in approximately December 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.

In March 2022, Harris County held a public meeting for affected residents and other interested members of the public to discuss the improvements project and its impact on adjacent residents. The areas expected to be

most directly impacted from the project include: (1) Indian Ridge Drive between Cimarron Parkway and Copper Creek Drive; (2) Copper Creek Drive between Red Rock Canyon Drive and Powder River Drive; (3) Rock Canyon Drive between Indian Ridge Drive and Red Rock Canyon Drive; (4) the corner of Red River Drive and Red Rock Canyon Drive; (5) Cimarron Parkway between Indian Ridge Drive and Red Rock Canyon Drive; and (6) Red Rock Canyon Drive between Cimarron Parkway and North Fork Drive. 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 the start date for the project and 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:

- **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.
- **Generator Replacement at Water Plant No. 2.** MUD 81 advertised for competitive bids for the replacement of the emergency generator at water plant no. 2 and has awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, W-Industries. Work is in process.
- **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Memorial Parkway Sections Nos. 3, 4, and 5.** MUD 81 solicited for competitive bids for the televising of the sanitary sewer lines in Memorial Parkway Sections 3, 4, and 5 and has awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Equix Integrity Southeast, Inc. Work is expected to begin soon.

### Increase in Garbage and Recycling Costs



As you likely have experienced in recent months at the gas pump, grocery store, and many other places, the cost for many goods and services has been rapidly increasing. Although the MUD 81 Board works hard to operate its system in a cost-efficient manner, unfortunately, we are not immune to these larger economic factors. In order to continue to provide the same high-quality garbage and recycling collection services our community expects, MUD 81's garbage and recycling provider, Best Trash, recently came to the Board to request a 4% price increase, plus the addition of a monthly fuel surcharge that will be imposed for as long as diesel fuel prices remain above \$3.00 per gallon.



**Best Trash explained to the MUD 81 Board that the price increase and fuel surcharge are necessary due to:**

- COVID-19 pandemic related operating conditions, including significantly increased volume of trash collection per home and enhanced safety protocols for their employees;
- Labor shortages across multiple service industries, which have increased the cost to retain their workforce;
- Winter Storm Uri, which caused a multi-month dramatic increase in debris and vegetation collection, resulting in significantly more trips to and from the District;
- Supply chain disruptions across the economy, which have impacted the cost and availability for equipment, spare parts, and garbage and recycling carts; and
- Rapidly rising fuel costs, including the most rapid increase in diesel fuel prices in the history of Best Trash's operations.

After significant discussion regarding the unprecedented economic conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Winter Storm Uri, and other factors, the Board approved the requested price increase. The cost of garbage and recycling is included in your monthly utility bill as part of the "SEWER" line item and has increased by \$2.88 per month as a result of the change. The MUD 81 Board appreciates your understanding during these unprecedented times and will continue to work with its consultants and service providers to try to minimize any additional impacts to MUD 81 residents.

### Getting Ready for Winter Weather

Believe it or not, winter weather will be here before you know it! Now is the time to prepare for when temperatures drop to help prevent the irrigation system leaks, burst pipes, and other damage many experienced during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, and to help keep you and your family safe.

## 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.



### Protecting Your Home

- When freezing weather is in the forecast, protect faucets, outdoor pipes, and pipes in unheated areas, such as attics, by wrapping them with rags, newspaper, trash bags, or insulation. When pipes freeze and break, they will flood your yard or home.
- Open the cabinets under sinks in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated indoor air to circulate around the water pipes.
- Don't put space heaters near furniture, clothing, people or pets and never leave them unattended.
- Be careful of ice on steps, driveways and sidewalks. Consider using salt or sand to improve traction.

### Personal Safety

- Anyone exposed to extreme cold for long periods of time can get hypothermia, a significant and potentially dangerous drop in body temperature.
- However, the elderly are especially vulnerable. If their temperature drops to 95 degrees or lower, it can cause health problems. This can also happen in their homes, if there is little or no heat.
- Inside or out, if you are cold, dress warmly, stay hydrated and make sure you are eating enough.
- If you have elderly neighbors or family members, check on them. Make sure they have heat and ask if they need groceries or prescriptions picked up or delivered.

## 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 \$9.80 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, 2023, the Authority anticipates the need to increase the pumpage fees charged to MUD 81 and other water providers within the Authority's boundaries by an amount not to exceed \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons. If the maximum amount of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons is approved by the Authority's Board at their November 9, 2022 meeting, you will see this increase to \$3.95 per 1,000 gallons reflected on your water bills for usage on or after January 1, 2023 on the "WHCRWA" line item. For more information on the Authority and the rising cost of water, please visit <https://www.whcrwa.com/>.

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