



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

FIRST QUARTER • 2024

HC MUD 81 Board of Directors

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Have a question?



**WATER/SEWER BILLING
OR SERVICE 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



MUD 81 OFFICE
281-392-8112
(8 AM - 2 PM, M-F)

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 81

805 Hidden Canyon
Katy, Texas, 77450

281-392-8112
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! We hope that you and your family had a safe and happy holiday season. After an extremely hot and dry summer, we are looking forward to the cooler, wetter weather that the new year usually brings. As we've experienced in recent years, however, the Houston area, including MUD 81, is not immune from winter storms that can cause serious damage to your home and property. Read on for more information regarding preparing for winter weather.

As always, 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.



Reminder of Change in Account Procedures

ATTENTION!

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, historically, MUD 81 split the responsibilities for handling water and sewer utility issues between its office staff and its operator, Municipal District Services (MDS). As part of a transition in office staff during 2023, the MUD 81 Board worked with its operator to reduce redundancy and ensure we are operating our system the most efficiently with the highest level of customer service. Under the updated procedures, all requests for new water and sewer service, billing questions, water or sewer issues, payment arrangements, and requests to stop service should be submitted to the MUD 81 operator, MDS, at (281) 290-6500, or via the MDS website, at <https://www.mdswater.com/>.

Report from Fall Community Shred Event

On October 14, 2023, the MUD 81 Board and its garbage and recycling provider, Best Trash, held the most recent free community shred event for MUD 81 residents. Residents delivered 4,000 pounds of materials to be shredded and recycled, which translates to:



- 40 trees saved
- 18,000 gallons of water saved
- 900 kilowatts of energy saved, and
- 14 cubic yards of landfill space saved

The MUD 81 Board would like to thank all the residents who participated and helped to make this event such a huge success!



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

Harris County Municipal Utility District No.

Free spring community shred event for MUD 81 residents

Please mark your calendars for our next MUD 81 community shred event, just in time to safely dispose of unneeded records after tax day!



- **DATE:** Saturday April 20, 2024, from 9 a.m. - noon
- **LOCATION:** Parking Lot across from the MUD 81 administration building, at 805 Hidden Canyon, Katy, TX 77450
- Please remember to bring a current MUD 81 utility bill as proof of residence!

Storm System Improvements

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall in August 2017 and resulted in flooding in MUD 81 and throughout southeast Texas, MUD 81 has been working 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. 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:

After many years of planning and nearly a year of construction, we were hopeful that Harris County's contractor, R Construction Company, would be wrapping up the drainage improvements in Cimarron Subdivision, Sections 2-5, in late November or early December 2023. Unfortunately, there were unexpected issues that have delayed completion. The contractor now expects the project to be completed in the first quarter of 2024. We appreciate your patience as this important project is completed to help reduce flood risk in our community.

For any questions or to request more information regarding this project, please contact:

R CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Alex Muniz, Project Manager

phone: 832-738-7076

email: alex.muniz@rconstructioninc.com

HARRIS COUNTY ENGINEERING

Luis Bermudez, Project Manager

phone: 281-678-5733

email: luis.bermudez@hctx.net

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 new detention facilities to meet current drainage criteria. Harris County has submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to request approval to allow peak flows into Barker Reservoir in connection with the project and is awaiting their response.

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. The MUD 81 Board also has worked with Harris County to ensure that, despite recent increases in construction costs, MUD 81's total contribution for both the Cimarron and Memorial Parkway drainage improvements projects will not exceed the original \$8,200,000 amount approved by MUD 81's voters at the May 1, 2021 bond election.

Ongoing Construction Projects:

- **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 awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, CSE W-Industries. The contractor has completed some site work, and the remainder is on hold until the generator is delivered.
- **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Memorial Parkway Sections Nos. 3, 4, and 5.** MUD 81's engineer, BGE, has completed the detailed design drawings for the rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer lines in Memorial Parkway Section Nos. 3, 4, and 5 as a result of the recently completed sewer survey. The plans currently are being reviewed by Harris County and other agencies with jurisdiction.
- **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Cimarron Subdivision, Section Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and Memorial Parkway Section Nos. 6, 7, and 8.** After receiving competitive bids, the MUD 81 Board recently awarded a contract to the lowest qualified bidder, Chief Solutions, for the televising and cleaning of the Cimarron Subdivision, Section Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and Memorial Parkway Section Nos. 6, 7, and 8 sanitary sewer lines. As with the prior sanitary sewer line projects, once this project is complete, BGE will utilize the information to identify areas in need of repairs.
- **Park York Force Main Replacement.** Design is underway for the replacement of the sanitary sewer force main along Park York. This decades-old line has nearly reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement to continue to serve the residents of MUD 81.



Preparing for Winter Weather



It's time to protect your pipes. Although we live in a warm climate and last December had some warmer than usual days, severe cold weather sometimes occurs in the Houston area, as it did in 2021 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:

- 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 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 and drain the pipes.

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

Know Your Winter Weather Terms

When winter weather is approaching, there are a variety of terms you may hear on the news or see in the newspaper or your favorite weather app. Knowing what to expect can help you prepare to keep you and your family safe when severe weather occurs.

When it comes to winter storms, two common events you might hear about are a winter storm warning or winter weather advisory:

When temperatures begin to drop and freezes may occur, two common notices are for a freeze warning or frost advisory:

<h3>Winter Storm Warning</h3> <p>Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Considerable travel problems are expected.</p> <p>take action.</p>	<h3>Winter Weather Advisory</h3> <p>Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Travel difficulties are expected.</p> <p>be aware.</p>
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<h3>Freeze Warning</h3> <p>Temperatures of 32°F or colder for several hours over a widespread area during growing season. A hard freeze is when temperatures are below 28°F.</p> <p>Plants left outdoors may be killed.</p>	<h3>Frost Advisory</h3> <p>Temperatures of 33 to 36°F with clear skies and light winds over a widespread area during growing season, which would promote the development of frost.</p> <p>Plants left outdoors may be damaged.</p>
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weather.gov/safety/winter

If you lose power during a winter storm, remember to **NEVER** use your generator or grill indoors. Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines. A gas stove or oven should **NEVER** be used to heat your home either because this increases your chance of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Stay tuned to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. You also may sign up for emergency alerts from Harris County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736729064#/signup>.

Reporting Street Light Outages

With shorter days during the winter months, street light outages become more noticeable. You may recall that you used to have to obtain the number on the side of a street light pole to report the outage to CenterPoint Energy, which is responsible for the maintenance of the street lights in MUD 81. Sometimes that could be difficult or inconvenient if you were driving or you could not read the number in the dark. CenterPoint has upgraded their system to make reporting easier and more convenient for you!

CenterPoint's website now provides a map where you can select the street light by location and use a drop down menu to select the issue (for example, light outage, dim lighting, or damage to the pole). They also have an option to provide your e-mail address if you would like them to send you an update when the issue has been repaired.

Please visit CenterPoint's website, at <https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/residential/services/electric-utility/outage-center/street-light-outages>, and help us improve our community by reporting street light outages.



Visit us online

HCMUD81.COM