



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

SECOND QUARTER • 2023

HC MUD 81 Board of Directors

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VICE PRESIDENT

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GEORGE GOFF
TREASURER

DONNA BROWN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Have a question?

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

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

Welcome to the second quarter 2023 newsletter from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors. As we previously have discussed, we have been partnering with Harris County to make improvements to the drainage systems in the Cimarron and Memorial Parkway subdivisions to help increase their ability to handle significant rainfall events. Harris County's long-awaited drainage improvements project in the Cimarron subdivision broke ground in early 2023 and will continue throughout the year. We also are continuing to work with Harris County to move the Memorial Parkway subdivision project forward.

If you have visited the MUD 81 office lately, you may have noticed a new face. MUD 81 recently hired Stacy Lightsey as its office manager after the previous manager, Starr Johnson, elected to move onto another role. The MUD 81 Board is grateful to Starr for her many years of service to MUD 81 and its residents and encourages everyone to give Stacy a warm welcome.

As part of the staffing change, the MUD 81 Board also worked with its operator, Municipal District Services (MDS), to refine and streamline procedures for handling water and sewer utility accounts. Read on for more information regarding the changes in account procedures.

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.

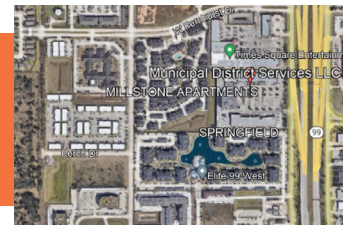


Change in Account Procedures

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 the transition in office staff, 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 new 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/>.**

Water bills continue to be due by the 18th of each month. Additionally, MUD 81 residents can continue to view and pay their water bills online or drop current water bill payments off at the payment slot at the MUD 81 administrative building, at 805 Hidden Canyon. For more information, please visit the MUD 81 website, at <http://www.hcmud81.com>.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SERVICES (MDS)
406 W. Grand Parkway S., Suite 260
Katy, Texas 77494
Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
281-290-6500 | www.mdswater.com



REMINDER: Earth Day Community Shred Event April 22

As stated in the previous newsletter, this is a friendly reminder that 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 Earth Day, **Saturday**,

April 22, 2023, 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.

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81

Shredding documents is an excellent way to get rid of important papers and protect you from identity theft. All paper is shredded on-site and then transported for recycling, helping to conserve our limited resources. Please bring a current MUD 81 utility bill as proof of residence. For more information, please visit the MUD 81 website, at <http://www.hcmud81.com>.

Storm System Improvements ATTENTION!

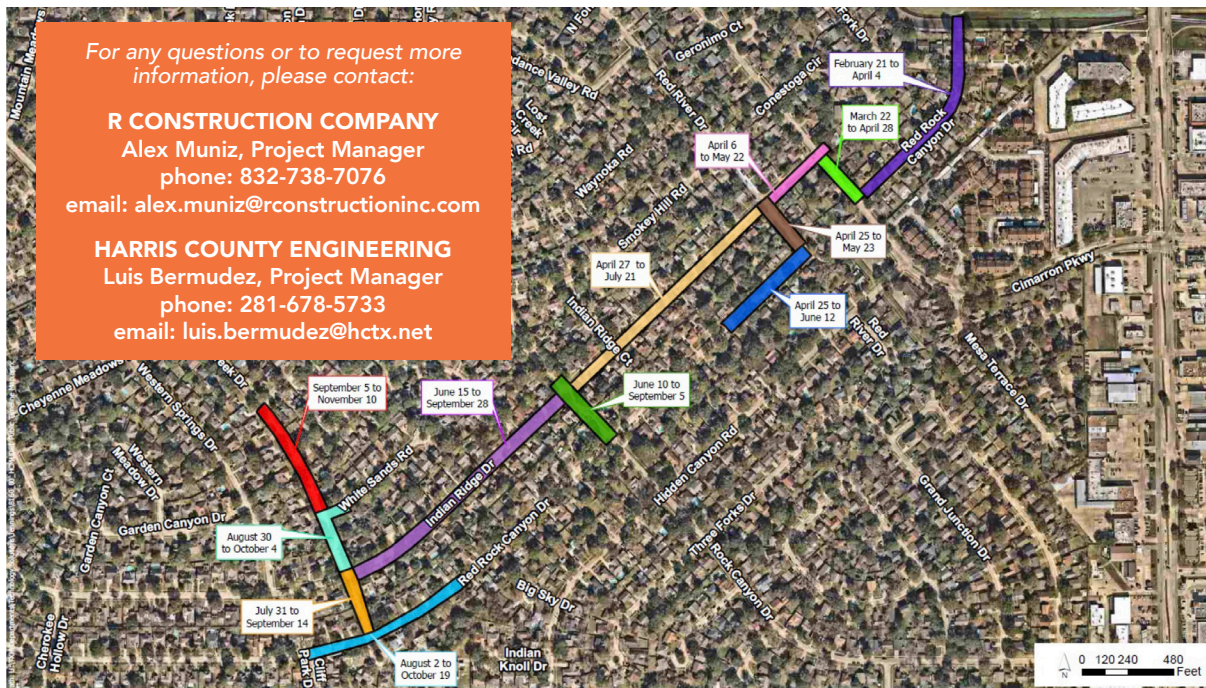
For more than four years, MUD 81 has been coordinating with Harris County regarding Harris County's proposed drainage improvements within MUD 81 for the Memorial Parkway Subdivision and Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5. The purpose of the projects is to improve the District's decades-old 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:

Harris County has awarded the contract for the Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 drainage improvements to R Construction Company and construction is underway.

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; (6) **Red Rock Canyon Drive** between Cimarron Parkway and North Fork Drive; (7) **Red Rock Canyon** southwest of Red River; and (8) **Red Rock Canyon** northeast of Copper Creek. Residents in these areas may experience street, sidewalk, and driveway disruptions as work progresses in their area.

Please see below for the **approximate** timeline for the work in each of the impacted areas. The construction schedule is subject to change based upon contractor staffing, weather, equipment, and other conditions.



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 currently is preparing 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. 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.



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 awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Blastco Texas, Inc. All site work is complete, and the water plants are undergoing final inspection.
- **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, 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 solicited for competitive bids for the televising of the sanitary sewer lines in Memorial Parkway Sections 3, 4, and 5 and awarded the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Equix Integrity Southeast, Inc. The contractor has completed the televising of the lines, and the MUD 81 engineer reviewed the tapes and has identified areas in need of repair.



Water Conservation

With the warmer spring weather, many people begin to turn their irrigation systems back on after the cooler winter months to water grass, plants, and other landscaping, often resulting in unexpected high water bills. Read below for tips to help you conserve water, which in turn will help to save you money on your water bills. In addition, please visit <https://watermyyard.org/#/Location> to receive weekly location-specific information on your yard watering needs.

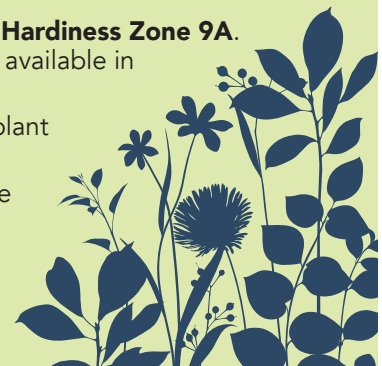
Take control of your irrigation system!

There's no need to use your lawn irrigation system more than once or twice a week—only more often if there are extended periods of no rainfall. Do not water at all if your lawn isn't thirsty. Frequent watering creates a shallow root system that requires excessive water during hot, dry periods. Set your system controller to complete your watering by 4:30 am—well before water demand is at its peak.

STEPS TO ADD NATIVE AND ADAPTIVE PLANTS TO YOUR YARD

Native plants are a great way to save water, but did you know they're also easy to maintain? Follow these steps and you'll have a beautiful garden that looks great and saves water.

1. Head to your local nursery.
2. Select your favorite plants that are native and/or adaptive to the USDA **Plant Hardiness Zone 9A**. Texas Lantana is one plant we recommend because it's hardy, beautiful and is available in abundant color varieties.
3. Select a spot in your yard that meets the sun requirements for your selected plant type. Sun requirements can be found on the plant label.
4. Use a garden spade to dig a hole deep and wide enough to cover most of the soil from the pot.
5. Water your new plant immediately after planting, and a couple of times a week for the next month to help it establish roots.
6. Once your plants are established, there's no need to add any extra water.



West Harris County Regional Water Authority Fee Increase

Effective January 1, 2023, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) increased its mandated groundwater pumpage fee from \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons, to \$3.95 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/>.



GETTING READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

» www.readyharris.org

Believe it or not, another hurricane season soon will be here. 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, 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