



Harris County

Municipal Utility District

No. 81

SECOND 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 Spring from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors! This spring has brought more than our fair share of rainstorms. The MUD 81 Board is pleased to report that Harris County's underground drainage improvements in the Cimarron subdivision are complete and have been operating as designed. As the calendar continues to march forward, we know we soon will be experiencing hotter, drier summer weather. Read on for information regarding water conservation and getting your irrigation system ready for summer.

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! 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!

Preparing Your Yard for Summer

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.



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

Tax Relief for 2024 Tax Year

Each spring, the MUD 81 Board considers the voluntary tax exemptions provided for by state law for residential homesteads and individuals who are over 65 years in age or disabled. For many years, MUD 81 has granted a 20% residence homestead exemption for its taxpayers, the maximum allowed by law. That 20% residence homestead will continue for 2024.

In prior tax years, MUD 81 also granted an additional \$5,000 exemption for individuals who are over 65 years in age or disabled. The MUD 81 Board is pleased to announce that for the 2024 tax year, the Board has doubled the exemption for individuals who are over 65 years in age or disabled to \$10,000. This additional exemption will apply to your 2024 tax bill, which will be sent out this fall in the October or November timeframe after taxes are levied. The MUD 81 Board understands the financial pressures many residents have been facing and is pleased to provide this additional tax relief.

In order to benefit from these exemptions, eligible individuals are required to file for the exemption with the Harris Central Appraisal District (HCAD). For questions about eligibility or if you are not sure if you previously have applied, please contact HCAD at (713) 957-7800. The required exemption forms are available on the HCAD website, at <https://hcad.org/>.



TAX RELIEF

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, the underground drainage improvements are complete! The contractor is finishing up the site restoration work, and final completion is expected soon.

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 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. Delivery currently is expected to occur in April.
- 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 have been reviewed by Harris County and other agencies with jurisdiction, and BGE is working on addressing their comments.
- 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 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.



3 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!



To Flush or Not to Flush

In recent years, cities and municipal utility district operators across Texas have been noticing vast amounts of so-called "flushable" wipes and other products clogging up their sanitary sewer systems and wastewater treatment infrastructure. While some of these products may be labeled as "flushable," they don't break down like toilet paper, which can cause pipes to clog or burst.

In addition to so-called "flushable" wipes, many operators have reported paper towels, sanitary wipes, cleaning products, and other items being flushed down toilets. Not only is this problematic for MUD 81, but it can be a serious problem for homeowners, resulting in massive damage and expensive plumbing bills. Please help us protect your home and MUD 81's sanitary sewer system by limiting what you flush down your toilet!

PATTY POTTY'S DO NOT FLUSH LIST

<p>DIAPERS</p> <p>PAPER TOWELS</p> <p>FACIAL TISSUE</p> <p>COTTON SWABS</p> <p>BABY WIPES</p> <p>ADULT WIPES</p> <p>HAIR</p> <p>GUM WRAPPERS</p> <p>CANDY</p>	<p>FACIAL PADS</p> <p>DENTAL FLOSS</p> <p>CIGARETTES</p> <p>COTTON BALLS</p> <p>SCOOPS OF KITTY LITTER</p> <p>WOMEN'S HYGIENE PRODUCTS</p> <p>ALL PURPOSE CLEANING WIPES</p> <p>ADHESIVE BANDAGES</p> <p>MAKEUP REMOVER WIPES</p>
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Hurricane Preparedness

Believe it or not, summer hurricane season will be here soon! It's never too early to get ready in the event of a hurricane, tropical storm, or other weather emergency. Make a plan now so that you and your family are ready and can stay safe in the event of disaster. One step you can take is to assemble an emergency supply kit, which should include:

- Water – At least seven day supply (one gallon per person per day)
- Food – At least seven day supply of nonperishable/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, personal 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



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