



# Harris County

# Municipal Utility District

## No. 81

### FIRST QUARTER • 2023

## HC MUD 81 Board of Directors

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## Have a question?

**WATER BILL**  
MUD 81 OFFICE: 281-392-8112  
(8 AM - 2 PM, M-F)  
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 New Year from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) Board of Directors! The new year is the time for new beginnings for many of us, and that is no different for MUD 81. After the heat and drought our region experienced last summer and fall, we are looking forward to cooler—but hopefully not too cold—temperatures and more rainfall. As we previously have discussed, we have been working diligently with Harris County to make improvements to the drainage systems in the Cimarron and Memorial Parkway subdivisions to help improve their ability to handle significant rainfall events. In that vein, we expect Harris County's long-awaited drainage improvements project in the Cimarron subdivision to break ground in February and to continue throughout the year. We also will be continuing to work on additional improvements projects throughout the community to better serve you. In addition, the MUD 81 Board has planned a spring community shred event for Earth Day 2023, right after tax day, so you can safely shred and recycle all those unneeded documents that have been collecting in your home. Read on for more information about 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.



### Earth Day 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 **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.

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>.

## DID YOU KNOW?

At MUD 81's fall 2022 shred event, we collected 1,500 pounds of paper, which translates to:

- 13 trees saved
- 492 gallons of water saved
- 720 kilowatts of energy saved
- 4.5 cubic yards of landfill space saved



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

## Storm System Improvements

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: ATTENTION!



Harris County has awarded the contract for the proposed Cimarron Subdivision – Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 drainage improvements and construction is expected to begin in **February 2023**.

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 new detention facilities to meet current 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.

### 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 in process.

### Checking for Water Leaks

In the winter months, when we expect our water usage to be lower during the cooler, wetter weather, we sometimes can be unpleasantly surprised by an unexpectedly high water bill. When that occurs, it often is due to a leak somewhere in your yard or home. The following are steps you can take to check for commonly occurring leaks:

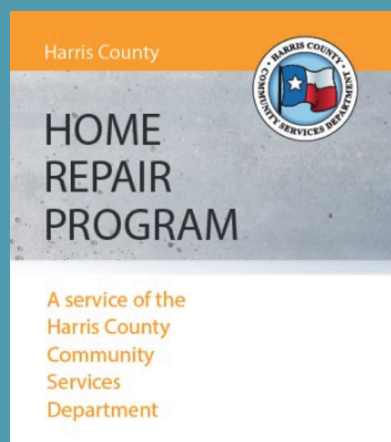


- Check for toilet leaks. Sometimes, you may be able to hear the fill line run, but many times toilet leaks can be silent. In order to check for a leak, place a leak detector tablet (available at most home improvement stores) or a few drops of non-gel food coloring in the back tank portion of the toilet. Wait 15-20 minutes and do not flush the toilet. If the color appears in the front bowl portion of the toilet, you likely have a leak.
- If you haven't already, shut off your irrigation system at the backflow preventer for winter and drain the remaining water from the backflow preventer. Be ready to check your irrigation settings and look for broken sprinkler heads and leaks when you turn the system back on in the spring.
- When there hasn't been any rainfall for at least several days, walk around your yard and look for wet or mushy spots, which could indicate a possible leak on an adjacent underground line. Also check along the front curb of your property for any water running from near your meter box or in your yard into the street.
- Check your water heater for leaks.
- Check for leaking or dripping faucets inside your home and leaking or dripping outdoor faucets around your property.
- Consider installing locks on outdoor water faucets.
- Check any pool, fountain, or other outdoor water feature for leaks.

If you suspect you may have a leak on your property but are having difficulty locating it, your water meter can be a useful tool. To check for leaks, turn off all faucets and appliances that use water, then go outside and locate your water meter. The meter is usually located in a rectangular box near the curb close to the sidewalk. Remove the cover and, if necessary, wipe off the face of the meter so you can see it clearly. There is a low flow detector wheel near the middle of the screen that will spin if water is being used. The faster the wheel is spinning, the larger the amount of water being used.

If you believe you have shut off all water-consuming devices and the low flow detector still is spinning, you likely have a leak somewhere on your property, which may require a plumber, irrigation specialist, or other licensed professional to address.

## Save water, save money.



### Harris County Home Repair Program

"Touching Lives, Building Communities."

With Hurricane Harvey and other recent large rainfall events, as well as Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, many homeowners have experienced the sting of costly home repairs. Harris County's Community Services Department's Home Repair Program provides financial assistance through grants or loans to qualifying low- and moderate-income elderly or disabled individuals for certain roof, handicap accessibility, mechanical, electrical, weatherization, and plumbing repairs, and for certain major home rehabilitation projects. The Home Repair Program can provide up to \$40,000 for eligible repairs, and up to \$80,000 for eligible major rehabilitation projects.

To obtain more information about Harris County's Home Repair Program or to complete the required application materials, please visit Harris County's Home Repair Program website, at <https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/HomeRepairProgram.aspx>, or contact Harris County, at (832) 927-4957.

### West Harris County Regional Water Authority Fee Increase

Effective January 1, 2023, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) is increasing 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/>.

## **NOTICE TO CUSTOMER REGARDING EXTREME WEATHER EMERGENCY**

The Public Utility Commission's rule in Title 16, Chapter 24 Texas Admin. Code § 24.173(d) prohibits your water and sewer provider from imposing a late fee or from disconnecting your retail water or sewer service for nonpayment of bills that are due during an extreme weather emergency until after the emergency is over.

An extreme weather emergency is defined as a period beginning when the previous day's highest temperature in your area did not exceed 28 degrees Fahrenheit, and the temperature is predicted to remain at or below that level for the next 24 hours according to the nearest National Weather Service reports for your area. For purposes of these requirements, an extreme weather emergency is over on the second business day the temperature exceeds 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

Your water and sewer provider is required to offer a payment schedule if you timely request a payment schedule. If you are affected by an extreme weather emergency, you may request a payment schedule from your water and sewer provider for unpaid bills that are due during the extreme weather emergency.

If you timely request a payment schedule, your water and sewer provider is prohibited from disconnecting service for nonpayment of bills that are due during an extreme weather emergency. However, once a payment schedule is offered, disconnections may resume if you (1) decline to accept the payment schedule in a timely manner, or (2) violate the terms of the payment schedule.

If you have a bill from your water and sewer provider due during an extreme weather emergency, then you qualify to request a payment schedule by contacting our office at: 281-290-6500.

## **AVISO AL CLIENTE SOBRE EMERGENCIA POR CONDICIONES DEL TIEMPO EXTREMAS**

La regla de la Comisión de Servicios Públicos en el Título 16, Capítulo 24, del Código Administrativo de Texas § 24.173(d) prohíbe a su proveedor de agua y alcantarillado imponer un cargo por mora o desconectar su servicio minorista de agua o alcantarillado por falta de pago de las facturas adeudadas durante una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas hasta después de que la emergencia haya terminado.

Una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas se define como un periodo que comienza cuando la temperatura más alta del día previo en su área no superó los 28 grados Fahrenheit y se prevé que la temperatura permanecerá en ese nivel o debajo de él durante las siguientes 24 horas según los informes más cercanos del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional para su área. A efectos de estos requisitos, una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas finaliza el segundo día laborable en que la temperatura supera los 28 grados Fahrenheit.

Su proveedor de agua y alcantarillado debe ofrecer un programa de pago si usted lo solicita oportunamente. Si se ve afectado por una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas, puede solicitar un programa de pago a su proveedor de agua y alcantarillado para las facturas impagas adeudadas durante la emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas.

Si solicita oportunamente un programa de pago, su proveedor de agua y alcantarillado tiene prohibido desconectar el servicio por falta de pago de las facturas impagas adeudadas durante una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas. Sin embargo, una vez que se ofrece un programa de pago, las desconexiones pueden reanudarse si usted (1) se niega a aceptar oportunamente el programa de pago, o (2) viola los términos del programa de pago.

Si tiene una factura de su proveedor de agua y alcantarillado impaga adeudada durante una emergencia por condiciones del tiempo extremas, entonces tiene derecho a solicitar un programa de pago comunicándose con nuestra oficina en: 281-290-6500.