



Harris County

# Municipal Utility District

No. 81

FIRST QUARTER • 2020

## Welcome from the Board of Directors

Happy New Year, and welcome to the first Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 (MUD 81) community newsletter! In response to feedback from residents, the MUD 81 Board of Directors has created this newsletter to provide more information to residents about current projects and matters of interest. If you would like more information, please visit the MUD 81 website, at [www.hcmud81.com](http://www.hcmud81.com), or consider attending the MUD 81 Board meetings, which regularly occur each month on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 6:00 pm, at the MUD 81 administration building at 805 Hidden Canyon.

### RECENT FLOODING AND PROPOSED STORM SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Although MUD 81 originally constructed the storm sewer system in our community in the 1970s and 1980s, after its construction, MUD 81 conveyed the storm sewer system to Harris County for maintenance, and Harris County has been responsible for maintaining and repairing the system ever since. During and in the wake of the Tax Day Flood (April 2016), Hurricane Harvey (August 2017), and Tropical Storm Imelda (September 2019), MUD 81 and Harris County received reports that many homes within MUD 81 were flooded, which is a significant concern to members of the Board and our community.

As a result of these repeated large weather-related events, as part of Harris County's \$2.5 billion bond program that was approved by voters in August 2018, the Harris County Engineering Department – Recovery & Resiliency Division (HCED-RRD) awarded a series of stormwater studies to a number of local engineering firms. The stormwater studies were very preliminary and limited in scope. The results of these studies helped HCED-RRD budget for proposed drainage improvement projects within MUD 81 and other municipal utility districts throughout Harris County, with a goal of improving resiliency and reducing or eliminating future structure flooding.

MUD 81 has received two letters from HCED-RRD with regards to proposed Harris County drainage improvements: the first letter (Memorial Parkway Subdivision Drainage improvements - 2018) was dated September 20, 2019; the second letter (Cimarron Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5, Subdivision Drainage improvements - 2018) was dated December 3, 2019.

**HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 81**

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## **Memorial Parkway Subdivision Drainage Improvements - 2018**

HCED-RRD's study area for Memorial Parkway was roughly bordered by Cimarron Parkway to the north; by Park Timbers Lane to the south; Westgreen Blvd to the east; and Mason Road to the west. The study area encompassed not only a portion of MUD 81, but also a portion of Memorial MUD. MUD 81's southern boundary generally is at Highland Knolls Drive, as shown on the boundary map available on the MUD 81 website, at: <http://www.hcmud81.com/location.html>.

There are up to fourteen individual storm systems within the Memorial Parkway neighborhood, which drain into Harris County Flood Control District (Flood Control) channels T101-07-00 and T103-00-00. Although MUD 81's storm sewer systems were constructed pursuant to all applicable state and local standards at the time they were built in the 1970s and 80s, those standards have changed significantly over time. The report found that, based upon modern drainage standards, a large number of stormwater conveyance lines are undersized and not able to properly protect a number of structures from repetitive flooding during a 100-year storm event (in other words, a rainfall event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year).

The report also found that stormwater drainage within the District is dependent upon the capacity of Flood Control channel T103-00-00 to convey the water downstream, and that the channel also requires improvements.

HCED-RRD estimates that the total cost of the Memorial Parkway drainage improvements and the T103-00-00 channel improvements will be \$2.9 million. They have asked MUD 81 to pay for 38%, or \$1,102,000, of the cost of the proposed project.

## **Cimarron Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 Subdivision Drainage Improvements - 2018**

The study area was roughly bordered by Red River/Flood Control channel T101-07-00 to the north; by Ken Lake Drive to the south; Mason Road to the east; and Peek Road to the west. The study area encompassed not only the District but also a portion of Cimarron MUD. MUD 81's western boundary generally is at Copper Creek Drive, also as shown on the boundary map available on the MUD 81 website, at: <http://www.hcmud81.com/location.html>.

There are up to three storm system outfalls for the Cimarron Subdivision into Flood Control channel T101-07-00.

As with Memorial Parkway, MUD 81's storm sewer systems in Cimarron were constructed pursuant to all applicable state and local standards at the time they were built in the 1970s and 80s. Based upon current standards, however, the report found a number of storm water conveyance lines to be undersized and not able to properly protect a number of structures from repetitive flooding during a 100-year storm event (as stated above, this means a rainfall event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year).

The Cimarron report also found that storm drainage within MUD 81 is dependent upon the capacity of Flood Control channel T101-07-00 to convey the water downstream, and that the channel also requires improvements.

HCED-RRD estimates that the total cost of the Cimarron drainage improvements will be \$10.85 million. They have asked MUD 81 to pay for 50%, or \$5,425,000, of the cost of the proposed project.

## **Summary and Next Steps**

The total cost to MUD 81 for its share of the proposed Memorial Parkway and Cimarron drainage improvements currently is estimated to be \$6,527,000. MUD 81 currently does not have funds available to pay for these costs. The MUD 81 Board anticipates calling an election to be held on May 2, 2020 to ask the MUD 81 voters to decide whether to authorize the issuance of bonds to pay for these costs. Please be on the lookout for additional information about the election in the coming months!



# SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL OF YOUR SHARPS WASTE



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Name	Item #
<b>Sharps Disposal Systems</b>	
1.4 quart System	40000
1.2 gallon System	40001
2 gallon System	40002
3 gallon System	40003
18 gallon System	40018
28 gallon System	40028
1.4 quart six pack	40016
1.2 gallon twin pack	40021
1.2 gallon four pack	40041
2 gallon twin pack	40022
2 gallon four pack	40032
3 gallon twin pack	40042
3 gallon four pack	40043

**NO CONTRACTS. NO HIDDEN FEES.**

## STORM DRAIN INSPECTIONS

As mentioned in this newsletter, Harris County is responsible for the maintenance and repairs to the storm sewer system within the District. That being said, due to the multiple large flooding events in the past few years, MUD 81 took it upon itself to inspect certain storm sewers within MUD 81 to check for any potential obstructions or other issues of concern.

Specifically, in 2018, MUD 81 inspected all 300 storm sewer manholes within its boundaries to determine the amount of sediment within the storm system. No significant sediment was discovered.

Two separate areas were inspected west of Mason Road in the Cimarron Section of the District.

The 1st Section was along Red Rock Canyon. No significant obstructions were encountered.

The 2nd Section included Indian Ridge, Copper Creek Drive, and Indian Knoll Drive. No significant obstructions were encountered.

In addition to the inspections above, MUD 81 reconfigured two inlets on Park Bend Dr. and one inlet on Park Meadow Dr. to improve collection of storm water.

## HELP PROTECT OUR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

Just because something will flush down your toilet or drain doesn't mean it will flush out through the MUD 81 sanitary sewer system! Did you know that sewer system operators around the world are spending millions of dollars to remove disposable wipes that get stuck in sewer lines and at sewage treatment plants? For example, in New York City alone the amount of wipes removed from its sewer system has reached about 1.3 billion cubic feet per year, and costs about \$3 million *per year* to remove. These wipes can combine with fat and grease to form "wipe-bergs" that can block sanitary sewer lines and cause sewer backups into businesses and homes. Please help us prevent these blockages by throwing out the following items in your household trash rather than putting them in your toilet or drain.

### Patty's Do Not Flush List:

- Diapers
- Paper Towels
- Candy Wrappers
- Kitty Litter
- Baby Wipes
- Cotton Swabs
- Cleaning Wipes
- Cigarettes
- Facial Pads
- Adhesive Bandages
- Gum Wrappers
- Hair
- Adult Wipes
- Makeup Wipes
- Cotton Balls
- Facial Tissue
- Hygiene Products
- Dental Floss

Please visit  
**PattyPotty.com**  
for more information!



## ONGOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- 1. Water Plant No. 4; Replacement of Emergency Generator and Motor Control Centers.** In progress – scheduled to finish in approximately April 2020. This project will modernize the emergency generator and electrical equipment at Water Plant No. 4.
- 2. Water Plant No. 4; Well No. 4 Profiling.** Scheduled to start in January 2020 and be completed in approximately April 2020. Although the arsenic levels in MUD 81's water are within all applicable federal and state standards, they have increased in recent years. This project will monitor the amount of arsenic being picked up in Well No. 4 and will enable MUD 81 to seal off aquifers contributing excess arsenic to the well.
- 3. Memorial Parkway Sections 1 and 2; Sanitary Sewer Inspection.** Scheduled to start in January 2020 and to be completed in approximately March 2020. This project will evaluate the condition of one of the oldest sanitary sewer sections within MUD 81.

## WEST HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FEE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2020, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) is increasing its mandated groundwater pumpage fee from \$2.95 per 1,000 gallons, to \$3.20 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/>.

## FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY April 18, 2020



Harris County MUD No. 81:  
805 Hidden Canyon Rd

(parking lot across the street from the administration building)

This shred day event will be for residents of HC MUD 81 community. This event will give the residents the opportunity to shred up five boxes of paper during the three (3) hour period between 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A shred truck will be parked in 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.

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