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KMUD Continues Its Ongoing Maintenance

Regular maintenance of the municipal utility district's water and sewers lines continues. Recent investigation of a major leak in a very obscure part of the District has led to a noticeably increased billed-to-produced ratio -- indicating that we are losing less water. The District pays the North Harris Country Regional Water Authority based on all water pumped, whether or not we are able to bill for it, so the District's Operator identifying the leak will reduce waste and save money.

Each year, the Kleinwood Municipal Utility District board of directors analyze the infrastructure to avoid a line bursting or rusting through with corrosion both of which result in major loss of water, major downtime to repair or replace the problem; and major outages to our customers. Additionally, the Board has instructed the Operator to replace customer meters that exceed 1 million gallons. Older meters are less efficient and sometimes register inaccurately. Certain sections of the system are over 35 years of age and warrant ongoing attention.

The Kleinwood MUD Board continues to be involved in the ongoing maintenance of the detention facilities within the District. The District has been assuming all costs related to the "pocket park" along Squyres and recently assumed the maintenance of the detention facility in Champion Pines that serves a portion of the District north of Louetta.

- **Champion Woods Estates Lift Station and Force Main** – Kleinwood MUD has constructed a lift station near the northeast corner of the L.A. Fitness facility over a year ago; improvements to the old lift station site in the parking lot of the HEB shopping center near Walgreen's are now complete.
- **Steubner-Airline Trunk Utilities** – Owner easements to proceed with the MUD's installation of water and wastewater lines (proposed for some time to extend service to existing and future businesses and tracts along the western side of Steubner-Airline Road from Lyons School Road south to Cypresswood Drive and about 600 feet west along Cypresswood Drive) are nearly complete. This has been a very lengthy process due to the location of new owners after change in ownership of certain tracts.
- **Ground storage tank** -- The pitting and other damage to the ground storage tank was repaired last year with a special epoxy coating and should be in service for a number of years. Since discovery of this pitting, other tanks in the northwest area have shown similar damage, the cause for which was difficult to determine. 💧

The water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow!

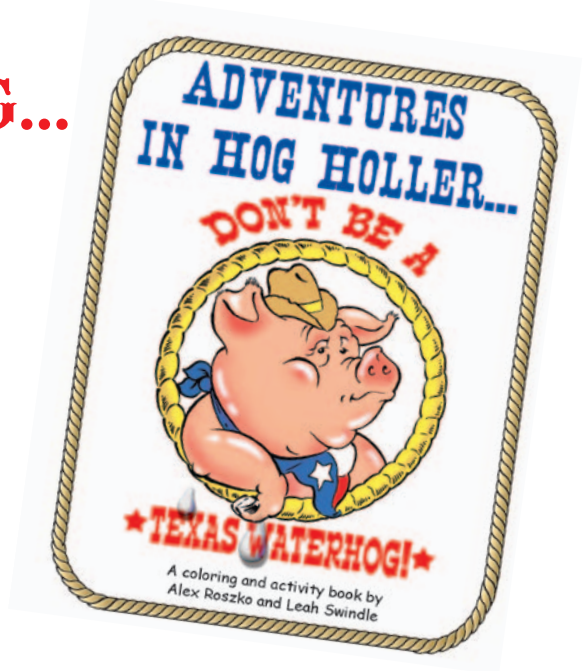
HEY KIDS! INTRODUCING... THE TEXAS WATERHOG!

“Mamas, don’t let your babies grow up to be...Texas WaterHogs!” Here’s a new twist on an old song...and a serious challenge to parents to help their kids establish good water usage ‘habits’ while they’re still young.

The **Adventures in Hog Holler** coloring/activity book combines entertainment with education...and contains important information about how to use water wisely at home and in the yard and garden. Young readers are encouraged to join the **Hog Holler Junior Rangers** in helping to ‘round up’ Texas WaterHogs and to discourage their wasteful habits by providing positive information about how to use water wisely.

The story is about a small Texas town. Like many communities, the citizens of Hog Holler had begun to take precious water resources for granted. Ranger Joe and his Deputies find lots of examples of water being wasted and go in search of WaterHogs.

The book -- written and illustrated by two young Lone Star College students Alex Roszko (left, below) and Leah Swindle (right, below) -- is the cornerstone of a new water conservation education program for kids of all ages. The WaterHog’s very own website (www.TexasWaterHog.com) provides details on the program components.



Using the WaterHog materials can be as simple as having youngsters enjoy the coloring/activity book in class or on their own. The online materials include a conservation slide presentation, Junior Ranger certificates, and instructions for completing a home water use audit. Also on the site are some puzzles, coloring pages, and activities that can be downloaded for even more fun!



Here’s some exciting news -- a new music video -- **The Ballad of Hog Holler** -- is now on YouTube. The toe-tapping, original song is performed by a group of talented young musicians, and was filmed at a ranch just south of Conroe.

A link to the video -- and all the materials and activities available on the Texas WaterHog’s very own website -- is now on the Kleinwood District’s website: www.kleinwoodmud.com. 💧



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What is a backflow prevention device and why do you need one?

If you have a swimming pool and/or an irrigation system for your yard, you should have a backflow prevention device -- like the one to the right -- nearby. Most people probably have no idea what the pipes and valves are for, and unless they were told during the installation of the pool or sprinklers, they wouldn't know that this equipment plays a critical role in protecting your home's potable water system from contamination.

Backflow may occur in the event of either backsiphonage or backpressure. Backsiphonage can happen when the pressure in the distribution system drops, drawing water from the consumer's plumbing back into it. Pressure drops might occur in the event of a line break, or high water demand such as fighting a fire nearby. Backpressure can cause backflow when a potable water system is connected to another system that operates at a higher pressure...such as an irrigation system.

Water distribution systems are designed to have the water flow from the water treatment plant to the consumer, but whenever a cross-connection in a plumbing system takes place (when the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source) contamination can occur if not protected.



If a plumbing system is modified, there is potential to create cross-connections.

So, what's the danger? First of all, your yard and landscaped areas are full of potentially nasty things that you don't want in your drinking water....like pesticides, fertilizers and animal waste. If your pool or irrigation systems are not properly installed and protected with these devices, your system is vulnerable to backflow. Most of the time, the pressure in the system will keep the water from flowing backwards, but as mentioned earlier, a sudden pressure drop caused by a firetruck, or if the lines are shut down to repair a broken pipe, can trigger a backflow situation in surrounding neighborhoods.

Still not convinced? Here's

an experiment you can do yourself. Turn off the water valve leading to your house. Next, turn on a faucet in the kitchen or downstairs bathroom. Then go to a higher level in the house and turn on another faucet. You will hear air being sucked into the higher faucet. You just created backflow in your plumbing system. Not too difficult to do, right?

Backflow prevention devices protect all of us from the possibility of contaminants entering our drinking water system. If you have not had yours inspected for proper operation, you may wish to call a licensed irrigator to inspect it to confirm that it is working properly. Safety in our drinking water system is an important responsibility that we all share. ■