

## **KMUD In August: Bond Refunding Nets KMUD \$330,000 In Savings**

(Prepared by Mike Morgan, e-mail: [vttotx@msn.com](mailto:vttotx@msn.com))

The Kleinwood MUD (the "Water Board") met once in August in which the primary items of discussion included 1) reviewing the successful bond refunding program, 2) considering the extra work by the contractor for the Stuebner-Airline Utilities, and 3) discussing the ongoing drought as it impacts the surface water supply. Please note that the Water Board holds its monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Kleinwood Clubhouse, beginning at 6 PM. Residents of the Kleinwood MUD are welcome to attend, as these meetings are open to the general public.

--- During the month, the Board refinanced \$4,625,000 of its Series 1998 and 2001 bonds, and netted \$330,000 in savings to the District. These bonds would have normally been retired in 2022, but had a "callable" feature, which was advantageous to the District. The callable feature means that the old bonds could be cashed-in, and new bonds of the same value could be purchased at a much lower interest rate. The Board's financial advisor, Bill Blitch, coordinated the bond refunding plan, and the resulting savings exceeded the District's previous expectations of savings in the \$200,000 range.

--- For the Stuebner-Airline trunk utilities, the installation of the water and sewer lines was 100% complete, with about \$10,400 in additional work being requested by the contractor. The contract was originally awarded for \$375,000, so the extra work amounted to less than 3% of the base contract. There were several activities identified that involved restoration of the cleared areas – activities that were outside of the contractor's scope, and will be negotiated with the affected landowners. This restoration work – mostly replacing dead trees and grass, and one pavement repair -- is expected to be less than \$12,000. At final completion, the project's total costs should be approximately \$403,000, some \$45,000 less than the estimated costs when the project was authorized several years ago.

--- Upon full completion of this project, all landowners along Stuebner-Airline and Cypresswood Drive will be officially notified by KMUD that the utility lines are in place and functional. The notification will also advise all landowners to begin preparing plans for annexation into the District, which is in accordance with the easement contracts executed between the District and each individual landowner.

--- The ongoing drought this summer has put a strain on Lake Houston, where north Harris County water districts receive their surface water. Indications from the North Harris County Regional Water Authority (NHCRWA) is that individual districts are encouraged to use less surface water -- and more groundwater – than previously planned. KMUD currently has three fully operational wells, and a recent evaluation of these wells shows that the aquifer water level has improved in just the 6 months that

KMUD has been using surface water. The District currently has a Drought Contingency Plan that was developed several years ago, but has not decided to begin the procedure at this time. As the drought continues, however, the Board may review its options in the near future.

--- Water accountability (i.e. amount of water coming into the District vs. the amount of water billed to customers) was 98% for July. Surface water usage declined to 80%, as compared to the last several months being well above 90%. Total water connections increased to 831, six more than last month.

### **A Piece Of Kleinwood Area History: The Wunderlich Family**

The name "Wunderlich", translated as "wonderful", is the name proudly borne by another of the Klein area pioneer families. The brothers Peter and Jost Wunderlich came to North Harris County from their native Liechtenstein in the 1850's. During the Civil War, Peter was fatally burned in a gunpowder mill explosion near Spring Creek. His son, Frederich, a Lutheran minister, married Bertha Klein, and the couple raised and college educated 13 children.

In the first of a succession of marriages between the Wunderlich and Strack families, Jost Wunderlich's daughter Louise married Egenhardt Strack. Katie Strack wed Peter Wunderlich's grandson William, who recalls bringing the family sugar cane crop to the syrup mill at the site of today's Klein High School. The juice pressed from the cane by horse-driven wheels was heated to make the syrup used by the family for baking and candy making. There are hundreds of Wunderlich descendents, and the family name is honored in the naming of Greenwood Forest's Wunderlich Intermediate School.

(Source: "The Heritage Of North Harris County", published in 1977 by the North Harris County Branch of the American Association Of University Women)