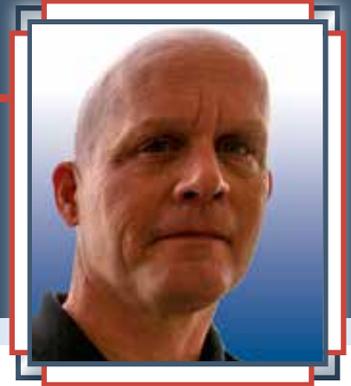


Employee Spotlight

Wesley Williams

Production Support Manager



Story by Jessica Willingham.

Photos by Ryan Stout.

Wesley Williams knows all about teamwork. As a production support manager for Bryan Texas Utilities, Williams helps to ensure every detail of the Roland C. Dansby Power Plant is working smoothly. The power plant, constructed in 1978, is still operating as the most modern and efficient generation system servicing BTU customers today. Dansby has over 115 megawatts of generation available for deployment to support the citizens of Bryan at any given time, and a man-made lake, Lake Bryan, which supplies cooling water to the plant. This self-generating capability is just one component that sets Bryan—and BTU—apart.

For the last five years, Wesley has been working diligently at the Dansby plant to bring reliable power to your family, as well as his own. Below, he discusses his average day, his dream job and the activities he enjoys.

If you had to describe your work to a stranger on the street, what would you say?

The plant has a GE steam turbine and two GE aero derivative LM6000 gas turbines. I am responsible for ensuring that these multi-million dollar turbines, generators and the related support equipment function properly and are ready to operate when required. I also manage large projects, perform contract management and handle some of the regulatory compliance issues. Obviously, this is not a one-person job and would be impossible



without the teamwork of the technicians and operators at the plant who understand and operate this equipment.

What is your average day like?

There are no average days in the generation business; each day presents new opportunities to excel.

How long have you been with BTU? What drew you?

Five years. In the past, I have served as the Plant Manager, Facility Engineer and Product Engineer at various manufacturing locations. The products being manufactured at these locations tended to fall in and out of demand based upon various market forces and led me to where I am today. I enjoy working at BTU because it presents a new set of challenges and different opportunities; the electrical industry is constantly changing and will always be required in some form or another for the future.

What is your favorite part about your job? What is the hardest part?

The people I work with and the knowledge they have concerning the electrical generation industry is my favorite part about my job. The hardest part is also the most enjoyable; I have the opportunity to consider difficult problems and work toward a solution until it is resolved.

If you did not work in your current occupation, what would you do?

What is your dream job?

I would be a stay-at-home dad.

What activities do you enjoy?

I enjoy yard work, gardening, various home projects and just piddling around. My family and I enjoy playing football in the backyard or at the park and taking walks with the dog. We also visit the local libraries, The Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley, the Houston Zoo and Moody Gardens whenever possible.



Board Meeting Notes

The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, January 14, 2014 and discussed the following topics:

Financial

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Bryan/BTU, presented the financial report. Net revenue variance in the City is due to lower departmental operations and maintenance expenses. The net revenue variance for Rural is due to higher than budgeted base revenues as well as lower departmental operations and maintenance expenses. The City Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is below budget due to the timing of spending on transmission projects and the cancellation of a production project.

He also reported that the City's regulatory charge is under-recovered through November 2013, which was expected. The Rural regulatory balance is on budget.

Mr. Hegwood next presented to the Board the staff's recommendations for increasing the regulatory charge rate in order to cover the Transmission Cost of Service expenses due to the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone transmission construction project. He estimated that the average monthly increase would be roughly \$4.18 per residential customer. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

The Board discussed and awarded contract bids for the following:

- Triangle Park Substation Electrical Construction Project;
- 2014 Annual Overhead Unit Services Contract; and
- ACSR Conductor for the Thompson Creek to Snook and Wellborn Highway 6 Projects.

Operations

Randy Trimble, BTU Group Manager of Transmission and Distribution, presented the safety statistics for December and then presented the SAIDI and SAIFI reports for December, which indicated that the City and Rural outages were caused by equipment failure due to the stormy weather.

Spring Forward
 Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9.
 Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday.

Bryan Texas Utilities

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Board of Directors

- Mr. Carl L. Benner, Chairman
- Mr. Chris Peterson, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Paul Turney, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mr. Art Hughes, Ex-Officio
- Mr. Flynn Adcock
- Mr. David Bairrington
- Mr. Bill Ballard
- Mr. Ben Hardeman

General Manager

Gary Miller

Group Managers

- Larry Gurley
- Randy Trimble
- David Werley

Division Managers

- James Bodine
- Bill Bullock
- Shawndra Green
- Michael Hering
- Ken Lindberg
- Doug Lyles
- Vicki Reim
- Scott Smith
- James Tanneberger

Lee R. Starr, Chief Risk Officer

City of Bryan

- Kean Register, City Manager
- Joe Hegwood, CFO
- Bernie Acre, CIO

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Billing/Collections/Connects (979) 821-5700
- Electrical Outage/Lines Down (979) 822-3777
- Distribution/Line Design (979) 821-5770



Phillips Center at Briarcrest Expands Recreational and Meeting Options for the Brazos Valley

Story by Louellen S. Coker. Photos courtesy of Phillips Center at Briarcrest.

Roots at Briarcrest Country Club run deep, and now, the oldest club in town expands to welcome everyone. After a nearly 60 year tradition of being the only member-owned, full-amenity country club in the Brazos Valley, Briarcrest Country Club opened its doors to the public last fall when Wallace Phillips purchased the property. Now known as the Phillips Center at Briarcrest, the facility is undergoing many changes in addition to adopting a new moniker.

Originally formed as a dining-only club in 1955, the golf course was created in the early 1970s, the current clubhouse was added in the 1980s and upgrades were conducted in early 2000s. Mr. Phillips stated, “The building is undergoing a complete renovation over the next few months. Updates include better meeting facilities, an expanded wedding venue, a new entrance,

updated landscaping and a refinished swimming pool among other things that we are confident will breathe new life into a Brazos Valley landmark.”

Now officially classified as a semi-private golf club—the only one in the Bryan/College Station area—the Phillips Center’s outstanding and improving offerings are now accessible to the public. Mr. Phillips explained, “We want the community to know that everyone is invited to come out to enjoy time with family, friends and colleagues whether it be on our championship golf course, extensive tennis facility, beautiful swimming pool, dining areas, meeting rooms or our new wedding venue.”

He emphasized, “Memberships will benefit the avid golfer who golfs more than four times a month. Their membership offers them unlimited rounds of golf in addition to access to golf carts. Golfers can use our practice driving range through the purchase of a bucket of balls or an annual pass that allows unlimited buckets. We also offer a season pass to our newly resurfaced swimming pool that will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We won’t be charging additional fees



“We want the community to know everyone is invited to enjoy time with family, friends and colleagues whether it be on our championship golf course, extensive tennis facility, beautiful swimming pool, dining areas, meeting rooms or our new wedding venue.”



to use the tennis courts.”

The golf course itself will undergo changes. In addition to the gas-powered golf carts that arrived in February and granite hole markers, golfers will enjoy a new look and feel to the game with the course being flipped so that the back nine becomes the front nine.

Along with being more easily enjoyed by everyone in the community, Mr. Phillips is conducting significant changes within the facility itself. Perhaps most significant is the renovation of the clubhouse to include a breathtaking wedding venue, a sports bar and modernized meeting facilities.

Once the dust settles, couples will be able to exchange vows on an expanded patio overlooking the 18th hole as well as entertain their guests at their reception on the second floor of the building. Entry to the wedding area will be separated from the dining and meeting areas in the building to ensure an intimate and romantic atmosphere appropriate to the occasion.

The meeting facilities and banquet halls will remain on the upper floor but will undergo vast improvements as well. Visitors will enjoy updated walls, flooring, restrooms, bright LED lighting, an expanded sound system, better acoustics, all new media equipment and easy wifi access.

“We’re excited to have large screen HD TVs in all our conference rooms. Meeting organizers will be able to connect wirelessly from anywhere in the room without the additional costs of renting AV equipment separately,” Mr. Phillips said.

Already a favored gathering place for many, Mr. Phillips intends to expand the casual dining atmosphere

so that people will want to stay even longer to enjoy delicious food and drink. He elaborated: “We’ll have a new sports bar that offers golf simulators, an expanded beverage selection, fire pits as well as outdoor and large screen TVs making it the perfect place to enjoy televised sporting events.”

Understanding that sometimes it is easier for businesses and other entities to have delicious food brought to their own meeting locations, the Phillips Center will be expanding their food and beverage options to include offsite catering. The addition of chefs and prep staff will allow the Phillips Center to deliver full banquet support—tables, linens, glasses, tableware and, of course, delectable food—anywhere in the region.

Mr. Phillips’ excitement at the changes could hardly be contained. He stated, “We’ve been working really hard to modernize the facility. We’re keeping deep roots that have been put down by the oldest club in town, but have added a certain vibrancy so that it no longer feels like your parents’ country club.”

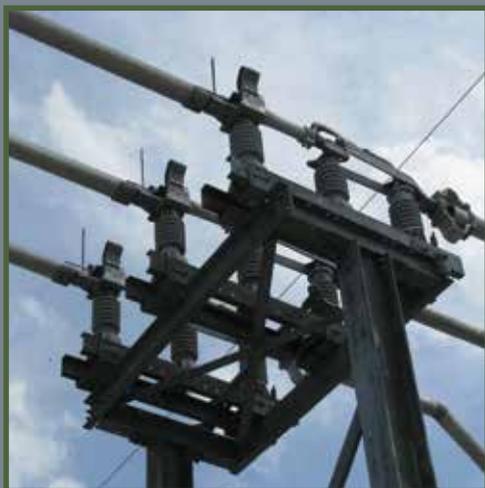
To learn about the Phillips Center at Briarcrest’s complete offerings, book your tee time or inquire about wedding or banquet facilities, please be sure to visit their website, www.briarcrestcc.org or give them a call at 979-776-0133.

*ed to come out to enjoy time with family, friends and
course, extensive tennis facility, beautiful swimming
ms or our new wedding venue.”*





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Relays and measuring devices, such as current and voltage transformers, exist throughout the substation and continually feed information back to the control building. These devices monitor the system for faults and open breakers so the system can continue working even when a fault is detected.

Substations 101: Powerful Connections That Affect Our Daily Lives

BTU operates 26 substations throughout its 860 square mile service territory. Substations throughout the Brazos County are an integral part of how BTU provides electric power to homes and businesses. To help understand the importance of substations, we decided to share an article that appeared in the June 2013 Ulteig newsletter, Connect. To read the article in its entirety, please visit <http://www.ulteig.com/substations-101>.

When you pass a substation, you may regard it as little more than a jumble of metal and wires humming quietly as you roll by. Once you understand the power behind substations and why they're important, you may see them a bit differently.

Substations connect our world to the electric grid system and help protect that same system from damage. They also provide multiple paths for power to flow in the system and, most importantly, substations change voltage from a transport level to a usable level in our homes, allowing us to light a room or cook a meal.

A transmission system at work

Comprehending the importance of substations requires a little understanding about how the transmission system is set up.

The transmission system carries power from

substation to substation and then to the distribution system until the power reaches the user. Ulteig Technical Manager Mark Scheid describes the transmission level as purposefully designed with the flexibility to route lines in different ways. "If you need to take the line out of service, you can temporarily increase the loading on other lines," he explained. "This will provide an opportunity to work around the line and then put that line back into service." Substations act as nodes that allow this switching of transmission line paths to occur.

Determining the transmission line voltage level involves knowing how much power the end user needs and the distance the line travels. "Planning is an important part of the system because you figure out how many contingencies need to be built into the system," Scheid said. A metropolitan area requires a larger source of power than a rural community, so redundancies, such as additional relays and more loops, are included for instances when a line needs to be taken out of service.

Engineers address questions ahead of time regarding how many failures the system can take and how many components can be shut down for maintenance without risking any major problems. System failures can be internal—like equipment failure—or external—like a tree brushing up against a transmission line. "The system is built to withstand a certain amount of failure,



but even a small failure at the right time can cause a major shutdown,” Scheid explained. Engineers carefully consider the physical space of the substation and tailor the design to balance space constraints with the ability to maintain and operate the substation, so when work is required, it can be done quickly and safely without sacrificing reliability.

Converting the power

Within a substation, transformers play a critical role in making the power usable for various entities. When a transmission line comes into the substation, it goes through a transformer that either steps up or steps down the power—depending on where the line is headed.

For instance, a bulk transmission or high voltage system, such as 345 kV, wouldn’t be distributed for use to a home because it is designed for a longer distance and a larger load. To make a higher voltage line usable to household consumers, the line comes into the substation and through the transformer. Once the transformer steps down the voltage, the line is distributed in a more practical format. “Once the voltage is stepped down, you know the power won’t need to travel as far,” Scheid explained.

A single transformer can handle multiple lines in a given substation, and a line may be stepped down more than once before it reaches the distribution system. In the instance of delivering power to a residential area, the distribution line is fed underground from the substation to another transformer where it travels to each house.

Protecting the system

Substations typically include a protection and control building or house on-site. This component of the

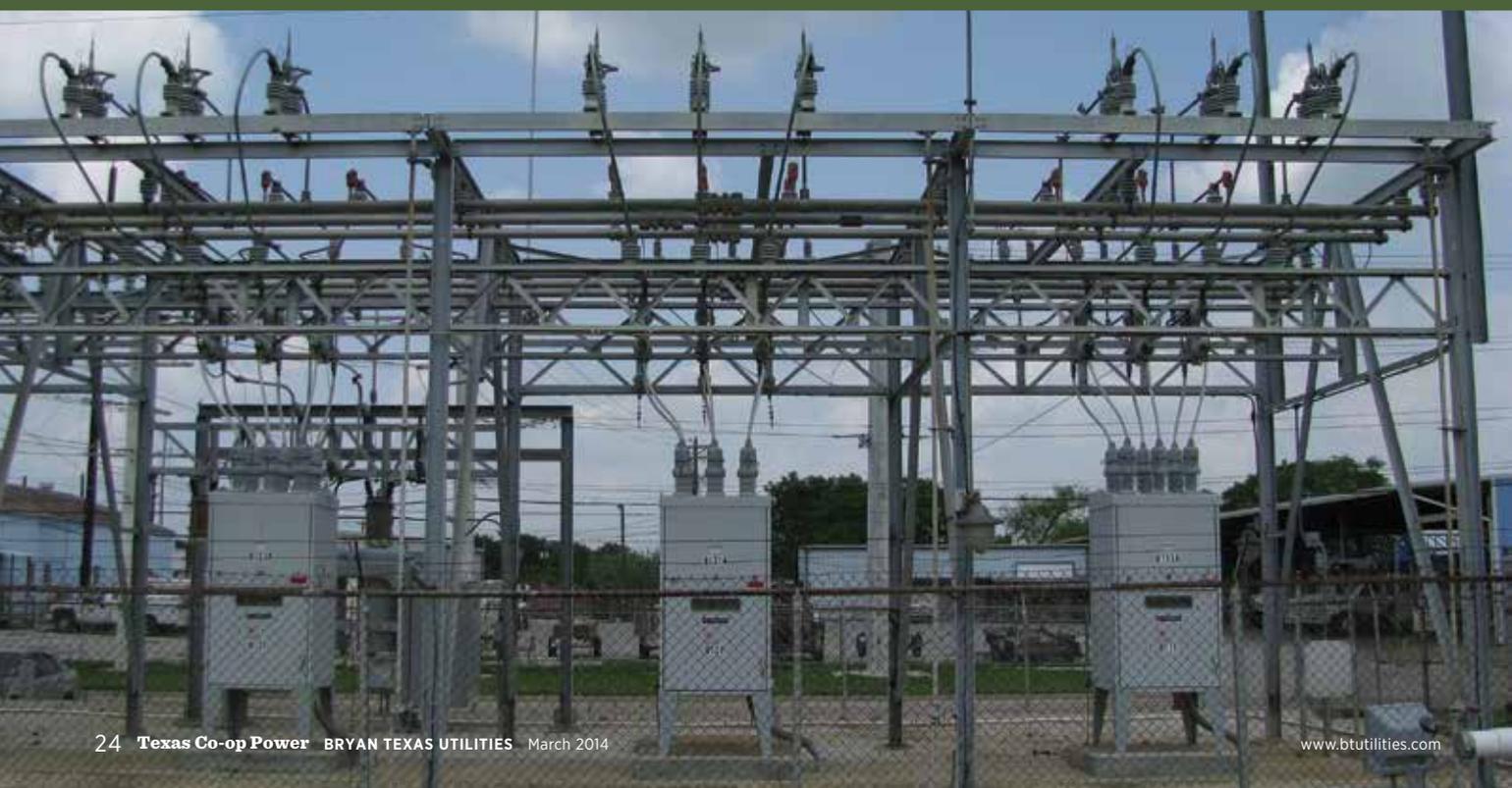
substation houses all protective relays, programming and wiring. The protection and control system also identifies any potential faults.

Relays and measuring devices, such as current and voltage transformers, exist throughout the substation and continually feed information back to the control building. These devices monitor the system for faults and open breakers so the system can continue working even when a fault is detected. “Protection and control engineers make sure all the relays have the right information from the right line to detect any faults,” Scheid said.

Because the client may have multiple substations distributed throughout a large area, each protection and control building incorporates System Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology. “A SCADA system collects information from multiple devices at a facility and reports that information back to the owner’s control center,” Ulteig Design Engineer Seth Maslowski explained. “This allows the operator to see what’s going on, make informed decisions and take corrective action.” The control center can remotely operate equipment at the substation.

“The bigger the substation, the more critical the protection and control and the SCADA system are and the more it’s relied on to contain the critical information,” Scheid added. All of BTU’s 26 substations are connected to SCADA.

So the next time you see a substation, don’t just blink it away. Stop to marvel at its intricate maze of metal and wires and listen to the hum of power traveling to and from the site. You’ll be glad you did because you’ll understand just how important that substation is to powering your daily life.



Don't Blow the Party

Mylar Balloons can Disrupt Area Power

As your celebrations move outside, please remember Acrowd favored and loved balloons can wreak havoc on the festivities. Sure balloons are a lot of fun to give and receive, but despite their seeming innocence, they can bring an abrupt end to parties as well as the normal activities around you. Every year in the Bryan area alone, several incidences occur that disrupt power and pose a serious threat for as few as one and as many as several hundred customers.

Balloons are synonymous with happy occasions. But as well-intentioned and innocuous as they may seem, balloons (particularly Mylar), if not handled safely, have the potential to not only be disruptive but also exceedingly dangerous and even life-threatening.

"Mylar balloons are made out of a metallic material that can cause short circuits and eventually lead to equipment failure when they come into contact with

power lines," explained Ray Berger, BTU's Safety & Training Officer.

"Oversized and groups of latex balloons can cause the same issues, for that matter. Several times a year, BTU responds to disruptions caused by balloons."

Just one balloon can create a short circuit (shown above), which may melt an electrical wire and cause it to fail. Always assume power lines are energized. Keep yourself, your equipment and all other items at least 10 feet away from power lines. If a balloon or any object becomes entangled in an overhead power line, don't climb the pole or make any other attempt to retrieve it.



Mylar Balloon Safety

To reduce the risk of these incidents, BTU recommends the following six ways to keep Mylar balloons from spoiling your party.

1. Always attach a weight (plastic to ensure they're grounded properly) to metallic balloons.
2. Never release a metallic balloon outdoors.
3. Keep metallic balloons away from power lines.
4. Never use metallic ribbon with metallic or latex balloons.
5. Always deflate metallic balloons and dispose of them properly when no longer in use.
6. Never release large/oversized latex balloons or large bunches of latex balloons. They can strike power lines when released or when they fall back to the ground in addition to other negative ecological impacts.



We're asking that florists and other merchants help keep the festivities safe by always making certain that metallic balloons are properly weighted and reminding their customers not to release them outdoors.