



# BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

## FINANCIAL

Joe Hegwood presented the financial report to the BTU Board of Directors. Mr. Hegwood highlighted several items illustrating net revenues, operating and capital costs of the City and Rural systems.

BTU's CIP spending in the City and Rural systems are currently under budget due primarily to the timing of distribution work.

Mr. Hegwood discussed large items purchased in December.

### Items over \$100,000

- CIP Projects for FY2015 awarded to Utility Lines Construction in the amount of \$116,699.
- Relay testing and inspections awarded to Tidal Power Services in the amount of \$139,040.

### December Disbursements Exceeding \$25,000

- As per the BTU Procurement Policy/Procedures, the previous month's purchases were presented in the Board handouts with a brief explanation.

## OPERATIONS

The SAIDI and SAIFI report for the month of January was presented. Mr. Trimble stated that January was a good SAIDI and SAIFI month and that the significant outages which occurred in city and rural were weather related.



## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: [ContactBTU@btutilities.com](mailto:ContactBTU@btutilities.com)

Hours of Operation  
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Board of Directors

Mr. Carl L. Benner, Chairman  
Mr. Paul Turney, Vice Chairman  
Mr. David Bairrington, Treasurer  
Mr. Art Hughes, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Flynn Adcock  
Mr. Bill Ballard  
Mr. Ben Hardeman  
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

### General Manager

Gary Miller

### Group Managers

Randy Trimble  
David Werley

### Division Managers

James Bodine  
Bill Bullock  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Vicki Reim  
Scott Smith  
James Tanneberger  
Wes Williams

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer/Controller

### 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

# SAVE MONEY LIVE COMFORTABLY



ARE YOU LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME?  
IF SO, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE INCENTIVES  
AS PART OF BTU'S **SmartHOME** PROGRAM.

**SmartHOME** is designed to educate and assist residential customers on energy efficiency projects, whether you choose to do it yourself or hire a contractor.



## three ways to save

### SOLAR SCREENS

Adding solar screens to your home is one of the most cost-effective ways to save on your energy bill.

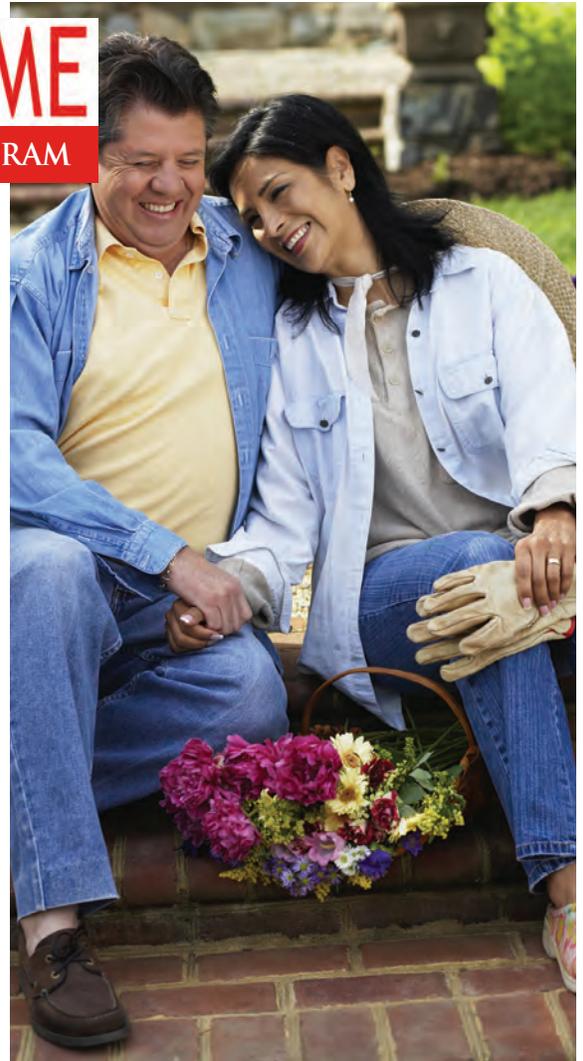
If you are a homeowner on a budget, installing solar screens can be a great alternative to replacing windows in your home. More importantly, as a BTU customer, you may be eligible for a **SmartHOME** incentive payment if the solar screens you install block at least 65 percent of the sun's rays on windows facing east or west in your home.

### WINDOWS

Having the right window doesn't just make your home look good, it can make your home feel good, too. Typically, high-performance windows with a low-E coating and double pane glass will help improve your home's energy performance. By installing these ENERGY STAR® rated windows, you may also be eligible for a BTU **SmartHOME** incentive payment.

### ATTIC & WALL INSULATION

Installing proper attic and wall insulation can make your home more comfortable throughout the year and save you money over time. Did you know that according to the U.S. Department of Energy, homes in the Brazos Valley need attic insulation with a minimum value of R-30 and wall insulation of R-13? Through BTU's **SmartHOME** program, homeowners whose current attic insulation is between R-0 and R-22 may be eligible for a **SmartHOME** incentive payment when newly installed insulation reaches the recommended R-30 value. Incentive payments for wall insulation are available to those homeowners who reach the standard R-13 value and have no existing exterior wall insulation.



For more information or to download an application form, go to [www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com) or call 979.821.5700.



# EDUCATED ENERGY

STORY AND NEAL ELEMENTARY PHOTO BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

**BRYAN I.S.D. IS TAKING ENERGY MANAGEMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. AND DOING IT HOW YOU WOULD EXPECT - WITH AN EDUCATED APPROACH.**

Walking through Neal Elementary School in Bryan, you'll notice the characteristics of an excellent teaching and learning environment. There are posters and student artwork on the walls, and human-sized models of monuments like the Statue of Liberty standing at the end of hallways.

What you might not notice is the lighting.

It just looks like your normal everyday lighting that has been used in buildings for decades. But this lighting is special. These lights are all light-emitting diode, or LED. These lights are going to save the school district a lot of money.

## FORMING AN ENERGY PHILOSOPHY

"We want our energy philosophy to be compatible with the district's vision

“We want to do energy projects that not only increase efficiency and provide savings, but also do no harm to the learning environment.”

*Steve Peterson,  
Operations Coordinator  
for Bryan I.S.D.*



of ‘children first, always,’” said Steve Peterson, Operations Coordinator for the school district. “We want to do energy projects that not only increase efficiency and provide savings but also do no harm to the learning environment.”

Peterson is an Accredited Texas Energy Manager and is helping lead the charge for efficiency in the school district’s power usage. “We want to do measurable projects where we can identify the savings,” Peterson said. “Savings must be measurable. We’re not going to waste taxpayer money.”

How do you measure those savings? You gather a vast amount of data and start analyzing it to find where you can be more efficient - and where you can have the greatest impact, in the shortest time, for the lowest cost. That’s where Paul Buckner comes in.

Buckner is the school district’s Energy and Sustainability Specialist. His job is to go through all of this data and see where the inefficiencies are. Then he and Peterson figure out how to improve them.

“We’ve gone from checkers to chess in how we approach energy savings,” Peterson said.

### FROM PHILOSOPHY TO REALITY

There are many ways for the school district to save energy. Some of the technical innovations include more efficient air conditioning equipment, LED lighting, and automated sensors that turn lights off when areas are empty. But time-tested techniques and education can go a long way too. Simply taking advantage of natural daylight, or manually turning off the lights when no one is around, can have a big impact.

Last summer, all of the lights at Neal Elementary School were replaced with LEDs. The old air conditioning chiller unit was replaced with a new, more efficient model, and a couple of other small changes were made. And the results?

“A conservative estimate of savings for the future would be \$800-\$1000 per month due to the LED lights and the more efficient chiller,” Buckner said. He and Peterson said that they had expected a 2-to-3-year payoff on the cost of installing the LED lights from the energy savings alone, and based on the first year’s numbers they are going to meet that goal.

*(continued on next page)*





At Rudder High School, all of the lights in the auditorium were just replaced with LEDs. This will result in energy savings of about \$120 per month - just for that one room. And Branch Elementary is next on the list. The school is scheduled to go all LED this summer.

Buckner said the extremely long life of the LED light also saves on manpower and replacement time, since they don't burn out as quickly as traditional lights.

"If you installed an LED bulb on the day that your child started Kindergarten, then you shouldn't have to replace that bulb until your child graduates high school," Buckner said. "That's the lifespan - and the savings - we're talking about here."

### THE NINJA STRATEGY

A ninja is often depicted as a master of agility, endurance, and invisibility. This is the kind of strategy that Peterson and Buckner want to implement in their projects.

"We want to be like a ninja," Peterson said. "We don't want them to notice what we've done." Buckner added that whether it is utilizing new computer software and sensors, or just replacing gym lighting, the end results need to be seamless. New LED bulbs may not have to be changed for a decade, but the lights and fixtures still have the same look, and the change is unnoticeable to the average person. "That's invisibility," Buckner said.

And that ties back to the energy and education philosophy. At the end of the day, it's all about the students. Being more energy efficient allows the school district to use its funds in other areas to provide students with an

exemplary learning environment. That's what's happening at Bryan I.S.D. They're putting 'children first, always.'

### A BRIGHT FUTURE

Energy efficiency isn't the only thing that is looking bright these days at Bryan I.S.D. The educational outlook for the district is also looking good. Many schools in the district received distinctions for the 2013-2014 school year. Distinctions are awarded based on a comparison group of 40 closely matching schools throughout Texas and are based on excellence in these categories:

- Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts (ELA)
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics
- Academic Achievement in Science
- Academic Achievement in Social Studies
- Top 25 percent Student Progress
- Post-secondary Readiness
- Closing Performance Gaps



Here are the distinctions Bryan I.S.D. schools received:

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

**Bryan Collegiate:** Reading/ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Closing Performance Gaps, Post-secondary Readiness

**Bryan:** Reading/ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Post-secondary Readiness

**Rudder:** Mathematics, Social Studies

#### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Stephen F. Austin:** Reading/ELA, Science, Social Studies

**Jane Long:** Reading/ELA, Social Studies, Post-secondary Readiness

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**Jones:** Student Progress

**Kemp-Carver:** Reading/ELA

**Fannin:** Mathematics

**Johnson:** Reading/ELA, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, Post-secondary Readiness

**Ross:** Student Progress

**Houston:** Reading/ELA, Science

**Navarro:** Mathematics, Science

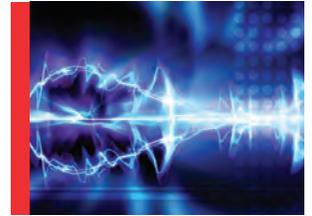
**Bowen:** Science

**Neal:** Reading/ELA, Mathematics, Science, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, Post-secondary Readiness

**Mitchell:** Science

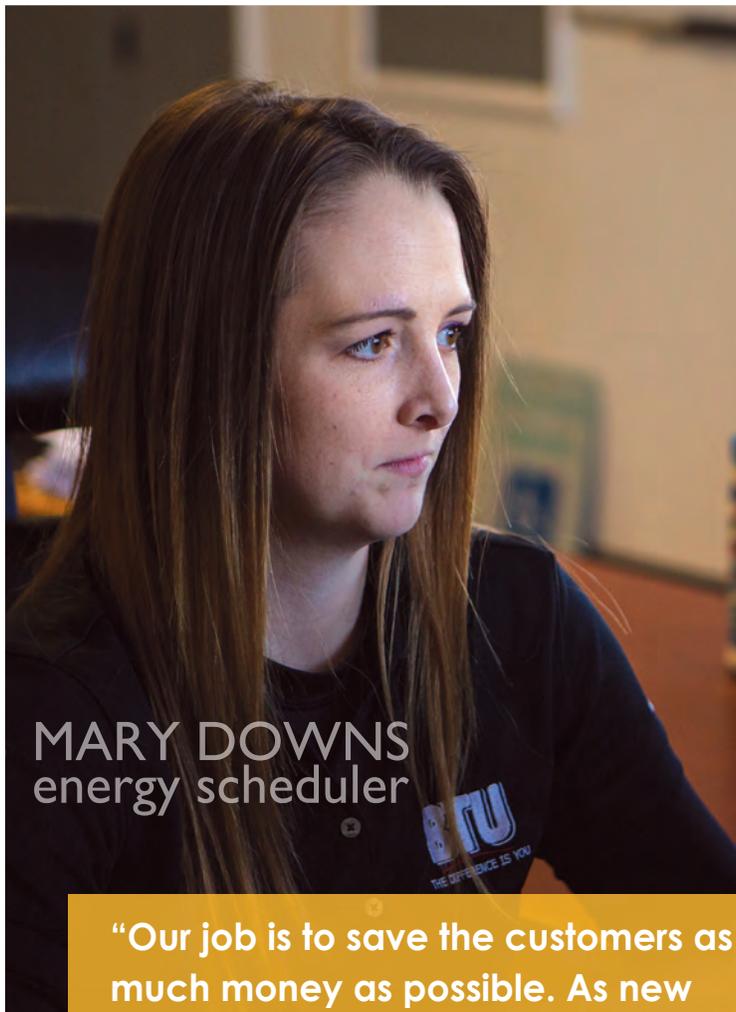
*Congratulations to Bryan I.S.D. on these well deserved awards!*

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



STORY BY GINA FLORENCE | PHOTO BY RYAN STOUT

“IT WAS A WHIRLWIND TO GET BACK TO BCS, TO END UP AT THE JOB I WANTED THE ENTIRE TIME.”



MARY DOWNS  
energy scheduler

“Our job is to save the customers as much money as possible. As new situations arise, we can actually increase generation or purchase energy to cover our needs. We are not stuck being price takers like many other companies.”

**MARY DOWNS** graduated from Bryan High School and went on to the University of Texas where she earned a degree in Energy Finance. After graduating in 2012, she moved to Denver, Colorado for a brief period. “I hate the snow,” she said. So she relocated back to Austin for a year.

“I knew I wanted to do something in this field. Being a local, I knew of BTU and so I kept looking for the right opportunity.” The right opportunity came along in 2013, allowing her to move back to Bryan-College Station and begin her career at BTU as an Energy Scheduler.

Energy Schedulers maintain a 24-hour, seven-days-per-week operation. They monitor both day-ahead and real-time data for opportunities for buying and selling power on the electric grid.

BTU Energy Schedulers work on a five-week rotating schedule that includes working 12-hour shifts from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. “It takes a unique personality to work this job; no single day is the same. Things change often for better or worse and we have to think on our toes. We can’t let the stress get to us.”

As a self-described “math nerd,” Mary does spend plenty of time outside of work focusing on hobbies and giving back to the community. “I’m working on my SCUBA certification right now. I love to travel and I want to go SCUBA diving in Belize.” She is also involved with the Christmas Angels at Bryan Broadcasting, The Bridge, part of Twin Cities Mission, and Young Professionals of Aggieland.

She is also studying for her North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC) certification, an industry certification. “I plan to be at BTU for a while. I like that you can build your own spot here. If I see something that I want to work on and make better, I can make an impact.” ■



# CITY OF BRYAN PHOTO CONTEST

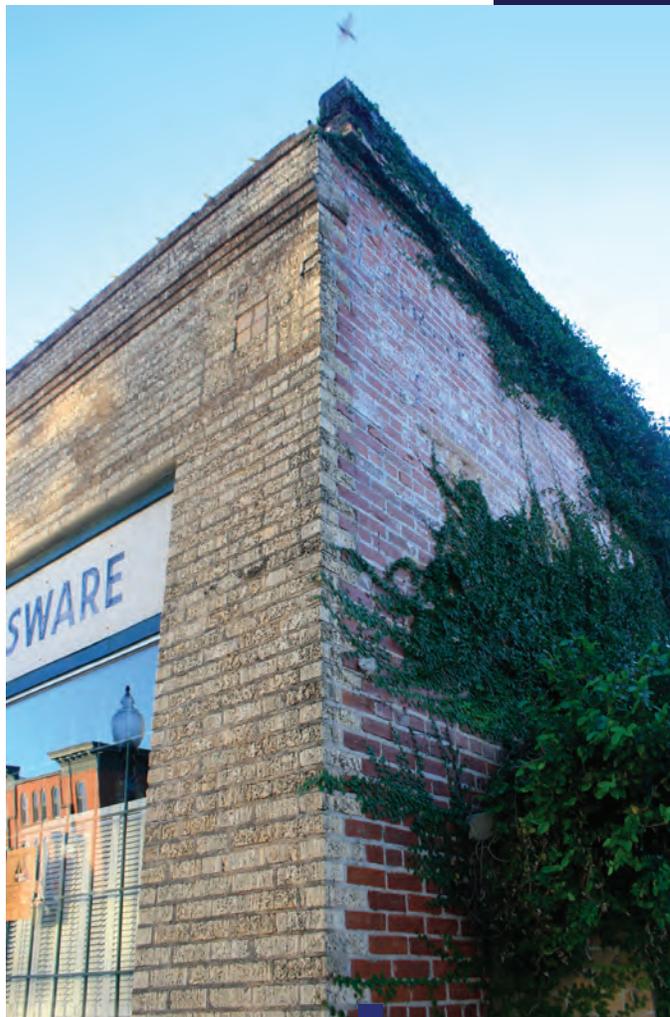
STORY BY GINA FLORENCE

THE CITY OF BRYAN HELD ITS FIRST PHOTO CONTEST  
AND GOT FANTASTIC ENTRIES!

**W**inners of the 2014 Best of Bryan Photo Contest were announced on February 10, 2015. Photographers of all skill levels and ages were encouraged to submit photos in four categories, Best of City, Best of Parks, Best of Sports, and Best by Youth, between September 16 - December 31, 2014. A panel of local photography professionals and members of the City of Bryan Communications Department judged the photos.

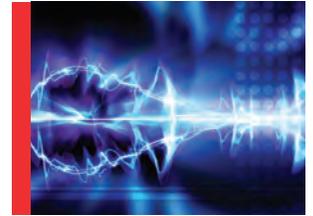
Winners were recognized at the Bryan City Council meeting on February 10th. Here is the complete list of winners in the four categories: *Best of City* - Ed Muntu, Jennifer Gott, and Ron Collins; *Best of Parks* - Erin Hill and Tracy Bloom; *Best of Sports* - Denise Ponzio; *Best of Youth* - Reagan Smith, Savannah Troy and Edith Garcia. Through the City of Bryan's Facebook page, the public is voting on their "People's Choice" award winner from more than 70 entries.

The next City of Bryan Photo contest will be held later this year. Information will be posted on the city's website at [www.bryantx.gov](http://www.bryantx.gov).



**FIRST PLACE WINNER  
BEST OF YOUTH  
REAGAN SMITH**





**FIRST PLACE WINNER  
BEST OF PARKS  
ERIN HILL**

“We are very pleased with the number and the quality of the entries we received,” said Abby Johnson, of the City of Bryan Communications and Marketing Department. “This was our first year to hold this type of event and we look forward to what the next photo contest will bring.”



**FIRST PLACE WINNER  
BEST OF CITY  
ED MUNTU**



**FIRST PLACE WINNER  
BEST OF SPORTS  
DENISE PONZIO**