



Board Meeting Notes

The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, February 11, 2013 and discussed the following topics:

Financial

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer of City of Bryan/BTU, presented the 2012 Audited City and Rural Financial Statements. He informed the Board that the audited financial statements had been approved by the City of Bryan Audit Committee in January. Kevin Sanford of Weaver and Tidwell, LLP explained that there are not material weaknesses in the audited financial statements, and there were no significant reporting changes from the previous year.

Mr. Hegwood also presented the financial report to the Board. The net revenues in the City are below budget due to the milder than normal weather and a billing lag with a few industrial customers. The net revenues in Rural are higher due to higher base revenues, lower power costs-base portion and lower department Operations & Maintenance expenses.

The Board reviewed several items over \$100,000, and voted to award Nelson Tree Service a bid for dead tree removal and Power Line Utility Services a bid for TXDOT Hwy 21 Relocation.

Operations

Randy Trimble, Group Manager of Transmission and Distribution, presented the SAIDI and SAIFI reports for January. He explained that the majority of the outages were due to weather conditions and animal contact.

David Werley, Group Manager of Business and Customer Operations, presented two proposed energy efficiency programs to the Board:

- *Smart HOME*, which will give residential customers a rebate on items such as attic and wall insulation, energy star windows and solar screens beginning March 1, 2013.
- *Smart Business*, which will offer greater flexibility for commercial business accounts beginning October 1, 2013.

Mr. Trimble next presented several Resolutions authorizing the Board to sign releases of blanket easements. The Board approved releasing blanket easements located at the intersection of TX-Hwy 6 and Mile Drive, near the intersection of Health Science Center Parkway and South Traditions Drive and from 3226 to 3232 Peterson Way.

Lee Starr, Chief Risk Officer, presented a revised Energy Risk Management Policy which includes ERCOT's recently adopted revised protocol requiring ERCOT Market Participants to maintain a Risk Management Policy. The Board approved the revised policy.

Lastly, the Board approved a recommendation that the Bryan City Council approve the sale of 20 acres of land adjacent to the Dansby Power Plant at the end of the Louis E. Mikulin Road.

Bryan Texas Utilities

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

ContactBTU@btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

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

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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



CRESTVIEW

Changing the Way You Think of Retirement Living

Story by Keri Honea. Photos courtesy of Crestview.

More than 50 years ago, 1962 to be exact, a team of community leaders and Methodist clergy members banded together to build a home for the senior citizens of the Brazos Valley. The doors to Crestview Retirement Community opened in 1964, and they have been serving the community's senior citizens with faith-based, personal care ever since. In 1970, they became the second community to join the Methodist Retirement Communities (MRC) family of communities and their affiliates, which serve senior adults in the Wesleyan tradition of faith-based wholeness.

A modern, state-of-the-art and elegantly appointed Crestview sits on 25 manicured acres in Bryan, and they offer a wide variety of services for seniors, filling virtually every need imaginable, including independent apartments, assisted living apartments, special memory support apartments for residents with dementia, 24-hour skilled nursing care, rehabilitation and therapy services and home health care.

As part of MRC, Crestview has been committed to transforming the way residents feel about retirement living. Their method? While they offer an incredible number of amenities, from transportation to restaurant-style dining to social and recreational programs, it really is all about Crestview's amazing staff. From the heads of the company to the

volunteers, everyone who works at Crestview has a drive to care for people and treat everyone, including co-workers and residents, as part of a their own family. All of the innovative programs in the world can be undermined by poor staffing, so Crestview focuses on building a sturdy, faith-based and caring foundation to support their superior amenities and services.

"Crestview has adopted the ICARE values from the Methodist Hospital system as part of our hiring process," Alyssa Adam, Vice President of Marketing for MRC, explained. "ICARE is an acronym that stands for integrity, compassion, accountability, respect and excellence. We look for these characteristics when we hire employees and, of course, we strongly encourage our employees to express these values with their service every day."

As a result, Alyssa explains that their staff is a carefully chosen and nurturing team who are always driven to care for seniors and do what is best for them.

"With these values, the relationships that form between the residents and the workers is like a big family here," Donna Williams, Crestview Executive Assistant, elaborated. "Our hearts are in it, so it's more than a job."
"Personally, I have never worked with a



more dedicated group of people,” Alyssa emphasized. “I feel that they care for me as a person first and as an employee second.”

This feeling of being cared about and caring for others is definitely felt by their nearly 200 employees, as is evidenced by the numerous long-term staffers. One staff member has been with Crestview for over 30 years. Several others have been part of the Crestview family for 15 and 25 years and counting!

In addition to their full-time staff, Crestview has a volunteer program which offers internships to high school students and nursing students from Blinn College. They also hire nursing students from Blinn as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) or Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN), which gives the students invaluable experience to put on their resumes before they even graduate and become full-fledged Registered Nurses (RN). The high school volunteer program, or WYSE (Wisdom for Youth from Senior Expertise), pairs high school students with residents in a mentor program. In one recent seminar, the seniors shared their life experiences from living through the Depression, World War II and the Cold War, giving the students a chance to learn their elders’ life lessons. In return, the seniors were able to meaningfully engage with their community, and many reported feeling a new sense of purpose while talking with and educating the students.

Since Crestview is a non-profit organization, they look to their extended family in the community for help and support as they serve their family of residents. They host fundraisers throughout the year that are always a huge success thanks to the Bryan-College Station community. One such fundraiser is coming up, called Crestview Treasures, that will take place on April 18th and 19th at the Brazos Center. The fundraiser consists of both a live and silent auction, with all proceeds helping out Crestview residents who have exhausted their funds.

“The treasures up for auction are truly a gift from which many benefit,” Alyssa clarified. “The community gives their valuable items to sell, allowing us to raise the funds to help our residents in need.” If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, or you would like to volunteer your time at the fundraiser, please contact Donna Williams at 979-220-5191.

Still not sure how Crestview could possibly change how you think of retirement living? You can learn more by visiting their website, www.arboroaksatcrestview.com giving them a call at 979-776-4778 or stopping by the community itself at 2505 E. Villa Maria Road in Bryan. Come find out why after their first visit, so many future residents realize they had no idea how wonderful retirement living could be!



Crestview offers a wide variety of services for seniors, filling virtually every need imaginable, including independent apartments, assisted living apartments, special memory support apartments for residents with dementia, 24-hour skilled nursing care, rehabilitation and therapy services and home health care.

Meet Your BTU General Manager

Story by Louellen S. Coker. Photos by Bob Wheeler and Louellen S. Coker.

February 2013 marked the beginning of a new era in Bryan Texas Utilities' (BTU) history when Gary Miller was named General Manager. And while his title may be a new one for him, he is no stranger to either BTU or the power production and distribution industry.

Over the course of his 29 years in the utility industry, Gary has worked with investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), with the last eight years at BTU in the positions of Division Manager-QSE Power Marketing, Group Manager-QSE Power Marketing & Power Production, and most recently, as Interim General Manager.

This Bridge City, Texas native received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas in 1984 and began the career path that would lead him to both BTU and the love of his life, his wife, Sandra. In addition to meeting his wife while working at the Lower Colorado River Authority (LRCA) in Austin, he also helped create a working computer model of the entire ERCOT bulk power transmission system and managed all aspects of the ERCOT Security Information System, including system reliability, efficiency, applications, contract negotiation and purchasing.

Over the next 25 years, Gary would delve deeper into different aspects of the industry as he performed his duties at different locations in Texas as Principal Engineer with

As BTU's General Manager, Gary oversees the entire utility operation; there is no aspect of BTU for which he is not responsible. And as part of that role, he coordinates with the City of Bryan to ensure that BTU and the City are on the same page and that everything functions together to the benefit of the City, BTU and, ultimately, the customer.

ERCOT, Transmission & Substation Engineer at South Texas Electric Cooperative, Director of Power Supply at Rayburn Electric Cooperative, Power Marketer at Delhi Energy Services, Inc. and Manager-Dispatch Optimization and Scheduling at TXU, before starting his tenure at BTU.

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He explained, "I rely on BTU's talented Group Managers to run their divisions, enabling me to spend much of my time coordinating the activities of the different groups within BTU, working with the BTU Board of Directors and taking care of strategic and legal issues to ensure BTU is poised to provide the best service at the best price for our customers now and well into the future. It's been enjoyable to see the enthusiasm and the willingness to work together from BTU's employees and departments as we strive to attain our unified goals."

As he begins his term as General Manager, Gary's goal is to continue BTU's tradition of providing the most value for its customers and to be among the most competitive for rates in Texas. "The availability of power and its associated rates affect people every day and in every aspect of their lives," Gary elaborated. "To ensure BTU appropriately meets the varied needs of our customers, we continuously focus on the major areas of customer service, employee safety and recognition, reliability and rates."

As he navigates the entity through the usual adjustments



that a shift in general management bring; Gary will also be guiding BTU through significant change in the BTU Board of Directors and a more integrated interaction with the City of Bryan.

Concerning the Board of Directors, Gary commented, “We basically have a brand new Board, with five out of seven members beginning their terms less than one year ago. I’m excited by the level of commitment and enthusiasm all our directors have shown for making an impact on the organization. They’re all focused on the same goals and they are a very knowledgeable and qualified group.”

As balance is reached as integration with the City of Bryan is enhanced, Gary anticipates that the changes will ultimately be positive: “There will inevitably be some growing pains as we modify how BTU and the City interact. The result will be beneficial for everyone. The end goal is mutually beneficial, the challenge is in reaching it.”

Along with facilitating the internal growth, Gary will ensure that BTU is poised for growth within the community and region through making certain that BTU can provide the best service at the best rate with the balanced blend of traditional, solar and wind energy production and procurement. “The Brazos Valley is expected to grow as the biomedical industry expands in the region. It is entirely possible that we will experience more explosive growth than anticipated. If that happens, it will be a significant challenge, but BTU looks forward to meeting it and is poised to face that challenge.”

Though much of Gary’s attention is directed toward BTU, his family is the most important focal point of his life. He and Sandra celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this year. Gary smiled as he said, “Sandra, a former co-worker at LRCA, was the best take-away from my first job in the industry. Not only has she been a great support to me throughout my career, she’s also been an amazing mother to our three kids.”

Their 24-year-old daughter, Courtney graduated from Texas State University and has followed her father into the energy industry. Son, Dean, is 22 and works in the natural gas industry here in Bryan. Youngest daughter, Mikki, is in the 8th grade at A&M Consolidated Middle School where she plays in the band.

The Miller family are members of A&M United Methodist Church, and over the years have enjoyed family vacations centered on hiking, camping and boating. Gary reflected, “We spend as much time together as possible throughout the year, but try to take at least one family vacation annually.”

We’d like to welcome Gary to his new General Manager position at BTU. If you would like to contact Gary, please email him at gmler@btutilities.com.

Gary Miller



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Bryan's Messina Hof Named Top All-Around Winery, Wins International Acclaim

Story by Louellen S. Coker. Photos courtesy of Messina Hof.

Bryan's local treasure, Messina Hof Winery & Resort (Messina Hof), brings international acclaim to our area after winning a prestigious award at the Houston Livestock Rodeo earlier this year.

Messina Hof was founded in 1977 by Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo with its name being a blending of Paul's Italian roots in Messina, Italy and Merrill's in Hof, Germany. Though Messina Hof was started with no idea of creating the winery as it is today—it was created as a way to help out Texas A&M University students—the winery made its first commercial sales in 1983 with a modest 1,300 gallon production. Today the winery produces more than 150,000 gallons each year and has expanded its footprint to include two resort locations (in Bryan and the Texas Hill Country) with tasting rooms, event facilities and overnight accommodations. The Bonarrigo family has been a pioneer in the Texas wine industry—creating premium wines of distinction and a landmark wine country destination.

The Bonarrigos have designed their resorts to create a unique experience steeped in the tradition of quality wine making. They are excited to bring these traditions to life

and enjoy telling the story of their family and the history of winemaking during tours of their vineyard. Paul elaborated, "From the table that my family has used for generations for our vintner tests, to the winemaking process and even to the decor in our Villa, we focus on creating an experience that is unparalleled."

With their center of attention directed at creating both excellent wines and experiences, it comes as no surprise that Messina Hof garnered international acclaim when it was named the Top All-Around Winery at the 2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Uncorked! International Wine Competition. And making this prize all the sweeter, it is the first Texas winery to win this prestigious title.

"We focus on producing wines of exceptional quality, and these awards help to tell the story of the high quality Texas wines being produced today," explained Paul and Merrill's son, Paul, Jr., CEO. "At this competition alone, we won an additional 24 awards for the 30 categories we entered. And while we're certainly proud of the awards we win every year, we're most proud that we've developed 75 different product offerings that equate to a wine for every drinker."



The Bonarrigos invite you out to enjoy a unique experience steeped in the tradition of quality winemaking.

Messina Hof
WINERY & RESORT

Paul, Jr. disclosed, “Texans are the second largest consumer sect in the United States and Texas wines are among the best available. These awards help further our family’s mission of educating wine drinkers that they can enjoy outstanding vintages and experiences in their own backyard.”

Every member of the family brings his or her strengths to the table. “My father’s and my strength lay in the more technical side of the production process. On the other hand, my mother and my wife, Karen Bonarrigo, pick up the different nuances in the taste; the more food-friendly side of the wine. As the winery has grown, we have expanded our staff to include experts in the field from all over the United States.”

Messina Hof’s renown goes beyond their delightful wines. Their Bryan Villa Bed and Breakfast, a AAA Four-Diamond Resort, was named “The Most Romantic Hideaway in the US” by Arrington’s Book of Lists. Both the Bryan and new Hill Country locations offer the perfect setting for anyone looking for a romantic getaway or simply some time to relax in a beautiful setting. Whether enjoying a sumptuous breakfast, indulging in a spa experience or luxuriating amidst the lavish furnishings, Messina Hof offers something for everyone.

The Bryan property boasts 100 acres with a vineyard, production facility, luxurious eleven room bed and breakfast, tasting room, its four-star restaurant, named the Vintage House, and provides the perfect backdrop for professional gatherings and milestone celebrations such as weddings, anniversaries and birthdays throughout the year.

In 2011, the Bonarrigos opened their Hill Country Winery and Manor Haus in Fredericksburg (located at 9996 US Hwy 290 East). In addition to four delightfully appointed cottages, the facility has a beautiful wine garden complete with marble gazebo, tasting room and event facilities which make it the perfect location for a wide

variety of gatherings.

Both locations offer more than the typical wine tasting experience. Regularly scheduled monthly events that focus on wine appreciation, wine and chocolate, or port, sherry and cheese pairings offer opportunities for wine lovers of all levels a chance to further develop their appreciation for Texas wines.

Two exciting events will be hosted in April here in Bryan. On April 19, Messina Hof will be hosting the Yellow Rose Ball of Texas featuring limited and exclusive Spring Release wines and celebrating the 177th anniversary of both the Texas Revolution and the Battle at San Jacinto. The following day, April 20, an expected crowd of 3,000 attendees will participate in the 29th Annual Wine and Roses Festival. This festival, centered around the celebration of the budding of the vines and blooming of the roses, will also focus on the heritage of Texas through activities, local products, artisans, food and, of course, world class wine made in Bryan.

The Harvest Festival each July and August is a long-standing favorite event. Each Saturday during the harvest, visitors are able to go into the vineyard, pick ripened grapes and bring them back to the winery. Once back, each person gets to stomp some wine, makes a T-shirt with his/her footprints, tours the facility, tastes finished wines and enjoys a lunchtime feast.

Paul, Jr. enthused, “Harvest Festival is four straight weekends of fun. Of the thousands of people who participate, many have no idea how important both the grape’s skin and pulp are or any idea of the winemaking process. It’s fun to see the awakening of understanding.”

To learn more about Messina Hof, their Bed and Breakfasts, hosted events or scheduling your own event, please visit their website, www.messinahof.com. Or, better yet, stop by 4545 Old Reliance Road in Bryan to enjoy a delectable meal or to sample their award-winning wines.

“...we focus on creating an experience that is unparalleled.”

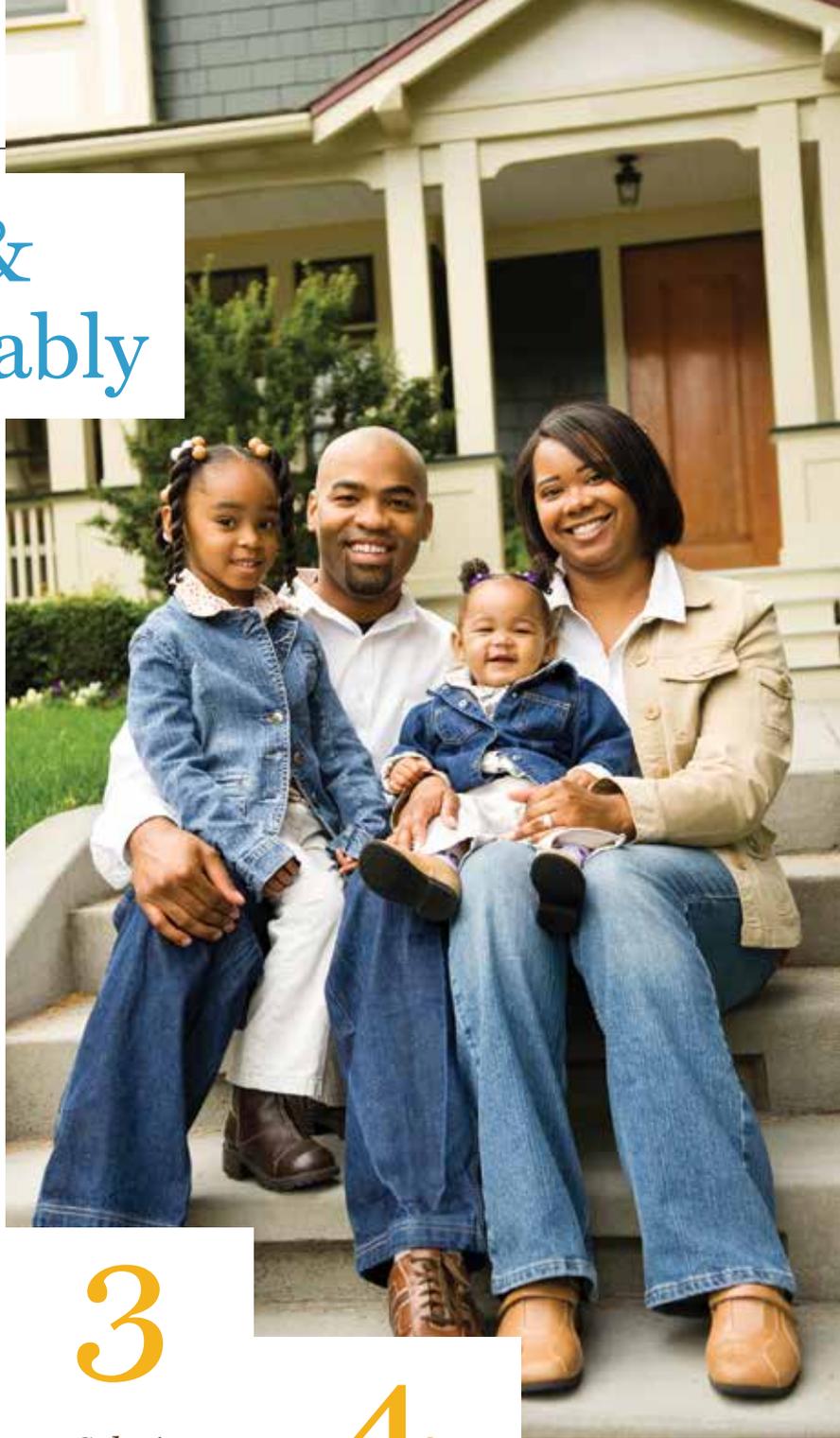


Save Money & Live Comfortably

Are you looking to improve your home? If so, you may be eligible to earn an incentive payment as part of BTU's Smart HOME program. Smart HOME is designed to give residential customers money back on qualified projects, whether you choose to do it yourself or hire a contractor. Qualified projects include

- Installing proper attic and wall insulation
- Installing windows that are ENERGY STAR® rated
- Adding solar screens to your home.

Qualifying homeowners can earn their incentive payment in five easy steps.



1

Submit your Smart HOME application and photos of your current project condition BEFORE you begin work.

2

Complete your home improvement project.

3

Submit contractor or, if doing it yourself, material invoices and improvement specifications to BTU within 60 days of your application being approved.

4

Call BTU to schedule your post-work inspection.

5

Check your mailbox for your incentive payment within 30 days of your inspection.

The Smart HOME program is subject to qualification guidelines and the availability of funds. This program may be terminated at any time without notice.

Visit www.btutilities.com to learn more about the Smart HOME program, see if you qualify and apply.