



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



Board Meeting Notes

The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, June 9, 2014 and discussed the following topics:

Financial

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Bryan/BTU, presented the financial report. BTU is currently ahead of revenue projections for the fiscal year due to the colder than normal winter. The City Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) remains below budget.

He then presented the proposed FY 2015 Operating and Maintenance budgets for all divisions of BTU. These budgets have not changed from last month's presentation. The City budgets for FY 2015 are 1.0% higher than FY 2014, primarily due to employee costs, increased credit card fees and outside service costs. The Board will vote for approval of these budgets next month.

Operations

Randy Trimble, Group Manager of Transmission and Distribution, presented the bids for removing the de-energized 69kV transmission line from Atkins to Snook. The bid was awarded to North Houston Pole Line.

Mr. Trimble next presented bids for replacing the Atkins transformer secondary cable. The Board awarded the bid to Dacon Corporation.

He then discussed the safety statistics for the previous month, which stated that BTU had no at-fault vehicle incidents, no lost time accidents and only one recordable incident, which gives BTU an overall 5.07 incident rate for the year so far.

Mr. Trimble also said that the May SAIDI and SAIFI reports were excellent, and that the outages that occurred in the city and rural systems were caused by lightning from spring storms.



The BTU offices
will be closed
on Monday,
September 2 in
observance of
Labor Day.

Employee Spotlight

Lien Ha

Settlements Analyst



Story by Gina Florence.

Photos by Ryan Stout.

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) was not a company Lien Ha had heard of when she was growing up on the other side of the world. Born in Vietnam, she fled her country after the war when she was nineteen years old. She headed to Washington to attend Gonzaga University and pursue a degree in accounting.

“Accounting is a good field. It requires attention to detail and being good with numbers,” Lien said. “It’s needed by every business and every industry, big or small.”

The high demand for accounting has been advantageous to Lien, as she has moved around in the States as well as abroad to follow her husband’s career. Prior to moving to the Brazos Valley, Lien and her family had moved to Singapore where they lived for twelve years.

“Singapore’s an international hub. We were exposed to many different cultures,” Lien said. “The U.S. has everything, but we miss the exposure to all the international cultures.”

When her husband was offered an opportunity at Texas A&M University as an associate professor of mechanical engineering, the family relocated

back to the States. It was then that she began working at BTU as a Settlements Analyst.

“BTU was the first place I applied when we moved and I’ve been here ever since, about eleven years,” Lien said. “It’s a close-knit group, like a big family. Everyone is so welcoming here.”

Working in the energy field was a new industry to her. She had previously held accounting positions in other industries including investments, manufacturing and insurance. As part of her current role, she works with BTU’s Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) to validate and monitor the energy trading on a daily basis.

“I look at all the factors contributing to the cost of the wholesale price of energy. The information has to be correct and my reports need to be both precise and reliable. This data is used for future planning and budgeting,” Lien said.

When she is not building spreadsheets and reports for the Board of Directors, Lien spends her time with her children, cooking, and gardening to help her relax. Her daughter is working towards her nursing degree and her son is in high school. He plans to work in the petroleum field.

Along with being active in her church locally, Lien and her husband also spend time volunteering for a charity in their native Vietnam. “The charity offers scholarships for underprivileged children to attend school. My husband is able to travel there to spend time with the charity, more than I am able to currently,” Lien said. Having a son active in extracurricular activities has her staying closer to home now, but she hopes that in the future she’ll be able to join him on trips to Vietnam.





Offers Guests Energetic Staff, Modern Amenities and Convenience

Story by Louellen S. Coker.

Photos courtesy of Hilton Garden Inn Bryan/College Station

The Hilton Garden Inn Bryan/College Station (Garden Inn) began serving travelers and meeting-goers in 2013 and has received great reviews from its patrons. The hotel's energetic staff, modern amenities and convenient location have garnered rankings of 4.7 (out of 5) on Expedia (www.expedia.com), 4.5 (out of 5) on Trip Advisor (www.tripadvisor.com) and 4 (out of 5) on Orbitz (www.orbitz.com). They were even recognized as an Excellent Service Provider by the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Many factors, starting with the property's hardworking personnel, contribute to the Garden Inn's success. Nicole Rincones, Garden Inn Director of Sales, said, "At this time, we have a team of 54 people in various positions throughout the hotel. All of our associates are dynamic, polite, efficient, eager to please and do their utmost to deliver the best service to our guests. Because the staff enjoys working as a team in a wonderfully positive environment, our guests ultimately benefit.

"We stand behind the Hilton Garden Inn Satisfaction Promise®: 'We promise to do whatever it takes to ensure you're satisfied, or you don't pay. You can count on us. GUARANTEED™.'"

Along with a welcoming staff, the hotel itself offers many features that make it your perfect "home away from home." Ms. Rincones explained, "We strive to offer our guests a comfortable environment. In our guest rooms, visitors will find a variety of thoughtful touches and modern amenities geared to make them feel at home. They can take advantage of the Keurig coffee maker in each room, stay connected at an

ergonomic desk with complimentary WiFi, have 24-hour access to snacks at the Pavillion Pantry®, enjoy premium channels on the in-room HDTV and rest on plush Serta beds."

In addition to its spacious, well-appointed rooms, the list of amenities of this modern hotel extends to include:

- in-room microwave and mini-refrigerator
- cooked-to-order breakfast
- dinner and evening room service
- on-site dining and libations at The Garden Grille & Bar
- indoor swimming pool
- 24-hour fitness center
- complimentary business center.

Hilton Garden Inn also has the space, staff and amenities for business meetings and social gatherings. They offer delicious on-site catering, state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and WiFi throughout the facility. Meeting rooms include the Brazos Board Room that can accommodate up to 10 people in 324 square feet as well as two 2300 square foot ballrooms that, depending on seating configuration, can entertain groups ranging from 55 to 200 people.

Ms. Rincones elaborated, "Beyond providing the space, we'll help you plan and administer your event. Along with menu-planning advice, we can assist you with managing your guest list or room specifications as well as providing easy-to-use tools to create a personalized group web page for your event that allows you to publish details about the event for your guests."

**"We stand behind the Hilton Garden Inn Satisfaction Promise®:
'We promise to do whatever it takes to ensure you're satisfied, or
you don't pay. You can count on us. GUARANTEED™.'"**



Located at 3081 East University Drive in Bryan, the Hilton Garden Inn is perfectly situated for just about any activity in the area. Ms. Rincones stated, “Just three miles from Texas A&M University, in the center of Aggieland, our friendly hotel offers easy access to Brayton Fire Field, Reed Arena and the George Bush Presidential Library. Our guests can easily explore everything the Bryan-College Station area has to offer: the boutique stores, galleries and unique businesses in Historic Downtown Bryan, Lake Bryan as well as the many nearby restaurants and sports bars, nightclubs and live music venues that make up the eclectic nightlife of the area.”

Stays at the hotel are eligible for Hilton Honors rewards and the Hilton Garden Inn regularly offers special packages, deals and discounts. Complete information about the Hilton Honors program as well as special offers are available through the Hilton Garden Inn’s main website, www.hiltongardeninn.com. You can also learn more by stopping in or calling the hotel directly at 979-703-7919.



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Celebrate the Lone Star State at the 8th Annual Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival

Story by Gina Florence. Photos courtesy of the City of Bryan.

Texas is known as cattle country, but it's also America's fifth largest producer of grapes and wine. For the past seven years residents and tourists have descended on the streets of downtown Bryan to commemorate both at the Texas Reds Steak and Grape Festival.

The event offers tastings of hand-selected Texas wines from Rieslings to Pinot Noirs. To pair with the wine selections, steak will be the main attraction at local downtown eateries that will serve a dish unique to their cuisine.

Downtown Bryan Association has taken over operations for the festival this year to showcase downtown. The festival kicks off on Saturday, September 27, 2014, and runs through Sunday, September 28.

"The historical buildings of downtown Bryan provide a beautiful

backdrop for this year's festival," said Amanda Reynolds, Events and Program Manager with Downtown Bryan Association. "Our theme for the festival is *Texas* to showcase how diverse the state is and all that it has to offer."

To highlight the Lone Star State, there will be five stages of music during the event. For two days, there will be more than 30 Texas bands playing a variety of music from gospel to rock to country.

"The talent in Texas is amazing, and we have so many genres of music to feature," Amanda said. "The wide array of musicians means that there really is something for everyone."

This year, local merchants are getting in on the festival activities as well by serving food and shops will remain open throughout the festival. The festival will spread throughout the

entire downtown area to include all the local businesses.

"We want to incorporate the downtown merchants as much as possible. We've been working with them on the festival planning and looking for ways to include and promote them throughout the event. They are as vested in the success of the event as we are," Amanda said. "The event will span all of downtown to make sure all businesses can be visited by event-goers."

In addition to the local vendors, Downtown Bryan Association is bringing in vendors showing their Lone Star pride through the Texas Department of Agriculture's *Go Texan* initiative. Texas artists and craftspeople will be among the premier vendors at the festival. The Brazos Valley Arts Council will be hosting a juried art show, complete with an art sale.



TEXAS REDS

Steak & Grape

FESTIVAL '14

“The historical buildings of downtown Bryan provide a beautiful backdrop for this year’s festival.”

“Visitors will be able to shop and eat both on the streets with our Texas vendors as well as at their downtown favorites,” Amanda said.

New this year, the festival will also welcome the best of Texas craft beers. One of the most anticipated events will be the Grape Stomp. Teams battle it out in the wine barrels to see who can stomp the most juice. This year’s stomp will benefit the Bryan Lion’s Club.

Other activities and attractions include a kid’s zone, complete with bounce house and obstacle course, and the Suddenlink Sport’s Zone to catch all the weekend’s football action.

Mark your calendar and get ready to have some fun in historic downtown Bryan. More information is available on the event’s website, www.texasredsfestival.com.



Congratulations to BTU Family Member Dion Mack for Receiving Basketball Scholarship

Story by Sara Sherman. Photo courtesy of the Mack Family.

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) is proud to congratulate Dion Mack, son of Farah Mack (BTU Meter Data Analyst) and Abe Mack, IV, for signing to play basketball at Bakersfield College in California. Dion, a 2014 graduate of Mumford High School, signed his letter of intent on May 23rd to become a member of the Bakersfield Renegades team starting in the fall semester of this year!

Dion's parents were excited to learn of their son's achievement of receiving a two-year scholarship to play the point guard position for the Renegades. Dion's journey of developing into a college basketball player began at a young age with his participation on a youth team at the YMCA in Greenville, Texas. Since his earliest exposure to the sport, Dion has had great success with his basketball. His high school team, the Mumford Mustangs, claimed the title of the 2014 Division I IA Champions at the UIL Texas State Basketball Tournament with a 39-1 record. Dion also received

All-State Tournament Team Honors, District Offensive MVP, Christmas Cotton Classic All-Tournament Team, 1st Team All-Academic, 1st Team All-State and 1st Team All-District. He is also an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 2012 National Championship winner with his summer team, The Elite 2014.

As a student athlete, Dion's goals are to excel in the classroom as he studies Kinesiology in pursuit of a Physical Therapy career. He is motivated to contribute to a Division 1 program beyond his academic years at Bakersfield.

When asked to explain his feelings regarding basketball and how the scholarship affected him, Dion said, "[I like] the competition of the game; it requires you to think and it constantly changes, forcing you to push yourself. Playing in college has always been my dream since I was small. Having the opportunity for me to do that is a blessing."



Celebrating Dion's signing day. Shown front (L-R): Abe Mack, IV, Dion Mack and Farah Mack. Shown back (L-R): Mumford Assistant Basketball Coach Alvie King, Mumford Head Basketball Coach Chris Sodek, Mumford ISD Dean of Students Melissa McDonough and Mumford ISD Superintendent Pete J. Bienski.

BTU to Highlight Public Power Week in October

Story and photo by Louellen S. Coker.

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) will once again join with the American Public Power Association (APPA) and 2,000 other electric utilities that collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 46 million Americans to celebrate Public Power Week. APPA is the service organization for community- and state-owned electric utilities.

Public Power Week's official dates are October 5-11, 2014. During that time, look for special commercials focused on the importance of public power for keeping our lives and businesses running smoothly.

"Since it began supplying electricity, BTU has done its utmost to give its customers exceptional service with reliable, competitively-priced electricity while acting as a responsible and caring member of the community," Gary Miller, BTU General Manager noted. "We strive to provide top-notch service and contribute to the community's economic vitality; so it's important for us to let our customers know how valuable Bryan's utility company is as a local resource."

"Public Power Week is a chance for BTU to articulate why public power works in Bryan and the Brazos Valley. We are absolutely dedicated to competitively meet the needs of our customers both today and well into the future," stressed Mr. Miller.

BTU has worked diligently to not only grow in scale and complexity over the years, but also to use sound planning and fiscal management as well as "hard work

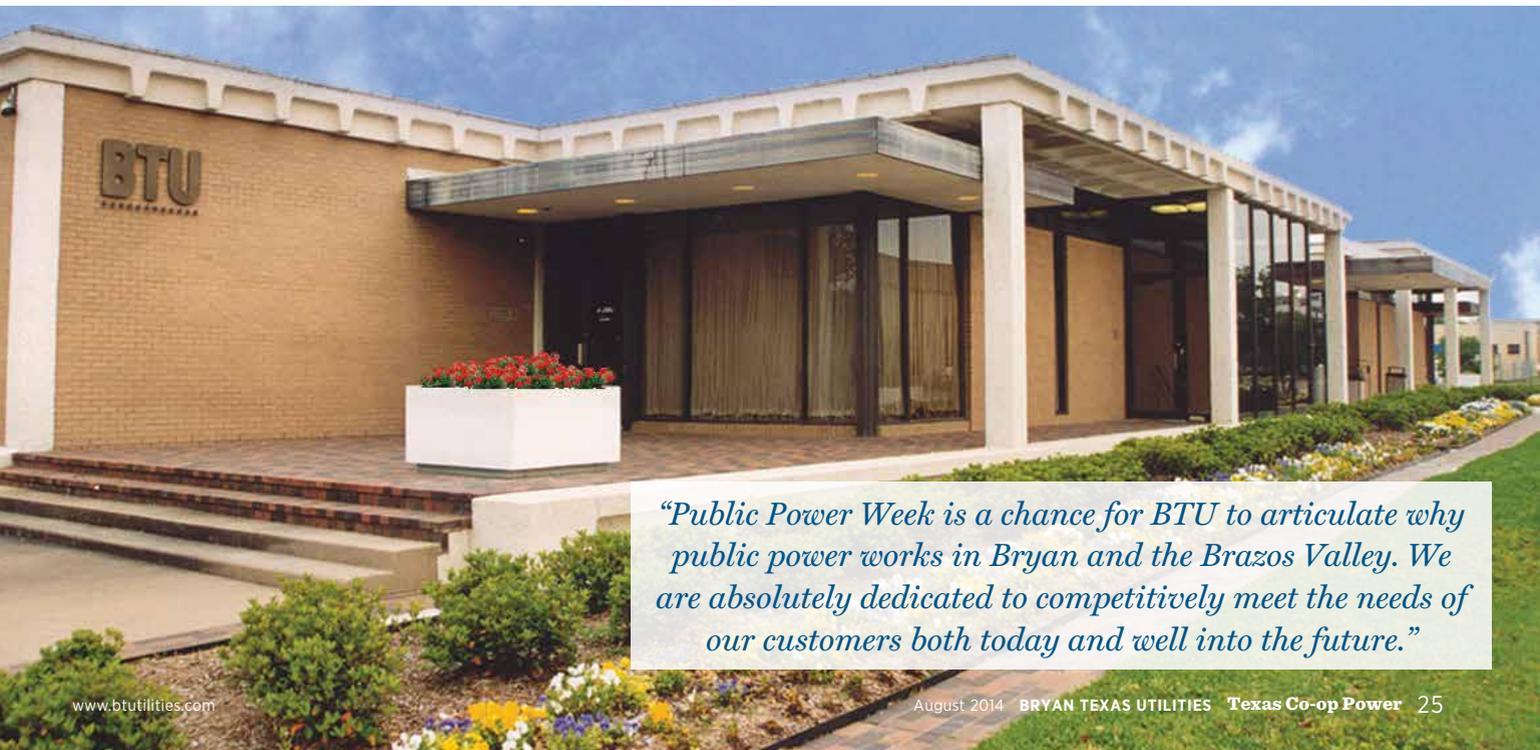
by good folks" to improve availability and quality, deliver excellent customer service, give input for positive regional and state public policy formation and support our community.

Today, BTU has 185 employees and helps power our community through electricity produced at the Dansby Power Plant here in Bryan, the Gibbons Creek Power Plant in Grimes County, the Bryan Solar Park in Presidio, Texas and the Penascal Wind Farm near Corpus Christi, Texas.

Through efficient use of these resources, BTU is able to provide significant savings to its customers. Currently, BTU serves over 51,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.

In addition to its annual Public Power Week celebration, BTU offers special programs throughout the year aimed at educating its customers about electricity. Such programs include the Powertown program for public school children, the Calendar Kids competition held each year and the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour scholarship program, along with offering safety and energy savings tips on its website, the City of Bryan Facebook page, Plug In (found in your monthly bill) and here in Texas Co-op Power Magazine.

For more information about BTU, Public Power Week or any of BTU's educational programs, please visit www.btutilities.com.



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