

**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

# BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

## MANAGER'S REPORT

### **Update Regarding City Council Discussion on S. College Ave.**

The Bryan City Council vote was to continue with the underground utilities on South College Ave.

### **Texas Electric Cooperative Voting Credentials**

Gary Miller informed the Board that Texas Electric Cooperatives requires that the Board Chair sign a document certifying voting credentials for the member system.

### **Lake Bryan Boat Ramp**

The Lake Bryan Boat Ramp was reopened to the public on Saturday May 14, 2016.

### **Lake Bryan Dam**

Mr. Miller advised the Board that after the heavy rains of the last few weeks, the inclinometers on the dam were reviewed and show no additional movement.

## OPERATIONS

Gary Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents with BTU crews or contractors during the restoration of outages during the tornado. There was one at fault vehicle incident due to high water.

Mr. Miller introduced BTU's Safety Officer, Ray Berger who reviewed the at fault vehicle incident with the Board.

Mr. Berger stated that BTU is referencing this incident in all upcoming safety meetings to educate personnel of the dangers of driving through flooded roads and to promote "turn around, don't drown" to all of its employees.

**SAFETY: For Work. For Home. For Life.**



## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

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

[www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)

Hours of Operation

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



[facebook.com/Bryan-Texas-Utilities](https://facebook.com/Bryan-Texas-Utilities)



[twitter.com/BTU\\_BryanTX](https://twitter.com/BTU_BryanTX)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Paul Turney, Chairman

Mr. David Bairrington, Vice Chairman

Mr. Bill Ballard, Secretary

Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

Mr. Carl L. Benner

Mr. Flynn Adcock

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

Mr. Art Hughes

## 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

## 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

# ENERGY CONSERVATION

WHEN CONSUMERS RESPOND TO ERCOT REQUESTS TO REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND DURING CERTAIN HOURS, IT HELPS GRID RELIABILITY.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) manages the flow of electric power to 24 million Texas customers - representing about 90 percent of the state's electric load. As the independent system operator for the region, ERCOT schedules power on an electric grid that connects more than 43,000 miles of transmission lines and 550 generation units.

As the grid operator for most of Texas, ERCOT works every day to make sure there is enough electricity available for consumer needs. Sometimes the demand for electricity may be very close to the amount of generation available, either because consumers are using a lot of electricity or some power plants are not able to provide enough power. On those days, ERCOT may issue a conservation alert. Peak demand during the summer occurs between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on very hot days, and winter peaks occur during the early morning (6 a.m. - 9 a.m.) and early evening (4 p.m. - 8 p.m.) on very cold days.

*source: ercot.com*

## FIVE LITTLE-KNOWN WAYS TO SAVE

1

Every night before you go to bed, walk through the house and turn off electric appliances and equipment that you usually leave on overnight, even though you don't use it. Examples: Uplug your cable box, your phone chargers if they're not in use, and your TV set.

2

Unplug your wireless router and other office electronics before you go to work in the morning, leave the house for an extended time, or turn in for the night. It doesn't need to run when it's not in use. A simple way to do this: Plug your computer, router, external hard drive and printer into a single, surge-protected power strip, and just flip one switch.

3

If you iron, save all your ironing for once a week. Turn the iron to its hottest setting and iron denim and cotton first; then reduce the setting for linens and delicates.

4

Use ceiling fans to help circulate air throughout the house, and make sure your attic is properly ventilated. A ceiling fan should run clockwise during the summer, and counter-clockwise during the winter.

5

Fill your refrigerator and freezer. Every time you open the appliance's door, you let warm air in. If there's not much empty space in there, the warm air can't circulate. This means the device doesn't have to work as hard to keep your food and liquids cold.



# WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

## Putting Preparations Into Practice

STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

THEY STOOD THERE IN AWE, LOOKING AT THE WRECKAGE THAT USED TO BE THEIR HOMES. LOOKING AT THE DEBRIS THAT LITTERED THE STREETS. LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, FOR HELP, FOR HOPE. AND THEN THEY GOT TO WORK AND BEGAN THE PROCESS OF REBUILDING THEIR LIVES.

Standing with the Bryan residents throughout their ordeal, working to get the power back on and to help them get their lives restarted, were staff members from BTU and the City of Bryan.

On May 26, 2016, a pattern of extremely severe weather struck the Brazos Valley, dropping massive amounts of rainfall in a relatively short time period, and spawning an EF-1 tornado that touched down in the Wheeler Ridge, Tiffany Park, and Miramont neighborhoods on the east side of Bryan.

What resulted from nature's wrath was widespread severe flooding that essentially cut off some areas of the city, left more than 150 houses with some type of tornado damage, hundreds more with flood damage, and a natural disaster that surpassed anything seen in Bryan in recent memory.

As news of the tornado broke, Bryan's first responders went to work.



**"It was terrible. The flooding was worse than anything I had ever seen in this area before. We had police officers wading through hip-deep water. We were forced to move the location of our mobile command center because of how severe the flooding was and how quickly it kept rising."**

*Kean Register, Bryan City Manager*





*“I want to thank each and every person who helped with the disaster recovery, and that includes all of our independent contractors, and members of the College Station Utilities staff who helped us.”*

*- Gary Miller, BTU General Manager*



Bryan Police and Fire staff members were on the scene, going door-to-door in the affected neighborhoods to clear houses and assess damage. Fortunately, no Bryan residents died from the tornado's destruction.

Within minutes of the power going out on the east side of Bryan, BTU crews sprang into action. This was no small power outage affecting just a couple of homes. This was damage to larger feeder and transmission lines, which affected thousands of customers throughout Brazos and Burleson counties. And there were the added challenges of major storm debris, and just getting to the damaged infrastructure amid the rain and flooding. “That’s where our planning and training comes in. We can’t afford to have a ‘trial-by-fire’ situation, where we are unprepared,” said Gary Miller, BTU General Manager. “The training, and the preparations that BTU makes to assure that we’re ready for any type of situation, really paid off when the tornado hit. Not only were we able to get the power back on in a reasonable amount of time, but our crews were able to do so without injury to themselves or our customers.”

Other City of Bryan and BTU departments worked to make sure that people were safe, that they were informed, and that they were assisted when they began the cleanup process.



**BTU LINEMEN CREWS WORKED IN SHIFTS, AROUND THE CLOCK, TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE ELECTRICAL LINES, AND THEN TO ASSESS HOMES TO MAKE SURE THAT POWER COULD SAFELY BE RESTORED. THE LINEMEN WORKED APPROXIMATELY 2,933 HOURS FROM THURSDAY-MONDAY, AND ADDITIONAL BTU STAFF MEMBERS LOGGED ANOTHER 754 HOURS DURING THAT SPAN.**



## BRYAN POLICE

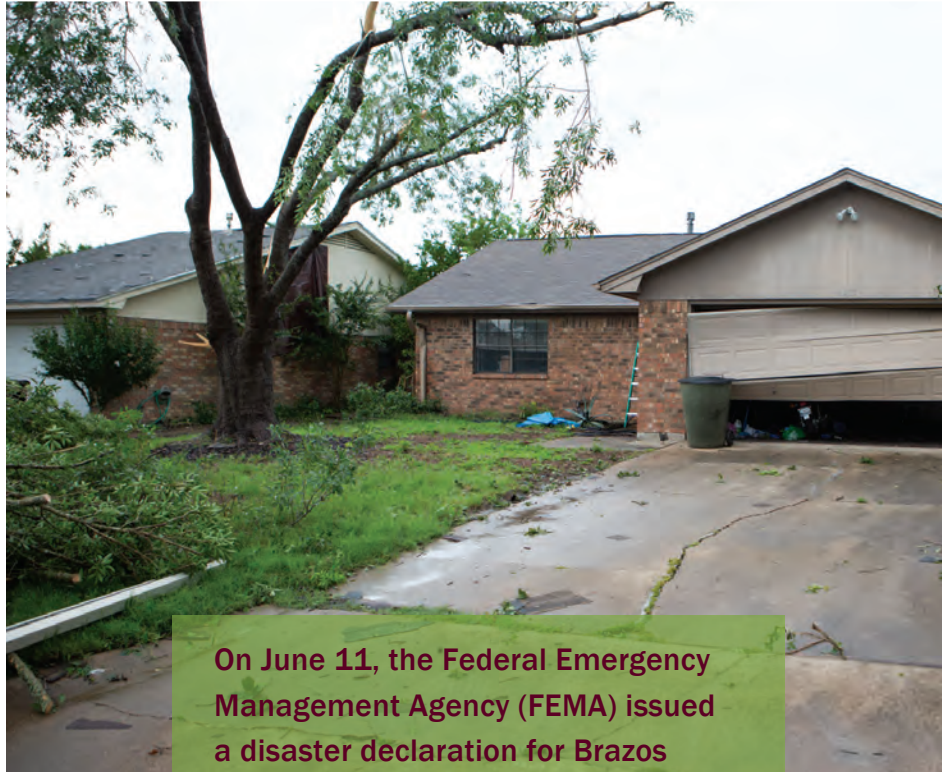
STATIONED OFFICERS IN THE TORNADO-AFFECTED AREAS FOR DAYS FOLLOWING THE STORM TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE'S PROPERTY WAS PROTECTED, AND TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC INTO THE AREAS. IT WASN'T THE BEST PLACE TO GO SIGHTSEEING IN THE DAYS RIGHT AFTER THE STORM AS THERE WERE CREWS TRYING TO CLEAR DEBRIS AND RESTORE POWER TO INDIVIDUAL HOMES.

## BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

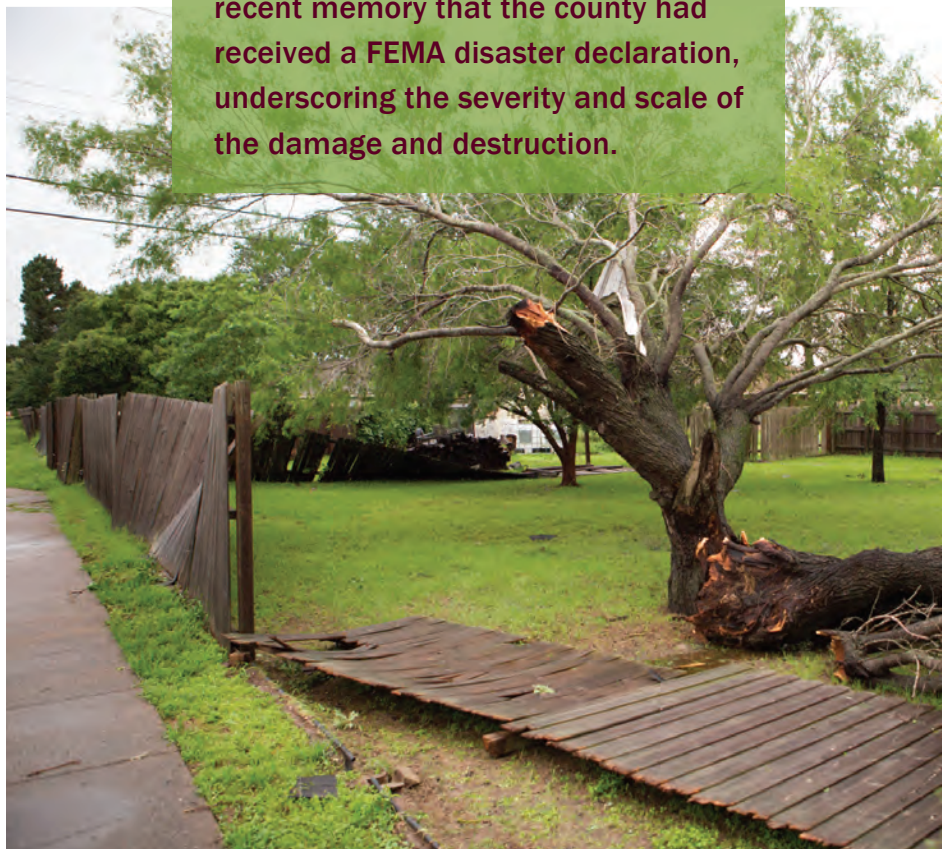
KEPT FIREMEN ON THE SCENE AS POWER AND GAS SERVICES WERE RESTORED IN CASE OF ANY ACCIDENTAL FIRES. MEMBERS OF THE BRYAN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION WORKED ON THEIR DAYS OFF TO HELP CUT TREES AND BRUSH.

## SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

THE CITY'S SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT WORKED TIRELESSLY TO CLEAR DEBRIS PILES AT THE CURBS.



On June 11, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a disaster declaration for Brazos County. It was the first time in recent memory that the county had received a FEMA disaster declaration, underscoring the severity and scale of the damage and destruction.







**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS STAFF PRACTICALLY LIVED AT THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT, COORDINATING RESPONSES BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS, MAKING SURE THAT THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, AND ASKING THE PUBLIC TO HELP THE CITY GRASP THE SCOPE OF THE DAMAGE BY SELF-REPORTING ANY INSTANCES OF HOUSE FLOODING.**

While the recovery's early focus was on cleanup of tornado debris in the Wheeler Ridge neighborhood, other areas of the City had experienced flooding damage, and debris piles started forming on the curbs of these communities.

"We initially suspended brush and bulky service during the week after the storm for the whole city except Wheeler Ridge, so that we could get that situation back under control," said Eric Zaragoza, Environmental Services Manager for the City of Bryan. "That was finished about mid-week, and the information that we had from people self-reporting flooding helped us to focus our efforts and prioritize other areas that had mass damage."

That self-reported information also helped members of the City's Development Services staff to track the damage in aggregate. The American

Red Cross also assisted with training for staff members on how to assess damage, helping them to paint a more complete picture of the scope of the devastation, and allowing them to present a more comprehensive assessment to state and federal authorities. This was very important as it improved the chances of receiving state and federal aid for the City and individual residents.

*"This storm and the damage that it created was a major emergency event for the City of Bryan. I couldn't be more proud of how the City and BTU responded in this situation. Because of our planning, our preparation, and our talented and selfless workers, we've helped make a bad situation better for countless residents in our community. That's the core of what it means to work for the City of Bryan and BTU."*

*Kean Register,  
Bryan City Manager*

# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

STORY BY DAIJONNA HALL

AS PARENTS AND CHILDREN PREPARE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO FORGET ABOUT SAFETY.

Here are a few tips that will help keep kids safe during the school year and give parents peace of mind.

## Be Prepared

- Fill out emergency contact information and health information forms prior to the first day of school.
- Alert the teacher and nurse if your child has any medical conditions.
- Make arrangements with the school nurse if your child will need medicine administered to them throughout the day.

## Lighten the Load

- Choose a backpack that is lightweight, has two padded shoulder straps, a waist strap, and a padded back. The padding increases comfort to the shoulders and back. Wearing two straps along with the waist strap helps distribute the weight of the pack more evenly.
- Backpacks with multiple compartments can also help distribute weight more evenly.
- A child's backpack should weigh no more than 10 to 15 percent of their body weight. A heavy or bulky bag can cause back, neck, and shoulder pain while being worn and can severely injure someone if they trip over it.
- Backpacks should be worn two inches above the child's waist.
- Only write your child's personal information on the inside of their backpack. This will decrease the chance of "stranger danger."

## During the Journey

### By Foot or Bicycle

- If your child will be walking or riding their bicycle to school, practice walking or riding the route with them prior to the first school day.
- Refresh them on safety rules such as walking or riding on the sidewalk, crossing the street at crosswalks, wearing a helmet when riding their bicycle, and most importantly: Not talking to strangers.
- Provide them with safe points they can go to when they need help such as a church or library.

### By Bus

- Arrive at the stop five minutes early to avoid rushing.
- Make sure your child knows to stand six feet away from the curb and only walk in front of the bus.
- Children should practice patience when entering and exiting the bus, pay attention to surrounding traffic, and stay visible to the bus driver at all times.
- Children should stay seated on the bus, wear seatbelts when provided, and obey the bus driver's rules at all times.





# FRIDAYS ARE BETTER IN BRYAN!

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS AND FIRST FRIDAY ARE JUST  
A COUPLE OF REASONS LIFE IN BRYAN IS BETTER!

## Football Fridays

Start your Aggie football weekend off with a win in the City of Bryan. With delicious locally owned restaurants, unique shopping and a family-friendly atmosphere, Bryan is the perfect place to start your weekend fun.

The historic downtown area is a great place to catch up with friends while taking in the local culture before the big game. Bryan is home to art galleries, craft product shops and a historic hotel. Experience excellent dining at any of our award winning restaurants, many of which are Aggie owned and operated.

Spend the afternoon at one of our many parks or out on Lake Bryan. Equipped with hiking trails, picnic tables and a variety of athletic courts, our Bryan parks are sure to keep you and your family having fun all weekend.

Plan to make Football Fridays in Bryan a part of your Aggie traditions this football season. Everything is bigger in Texas, and better in Bryan!

For more information, go to:  
**[bryantx.gov](http://bryantx.gov)**.



## First Friday

First Friday has become an event on the "must do" lists for residents and tourists alike. Around 5:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, the sidewalks begin to buzz with activity. By dusk, streets and sidewalks are teeming with people pausing to listen to street musicians, watch a magic act, peruse artwork or just chat with friends.

Shops stay open late to accommodate the increased traffic and restaurants stay busy until well into the late evening. In the warmer months just after sundown, a free movie in the park keeps families together as they sprawl on blankets and in lawn chairs to watch a family friendly movie sponsored by a local business.

Make the first Friday of every month a special evening for you, your friends, and family. It just doesn't get much better than this!

For more information, go to:  
**[downtownbryan.com](http://downtownbryan.com)**.