

# BOARD MEETING NOTES

The BTU Board of Directors met on  
**Monday, April 10, 2017,**  
and discussed the following topics:

## Consideration And Discussion Of A Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

General Manager Gary Miller presented the CIP for each division of BTU. The budget reflects an \$11.5 million decrease from last year's 5-year CIP plan for City operations and a \$3.3 million increase for Rural operations. The CIP budget will be presented to the BTU Board of Directors for approval in May.

## Consideration, Discussion And Possible Action Regarding Obligations Pursuant To The Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA) Joint Operating Agreement

Per the TMPA Joint Operating Agreement, the TMPA General Manager has an obligation to conduct a decommissioning study by September 2017. The TMPA Board is favorable to the General Manager postponing the study until the plant sale issues are clearer. A motion to recommend that Bryan City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a letter waiving the decommissioning plans deadline until after the sale is closed or the sale efforts are abandoned passed unanimously.



**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.

## 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  
Kristi Nash  
Vicki Reim  
Scott Smith  
James Tanneberger  
Wes Williams  
Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

## CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager  
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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



BryanTexasUtilities



cityofbryan



BTU\_BryanTX



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# SWITCH TO SAFETY

## DON'T TAKE THESE WARNING SIGNS LIGHTLY

Some light switches in a home get used dozens of times a day, and their state can tell you a lot about the health of the overall electrical system. Be on the lookout for the following symptoms and address them immediately.

### Potential Problems

If any of these symptoms sound familiar for any of the lighting control points in your home, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician as soon as possible:

- The home is more than 40 years old and has aluminum wiring but has not recently undergone safety inspection by an electrician.
- A wall plate is hot to the touch.
- There is discoloration on or around a switch plate.
- You hear crackling, popping or buzzing from an outlet or switch.
- Lights dim and/or flicker without cause.
- Breakers trip or fuses blow often when a switch is turned on.
- You detect an odor—especially of chemicals or burning—when a switch is used.
- A switch leans to one side or feels loose when operating.
- You often experience a shock when operating a switch.
- Lights get dimmer or brighter when other appliances turn on or switch off.



### Safe Solutions

Cracked, broken or missing cover plates should be replaced immediately to prevent accidental contact with wiring. All switches and lighting equipment should bear the mark of a nationally recognized safety testing laboratory such as UL, Intertek or CSA.

There are numerous ways to update your light switches and make them safer. Upgraded features also can be used to achieve different effects. Dimmers set lighting at desired levels and can extend the life of lightbulbs. Timers provide added security and improve safety. Motion sensors enhance security, add convenience and can save energy. Remote controls and smart panels offer flexibility and control over your lighting, sometimes remotely via smartphone.

If you want to switch up your lighting controls or improve their safety, contact a qualified electrician.

# IF THESE BUILDINGS COULD TALK... OH WAIT, THEY CAN.

By Kenneth W. Smith Jr.

If the buildings of Bryan could talk, what would they share with us about their past owners? What kind of stories would the Carnegie History Center in Downtown Bryan tell? What would Washington-on-the-Brazos say about the founding fathers of the Republic of Texas?

The Brazos Valley is steeped in history. Before Bryan was a city, it was a part of Austin's Colony granted by Mexico. Then there was the Republic era where Texas declared itself an independent nation. Then there was the railroad boom. And the founding of Texas A&M University. And on, and on.

Bryan and the Brazos Valley have had a front-row seat to some of the most influential and important events and figures in the history of Texas. And if that history interests you, we've got a whole list of places you can't afford not to visit.



## CARNEGIE HISTORY CENTER

Andrew Carnegie was a steel magnate, the richest man in the world, a man who believed in self-education for everyone, and in the value of libraries.

Carnegie would provide funds for the construction of libraries if a city would meet certain conditions to maintain the structure and purchase books. Bryan was among the early cities that took advantage of his offer, and the Carnegie Library in Downtown Bryan was opened to the public in December 1903.

The interior of the building features two matching hand-carved pine stairways, with square wood balusters and a turned balustrade. The stairwells, the tongue and groove pine flooring in the main part of the first floor, and the decorative pressed metal ceiling are all original to the building, and have been lovingly restored and maintained. Any necessary alterations on the second-floor blend in with the original building design. The building's restoration was completed in 1999.

Now known as the Carnegie History Center, it is part of the Bryan+College Station Library System, and houses many local history collections that cover not only the local area, but also adjoining counties. Among the showpieces on the first floor are the Ana Ludmilla Gee Ballet Collection, Harvey Mitchell's vernier compass and sketch for the original site of the City of Bryan, and a miniature replica of the "Blue" or "Steamboat House," an early Calvert home destroyed by fire. The second floor is dedicated to genealogical research, with materials emphasizing areas from which many immigrants came to Bryan and the Brazos Valley.

(source/credit: BCS Library)

[www.bcslibrary.org/carnegie](http://www.bcslibrary.org/carnegie)

## BOONVILLE HERITAGE PARK

Before there was Bryan, there was Boonville. From 1841 to 1866-1867, Boonville was the town center for Brazos County. That was before the train came through.

Boonville Heritage Park is a place where you can simply step back in time and see what life was really like in early Texas. It is a historical project that includes a fully restored early Texan dogtrot log cabin, described by some as the best log cabin restoration in the state. It also includes "Six Flags Plaza" with the six flags flown over Texas in its history, as well as a replica Twin Sister cannon.

Boonville Heritage Park is a place to learn about early Texas and how the Brazos Valley played a part in it.

[facebook.com/BoonvilleHeritagePark](https://facebook.com/BoonvilleHeritagePark)





## TEMPLE FREDA

Temple Freda Reform Congregation is the oldest Jewish institution in the Brazos Valley. The cornerstone of the building was laid on February 26, 1913. The synagogue was named for Mrs. Ethel Freda Kaczer, late wife of the congregation's president. It holds the distinction of being the only Texas synagogue, and one of only four synagogues worldwide, named after a woman.

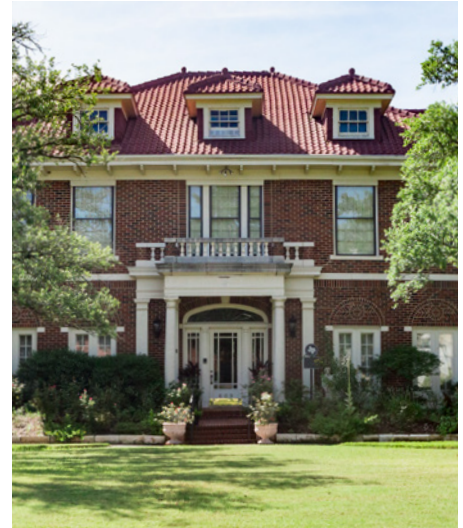
Temple Freda was always a small congregation and throughout the decades it struggled to remain active. By the 1960s, the site was no longer used actively by the Jewish congregation.

Temple Freda was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, and in 2013, concerned Bryan citizens banded together to save the endangered building. The site was placed under the interim ownership of a division of the City of Bryan, who will be its custodian during the ongoing restoration process and until such time as it can either create its own non-profit foundation or is "adopted" by another non-profit entity.

After its restoration, the building will not be used as a religious facility but instead will be put into service for the whole community. Community uses will include such activities as small receptions, weddings, family reunions, educational activities, and musical gatherings.

(source/credit: Temple Freda)

[brazosheritage.org/projects/temple-freda-project](http://brazosheritage.org/projects/temple-freda-project)



## ASTIN MANSION

Built in 1924 by Roger Q. and Nina Heard Astin, the Astin Mansion is a paragon of the grand 1920's style. This architectural gem has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in an effort to preserve and share this treasure with the community for years to come.

The Astin family was a prominent Bryan family who owned Rivermist, a cotton plantation. Nina Heard Astin came from a prestigious background in McKinney, Texas. Nina's husband, Roger Astin died at age 39, leaving her widowed with 2 small children. Nina Heard Astin, who was well known for her generosity and community involvement, outlived both of her children and bequeathed her estate to this community in the form of the Nina Heard Astin and Nina Bess Astin charitable trust. The trust continues to support several of Mrs. Astin's favorite organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, as well as scholarships and other causes.

In 2004, the Astin Mansion was purchased as a Special Events Venue, and since that time has become one of the most well known wedding venues in Bryan-College Station.

(source/credit: Astin Mansion)

[astinmansion.com](http://astinmansion.com)



## DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Historic Downtown Bryan has undergone a renaissance in the last decade and holds the distinction of being a Texas Cultural District. Countless historic buildings and sites reside in Bryan's traditional central business district, and many of these sites have been or are currently being restored to their former glory.

The LaSalle Hotel, the Queen Theatre, the Palace Theater and numerous other historic venues take you back to a bygone era, while at the same time offering the best in modern amenities.

[downtownbryan.com](http://downtownbryan.com)

## KYLE HOUSE

The original venue at the Kyle Estates, the Kyle House is a historic home-turned-venue located in the heart of downtown Bryan. The "bones" of the house boast the Victorian style.

Fewer than a dozen owners have held the keys to this remarkable house built in 1892, with Dr. Edwin Jackson Kyle being among one of the most prestigious owners alongside the original owner, Samuel Parker. Kyle, an 1899 graduate of Texas A&M and professor of horticulture, resided in the home during the mid 1900's after dedicating many years of service to the University including creating the original Kyle Field.

For the last two decades, the Kyle House has hosted countless weddings, receptions and other private events.

(source/credit: Kyle Estates)

[thekyleestates.com](http://thekyleestates.com)



## WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

If all of the history in Bryan isn't enough for you, we're less than 45 minutes from the birthplace of Texas, Washington-on-the-Brazos.

See where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. Walk through a replica of the log cabin in which the Texas founding fathers argued and debated and ultimately declared independence from Mexico.

Stroll the fields and grounds and bluffs overlooking the Brazos River. And stop by the visitor's center to view artifacts, and other historic items.

The Alamo and San Jacinto may be the battles that are remembered, but without Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas would not have become a nation.

[wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org)

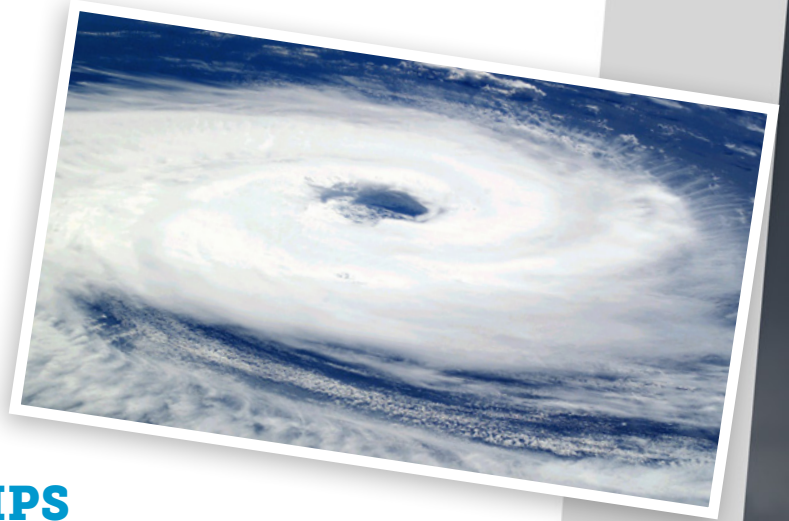
## ELECTRIC SAFETY:

# STORM PREPAREDNESS

It's been over a year since two tornados touched down in the Brazos Valley, causing damage to numerous homes, businesses, streets, and utility lines. While the storm came and went quickly, the damage left behind took some home and business owner's months to clean up.

First responders immediately sprang into action to ensure public safety and to put the pieces back together again. This included linemen from BTU, College Station Utilities, and contract crews employed by BTU. These crews worked around the clock for days to restore power to the impacted customers, and to repair the extensive damage caused to high voltage transmission lines during the storm.

With hurricane season in Texas spanning from June through October, storm preparedness is essential. High winds and heavy rain can cause lengthy power outages, flooding, and property damage.



## CONSIDER THESE TIPS TO ENSURE YOU ARE PREPARED DURING STORM SEASON:

- **Assemble Disaster Supplies:** Collect important items such as prescription medications, non-perishable foods, water, flashlights, cash, and a radio. Have extra batteries on hand for flashlights and the radio in case power is out for an extended period of time.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Make sure to trim back overgrown trees, secure loose outdoor items, and have a safe place to store your vehicle. You should also make sure your doors and windows are able to be properly secured.
- **Remember Your Pets:** Over 600,000 animals were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Make sure your four-legged family members are safely sheltered during storms. Also, ensure that your pet has a collar with your information on it, or a microchip with up-to-date contact information, so they can be reunited with you quickly. Fences can be one of the first things to go during high winds, leaving your pets free to roam. For their safety, and the safety of others, make sure they are accounted for before a storm hits.
- **Know How To Use Your Generator:** While generators can be extremely beneficial during a storm, they are equally as dangerous when not used properly. Never use a generator inside a home—doing so could result in carbon monoxide poisoning from the exhaust. It is also important to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch to connect it to your home. Make sure to educate yourself on how to properly operate your generator in advance of a storm.

For more storm safety tips, visit the Brazos County Department of Emergency Management ([bcdem.org](http://bcdem.org)) or the National Weather Service ([nws.noaa.gov](http://nws.noaa.gov)).

**Be safe this storm season!**