

Regular Board of Directors Meeting**July 10, 2017****Presentation and Discussion of Economic Development Activities**

The City of Bryan Economic Development Director, Kevin Russell, presented an economic development update to the Board and highlighted several new construction projects including hotels and stand-alone emergency room centers. Two subdivisions, Austin's Colony and Oakmont, have recently been platted for single-family homes and a number of existing commercial buildings are undergoing renovation. To accommodate growth occurring on the west side of Bryan, new water and sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements are being completed.

Presentation and Discussion of Transmission Project Updates

BTU Executive Director Randy Trimble gave a presentation on planned transmission work and the need for construction of a Smetana substation to increase reliability and support the anticipated growth in the west side of Brazos County.

Presentation and Discussion of Lake Bryan

BTU Executive Director David Werley presented a map of the Lake Bryan Park area and discussed a potential Request for Proposal (RFP) to assess private party interest in leasing portions of the park area for construction of amenities to enhance public use and enjoyment of Lake Bryan. Public access to any new amenities would be controlled by BTU, including gate access. The Board unanimously supported moving forward with a RFP.

Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) City and Rural Budget

BTU General Manager Gary Miller gave a budget presentation and Resolution BTU-P-227 recommending the FY18 BTU budget appropriation be forwarded to Bryan City Council. The Board unanimously approved the resolution and voted to forward the FY18 BTU budget to Bryan City Council.

BTU Exhibit at Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley

BTU has sponsored a new exhibit at the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley. The Illumination Station is an interactive and educational exhibit that is modeled after the Lite Brite children's toy. The Museum will host an official ribbon cutting ceremony with the Bryan College Station Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at 4:30 PM to unveil the new exhibit.

SOCIAL MEDIA

BryanTexasUtilities



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BTU_BryanTX



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**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

www.btutilities.com**Hours of Operation**

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

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects

(979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down

(979) 822-3777

Distribution/Line Design

(979) 821-5770

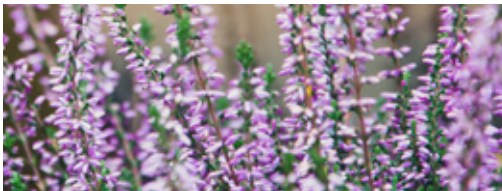
Going Green

Starts at Home

Many people consider the environment when making purchases these days. Look at the popularity of hybrid vehicles, alternative fuels, locally grown produce and a host of other products designed to use fewer resources and reduce pollution and waste. Now, add housing to the list of ways to be environmentally friendly.

You don't think of houses as being responsible for carbon emissions, but they are—to a significant degree. The energy you use for heating, cooling, appliances, and lighting most likely comes from a source that produces carbon emissions. Other factors, such as water use and building materials, can also significantly affect the environment.

You might think the best way to "go green" in housing is to start from scratch. And it's true. If you're building a new, custom home, you can make decisions that will greatly increase energy and water efficiency. You can select the most environmentally friendly building materials and construction methods. But if you're not building a new home, there's no need to throw up your hands. There's still plenty you can do to make a difference in an existing home.



Save Money and the Environment

When looking to purchase an existing house, it's possible to assess some aspects of its energy use. How efficient is the air-conditioning unit? Does the landscaping use native plants? You might even be able to review past energy bills from the current owner to estimate future electricity and water usage. Just keep in mind that your usage may vary considerably.

Whether purchasing a home or wanting to make the best of the house you have lived in for years, there are many steps you can take to improve energy efficiency. Here are a few examples:

- **Install rain barrels to collect roof runoff and use that water for irrigation.**
- **Replace water-thirsty plants with landscaping that requires little additional irrigation.**
- **Replace old windows with energy-efficient ones.**
- **Seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas that may have gaps.**
- **Seal leaks in air ducts.**
- **Install additional insulation.**
- **Replace appliances with newer models that have earned the Energy Star designation from the Environmental Protection Agency.**
- **Replace heating and cooling units with more efficient models.**
- **Replace the water heater with a more efficient model.**
- **Change out incandescent bulbs with LEDs.**

You probably know that efforts like these offer benefits beyond helping the environment; they also save you money. Yes, you pay more on the front end to make improvements such as those listed here, but every one of them reduces your expenses over time, and they often pay for themselves in short order. As energy costs continue to rise, the more you can do to cut back your consumption, the more it pays off.

Educate Yourself

The EPA's Energy Star website, energystar.gov, offers resources and tips for new homes, home improvements, and more. You can also learn more about the **SmartHOME** and **SmartBUSINESS** incentive programs offered by Bryan Texas Utilities at www.btutilities.com.



Kevin Rodgers

An Unforgettable Friend

The Bryan Texas Utilities family is deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own. Kevin Rodgers, 49, of Bryan, Texas, lost his courageous 4-year battle with cancer on April 29, 2017, just eight days before his 50th birthday. During his 23 years of service, Kevin served in several positions, ultimately working his way up to Substation Maintenance Manager.

Growing up in the Kurten area, Kevin attended Bryan schools graduating from Bryan High School in 1985. He worked with his father and brother in the construction business while in school and, in doing so, he developed a strong work ethic that stayed with him wherever he went. After graduating high school, Kevin attended Texas State Technical College (now known as Texas State Technical Institute) in Waco, Texas. It was at TSTC that Kevin developed what would become a lifelong passion and fascination for the electric power industry.

Kevin enjoyed many friendships, some of which lasted his entire life. For many years, Kevin got together with a group of friends and high school classmates for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. He eagerly awaited seeing his old friends and reminiscing all of the fun times they experienced while growing up. He enjoyed the time spent visiting and catching up with whoever was able to attend and looked forward to the next meeting. Bill White, a lifelong friend of Kevin's who also worked with him at

BTU states that "through his actions, Kevin has shown us all what it is to be a loyal friend, loving husband and father, tireless worker, courageous fighter, man of great faith, and someone who truly cared about the wellbeing of others."

Kevin began his career with BTU in 1994 as a substation technician. His previous employment doing substation work for a private contractor, although very fulfilling to him, had begun to keep him on the road and away from his young family more than he wanted. Going to work for BTU allowed Kevin the opportunity to work in the field he loved and spend more time at home with his wife Jennifer, son Cody, and later his daughter Madison. Family was very important to Kevin. He enjoyed being involved with and watching his children's sporting activities as they grew. Madison attends high school, where she plays softball. Cody, now grown, has followed Kevin's example and has begun a career in relay instrumentation, working in substations. Cody and his wife have a son, who was Kevin's pride and joy.

Kevin was promoted to Electric Relay Technician in 2007 and was instrumental in substation operations. As a Relay Technician, he was responsible for the maintenance and performance of some of the most critical components of the substation. He took this responsibility very seriously and devoted many hours to attending trainings and classes

“Kevin Rodgers was an unforgettable friend and co-worker who will always be remembered as a respected leader who taught with great passion and led by example, never asking anything of anyone that he would not ask of himself.”

to help educate himself in order to better perform his job. Through planning and development, Kevin played a very important role in the growth and expansion of BTU's power transmission and substation system. He was always a proponent of working safely, made sure that all work within the substation was monitored closely, and that everyone was performing tasks in the safest possible manner. James Tanneberger, Division Manager of Transmission, noted “Kevin's spirit of teamwork and dedication lives on in the many lives that he touched and he will be missed.”

In September of 2010, Kevin was promoted to Substation Maintenance Manager. BTU operates and co-operates approximately 30 substations, and Kevin's department is responsible for all inspection, preventive maintenance, and repairs within these substations. It was in this role that Kevin was able to fully demonstrate his passion and commitment to the work that he loved. Under his leadership, the substation department grew and evolved along with BTU's rapidly growing transmission and substation facilities. Kevin was very hands on in the development and construction of several new substations during this time. Kevin led by example and as a result, he became a highly respected supervisor. Greg Gomez, who worked with Kevin since 1994, comments that “I learned a lot about the transmission of power from Kevin and his concern for the safety of the employees as they went about their daily operations. He made sure that his technicians always had the right tools, and education, to do their jobs. Kevin was always open to suggestions on ways to help us work more efficiently and safely. Our ideas were never thrown aside but were looked at and discussed to see if they could be implemented in our operations. Any problems that we might have, day or night, we could discuss with Kevin to make sure we did things the right way. He was always there to support us.”

Kevin was known to be a man of great integrity, and his opinion was greatly trusted and valued by all. He had an uncompromising sense of responsibility to the customers

of BTU and insisted that the customer was a consideration in every activity. Through Kevin's leadership, many of the substation employees he supervised have been able to grow and advance within the department, taking on roles of more responsibility and duties. He was proud of the men he supervised and was sure to recognize and praise their accomplishments. Travis See, who worked many years with Kevin, had the following to share. “Kevin Rodgers was an unforgettable friend and co-worker who will always be remembered as a respected leader who taught with great passion and led by example, never asking anything of anyone that he would not ask of himself.” Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery remembers Kevin as “a leader, a motivator, and a man who stuck to his principles, no matter what. He built a lasting legacy within the substation department.”

Gary Miller, BTU General Manager, summed things up by describing Kevin as “without a doubt one of our most respected employees. Kevin's demeanor and character were such that everyone he came in contact with immediately thought of him as a personal friend. Professionally, Kevin was diligent in wanting to make sure that everything was done properly and to the best advantage of BTU and its customers. Kevin's legacy at BTU is that all of the employees that worked for Kevin and with Kevin have that same attitude, and I believe that it is at least in part directly attributable to Kevin's influence.”

One of the most recent projects Kevin was involved in was the planning and development of the upcoming renovation and upgrades to the Nall substation. In honor of Kevin's loyal and dedicated service to Bryan Texas Utilities and its customers, when completed in 2018, the substation will be renamed as the Rodgers substation.

Bryan Texas Utilities extends our heartfelt condolences to Kevin's family.

Saving Energy

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Story by Kala McCain / Photos by Brian Jones



Interest in reducing energy consumption at Central Baptist Church was sparked 10 years ago with a site visit from a Bryan Texas Utilities staff member. Details were shared on increased energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. While intrigued, the church just wasn't quite ready to make such significant changes or to invest in such new technology.

In 2007, the cost of LED bulbs became economically feasible for large scale projects like the first one at Central Baptist Church. It wasn't long before work quickly began to retrofit 232 lights to LED inside the Worship Center. A project that proved to be the gateway to many, many more improvements beyond lighting for the church.



Chuck Bestor, Administrative Minister, serves as the project manager and trusted liaison for keeping large projects moving forward and under budget. He was intrigued by BTU's presentation of increasing efficiency and reducing the personnel hours needed to service each light at the church when BTU first made their site visit. The retrofit project in the Worship Center was the initial lighting project the church completed as part of BTU's SmartBUSINESS program. "We save much more than just the energy consumed from the use of the lights," shared Chuck. "We have drastically reduced the maintenance costs and we have noticed a significant difference in the heat load that was once generated by the incandescent bulbs. The A/C doesn't have to work nearly as hard or run nearly as often to keep the Worship Center cool." Chuck went on to share that "over a very short period of time, we saw a cost savings of approximately \$2,000 per month just from this one change."

The move toward energy efficiency didn't stop there. Every office, hallway, gymnasium, classroom, common area, and exterior light fixture has been updated, or is currently being updated, to accommodate LED bulbs. Even the soccer field where flag football and a host of other activities for the community are held received an upgrade, largely in part to energy cost savings. "We realized that the cost of renting light towers for our nighttime activities on the field was actually more expensive than having permanent lighting," Chuck noted. "With the reduction of energy costs at our building, we were able to install these lights. So, in all reality, we have successfully reduced our costs to a point where those savings can fund other projects."

Beyond LED lights, the church has made an innovative change on the way heating and cooling is regulated for each area within the facility. Using a system from Ideal

Impact, the thermostats are digitally controlled from an app distributed throughout the facility. Each one is tied into the church's main calendar and are set to automatically cool down or heat up each area as needed. These are not your ordinary thermostats though; they even read and manage the humidity within a room to again, help reduce energy consumption. This technology is also used on the exterior lights. Having these tied into the system ensures the parking areas are properly lit after dusk and can be easily changed with the tap of a button from any location, at any time.

The church is now expanding with the addition of a 76,000 square foot facility that will provide a welcoming and engaging children's wing designed to intrigue youth of all ages as well as their families. Being built from the ground up means the sky is the limit on the opportunities for energy efficiency. But the relationship built between the church and BTU over a decade ago serves as one of the most important factors. "The inspiration to make these improvements was really ignited from a single conversation that started in 2005," Chuck shared. "At that time, the cost was too significant but the relationship was established. And BTU continues to take care of us by presenting new ideas and helping us implement them." The new facility will feature all LED light fixtures and utilize the same innovative technology for regulating the heating and cooling of the new building.

You can learn more about Central Baptist Church located at 1991 FM 158 in College Station by visiting their website at www.centralbcs.org.

You can learn more about BTU's SmartBUSINESS Program at www.btutilities.com.

TEXAS REDS

**Eleventh Annual
Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival**

SIP & SAVOR!

more wine & more steak

SEPTEMBER 22-24

in Historic Downtown Bryan



Grills will sizzle! Wines will pour! And music will flow down the streets of Downtown Bryan, Texas during the eleventh annual Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival on Friday – Sunday, September 22-24, 2017. Texas Reds is a Downtown Bryan Association event and generously sponsored by the City of Bryan and Bryan Texas Utilities.

Attracting visitors from across Texas and beyond, this year's festival will feature over 25 of the Lone Star State's most popular wineries as well as craft beer breweries, live music, a steak cook-off, artisan avenue, food vendors, and the popular Kids Zone. The Saturday night steak dinner, which has sold out for two consecutive years, will return thanks to a partnership with J. Cody's Steaks and Barbecue. Also returning this year, the Sunday morning steak and egg brunch, another popular event which sold out last year.

Festival Coordinator Amanda Reynolds hints at new features which may be added this year. "Stay tuned! We are working on some other exciting new things based on feedback we received last year. For example, we are looking closely at the possibility of expanding the steak cook-off and there may be a "Primetime Wine" event in the works for Saturday night. We are exploring a number of ideas which we think the crowd will enjoy."

Bryan Mayor Andrew Nelson states, "Texas Reds has a great impact on Bryan's economy. The festival is a cornerstone event for our City – specifically our fast-growing and

beloved downtown community. We have data that shows festival attendance is comprised of visitors from across over 105 different Texas counties and 17 states. Our City looks forward to showing festival visitors our Bryan hospitality during their visit this September."

Sandy Farris, executive director of the Downtown Bryan Association, states, "Our festival continues to grow every year. Our team has been working feverishly to make this year's Texas Reds our best yet! It will be filled with sweet and savory highlights whether you're sipping offerings in the wine tent, enjoying a steak dinner with all the fixins or starting your Sunday off with an incredible brunch. We only ask that Texas Reds fans start sending out positive vibes now for excellent weather for September 22-24!"

Admission to the festival is free. Tickets must be purchased for Wine Tastings, Beer Tastings, the Saturday Night Steak Dinner, the Sunday Brunch and Kids Zone participation. Tickets may be purchased online or at the festival; however, the prices are lower for tickets purchased in advance! More information, including a festival schedule, is available at www.TexasRedsFestival.com.

Vendor applications for wine, craft beer, arts and crafts, and food and wine vendors are now being accepted. Applicants should contact the Downtown Bryan Association office at (979) 822-4920 or visit www.TexasRedsFestival.com.



American Public Power Association

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) was awarded the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)[®] Diamond designation by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for a second three-year term, after scoring 100% on the evaluated criteria.

This prestigious award recognizes public utilities who provide reliable and safe electric service to their customers, and demonstrate proficiency in other key areas, such as workforce development and system improvement. Criteria for consideration also include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"We are honored to be recognized, once again, as a Diamond Reliable Public Power Provider," said Gary Miller, General Manager of BTU. "The staff of BTU and the Board of Directors consider reliability and safety to be of the utmost importance to our organization as we serve the community. To have our efforts acknowledged by the RP3[®] review panel is very rewarding to all of us at BTU."

BTU was first awarded the RP3[®] Diamond designation in 2013.



National Public Power Week

October 1 – 7, 2017

BTU will be sponsoring a **free** Sunday at the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley on

OCTOBER 8, 2017 FROM 1 PM TO 5 PM.

Admission is free!

Celebrate National Public Power Week with the Bryan Texas Utilities **Illumination Station**, a brand new exhibit at the museum.

Learn more about the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley at:

www.cmbv.org

