

# MARCH 2020 **DUCC** BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES NEWS

#### **HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**

Good Friday Friday, April 10

#### **BILL PAYMENT**

Kiosk locations accepting credit cards, cash and checks:

HEB 1609 N. Texas Ave.

**HEB** 725 E. Villa Maria

BTU Drive-Through 205 E. 28th St. Open 24 hours

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

Payments can be made 24 hours a day via the "e-payment" option by calling 979.821.5700. Account number and credit card required.

#### www.btutilities.com

979.821.5700

Primary Address: 205 E. 28th St., Bryan, TX 77803

Mailing Address: PO Box 8000, Bryan, TX 77805







Spring is the perfect time to clean up, clear out, and make improvements to your home! It's also a great time to develop energy savings habits before the heat of summer arrives.

Heating and cooling accounts for nearly half of home energy use in the average household, according the U.S. Department of Energy. There is significant savings to be had by making small changes to your routine!

## Here are a few tips for being more efficient with your energy usage this spring:

- Utilize programmable thermostats in your home. They are a great way to preset the temperature to be a few degrees higher while you're away, saving you money every day.
- Have your air conditioning unit serviced once in the spring and again before the winter season. It's also a good time to clear leaves and other debris away from the outdoor unit that might have collected over time.
- Keep your electric water heater on the "warm" setting, which is approximately 120 degrees. Keeping it on the "hot" setting requires it to work harder to get the water to a scalding temperature, which most people don't actually need.
- Cooking outside on the grill keeps the heat out of your home. An oven raises the temperature of your home, requiring your air conditioner to run longer and work harder.



- As the weather warms up, utilize those ceiling fans! This is an inexpensive way to keep cool. Fans won't make the air colder, but the air movement will make you feel cooler. Hopefully, this will allow you to increase your thermostat setting a degree or two, saving you a little money.
- Planning to make energy efficiency improvements to your home? You may qualify for the BTU SmartHOME incentive! Attic insulation, wall insulation, windows, and solar screens are all measures covered by the program. For more information, and the full list of program requirements, visit btutilities.com/smarthome.

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## Every resident in Bryan will receive their census in mid-March, so be on the lookout for yours!

### bryantx.gov/census

## **CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!

Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that you are counted.









#### • Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.

#### • It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

#### • It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

#### • It's about \$675 billion.

The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.

#### It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

## CONSERVATION TIPS

## Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

 Census data are being used all around you. Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, guality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

#### • Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

#### • You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.

## Find out how to help at: 2020census.gov/partners

### **Energy Conservation Tip:**

Now is the perfect time to test your air conditioner and check its evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.





#### Water Conservation Tip:

Using either low-flow shower heads or adjustable flow-reducer devices on your shower heads can help reduce the water flow by at least 25%!