

**REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS** *Meeting Notes***December 9, 2019****Approval of a Contract for the Design of Electric Distribution Relocation of Overhead to Underground for the South College Phase II Project**

The Board approved a contract with POWER Engineers, Inc. for the design of electric distribution relocation of overhead to underground conversion for the South College Phase II project.

**Approval of the Purchase of Concrete Poles for Transmission Projects**

The Board approved a contract with Valmont Utility to purchase concrete transmission poles for the Steele Store to Smetana and Shady Lane to East transmission to substation projects.

**Presentation of Transmission and Distribution Operating Report**

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, discussed outages that occurred in the past month. These included an outage at the Shady Lane substation that was caused by animal contact and another outage caused by a public vehicular accident.


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**HEB Grocery**  
 Tejas Center on Villa Maria  
 Open 6 a.m. - Midnight

**HEB Grocery**  
 Texas Ave. & Hwy 21  
 Open 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.

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**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**



# Mayor's Downtown Impact Award



*From left, Mayor Pro Tem Greg Owens, Amanda Light, Brian Light and Councilmember Brent Hairston. The Lights, owners of Ronin, were awarded the 2019 Mayor's Downtown Impact Award.*

Brian and Amanda Light have transformed the historic Downtown Bryan Ice House from a vacant building into a lively, bustling farm-to-table restaurant that has become a go-to spot for entertainment. That's why the Lights, owners of Ronin Restaurant, were honored with the 2019 Mayor's Downtown Impact Award.

The Lights opened Ronin in 2018, transforming north Downtown Bryan into a food destination. Set in the beautiful renovations of the Ice House building, the restaurant features an open kitchen, floor-to-ceiling exposed brick and hand-built suspension tables made from wood salvaged during the renovation. Ronin hosts special events in addition to serving upscale communal-style restaurant meals during the week.

Ronin sits inside the Ice House building at 800 N. Main St., in downtown Bryan – which has an incredible history in the community. The building was built in 1912 as an anchor to the north end of Main Street. It originally held three 265-foot wells and two cement reservoirs for water storage, and later the wells were used for making ice. Throughout the years, it has been home to furniture manufacturing, a tractor dealership, a dance hall, a furniture restoration business, and now, Ronin.

The Lights join the ranks of dozens of other individuals and organizations whose positive impact on revitalization efforts have made Downtown Bryan a destination for everyone in the community. The City of Bryan accepted nominations for this year's award winner in Fall 2019, and the Lights were chosen as this year's honorees.

"Brian and Amanda have done an amazing job of helping the revitalization efforts in Downtown North. They took the Ice House, and out of the historic building, have created a wonderful restaurant experience with Ronin," one of the nominations read. "Their farm-to-table restaurant is a rarity in BCS, and it's been a big success."

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Owens presented the Lights with the Downtown Impact Award at the City of Bryan's annual Volunteer Breakfast on Friday, Dec. 13.

"Downtown Bryan is thriving because of the individuals who have invested their time and talents into making it a place people want to gather," Owens said. "These efforts continue to be supported by the city through partnerships to promote the vitality of Downtown and the unique variety of amenities it has to offer."



# BRYAN ISD

# CTE

## Career & Technical Education

Gone are the days of building birdhouses and toolboxes. Instead Bryan Independent School District (BISD) students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses can expect to learn construction practices for commercial and residential structures, robotics, photography, floral design, nursing, automotive diagnostics and repair, and everything in between. The district offers 94 CTE courses comprising 27 pathways to career programs, the largest in the region. Approximately 3,500 BISD students are enrolled in CTE courses; about 78% of all high school students in Bryan are taking at least three CTE courses throughout their four years of high school.

Bryan ISD, along with the rest of the Brazos Valley, has the challenge of keeping up with growth. In 2018, interest in Bryan's CTE programs had outgrown the district's capacity. A committee of community leaders and stakeholders was formed to advise on and explore options for the future of the CTE program. The committee investigated many pathways to growing the program, including building a brand new complex with a potential price tag of \$50-70 million.

"We were having to turn kids away," Career and Technical Education Director David Reynolds said. "We strive to serve as many students as we can with our resources."

The Bryan-Brazos County Economic Development Foundation had a wonderful solution. They had acquired a former military and defense contractor's manufacturing and office facility located on Mumford Road. The 119-acre site came with more than 35,000 square feet of lab, manufacturing, and classroom space, with an additional nearly 15,000 square feet of office, research, and meeting space. With a price tag of just \$5 million, the location seemed a perfect fit for BISD's growing CTE needs. In April 2018, the BISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to purchase the facility.

"We only had to perform about \$1 million in renovations to make the site ready for students," Reynolds said. "This mutually beneficial option saved the taxpayers millions, and provided the district with a great bang for our buck."

The new Career and Technical Education Center opened its doors to students in August of 2019 offering additional space for four programs, automotive technology, industrial, engineering and robotics, construction technology, and welding. These high school juniors and seniors spend half a day at their respective schools and then spend the other half of the day at the CTE Complex. The expansion into the new facility allowed for 160 more students to participate in the program.

Throughout discussions with community stakeholders, BISD staff identified the urgent need for skilled workers in the Brazos Valley. The skills gap forced companies to seek skilled workers from outside of the Brazos Valley, bringing in labor from the Houston, Austin, and Dallas areas. Since the lack of skilled workers is a Brazos Valley wide problem, BISD saw fit that other Brazos Valley schools should be part of the solution. BISD presented other school



districts in the area an opportunity to have their students participate in the programs offered at the CTE Complex. Caldwell and Snook Independent School Districts have students that attend courses at the facility currently, and students from College Station ISD will join at the beginning of 2020-2021 school year.

"Students leave this program career-ready," Reynolds said. "They are not only taught their chosen skill, but also employability skills including work ethic, communication, interviewing skills, and résumé writing."

When describing a look at a day inside classes at the CTE Complex, Reynolds said students are treated as if they are at work, instead of school. CTE students are expected to be timely and well behaved, and they are dismissed from the program if they are late more than three times or have behavioral issues. Students are required to lock up their cell phones and other devices. They also take safety very seriously, requiring the use of proper safety techniques and personal protective equipment.

"Eighty percent of Bryan ISD students are socioeconomically disadvantaged," Reynolds said. "We are giving students all of the skills they need to pursue careers that will help bring them a better quality of life."

Bryan ISD is grateful to the community for their ongoing support. A large number of community leaders volunteered their time to direct the focus of the advisory committee to achieve the creation of the new complex. Since then, many donations have been given to the facility from local government and community businesses including monetary donations, tools, and participation in the education of the students. BISD continues to work with local economic

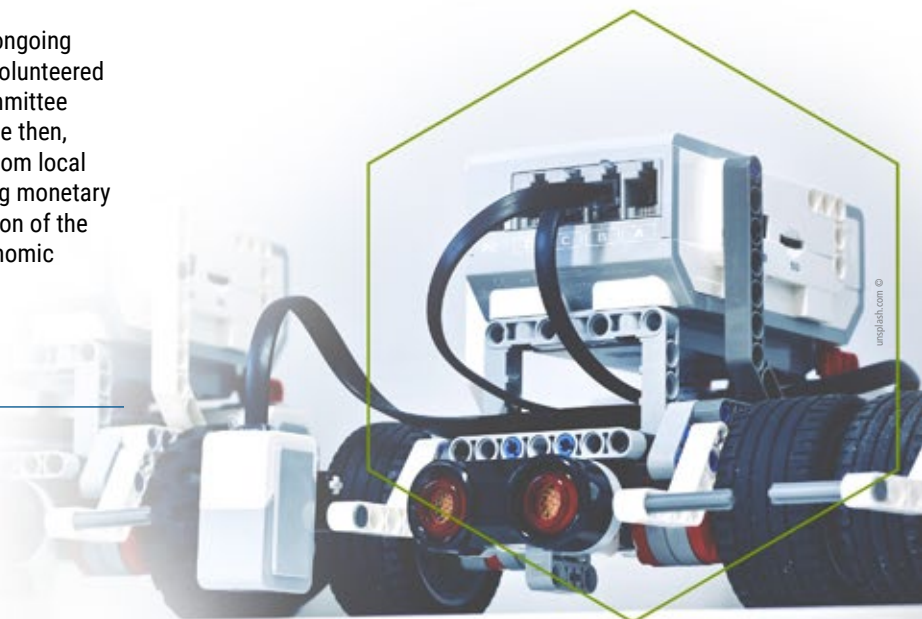
development entities and the Texas Workforce Commission to bring in high skill/high wage jobs into the Brazos Valley to employ students who graduate from the CTE courses.

"We have local businesses out here almost every week to help educate our young people," Reynolds said. "Businesses conduct mock interviews and help train the students in their respective fields."

When asked how the community can continue to support Bryan ISD's efforts in career and technical education, Reynolds said that local businesses can contact him to participate in the CTE summer internship program. BISD's plan is to have local businesses sign up to accept paid summer interns from the CTE complex to give them real-world experience. Interviews are set to be conducted in the spring, with all eligible students being OSHA 30 certified and liability-insured through BISD. Reynolds also mentioned that the community can keep career and technical education at the forefront of their minds as the district continues to grow. In the future, there will likely be opportunities for voters to support bonds that have money designated for CTE programs. Bryan ISD is looking to the future to ensure that the Brazos Valley has well-educated, highly skilled workers to support our ever-growing community.

#### To learn more, contact:

**David Reynolds**  
Career and Technical Education Director  
(979) 209-1475  
[david.reynolds@bryanisd.org](mailto:david.reynolds@bryanisd.org)





# OUTAGE TIPS

BTU is proud of being a reliable utility, ensuring that customers experience fewer outages than the national average. When outages do occur, restoration times are three times faster than the national average. The American Public Power Association (APPA) has twice recognized BTU with a Diamond (highest) level Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation. However, outages are often inevitable and beyond our control, caused by events such as inclement weather and animals. Since we are all bound to experience a power outage at some point in our lives, how should we prepare for and handle outages?



## NOTIFICATION

- BTU has Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology, otherwise known as “smart meters,” installed throughout the territory. This means your meter alerts BTU as soon as it loses power. You don’t have to worry about calling in to report an outage.
- You can monitor BTU’s outage map online to see the extent of outages, when crews have been assigned or when outages have been restored. Visit [outages.btutilities.com](https://outages.btutilities.com)
- BTU will also update the status of outages on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Follow us there to receive timely information and updates.



## REFRIGERATION

- Keep appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer. Refrigerators should remain at 40°F or below, and frozen food is still safe to refreeze or cook if it also remained under 40°F.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator or freezer during a power outage. The cool temperature inside will last much longer if it is kept sealed.
- According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, modern refrigerators should keep food within the safe zone below 40°F for at least 4 hours, and freezers should last up to 48 hours if kept closed.
- If you know that the power will be out for an extended period of time, plan on keeping food cool using ice and coolers. Make plans for medications or important items that must be refrigerated.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



BryanTexasUtilities



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## GENERATORS

- Have a certified electrician install your generator to ensure that it is installed properly to avoid injury or damage to your electrical system.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet to try to power your home. This can cause "backfeeding," which puts utility workers and yourself at risk of electrocution.
- Never use a generator indoors. Generators often give off carbon monoxide, an odorless, tasteless gas that could cause serious injury or death if not vented properly. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air immediately.
- Never refuel a generator while it is hot. Gasoline or diesel fuel accidentally poured onto hot engine parts could ignite, leading to serious burns.



## SAFETY

- Never touch or go near downed power lines. BTU has protection devices in place to de-energize lines during these types of events, however, it is always best to assume that downed power lines are energized and could cause serious injury.
- Avoid traveling during known power outages, if possible. Outages could also affect traffic signals, causing congestion.
- Forecasted extreme weather events can cause power outages. Be prepared with bottled water, food, flashlights, a first aid kit, communication devices, and other emergency supplies.
- Stay calm. Make sure that your family knows that BTU and other personnel are working hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Consider playing a game by candlelight or telling stories to pass the time.

*Power outages are not ideal for BTU or our customers; however, we want you to be ready if and when they occur. Follow these tips to be prepared!*



# HAZARDS OF HUMIDITY

If you see condensation on your windows, it means the panes are not efficient enough to keep the cold air out. It's the same in the summer: single-pane windows do not provide enough insulation to keep cool, air-conditioned air indoors. Those foggy windows are trying to tell you something: **replace them.**



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Moisture in the air condenses when it touches a cold surface, causing the glass to “sweat” like a cold glass of iced tea on a hot day. Condensation can form on the glass and even pool on the window sill. And like any excess moisture, it can eventually lead to mold and mildew. It also can damage your windows over time.

## HERE ARE FOUR WAYS TO CUT DOWN ON CONDENSATION:

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Install ventilating fans in every bathroom and turn them on before every shower. Let the fan run only until the steam clears out of the bathroom.

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Use the hood fan over your stove when you cook. Cooking sends moisture into the air—along with lingering odors. The fan will rid your home of those smells and humidity.

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Limit your use of humidifiers indoors. It's possible to add too much moisture to indoor air.

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Vent your clothes dryer to the outdoors.



One solution is to replace drafty, single-pane windows with double-pane versions that are more energy efficient. You could receive a 10 to 25 percent rebate through BTU's SmartHOME program.

Visit **[BTUtilities.com/SmartHome](http://BTUtilities.com/SmartHome)** for more information or to apply.

