

# REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting Notes **January 13, 2020**

#### Approval of a Contract for Installation of Poles for a TxDOT Project

The Board approved a contract with Bird Electric to install 138kV overhead poles across FM 2818 for a TxDOT road-widening project.

#### Approval of a Contract for Engineering and Design Services

The Board approved a contract with M&S Engineering for the engineering and design of the Steephollow Substation expansion.

#### Recommendation of an Amendment to the Ordinance Regarding Lake Bryan to the **Bryan City Council**

Mr. David Werley, Executive Director of Business and Customer Operations, presented proposed modifications to the ordinance governing activities at the Lake Bryan Park. The proposed updates more closely align the Lake Bryan Park with other City of Bryan park rules and provides better structure for lake usage and activities. The Board approved the recommendation to the Bryan City Council.

#### **Presentation of Transmission and Distribution Operating Report**

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented information regarding any outages that occurred in the past month. Mr. Trimble noted that BTU's System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI; how long an average outage will last) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI; how many times the average customer would experience an outage in one year) indicators have trended down for the past several years. BTU is well below the national average in both categories.





#### **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.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Flynn Adcock, Chairman Mr. Carl L. Benner Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr. Mr. Paul Madison Mr. A. Bentley Nettles Ms. Rosemarie Selman Mr. Paul Turney Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

#### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Gary Miller

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

Randy Trimble **David Werley** Wes Williams

#### **DIVISION MANAGERS**

James Bodine Shawndra Curry Ken Lindberg Clay Lindstrom David McIntyre Vicki Reim Will Smith

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA** 





BTU\_BryanTX







cityofbryan

# **SKIP THE LINE!**

There are easier ways to pay. BTU offers many choices so you can find the bill payment option that fits your needs.

#### KIOSK

Pay using cash, card, or check at any one of our three convenient locations by entering your account number, listed on both your bill or your reminder letter, or by scanning a keycard provided by BTU. Kevcards can be requested in the BTU main office.

- BTU Drive Thru at 205 E. 28th St.
  - open 24 hours
- 🖊 HEB at Texas Ave. & Hwy 21
  - open 6 a.m. Midnight
- HEB in the Tejas Center
  - open 6 a.m. Midnight

#### RECURRING CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD

A card that remains on file that is billed each month via a payment card industry (PCI) compliant process on your due date. This form of payment must be updated should your card expire or be cancelled.

#### AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT

Payment for your bill is automatically charged each month on the bill due date from the bank account provided.

#### ONLINE E-CHECK

A one-time online transaction completed by the customer by entering information from a bank account into the secure portal on BTU's website.

#### ONLINE CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD

A one-time online transaction completed by the customer by entering payment card information into the secure portal on BTU's website.

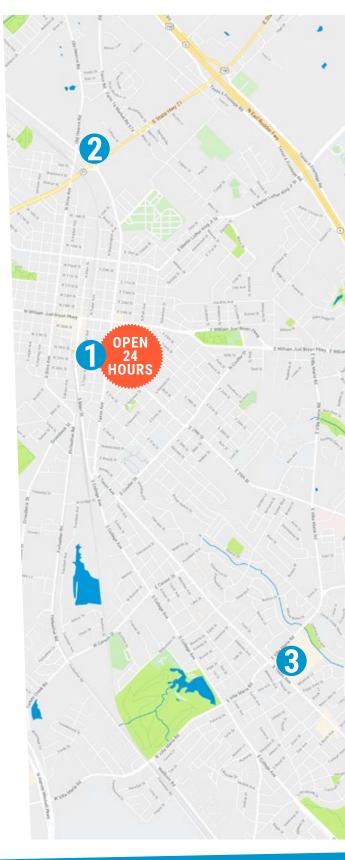
#### INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR) PHONE

Payment is made by calling (979) 821-5700 with a payment card and account number ready to enter into the automated system.

#### MAIL

Mail check or money order with stub from the bottom part of the bill to this address:

**Bryan Texas Utilities Attn: Customer Service** P.O. Box 8000 **Bryan, TX 77805** 





Second only to animal contact, weather-related incidents are the most common causes of electric service outages. Many weather-related outages stem from tree or vegetation contact with lines. To combat this common source of outages, BTU has a well-formed vegetation management policy, more commonly known as "tree trimming." BTU takes a proactive approach to clearing the right-of-way in a 4- to 5-year trim cycle designed to provide customers with high reliability.







### Why?

When high winds, ice, lightning, or other inclement weather occurs, tree limbs can break off and fall on power lines. To reduce the instances of tree contact with lines, BTU contracts with certified crews to trim trees and vegetation around power lines. BTU strives to maintain high reliability and system safety, and vegetation management is an important component to achieving that goal.

#### When?

BTU has a 4- to 5-year trim cycle to ensure proper vegetation management through the service territory. With more than 2,300 miles of overhead transmission and distribution line, including much of Brazos, and parts of Robertson and Burleson counties, it is important for crews to work year-round. Customers will see crews throughout the territory at all times of the year. If your area is scheduled for regular tree trimming, a door hanger will be left on your front door or gate to notify you of the work that is scheduled to take place on or near your property. There is a number to call on the door hanger should you have any questions or concerns.

#### What?

Since trimming is performed on a 4- to 5-year cycle, crews must provide enough clearance to allot for growth while maintaining the aesthetic value of the trees. The factors that determine the method of trimming include the branch structure, the position of the tree or branches in the rightof-way, and the proximity of the power lines. BTU employs a certified arborist that oversees vegetation management and ensures industry accepted principles of proper arboriculture are adhered to in order to provide the necessary clearances while also preventing damage to trees.

## What can you do?

When planting trees or bushes, customers should know the maximum height of the mature plant and make sure that it will be a minimum of 20 feet away from any power lines or service drops. In order to prevent damage, it is also advised to have underground utility services located if you are planting large trees or doing a landscaping project.

BTU crews do not prune overhead branches that contact or are close to contacting the service line that extends from the utility pole to your meter, also known as the "service drop." However, at your request, BTU will disconnect the service and move it to allow you or your contractor to safely trim, prune, or remove the tree(s). It is never recommended that a customer attempt to prune trees that are contacting, or are in close proximity to, energized power lines. Commercial arborists and crews must be line clearance certified to work closer than 10 feet to live electrical lines. It is an extremely hazardous task that should only be attempted by professionals.

To report vegetation that is in danger of contacting BTU lines, please call:

BTU Customer Service at (979) 821-5700 during regular business hours, or our 24-hour System Operations Center at (979) 822-3777 if the situation is after hours or an emergency.



Thank you to the nearly 100,000 visitors that enjoyed Lake Bryan this past year! We had a wonderful season and look forward to another one as the weather warms up. Here are a few new additions to the park, as well as some upcoming additions, to look forward to:

- We are proud to partner with Paddle EZ to offer kayak and paddle board rentals to our guests. This self-service locker allows customers to reserve a watercraft in advance or at the park for their desired timeframe. Each locker is equipped with oars, helmets, and life jackets, so you're ready to enjoy the water safely! A pin code is provided for use at the self-service locker. Reservations are made online via your mobile device or desktop computer. To make a reservation, visit our website at www.LakeBryan.com.
- This spring, our guests will have a new ADA-compliant nature trail to enjoy! This 1/3-mile trail, made of crushed granite, will allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy all that nature has to offer. In partnership with the Master Naturalists Association, this trail will be both peaceful and educational, with signage noting specific bird and plant species found throughout.
- To better serve our guests, a new four-room restroom facility will be constructed at the front of the park, near the boat ramp. Outdoor showers will also be installed for boaters to rinse off after their day on the water. Look for these to be complete by summer 2020!
- For added park security, a new gate system was installed at the front of the park to control after-hours entry. Police security has also been increased to help keep our overnight guests safe and comfortable during their stay.

If you haven't visited Lake Bryan recently, we hope you'll come enjoy swimming, fishing, camping, boating, kayaking, biking, or just relaxing in a hammock this season!

# **WATER SAFETY**

Spending time by the water is fun for the whole family! It's important to keep in mind that any body of water can pose a serious safety risk, especially to children, inexperienced swimmers, and adults under the influence. Always be aware of water hazards, and take note of these important reminders:

Always have a cell phone and first aid kit available—don't leave these items in the car. In an emergency, every second counts. Getting emergency services on the way as soon as possible is crucial.

FACT: It only takes 4-6 minutes without oxygen to cause permanent brain damage.

The buddy system is important when swimming. Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children near water.

FACT: Every day, approximately 10 people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children.

All children, inexperienced swimmers, and boaters should wear a lifejacket. Ensure that it is sized properly for the person wearing it—children should not be placed in adult-sized life jackets. You should also discard any lifejacket with tears or missing buckles or straps.

FACT: Drowning is the second leading cause of death for people age 5-24.

We hope you have a safe and fun swimming season! Don't forget that the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation department offers swim lessons for people of all ages. For more information, visit www.bryantx.gov/parks.







Power theft costs more than just money. Tampering with your electric meter can cost you your life. Attempting to bypass, alter, or "slow-down" an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion, and/or electrocution. If you are lucky enough to avoid injuring yourself, you may expose others to these dangers. Anyone who goes near your meter - family members, children, pets - could be injured from the unsafe conditions. You also put BTU employees who maintain the meters and power lines at risk.

With BTU's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) it is easy to detect possible tampering. If tampering is confirmed, the crime is reported to the police. In Texas, theft of utility services is either a misdemeanor or a felony, depending on the value of the power that was stolen. In addition, BTU will apply tampering fees on the account holder, which can impact your credit history.

If you suspect a meter or BTU lines have been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life.

#### Presented by the Bryan Police Department and Bryan Parks & Recreation Department

BREAKFAST • EGG HUNT • PICTURES WITH THE BUNNY • TRAIN RIDE • INFLATABLES

