

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Meeting Notes***March 16, 2020****Approval of a Change Order to a Contract for Overhead Unit Services**

The Board authorized a change order to the contract with LineTec Services, LLC. for additional overhead unit services.

Approval of a Change Order for the Overhead to Underground Conversion of William J. Bryan Pkwy

The Board authorized a change order to the contract with Primoris T&D Services, LLC. for the conversion of overhead to underground services along William J. Bryan Parkway.

Approval of a Contract for the Purchase of Steel Poles for the Steele Store to Smetana 138kV Transmission Line

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented the bid tabulations for the purchase of steel transmission poles for the Steele Store to Smetana 138kV transmission line project. Mr. Trimble stated that seven bids were received from six vendors ranging in price and delivery dates. The Board authorized a contract with MVA Power for the purchase of 18 steel poles for the project.

Presentation Regarding the Removal of a Natural Gas Pipeline for the TXDOT FM2818 Project

Mr. Wes Williams, Executive Director of Power Supply, notified the Board of BTU's existing 6-inch natural gas pipeline in the Texas Department of Transportation's (TXDOT) right-of-way along the north side of FM 2818. The pipeline will interfere with a TXDOT road widening project and thus must be removed between Jones Butler Road and FM 60. Mr. Williams stated a scope of work and bid package to remove this pipeline will be sent out and a contract awarded at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

**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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Shawndra Curry

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Clay Lindstrom

David McIntyre

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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

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

KIOSKS**SAVE TIME, SKIP THE LINE.****VISIT ONE OF OUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

BTU Drive Thru
205 E. 28th St.
Open 24 Hours

HEB Grocery
Tejas Center on Villa Maria

HEB Grocery
Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

WAYS TO PAY**CASH****CHECK****CARD**

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



WARM WEATHER ENERGY TIPS

Most of us are spending more time than ever at home. Our school-aged kids are now home day and night, and this can cause our energy bills to jump considerably. To keep your costs to a minimum, follow these tips to save energy when the temperature rises.

Microwave, crockpot, or grill instead of cooking on the stove or oven

Microwave ovens use one-third less energy than stoves. Microwave ovens work by producing heat within the food, whereas stoves and ovens must heat the air or pots and pans in order for food to absorb heat. Not only are stoves and ovens less efficient, they emit heat and humidity into your home. Using a crockpot also uses far less energy than an oven or stove, but still contributes some heat into your home. Grilling keeps the heat outside and keeps the pressure off your home cooling system.



Run your dishwasher at night

The dishwasher tends to emit heat and humidity, so use this appliance at night while people in your household are sleeping. Setting the dishwasher to air dry will save even more energy and keep the house cooler. Run the dishwasher only when you have a full load in order to maximize efficiency. Also, did you know using a dishwasher uses less hot water than washing dishes by hand? According to the National Resources Defense Council, a modern dishwasher uses about 3 gallons of hot water per load, compared to up to 27 gallons for an equivalent load washed by hand.



Close blinds and drapes

Direct sun on your windows means heat in your house. This is great during the winter, but not during the summer. This heating effect is called solar heat gain, and the more you can shade your sun-struck windows, the less solar heat gain for your home. Put another way, the more you can eliminate this heat gain during the summer, the less you'll spend on air conditioning. To maximize protection from solar heat gain, consider installing solar screens over your windows. Not only will you save on cooling costs, but BTU offers up to a 25% rebate on the cost of your screens – even if you install them yourself.

Go to btutilities.com for more details.

Change your air filters

Dirty air conditioner filters restrict airflow and can make your unit run longer, increasing energy costs. Even worse, dust particles can break free over time and collect on the coils where the cooling takes place. This can cause frost to form on the coils, making it more difficult for the unit to cool air. Not only does this increase your energy bill, but it can lead to an expensive system breakdown. Check your air filter monthly to determine if it needs changing, and check it even more often if there are multiple pets or children in the home. Consider buying air filters with appropriate Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) ratings for your unit, as they can eliminate more dust while maintaining efficient air flow for your system.

Check seals around windows and doors

Minimize the amount of air leaking into your home by caulking leaky window and door frames and adding or replacing weather-stripping around windows and doors. Ask for advice from your local hardware store or do a little research online. V-seal or V-channel weather-stripping with an adhesive backing is inexpensive and can be easily and quickly installed by the homeowner.



BTU CALENDAR ARTWORK NEEDED

For twenty years, Bryan Texas Utilities has partnered with local elementary school students in our service territory to create a fun and educational calendar for the community. We don't want the COVID-19 pandemic to stop us from completing a calendar this year, so we need your help! With students social distancing at home, we have created an online submission for students and their parents to upload their artwork remotely. Visit our website for details and to apply! Contest is limited to students in kindergarten through fourth grade that attend school in BTU territory.

The deadline for submissions is May 11, 2020.

www.btutilities.com/community-outreach/calendar



Maintaining CONTACT

At Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU), we are constantly striving to improve efficiency and to provide the most reliable electric service possible for our customers. We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information through our website by clicking the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of the page, emailing contactbtu@btutilities.com, or by calling (979)821-5700. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve.

Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to find and repair the issue. While we always do our best to maintain your electric service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair, or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected customers through automated phone messages, emails, and letters—but only if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping BTU updated with your information also helps us if you have a question about energy use or billing. In addition, any discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if BTU has accurate account information. Emails and phone calls may also be used to notify customers of any upcoming software, hardware, or business operation changes that might impact them.

Many of you have been customers of BTU for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. Many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system. We will never share your private information with any third parties. ***We will never call and demand payment or threaten disconnection.*** BTU only uses your contact information to send important communications to you. By updating your information, you help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you.



www.btutilities.com

Confirm or update your contact information through our website by clicking the “Contact Us” link at the bottom of the page, emailing contactbtu@btutilities.com, or by calling (979)821-5700.

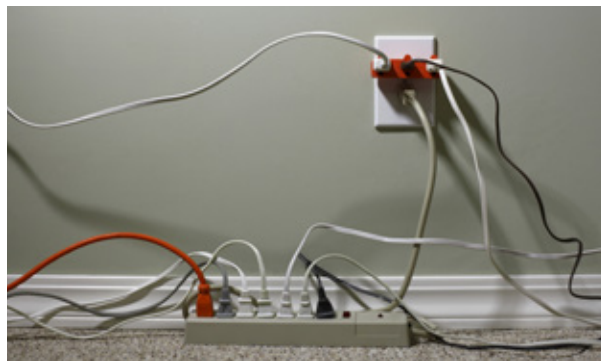
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MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

We use electricity so often in our daily lives that it is easy to become complacent around its inherent danger. It is important to know how to be safe around electrical devices and services. According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly 50,000 house fires are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year. Please keep these tips in mind and share them with your loved ones, including children.



INSIDE THE HOME

Do you know the signs of an overloaded circuit?

- A mild shock from an outlet, appliance or switch
- Discoloration or a burning smell coming from outlets
- Flickering, blinking or dimming lights
- Frequent blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers

If you notice these signs, it means you need to have a certified electrician inspect the wiring in your home.

Appliance Safety

- Major appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryer, and dishwashers should be plugged directly into an outlet designed to support the needs of the appliance.
- Always unplug appliances such as hand or stand mixers or blow dryers before cleaning them with water.
- Make sure appliance cords are not frayed or damaged. This could cause a short or spark.

Electrical Outlets

- Make sure all outlets near a water source (e.g. kitchens or bathrooms) are ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) or arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI). These are fast-acting circuit breakers that operate immediately when an issue is detected, protecting you and your home.
- Use outlet safety covers to prevent children from tampering with the outlet and being shocked or burned.
- An electrical outlet splitter only provides more receptacles for plugging items in. It does not increase the amount of power available. Be very careful that outlet splitters do not overload a circuit, as that could cause a fire.



OUTSIDE THE HOME

Electric lines should always be avoided.

Electricity is always trying to find a path to the ground. It will use anything possible as a conductor including metal, water, air, and even your body.

- Never go near a downed power line. It is best to assume that it is energized and report it to the utility company.
- Power lines are also located underground. Call Texas 811 at least two business days before you dig to ensure that there are no electric lines or other underground utilities located in the work area.
- Never climb on, play near or touch electrical equipment such as utility poles, guy wires, power lines, transformers, or substations. The equipment could be energized and cause serious injury.
- Do not plant trees near power lines as they could grow into the lines, causing outages.

Generators should be used with caution. They can pose a danger if used improperly.

- Generators should be used only in a well-ventilated outdoor area. If not properly ventilated, generators can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure that your generator has a transfer switch or some other way of preventing the generator from backfeeding on to the electrical grid. This backflow of power could cause serious injury to line workers.

Water and electricity don't mix

- Ensure that pool and spa equipment are in proper working condition, as electrical devices used in and around pools can malfunction causing injury.
- Any outdoor outlets should be GFCIs and should have a weather cover to help keep the elements out.

FARM SAFETY

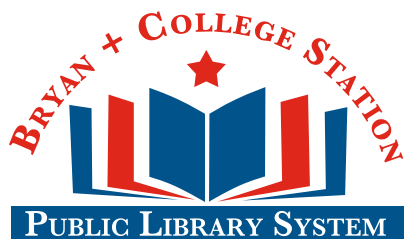


Because many pieces of farm equipment reach heights of 14 feet or higher, it is important to make sure there is enough room for equipment to pass beneath electric lines. Here are some tips to follow when working with farm and ranch equipment:

- The number one electrical farm hazard is the potential contact from a grain auger to a power line. Always look up before raising or moving an auger, as contacting a line can cause outages and serious injury.
- Metal irrigation pipe is often stored along fence lines under an electric line or in the utility right-of-way. Never raise or move irrigation pipe without checking for clearance underneath a line.
- Ensure that the wiring in your workshop is adequate to handle your tools, and be sure the tools are in good working order.
- Utilize a method line workers use called "Lock Out/Tag Out". Line workers use this to ensure electric lines are de-energized and clear while they work on them. Farmers and ranchers can use "Lock Out/Tag Out" by locking out or turning off any equipment that you are maintaining or repairing. Tagging out means tagging equipment to signal to others that you are in a grain bin or other apparatus so they don't put you in danger by turning something on or unloading product.



BTU always encourages you to practice safety precautions on the farm or ranch, at home, and anywhere you may travel.



The Bryan+College Station Library System has a vast array of online resources for reading and learning. See the list below to consider what might interest you or your children.



- **Streaming Video** – Bryan+College Station Public Library System recently launched a video streaming service through RBDigital. The service includes entertainment videos from Acorn TV and IndieFlix, music videos from Stingray Quello, educational videos from The Great Courses and Method Test Prep (ACT/SAT Test Prep), Spanish Language videos from Pongalo Novela Club, and Health & Wellness videos from Learn It Live.
- **E-Audiobooks** – The library system offers a wide variety of electronic audiobooks from two sources: Overdrive and RBDigital.
- **E-books** – The library system offers a large collection of electronic books through its partnership with Overdrive and RBDigital. The collection includes selections for all ages and reading levels.
- **E-magazine** – Through a partnership with RBDigital, over 60 popular magazines are available to check out in electronic format.
- **Databases** – *The library system subscribes to several databases for patrons to use including:*
 - **NewsBank** – grants access to The Bryan/College Station Eagle and many national newspapers.
 - **Newspapers.com** – grants access to over 3,000 historical newspapers.
 - **TexShare Databases** – a variety of databases available to users, paid for by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board.
 - **Ancestry® Library Edition** – a genealogical research database.
 - **Fold3 by Ancestry® Library Edition** – provides access to military records, including stories and photos of men and women who served.
 - **Legal Forms** – Thomson Gale Legal Forms provides legal documents for a number of uses including state and federal business, business and personal, and real estate purposes.

To access any of these online resources, make sure you have your library card handy, and go to bcslibrary.org.