

## Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

### October 11, 2021

#### Discussion Regarding Final Pricing of the BTU City and Rural Bonds

Will Smith, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the final pricing of new City and Rural bonds for BTU. Mr. Smith stated the BTU City bond priced at \$73,603,501 with a final maturity date of 2046 and a true interest cost of 2.332%. The BTU Rural bond priced at \$21,760,500 with a final maturity date of 2046 and a true interest cost of 2.238%.

#### Recommendation to Increase Targeted Days of Cash Levels for BTU City and Rural Electric Systems

Will Smith reported that after reviewing the target days of cash levels for the BTU City and Rural Electric Systems, staff recommends increasing the days of cash metrics for the City Electric System to 225 days and the Rural Electric System to 125 days. The Board approved a motion to recommend to the Bryan City Council the proposed revisions to the target days of cash levels.

#### Approval to Expense Deferred Fuel Costs for the City and Rural Electric Systems

Will Smith reported that fuel costs for both the City and Rural Electric Systems reached unprecedented levels during the February winter storm. Staff recommended expensing the deferred fuel costs for both systems as an extraordinary item. The Board approved a motion to expense the deferred fuel costs for the February winter storm event as an extraordinary item.

#### Approval of a Contract for Construction of the Smetana Substation

Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented the bid tabulations for the Smetana Substation Construction Project. The Board approved a contract with Lambda Construction I, LTD for this project.

#### Presentation Regarding 2019 Electric Utility Uncollectible Debt Write-Off

Vicki Reim, Division Manager of Customer Operations, presented the 2019 electric write-offs, stating the total write-off amount for 2019 is \$233,684.37. In 2021 over \$93,000 in previously written-off debt was collected. Mrs. Reim attributed the good results to customers satisfying their debt in order to have negative indicators removed from their credit report or to receive new service from BTU.

#### BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803  
email: [ContactBTU@btutilities.com](mailto:ContactBTU@btutilities.com)

**[www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)**

#### Hours of Operation

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

#### Board of Directors

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles, Chairman  
Ms. Rosemarie Selman, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Secretary  
Mr. John A. Bond  
Mr. Paul Madison, Sr.  
Mr. Greg S. Owens  
Mr. Paul Turney  
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

#### General Manager

Gary Miller

#### Executive Directors

Doug Lyles  
Randy Trimble  
Wes Williams  
David Werley, Chief Business Officer

#### Division Managers

James Bodine  
Nick Cook  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Clay Lindstrom  
Gary Massey  
Vicki Reim

#### City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager  
Will Smith, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
**KIOSKS**

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.

#### Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects  
**(979) 821-5700**

Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
**(979) 822-3777**

Distribution/Line Design  
**(979) 821-5770**



# LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY & DISPOSAL

The City of Bryan's Public Works and Fire Departments have a few reminders when it comes to your Christmas trees.

## SAFETY

Decorating your Christmas tree is always a lot of fun each year, but families should keep the following tips in mind to keep everyone in the family safe around Christmas trees.

- Natural Christmas trees can present a fire danger if they are too dry, as dry trees can burn quickly, leaving little time to escape.
- When purchasing a natural tree, cut 2 inches off the trunk before placing it in water.
- Keep a constant supply of water in the stand. Natural trees can "drink" a lot of water, especially when first set up.
- Keep any heat sources away from the tree.
- Don't use candles on a live Christmas tree.
- Use only UL-listed light strings, if you decorate the tree with lights



## DISPOSAL

Once the holidays are over, Bryan Public Works wants to help by picking up your tree at curbside at no charge! Place your Christmas tree at the curb on your regularly scheduled Brush & Bulky service day.

- Be sure the tree has been cleaned of all decorations, lights, tinsel, and metal and plastic stands.

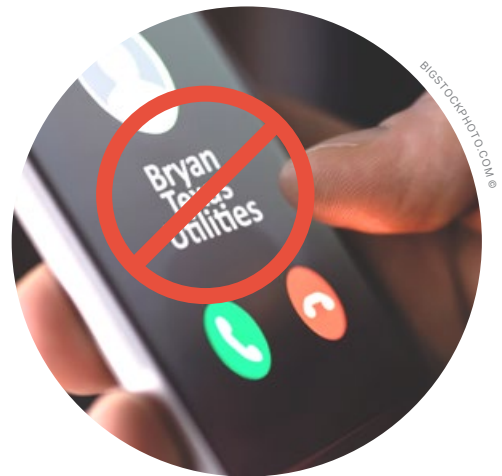
# DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS

With the holiday season approaching, BTU would like to remind all of our customers to beware of increased attempts by scammers to get money or personal information from you. Scammers use emotions such as fear or confusion to get something of value from their victims. Understand these common scams to better protect yourself from con artists.

## THE POWER SHUTOFF SCAM

In this form of fraud, the scammers will contact the utility customer claiming to be from BTU and demanding immediate payment or else your power will be shut off. This demand can be through an email, by phone, or even in person. The scammer will typically demand immediate payment in cash, a prepaid debit card, or will ask for your credit card information. Scammers can even use software to make a phone call appear to come from BTU.

BTU **does not** call residential customers to demand immediate payment. BTU will send a written termination notice to customers facing disconnection with instructions of how to pay an outstanding balance. If you receive an email, phone call, or a personal visit from anyone claiming to be from BTU, call our customer service line at 979-821-5700 before you respond in any way so that we can determine whether the contact is legitimate. BTU customers can also check their account online to determine if a balance is due.



## THE OVERPAYMENT SCAM

In this scheme, a scammer will call or email a customer saying a billing error occurred and the customer has paid too much money. They will say the customer is entitled to a refund and ask for personal information such as a bank account or credit card, supposedly, so BTU can send a "refund" to the customer. Once the scammer has this information, though, they will take money out of the account instead. Some scammers will ask for your Social Security Number (SSN) to "verify" your identification. Anyone who provides their SSN to scammers will have their identity stolen, not verified. On the rare occasion an actual overpayment is made on a BTU account, we will list the overpayment as a credit and deduct it from your next bill.

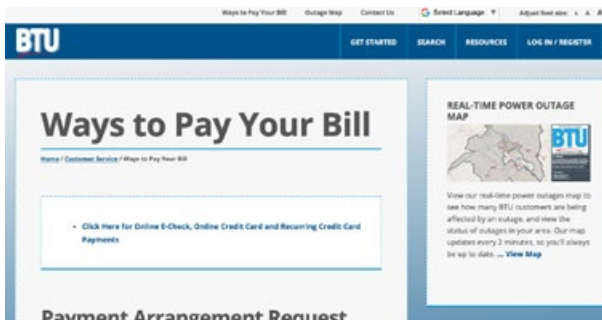
If you get an overpayment scam call like this, do not give out any information at all. Simply hang up and call BTU's customer service line (see above) to report the scam. Do not press any numbers on your phone in response to any automated robotic phone call you receive, as doing so could set yourself up for more automated calls in the future.





## FAKE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

This scam preys on people who are already struggling to make ends meet. Scammers will contact customers by phone, email, text, or social media, and some have even posted fliers in low-income neighborhoods, to announce a special federal program or Covid relief program that helps customers pay their utility bills. The scammers will tell you that in order to sign up for the program they will need information from you, including bank and credit card accounts as well as your SSN.

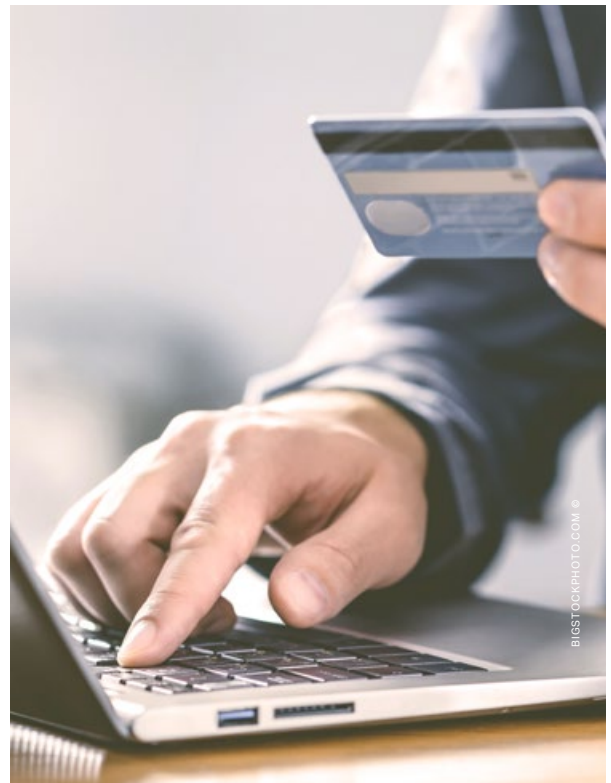


While there are legitimate programs and charities that assist people struggling to pay their bills, these programs do not randomly call or email people. If you do get a solicitation for an energy assistance program, do not immediately sign up for it or give out any personal information. Instead, go to our website [btutilities.com](http://btutilities.com) and click on the "Ways to Pay Your Bill" link to find information on legitimate assistance organizations in our area. You can even fill out a Pledge Assistance Authorization Release Form, which allows those organizations access to information to determine if you meet their requirements for assistance.

## THE METER SCAM

A scammer will contact the customer stating the State of Texas legislature has mandated utility meter upgrades and that several letters were sent to all customers over the last few months regarding the meter mandate. The scammer then tells the customer the upgrade deadline has passed and its current meter is no longer in compliance with state law. The scammer then demands an immediate meter deposit in order to "upgrade" the customer's meter.

Again, BTU does not call residential customers to demand immediate payment over the phone, and we will not ask for personal or credit card information over the phone. In this scheme, the scammer is using the confusion tactic to get people to act. There is no state mandate regarding meters, and BTU customers already have meters that use current technology.



**If someone claiming to be from BTU contacts you, and you are being told to act on something, be very suspicious.**

Call BTU at 979-821-5700 to verify the information you have received.

Follow BTU on Twitter (@BTU\_BryanTX) and Facebook (Bryan Texas Utilities), as we will post Scam Alerts when we learn of scammers working the area.



BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM ©

## Holiday Energy Efficiency Tips

# The NAUGHTY & Nice List

*To make sure your home will be on Santa's Nice List this year; here are some tips to save energy and money this holiday season.*

### NAUGHTY

Do not overload your refrigerator with holiday leftovers. Cold air cannot circulate well when the shelves are crammed full. Instead of keeping large containers that are half-full of food, transfer to a smaller container or freeze some leftovers that may be stored longer.

### Nice

Open curtains and blinds on sunny winter days to take advantage of radiant solar heating for your home. You will get a source of free heating and natural light.

### NAUGHTY

Do not leave those same curtains and blinds open at night. Once the sun goes down, your windows will cool the house instead. Close your curtains and blinds to block this radiant cooling effect.

### Nice

Reverse your ceiling fans in the winter to produce an updraft to move warm air from the ceiling down into the room. Use a ladder to safely access the switch that reverses the fan blade rotation to turn clockwise during cold periods. Remember to switch the fans back before the weather heats up in late spring.

### NAUGHTY

Do not crank the thermostat up more than a few degrees at a time. Turning your thermostat from 65 degrees to 85 degrees will not warm your house any faster than only turning it up to 67 degrees. This is very important if your house has a heat pump, as most heat pumps will activate auxiliary electric resistance heating when you turn the thermostat up three or more degrees. Auxiliary heat uses much more energy than a heat pump's normal operation, which can lead to higher energy bills during cold months.

### Nice

Use a programmable thermostat to reduce the temperature in your home by 10 degrees at night while people are asleep and during times when no one is home. You can program the thermostat to gradually warm the house before people wake up or come back home. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates an average home can save 10 percent or more on heating costs by using a programmable thermostat in the winter.

### NAUGHTY

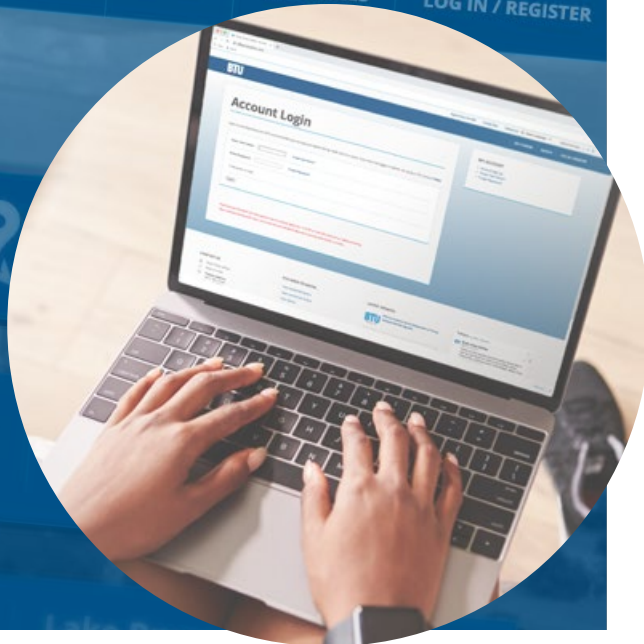
Do not leave interior doors and vents open in unused rooms. Valuable heat can be wasted in unused rooms, such as a guest room or vacant room because a child is off to college. Close off the vents and shut all the doors to keep from paying to heat an unoccupied space.

### Nice

Switch to Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs for indoor and outdoor holiday lighting. LED bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer. Because LED bulbs are plastic, they are much more durable and cool to the touch. Also, if one LED bulb goes out in a strand of holiday lights, the other bulbs will continue to work.

# Twelve Clicks of Christmas

BTU's website offers our customers easy access to several online options to meet your needs. Simply use your computer or smartphone and type "**btutilities.com**" in your preferred web browser, and then check out these 12 features available to you...



- 1 Register for an online account in order to view your daily or monthly consumption history, payment history, or sign up for paperless billing.
- 2 Apply for or terminate either residential and commercial services, or transfer services if you are moving across town.
- 3 Apply for payment methods such as automatic bank draft or budget billing.
- 4 Check on the status and locations of outages by using our outage map.
- 5 Report street light outages.
- 6 Apply for a **SmartHOME** residential energy efficiency rebate program.
- 7 Find information on our **SmartBUSINESS** commercial energy efficiency rebate program.
- 8 Apply for the **RENEWability** 100% renewable fuel rate option.
- 9 Find information on connecting solar panels to the BTU system.
- 10 Apply for the Government-In-Action Youth Tour, a 10-day trip to Washington D.C. for local high school students.
- 11 Read about latest BTU news, energy saving tips, and important notifications.
- 12 Access the Lake Bryan website to find information on park hours, park rules, camping, RV site, pavilion rentals, and much more.



**SmartHOME**  
saving makes sense



**SmartBUSINESS**  
saving makes sense



**RENEWability**  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES



# MIDTOWN PARK UPDATES

Construction is now in full swing at Travis Bryan Midtown Park, and passersby can now see several of the key features of the park emerging.

The 150-acre park will be a world-class destination featuring outdoor athletic space, the Legends Event Center indoor sports and events facility, and nature-based recreation opportunities. An integrated social and ecological approach that promotes public health, cultural awareness and environmental stewardship is desired. In addition, the new park is planned to be unique in design to provide a catalyst for the positive redevelopment of the entire Midtown corridor.



## LEGENDS EVENT CENTER:

After the groundbreaking on the facility in June, construction fully began on the approximately 122,300-square-foot multipurpose facility. The \$41 million building is being constructed through a design-build with the design completed in May of 2021. Construction started in June on the civil work that includes the pad site and storm sewer.

Contractors have been working on pouring the concrete footings and foundations for the building, and the installation of underground plumbing and electrical work recently began. The steel structure has been delivered and is being installed.

Construction is expected to be complete in fall 2022, with the facility opening later that year.



## LAKE:

The removal of the contaminated soil is complete, and contractors are completing the final work on the lake edges and installing the drain.





## BIGSHOTS GOLF AGGIELAND:

Located on the southwest corner of the park, BigShots Golf Aggieldand continues to be under construction and erected their nets in late October. The facility is estimated to be open in winter 2021/2022.

The city's contractor has recently completed the initial construction of the interior drive and creek crossings to BigShots from Midtown Park Boulevard, and landscaping is being installed.

## MIDTOWN PARK BOULEVARD:

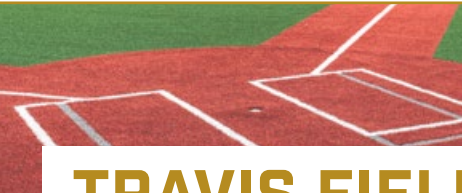
Significant progress has been made on the extension of Midtown Park Boulevard from the roundabout completed last December. Construction on box culverts has begun, and the extension is expected to be complete in Spring 2022.

## OUTER LOOP TRAIL:

Construction is ongoing on the first phase of the 12-foot-wide shared use path planned for the park. This phase includes a 4,000-foot-long path with lighting, seating and pedestrian improvements on the west side of the park. Construction crews have recently installed the foundations of pedestrian bridges for the path. The first phase is expected to be complete in January 2022.

*For more information about the Midtown Park project, go to:*

***[bryantx.gov/midtownpark](http://bryantx.gov/midtownpark)***

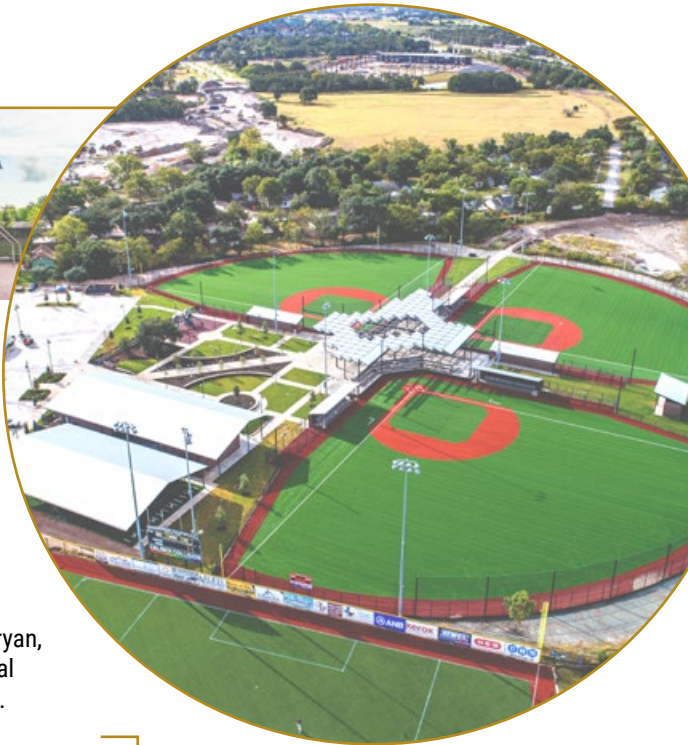


## TRAVIS FIELDS NEARING COMPLETION

*The redevelopment of the Midtown area is coming to fruition. One of the first major pieces of the Travis Bryan Midtown Park project is nearing completion – Travis Fields.*

The newly renovated three-field baseball complex sits on the north end of Midtown Park and features three synthetic turf fields, eight batting cages, playground and a shaded viewing area for visitors.

This area has traditionally been a home to Little League Baseball in Bryan, and with the upgraded facilities, will soon be hosting local and regional tournaments – bringing visitors from across the state to play in Bryan.



***"This incredible ballfield complex will become a hive of activity for baseball and softball, locally as well as statewide. With the adjoining facilities being planned and constructed in Midtown Park, the area will become a preferred destination for events, tournaments, games and practices."***

***Andrew Nelson, Mayor***

The facility is being operated by RCI Sports Management Solutions. For more information, go to **[www.rcisportsmanagement.com](http://www.rcisportsmanagement.com)**