



## Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

### September 12, 2022

#### Approval of a Contract for FY23 Underground Utility Location Services

The Board approved a contract with Private Solutions, LLC for Fiscal Year 2023 underground utility location services.

#### Presentation and Discussion of Voluntary Ratepayer Program for Customer Payment Assistance

Doug Lyles, Executive Director of Business and Customer Operations, presented an overview of a proposed program by which customers can voluntarily donate funds to assist other customers with outstanding utility bills. The program would allow customers to round up their bill to the nearest dollar or donate a fixed amount as a recurring or one-time donation.

#### Contracts for Transmission and Distribution Operations

Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented bid tabulations for several projects and services for Fiscal Year 2023 with the following outcomes:

- The Board unanimously approved the purchase of forty-two concrete poles from Valmont Industries for the Smetana-Leonard Road Transmission project.
- The Board unanimously approved the renewal of a contract with Nelson Tree Service, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2023 vegetation management services.
- The Board unanimously approved a contract with Power Line Services, Inc., for Phase II of the Texas Ave Overhead to Underground Conversion project.
- The Board unanimously approved a contract with Kasparian Underground, LLC, for primary underground unit services.
- The Board unanimously approved a contract with Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2023 secondary underground unit services.



#### 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. 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  
William J. Smith, Chief Financial 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**

Line Design

**(979) 821-5770**

#### SOCIAL MEDIA



[BryanTexasUtilities](https://www.facebook.com/BryanTexasUtilities)



[BTU\\_BryanTX](https://twitter.com/BTU_BryanTX)



[cityofbryan](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofbryan)



[cityofbryan](https://www.pinterest.com/cityofbryan)

# NOVEMBER IS A MONTH IN WHICH AMERICANS GIVE THANKS.



*BTU employs veterans in various departments including Enrique Leon (pictured above), a Meter Tech Apprentice for BTU, who previously served in the Army for 6 years.*

*Ken Lindberg, Division Manager for QSE/Power Marketing who spent 6.5 years active in the Navy and 2 years reserve. He has 18 years of service with BTU.*

Naturally, the first thing that comes to mind is the Thanksgiving holiday. Many gather with family and friends to count their blessings and enjoy a shared feast. There are many reasons to be thankful, and BTU is grateful to serve such a vibrant local community like the Brazos Valley.

However, there is another opportunity to give thanks in November. On November 11, Veterans Day, Americans thank others for making sacrifices to protect the shared freedoms all citizens enjoy. This Veterans Day BTU thanks all those who have aided the country through military service. No matter the branch of service or the conflict, Americans owe service members the utmost gratitude for preserving and defending our great nation. It is a debt that cannot be repaid but one that can be honored and recognized.

BTU believes that hiring and caring for veterans and military spouses strengthens the utility's mission. BTU is a not-for-profit, community-owned organization that delivers safe, reliable and affordable energy to citizens of Bryan, College Station, Snook, Kurten, Wixon Valley and surrounding rural areas. BTU employs veterans from all branches of military service in various departments of the organization.

***There are three areas in which BTU's operations and goals resonate with veterans.***

## **MISSION-DRIVEN:**

BTU's purpose is to power the local community and empower citizens and customers to improve the quality of their lives. This enables every employee to perform their duties with a unified sense of purpose that hits close to home.

## **USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:**

From cybersecurity, electric distribution automation, or turning data into actionable insights, technology plays a major role in BTU operations.

## **EXCELLING IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES:**

BTU powers more than 65,000 households and businesses in the Brazos Valley. Employees work diligently each day to maintain reliable service, affordable rates and excellent customer experiences regardless of what challenging circumstances arise. It takes exceptional people to respond to challenges like hurricanes, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and global health crises.

A wide variety of skills are required to keep operations running smoothly. Veterans can put their skills to work in jobs such as construction, equipment operation, accounting, engineering, customer care, communications, software analysis, cybersecurity and more.

Check out job listings at [bryantxjobs.com](https://bryantxjobs.com) to explore career opportunities at BTU.

# THE 3 P'S OF OUTAGE MANAGEMENT

When a problem arises in any personal or workplace situation, the typical individual dedicates their attention and available resources to resolving the issue. The same devotion should also be applied to determining how to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place. Bryan Texas Utilities has taken this approach when it comes to outage management. Outages are an unfortunate, but inevitable, part of electric utility service. However, there are many methods that BTU employs to mitigate potential outages.



## 1 PREVENT

BTU seeks to prevent outages from occurring by hardening the electrical grid against outside elements including those caused by weather events or animal interference. Prevention involves installing protective equipment to reduce the vulnerability of certain pieces of infrastructure. Protective equipment ranges in complexity from advanced technological devices such as automatic line reclosers, which act similarly to circuit breakers in your home's breaker panel, to fairly simple devices such as wildlife guards.

If a tree limb contacts a conductor wire it creates an overcurrent or short circuit. Within fractions of a second the recloser can detect the short circuit and opens up to isolate it from the grid in an effort to protect equipment. The recloser automatically closes back in to maintain the circuit. If the tree limb causing the short circuit no longer makes contact with the conductor, the recloser closes back in and prevents a sustained outage. In a case such as this, the fast-acting recloser device prevented a permanent outage that

would have otherwise required a utility employee to drive to the area experiencing the outage, patrol the line to find the cause and restore service. The time required to restore an outage like this could take hours.

Wildlife guards, while more simple in design, are just as important as technological devices. Wildlife guards are usually High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) plastic pieces that enclose bushings, arrestors and other connections protecting them from animal contact and resulting faults. Another access restriction device that BTU uses involves a series of plastic cylinders that spin when a squirrel attempts to climb over them. The squirrel cannot navigate the moving cylinder and is forced to go elsewhere. Utilities in other areas of the country utilize wildlife guard devices that discourage large birds of prey from nesting atop poles or an electrostatic device that delivers a shock to the animal should it touch the device, similar to an electric fence used for livestock.





## 2 PROACTIVE

It is an accepted reality that equipment, objects and devices break or wear over time. The same is true for electrical equipment. While it is built to withstand years battling the elements, eventually things begin to degrade. BTU has an extensive preventative maintenance program that identifies and remedies deteriorating equipment.

Annually, BTU hires a contractor to inspect and evaluate wooden poles that have accrued ten or more years of service. BTU inspects approximately ten percent of its poles each year. These inspections validate the integrity of the poles and ensure they are safe to remain in service. Preservative treatments are also applied to extend the life of the poles. If a pole is determined to be substandard, it is scheduled for replacement. Replacing poles before they break reduces customer interruptions.

Underground cable testing is performed annually as part of an overall cable rehabilitation project. A contractor applies a test voltage to the cable to find weak in the cable's insulation spots or sections of underground cable that may need to be replaced. Deficient sections are scheduled for replacement, preventing potential outages stemming from underground cable failure. Problems with underground equipment often take longer to resolve, as they require excavation to identify and remedy. The proactive program mitigates extended outages by focusing replacement efforts on targeted sections and preventing more widespread damage that could result from a fault.

Each year BTU performs an infrared assessment of key utility assets. This survey consists of scanning electrical components along a specified route. The equipment can include conductors, connectors, distribution substation equipment, pad mounted

transformers, pull boxes, switchgears, and other devices. The scan utilizes infrared thermographic imaging to identify and record abnormally high temperatures, called "hot spots," in equipment. These hot spots could signify imminent equipment failure or unsafe conditions. Once identified, BTU makes the necessary equipment repairs or replacements to prevent potential outages. In addition to temperature conditions, BTU performs annual inspections of voltage-regulating apparatuses, like regulators and capacitors, to ensure safe, consistent and reliable power delivery.

An integral part of proactive outage mitigation is vegetation management that consists of tree trimming and clearing electrical rights-of-way. BTU follows a robust vegetation management program of a four to five year trim cycle that continually rotates across the service territory. Vegetation is cut back from transmission and distribution line rights-of-way to improve system safety, reliability and access. Inclement weather can cause trees or limbs to fall into lines which can create power outages. Dense vegetation can also create an obstacle when crews need access to equipment to perform maintenance, construction or service restoration. One challenge to vegetation management is achieving the required long-term clearance while also preserving the aesthetic value of the trees. With trimming being performed every four to five years, crews must cut enough to ensure ample clearance despite continued tree growth until they return for the next trim cycle. Some factors that determine the method of trimming include the branch structure, the position in the right-of-way, and the proximity of the utility lines. Industry accepted principles of proper arboriculture are practiced to prevent damage to trees. BTU employs a certified arborist that oversees tree trimming crews.

## 3 PREPARE

BTU prepares for the future by learning from the past. Engineers evaluate outages that occur and map areas of the system that may be more inclined to service interruption than others. BTU staff develops focused plans to improve system reliability.

Reliability is also front of mind when designing new infrastructure for BTU's growing service territory. In the last few years, BTU has improved distribution equipment standards. For example, BTU now installs overhead transformers with lightning arresters attached to the body of the transformer. This method provide better lightning protection and is proven to decrease the number of transformer failures as compared to the traditional placement of pole-top arresters. BTU engineering staff are always searching for innovative ways to improve reliability including new distribution automation equipment that detects and recognizes fault situations. The equipment then isolates the problem area and relays the information to system operators. By collecting and interpreting

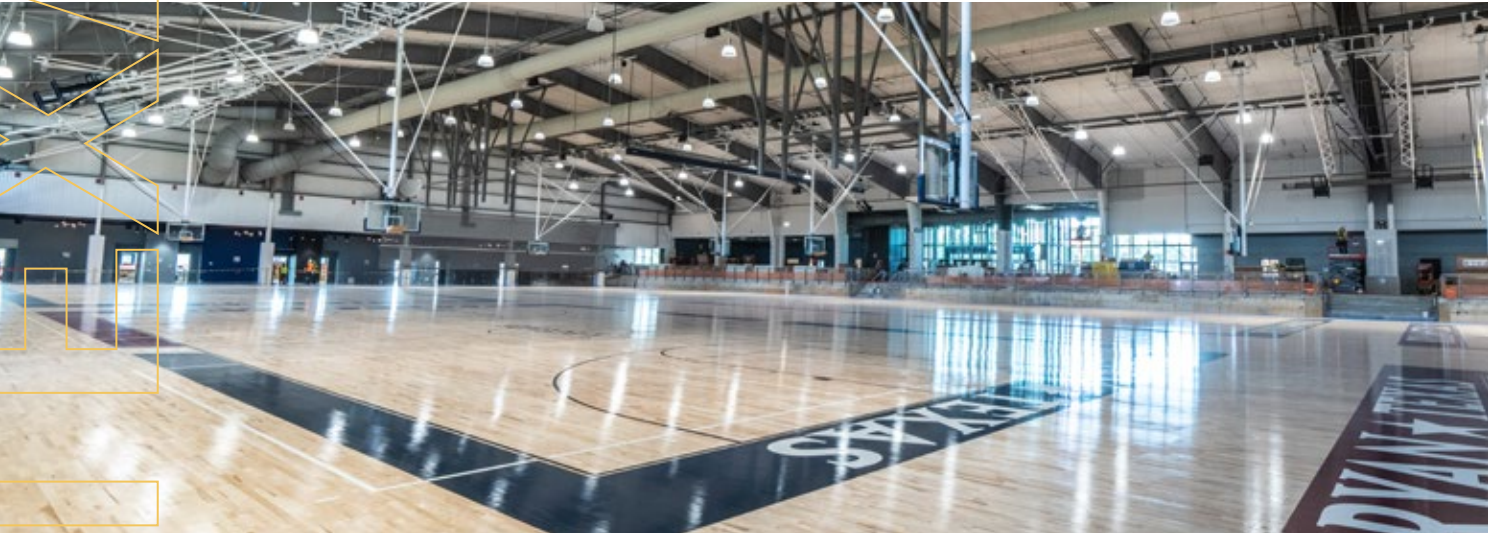
interruption data, staff can better pinpoint issues and improve outage response times.

When foul weather is predicted, BTU staff evaluates real-time conditions and works to harden any areas of the electrical system that may be temporarily vulnerable. This includes areas where new construction or system improvements are taking place. Crews remain on high alert to respond to any outages that might arise. Staff ensures that materials are sufficiently stocked to replace and repair infrastructure that may be damaged in inclement weather.

Reliability is arguably the most important aspect of electric service. Electricity powers daily life and is essential to safety, comfort and progress. Customers of Bryan Texas Utilities can rest easy knowing that there are dedicated, knowledgeable, professional, local employees who have taken a long-term proactive approach to provide the highest level of reliability.

# LEGENDS EVENT CENTER OPENING IN MIDTOWN PARK

Opening in December, Legends Event Center will be a state-of-the-art indoor sporting and event facility in the heart of Travis Bryan Midtown Park. The 122,000-square-foot venue will be the destination hub in Texas for volleyball, basketball, cheer and dance, wrestling, pickleball, futsal and so much more.



Legends Event Center will feature a 65,000-square-foot event floor with maple wood courts, designed for 16 volleyball courts overlapping eight basketball courts with backboards, nets and referee stands all suspended from the ceilings. This space can be used to accommodate a variety of activities, including gymnastic competitions, wrestling meets, pickleball tournaments, archery, cheer and dance competitions, boxing matches, futsal games, martial arts championships, esports contests, trade shows, markets, meetings and other special events.

Legends Event Center will provide an outlet for new and experienced athletes to grow as competitors and lay the pathway to successful athletic careers and a lifelong love of sports. Many programs and organizations are in discussions with Legends Event Center to host their tournaments and events and/or with the intentions of calling the venue their training home, including Houston Skyline BCS Volleyball Club. Houston Skyline BCS is the premier volleyball club in the Brazos Valley and is the only club that is part of League One Volleyball. In addition to being training ground for competitive club teams, the facility will provide an excellent opportunity to implement local youth programming.

From the groundbreaking ceremony in June of 2021 to a grand opening this year, many people have worked hard to make sure Legends Event Center is the premier destination for athletes, gamers and anyone who needs exceptional meeting space. This venue is a game-changer for this region of Texas and will draw competitors from near and far and help build success for players and businesses while serving the needs of the community.



## LOCATION IN TEXAS:

Legends Event Center is perfectly positioned to serve all of the major metro areas in Texas – Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio are all a 3-hour-drive or less. This short distance allows teams from across the state, region and nation to enjoy the amenities that Bryan has to offer.



**TECHNOLOGY/SCOREBOARDS:** Legends Event Center features the latest in technology to elevate your event experience. This includes 12 LED video boards, 32 televisions, and five projector screens.

**HARDWOOD FLOORING:** The floor on the volleyball/basketball courts is made of maple hardwood, which is recognized as one of the best playing surfaces available. This type of flooring system is resilient and gentler on players' knees and ankles.

**LEGENDS OF AGGIELAND WALL:** The walls outside of the flex rooms will be dedicated to honoring local sports legends whose accomplishments make them stand out as some of the best. The wall features photos of local legends, as well as short descriptions of their impact on athletics in Aggieland.

**LEGENDS**  
OF  
**AGGIELAND**  
BRYAN, TEXAS

## SPACES

**COURT SPACE:** The court features maple wood flooring with 16 volleyball courts/8 basketball courts that can be separated for individual play. Spectator seating is available for each court.

**CONCESSIONS:** Food and beverages will be available during events so you can grab a snack or a drink and enjoy the game.

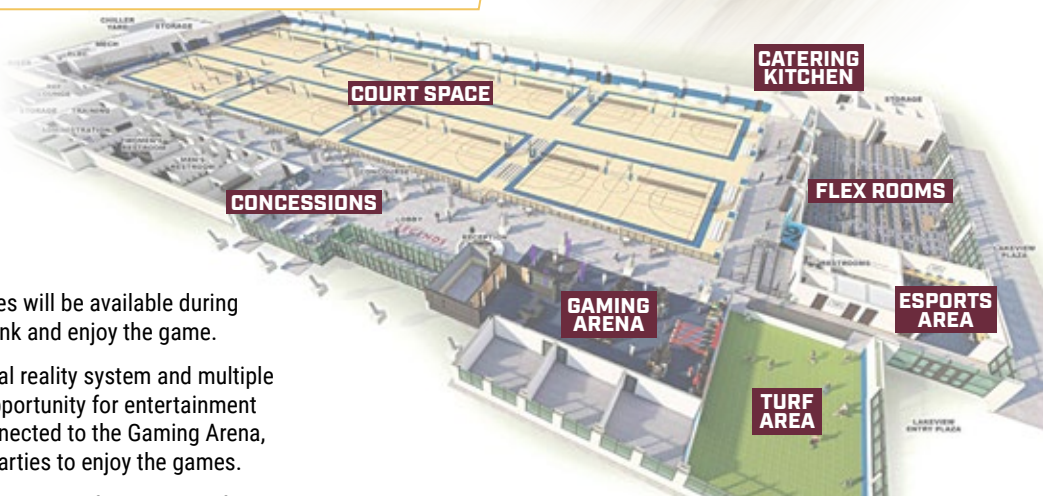
**GAMING ARENA:** Featuring a virtual reality system and multiple arcade games, this area provides an opportunity for entertainment for all ages. Three party rooms are connected to the Gaming Arena, allowing for easy access for birthday parties to enjoy the games.

**TURF AREA:** The 2,500-square-foot indoor turf space is perfect for pickup games, free play, yoga, performance training and other exercise activities.

**ESPORTS AREA:** This dedicated space is equipped to handle up to 18 participants competing in single-player or team events at once.

**FLEX ROOMS:** A versatile 5,500-square-foot room that can be partitioned into five rooms, each outfitted with a large drop-down projector screen, making the space ideal for meetings, banquets, receptions and other small gatherings. The flex rooms open up to the Lakeview Plaza, which overlooks the Midtown Park Lake.

**CATERING KITCHEN:** The venue's world-class catering kitchen is conveniently located near the flex/meeting space at the end of the courts and event floor, offering quick access for meals to be brought out to attendees. Event organizers will have the option of having their event catered by one of the many preferred vendors of Legends Event Center. The preferred vendor list will include many of the popular and unique dining options exclusive to the Bryan community.



## WHAT'S COMING?

As a multi-functional facility, Legends Event Center is capable of hosting a variety of events, including:

- Volleyball tournaments
- Basketball tournaments
- Sports practices
- Cheerleading and dance competitions
- Trade shows
- Esports
- Birthday parties
- Banquets/receptions
- Corporate events
- And more!

The team at Legends Event Center has been working hard to fill the schedule once the facility opens, and you can look forward to events such as:

<b>Dec. 10, 2022</b>	Legends Event Center Grand opening
<b>Feb. 11-12, 2023</b>	Battle on the Brazos Volleyball Tournament
<b>Feb. 18, 2023</b>	MaXout East Texas – Maximum Cheer and Dance
<b>Mar. 4-5, 2023</b>	Greater Brazos Valley Builders Association – Home and Garden Expo
<b>Mar. 18-19, 2023</b>	B/CS Bash Volleyball Tournament

## WANT TO BE PART OF THE TEAM?

Legends Event Center is passionate about letting guests experience excellence in service, amenities, competition and play. If you're interested in a career in sports, concessions or facility management, a job with LEC might be perfect for you. Full-time and part-time positions are available.

To see and apply for open positions, go to [www.BryanLegends.com/careers](http://www.BryanLegends.com/careers).

## WANT MORE INFO?

*Want to learn more about  
Legends Event Center?*

*Visit the website:*

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

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

BTU

THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU

# 2023 GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR

*Applications are*  
**NOW OPEN!**

## ***The Where***

Students from Texas meet up in our state capital, Austin, TX, for a couple of days of touring memorials and museums to learn about state history. Students then travel by chartered flight to Washington D.C. for a week of fun-filled days touring attractions and historical sites.

## ***The Who***

Three local high school students will be chosen as winners for the trip. To be eligible students must be a sophomore, junior, or senior in high school and either live in or attend school in the BTU service territory.

**All applicants must apply online at:**  
**[btutilities.com/youthtour/](https://btutilities.com/youthtour/)**

Candidates will be judged on their responses to an essay question, their extracurricular activities, and academic and civic leadership.

## ***The When***

**Applications are currently being accepted through February 1, 2023.**

***The trip will take place June 11-19, 2023.***

## ***The Why***

The idea to send students to Washington D.C. came from President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texan who advocated for rural electrification and youth development. In 1957, when he was still a U.S. senator, Johnson suggested "sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

This notion evolved in the 1960s into a nationwide effort to send young people on organized, fun and educational trips to the nation's capital. Today, electric utilities from nearly every state send more than 1,500 youths to Washington, D.C. each June. Since 1965, more than 50,000 students have toured the capital thanks to their local utilities.

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) is committed to powering and empowering the community we serve, and that means providing more than electricity. BTU also works to improve quality of life in the Brazos Valley, which includes investing in the area's young people.

We are working to shape tomorrow's leaders by proudly sponsoring three local high school students to attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

**Apply online today at [btutilities.com/youthtour](https://btutilities.com/youthtour/)**



# CITY OF BRYAN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



It's time to deck those halls and jingle those bells; holiday season in Bryan is here! To keep your merriment bright, we've collected a list of holiday festivities yule be sorry to miss.

## Lights On Downtown Bryan Nov. 18, 6 PM

**LIGHTS ON!**  
**DOWNTOWN BRYAN**

Join your community to kick off the holiday season with a countdown to light thousands of holiday lights in Historic Downtown Bryan. This free, family-friendly event will include holiday photo backdrop stations, live music at the Palace Theater and Santa Claus.

## Holiday Magic

### Holiday Magic Sue Haswell Park Dec. 1, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Enjoy the magic of the holidays with the City of Bryan Parks & Recreation Department! Holiday Magic features a snow hill, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, train rides, games and more! This holiday-filled event is free to attend along with free shuttle rides to and from Blinn College.



### Reindeer on the Run Dec. 1 – Dec. 22

**Oh deer!** Santa's reindeer have gone on an unapproved vacation! We need your help to find and bring them back before Santa knows they're gone. Explore City of Bryan locations to find all nine of Santa's reindeer for a chance to win prizes. Keep an eye out for details on how to find the missing reindeer at:

[www.bryantx.gov/reindeer](http://www.bryantx.gov/reindeer)

### Holiday Stroll and Lighted Parade Downtown Bryan Dec. 8, 6 PM

Come enjoy the only lighted Christmas Parade in Bryan-College Station! The parade will begin at 6 PM at the corner of 24th and Bryan Streets. The procession will then head south along Bryan Street, turning onto 28th and will proceed up Main Street. Floats, vehicles, fire engines and more, all decked out in lights, will be present for a night of fun! You didn't hear this from us, but we also heard Santa may be making an appearance.

