



**LOCATION** 2611 N. Earl Rudder Fwy, Bryan, TX 77803

## Regular Board of Directors MEETING NOTES

### February 10, 2025

#### Fiscal Year 2024 Audit

Ms. Laura Lambert of Weaver and Tidwell, LLP reviewed the Fiscal Year 2024 audit report. She informed the Board that the BTU financials received a clean opinion with no material weaknesses to report.

#### Construction and Reimbursement Agreement with Entergy Texas, Inc.

The Board authorized an agreement with Entergy Texas, Inc. for the rebuild of transmission facilities along Austin's Colony Parkway.

## BTU BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

### KIOSKS

Locations accepting credit cards,  
cash and checks:

HEB	1609 N. Texas Ave.
HEB	725 E. Villa Maria
BTU Drive-Through <i>Open 24 hours</i>	205 E. 28th St.
BTU Drive-Through <i>Open 24 hours</i>	2611 N. Earl Rudder Fwy

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

### OVER THE PHONE

Payments can be made 24 hours  
a day via the "e-payment" option  
by calling 979.821.5700. Account  
number and credit card required.

### ONLINE

To register your account, view,  
and/or pay your bill online, visit:

**btutilities.com**

#### BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

2611 N. Earl Rudder Fwy, Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

**btutilities.com**

#### Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

#### Board of Directors

Ms. Rosemarie L. Selman, Chair

Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Vice Chair

Mr. Paul Madison, Sr., Secretary

Mr. John A. Bond

Mr. Andrew Nelson

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

Mr. Buppy Simank

Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

Mr. Kevin Boriskie, Ex-Officio

#### General Manager

Gary Miller

#### Executive Directors

Doug Lyles

Randy Trimble

Wes Williams

David Werley, Chief Business Officer

#### Division Managers

James Bodine

Meagan Brown

Nick Cook

Shawndra Curry

Michele Kimich

Ken Lindberg

Clay Lindstrom

#### City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager

Katherine Tapscott, Chief Financial Officer

#### Important Numbers

**Billing/Collections/Connects**

(979) 821-5700

**Electrical Outage/Lines Down**

(979) 822-3777

**Line Design**

(979) 821-5770

#### Social Media

BryanTexasUtilities



BTU\_BryanTX



cityofbryan





# SmartHOME

saving makes sense

**Looking to upgrade your home with energy efficiency in mind?** The SmartHOME Energy Efficiency Program rewards residential customers that make certain upgrades to their homes. Qualifying projects will receive 10-25% of project costs back as a rebate. If you're handy with tools you might be able to do some of these upgrades yourself! We have made a guide to help you decide the best course of action for your home improvement projects.

## Insulation:

For the homeowner, this may be an easier upgrade. Whether you decide to install rolls of insulation or use blown-in insulation, your local home improvement store should have all the supplies to get you started. In most cases, you should be able to rent the blower along with purchasing the insulation materials.

The key to effective insulation is its heat resistance factor—keeping warmth in during winter and out during summer. To qualify for SmartHOME rebates, the preexisting insulation must be R-20 or less. BTU can help you evaluate your current R-value if you are DIYing. This project can be completed over a weekend and offers significant energy savings.

## Solar Screens:

Installing solar screens is a more advanced DIY project, but if you have some experience, you may be able to tackle this upgrade yourself. Solar screens are available at most local home improvement stores, but you'll need to measure and build the frames yourself since they are designed to be removable, typically attached with magnets or Velcro, allowing you to take advantage of solar heat gain in the winter. If you're not particularly handy, many contractors offer solar screen installation at an affordable price. Solar screens are the most cost-effective SmartHOME option of the three if you are looking to improve your home's efficiency.

## EnergyStar™ Windows:

This project is typically best left to professionals, as removing existing single-pane windows can easily damage window sills. While not impossible as a DIY project, experience and proper training are highly recommended. This project requires the largest investment of any of the qualifying upgrades. However, the long-term energy savings and efficiency gained through the SmartHOME program make it a worthwhile investment.

Whether you are looking to upgrade your home this year or have energy efficiency goals, BTU is here help you make your home improvement dreams a reality. Through our SmartHOME program, we offer rebates to support your needs. While not everyone may be handy enough to tackle these projects themselves, investing in energy-efficient upgrades will save you money and enhance your home's overall efficiency.

[btutilities.com/smarthome](https://btutilities.com/smarthome)





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LINEMAN

At BTU, our linemen are the backbone of everything we do. Their dedication to keeping the lights on is what makes our work possible. It's not just a job; it's a calling. Being a lineman is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country, and we couldn't be more grateful for the men and women who step up every day to serve our community. April is Lineman Appreciation Month, and we want to take a moment to shine a light on these hardworking individuals.



**APRIL  
LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION  
MONTH**



IMAGES: BTU ©



IMAGES - BTU ©

Every lineworker begins as an apprentice. It takes four years to complete our apprenticeship program. During that time, trainees rotate through each area, gaining hands-on experience in every part of the system. This structured program is designed to build both skill and confidence, ensuring that every lineman is fully prepared for the challenges of the job.

Apprentices begin by learning the fundamentals, everything from safety procedures and equipment handling to the physics of electricity and the mechanics of the power grid. They start on the ground, assisting experienced linemen, handling materials, and familiarizing themselves with the tools of the trade. As they progress, they move up (literally), learning how to climb poles, operate bucket trucks, and perform overhead line work.

Apprentices rotate through each section of the department, each stint lasting a few months, exposing apprentices to different aspects of the distribution system. In the underground division, they work on installing and maintaining power lines buried beneath the surface, troubleshooting faults, and ensuring critical systems remain operational. In the overhead division, they gain experience with aerial power lines, repairing storm damage, replacing transformers, and installing new service connections. Finally, in the service division, they respond to real-time power issues, learning how to diagnose and resolve customer outages quickly and efficiently. After a hefty 8,000-hour course and proving their skills, apprentices graduate to become journeyman linemen.

A lineman's day starts early—most report to the yard between 6 and 7 a.m., ready to tackle whatever the day brings. Crews of about four linemen gear up, review assignments, and load their trucks with the tools and materials they'll need for the job ahead. From there, they head out into the field where they will perform a job safety briefing outlining the tasks and risks of the project before installing new lines, making repairs, or performing routine maintenance.

The work is tough, requiring physical endurance, technical skill, and teamwork. There are days when everything goes smoothly, and then there are days when a simple call turns into an all-day repair because of an unexpected issue. But one thing remains constant: linemen rely on each other. When you're 40 feet in the air handling high-voltage lines, trust in your crew is everything. But through it all, the brotherhood of linemen is what keeps them going. "I'm with these guys more than my own family. We look out for each other," Joe Lapaglia, Crew Lead Lineman, said.

Being a lineman means being on call on a rotating basis Friday to Friday, from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. That means when the phone rings,

they have 30 minutes to respond, no matter where they are in our 650-square-mile service area. It's a job that demands sacrifice; missed holidays, ball games, and family events are part of the deal. This job isn't for the faint of heart. As one lineman put it, "They say to be a lineman, you need to be cut from a certain cloth. Well, that goes for your wife, too. This life isn't easy," Lapaglia said.

Severe weather is when linemen's skills and endurance are truly put to the test. Before a storm, they make sure every tool is stocked and every truck is ready to roll at a moment's notice. When the call comes in on a cold, dark night, they pull on extra layers to stay warm, but too many layers can make it harder to perform the physical work. The brutal heat and humidity of Brazos Valley summers makes it essential to stay hydrated and try to perform work in the cooler hours of the day when possible.

Extreme temperatures strain the system, too. In winter, heaters run nonstop, pushing infrastructure to its max. In summer, triple-digit heat forces air conditioners into overdrive, the load generating so much heat that wires can actually melt. And then there are the moments you can't predict, like the time lightning struck a transmission line, disintegrating a mile and a half of wire. "It was all hands on deck for three days to rebuild it. We rerouted power to get some customers back up while we worked, but it was nonstop until the job was done," Brandon Welch, Crew Lead Lineman, said. Even in the toughest conditions, our linemen find a way. They do whatever it takes to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. Linemen see it all. Animals tangled in transformers, cars taking down poles, and the occasional "you won't believe this" moment. "Recently, we got a call about a dump truck hitting a pole. While we were responding to that, another dump truck on the other side of town hit another pole. What are the odds?" Welch said.

All linemen agree that the job isn't easy, but it's one of the most rewarding jobs out there. "Making a difference in my community, getting the lights back on when people need it most—that makes it all worth it," Welch said. For those wondering how to show appreciation, a simple thank-you goes a long way. "On those brutally hot summer days, when a customer offers you a cold drink, that means a lot," Welch said.

For those thinking about becoming a lineman, the advice is simple: Be comfortable working with your hands and outdoors. Get your Commercial Driver's License. And don't be afraid of heights. Through storms, heatwaves, and everything in between, BTU linemen always answer the call. To every lineman out there—thank you for keeping our community powered.



# NEW DOWNTOWN FLAVOR

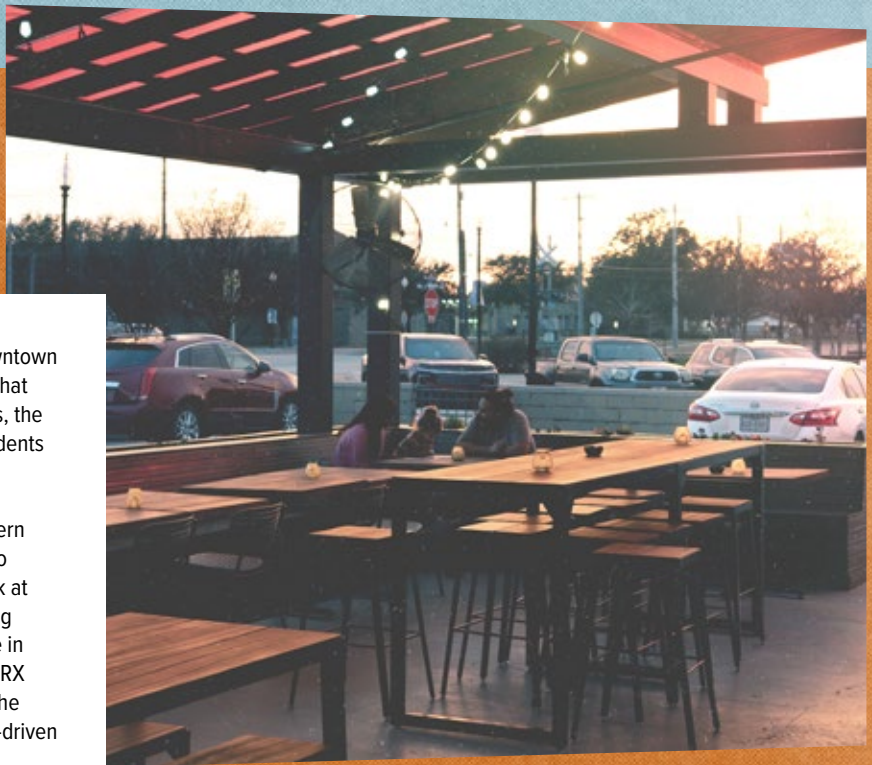
## *Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill*

A new chapter in Bryan's dining scene has begun, and it's one steeped in both history and community connection. Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill, two newly opened businesses in downtown Bryan, are bringing fresh flavors and lively atmosphere to a familiar location. Both establishments are owned and operated by Jake Mitchell, Fighting Texas Aggie Class of 2009. Many locals may recognize Mitchell from RX Pizza. His first foray into the culinary scene has become a local favorite for handcrafted pies and a welcoming environment in the Brazos Valley.



Located at the corner of 29th Street and Main in Downtown Bryan, the newly revamped space has a rich history that ties into Bryan's past. Before housing BTU operations, the building was a Goodyear tire shop, serving local residents and businesses. Now, it has been transformed into a hip and upscale hangout spot, thanks to a significant investment by Mitchell to create an inviting and modern space that still honors the past. Mitchell's journey into the restaurant industry was inspired by his early work at Northgate, where he developed a passion for creating unique dining experiences. Despite earning a degree in biomedical engineering, his passion led him to open RX Pizza. Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill are the latest extensions of his vision for vibrant, community-driven dining establishments.

In true Aggie fashion of doing something once and making it a tradition, Mitchell has taken to finding historical significance to name his restaurants. As the moniker indicates, RX Pizza was once a pharmacy. Both Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill are named after old train lines that once ran through Downtown Bryan, just adjacent to their location. The Sunbeam line was the morning commuter train, while the nighttime line was fittingly dubbed the Owl. These names pay homage to the railway history that played a key role in shaping the city's development and commerce.



Mornings in Bryan just got a little tastier with the arrival of Sunbeam Bagels, open 7:00am-3:00pm daily. This artisan bagel shop brings New York-style bagels with a Texas twist, offering a variety of hand-rolled, boiled, and baked bagels, along with house-made cream cheeses and breakfast sandwiches. Whether you're grabbing a classic everything bagel with schmear or indulging in a loaded breakfast sandwich, Sunbeam Bagels is already becoming a favorite stop for locals looking to fuel their day with carbs and custom coffees. Remote workers and students find the shop an appealing place to work with its inviting atmosphere and spacious patio that is perfect for enjoying nice weather.





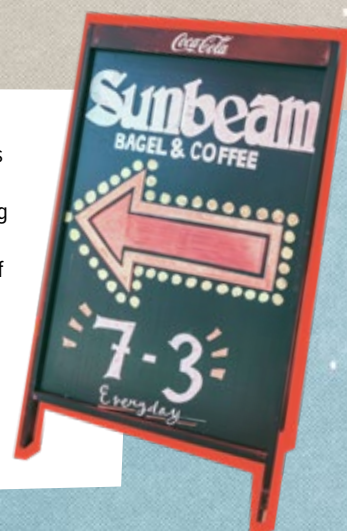
Next door, with its dim lighting, rich wood accents, and a cool, moody ambiance, The Owl Pub & Grill offers a sophisticated retreat where guests can unwind in a laid-back yet stylish setting. The Owl, open from 4:00pm-midnight Sunday through Wednesday and 4:00pm-2:00am Thursday through Saturday, provides a mix of classic pub fare and creative drinks that set it apart. With a focus on quality ingredients and a curated drink menu, The Owl is quickly making a name for itself as a downtown hotspot.

Downtown Bryan is known for its charm, history, and vibrant community spirit. With its blend of historic buildings, unique local businesses, and a walkable atmosphere, it offers a one-of-a-kind experience for residents and visitors alike. The addition of Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill only enhances this dynamic area, providing fresh, exciting options while maintaining a strong connection to Bryan's past.



Jake Mitchell's vision for Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill goes beyond just great food and drinks—he's committed to fostering a sense of community. As a local entrepreneur, Mitchell has continuously invested in Bryan's growth and culture, and his latest ventures are no exception. By revitalizing a historic space and creating businesses that bring people together, he's adding to the vibrancy of downtown Bryan. Not only do Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill serve the community, but they also provide jobs for over 30 employees. Some of these team members have been with Mitchell since he first opened RX Pizza nine years ago, a testament to the strong work environment he cultivates.

As these new businesses settle into their home, Bryan residents have even more reasons to gather, connect, and enjoy the flavors of a city that continues to evolve while honoring its past. Whether you're stopping in for a morning bagel or unwinding at the pub, Sunbeam Bagels and The Owl Pub & Grill are ready to welcome you.





CITY OF BRYAN

**OPEN HOUSE***Your keys to the city.***ADMISSION IS  
FREE!***Date***THURSDAY,  
APRIL 24***Time***11 A.M. – 2 P.M.***Location***LEGENDS EVENT CENTER*****Join us at our  
come-and-go event to:***

- Explore city departments and services
- Sign up for swim lessons, camps, and athletic leagues
- Find job and volunteer opportunities
- Discover BCS Library System resources
- Interact with first responders and gain safety information
- Access animal services and adoption information
- Participate in demonstrations
- Get the scoop on upcoming events and projects
- And more!



CITY OF BRYAN IMAGES ©

**Refreshments and  
door prizes will be available.****bryantx.gov/OpenHouse  
979-209-5175**





## 2025 GAMES JULY 31 - AUG. 3

Compete in multiple sports  
or volunteer!



Registration begins April 7 at  
[taaf.com/GamesOfTexas](https://taaf.com/GamesOfTexas)



-  **ARCHERY**
-  **BOXING**
-  **ESPORTS**
-  **GOLF**
-  **JUDO**
-  **PICKLEBALL**
-  **SAND VOLLEYBALL**
-  **SOCCER**
-  **SWIMMING**
-  **TENNIS**
-  **TRACK & FIELD**
-  **ULTIMATE FRISBEE**