

BRIGHT IDEAS

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, April 2009

BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

Digging in your yard this spring? Prevent damage to underground utilities by calling Dig Safe® before you do—it's the law!

Federal and state laws require that anyone who is digging, trenching, blasting, back-filling, grading, boring, or landscaping **must** notify utilities that may have buried lines, pipes, or other equipment in the area.

Dig Safe System, Inc., makes this very easy—one phone call to 1-888-DIG-SAFE starts the process of alerting all the appropriate utilities. Dig Safe® is a communication network that assists excavators, contractors, and property owners in complying with state law by notifying the appropriate utilities before digging begins.

A free service

At **no cost to you**, Dig Safe® notifies member companies of proposed excavation projects. These utilities then come to the site and mark the location of underground equipment by using color-coded paint, stakes or flags. (In Massachusetts, gas, electric, telephone, cable television, and private water companies are required by state law to join Dig Safe®.) When should you call? State law requires a **minimum notification of 72 business hours** (3 business days), not including weekends and legal holidays.

Premarking the excavation area

Massachusetts state law also requires that all excavators **premark** the excavation area before notifying Dig Safe®. Premarking is

defined as **marking out the scope of the proposed excavation area, using white stakes, paint, or flags**. Indicating exactly where the work will take place (1) aids the utility locator in finding the work area, (2) keeps operating costs down, and (3) prevents excessive marking in areas where it is not needed.

Need to dig near the markings?

The depth of underground facilities is variable, so state law requires excavators to use **non-mechanical means when digging within 18" of a marked underground facility**. The depth of a facility might not be the same as when it was originally installed—as a result of soil erosion, grading, and other factors. Therefore it's best to hand dig when working close to marked utilities.

Dig Safe® was established as a not-for-profit corporation—funded entirely by member utility companies—to promote public safety, protect vital utility services, and safeguard against property and environmental damage. To find out more about Dig Safe® or apply for a permit online, visit their website at www.digsafe.com.

A number of digging accidents in our area in recent years have underscored the importance of determining and marking the location of underground facilities, so call 1-888-DIG-SAFE before you dig—it's the law!

BROADBAND COMPETITION IS A BIG PLUS FOR BRAINTREE RESIDENTS

Braintree residents pay less for cable television than those in surrounding areas for one reason—BELD Broadband!

Most towns don't offer an alternative to either Comcast or Verizon, and as a result their cable rates are higher.

Comcast's rate for its Expanded Basic cable package is 17% less expensive for Braintree residents than it is for those in Quincy, where there is no local cable alternative. Weymouth and Hingham customers pay 10-15% more for the same reason.

As the savings indicate, it's in the best interest of all Braintree residents to support BELD Broadband as an alternative to the national providers.

Give us a call at 348.BELD (2353) to learn how you can save on ALL your LOCAL broadband services.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Real Estate taxes due May 1

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 are due **May 1**. These bills, mailed on or before January 1, must be paid by May 1 in order to avoid late charges. If you have questions or wish to obtain a copy of your bill, please call the Tax Collector's Office at 781.794.8130. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please note that our **drop box** has been moved to the side of the former Water & Sewer building.

Be sure to return your census form

Donna Fabiano, Town Clerk, reminds residents to return their Annual Town Census form as soon as possible. Make any necessary changes, sign, and return to the Town Clerk's Office.

9th Annual Live Telethon/Auction

Braintree After School Enrichment (B.A.S.E.) will hold our 9th annual LIVE Telethon/Auction on **Sunday, May 3, 12-5 p.m.**, at Braintree Town Hall. Come down to bid live or watch us on your TV—BELD Channel 18 or Comcast Channel 10—and call in to bid. Up for auction are authentic New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, and Boston Red Sox items, along with gift certificates, gift baskets and lots of other fun and exciting prizes for Mother's or Father's Day. Special Guest Emcee is Braintree's own Joe Amorosino from Channel 7. For more information or to donate an auction item, please call Alysa Rynne, Meridith Duffy or Linda Merlo at 781.849.3484.

A Concert to Remember May 7

The Braintree Rotary Club will present "A Concert to Remember," **Thursday, May 7**, at the First Congregational Church, Braintree. **A reception will begin at 6 p.m.** The concert will feature Francesco Attesti (piano) and Matteo Galli (organ) performing Verdi's Requiem, and all proceeds will benefit the Braintree Rotary Scholarship Fund and Local Educational Initiatives. For ticket information, please visit the Rotary website at www.braintreerotaryclub.org.

Plant sale at Pond Meadow Park

The Friends of Pond Meadow Park will sponsor a plant and flower sale **Saturday, May 9, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** at Pond Meadow Park. Hayrides will be ongoing from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Purchase your plants and flowers for Mother's Day, Memorial Day and for your yard—and help support Pond Meadow Park. Call Joan Fabrizio at 781.843.7214 or Sean Cleaves at 781.843.7663 for more info.

Annual Rabies Clinic is May 9

The annual Rabies Clinic will be held **Saturday, May 9, 10-11:30 a.m.** outside Town Hall. Local Veterinarian Dr. Richard Harris of VCA South Shore Animal Hospital will inoculate the animals for a fee of \$12/animal. All proceeds go toward the Jaycee scholarship, awarded each year to a graduating BHS student. Call 781.843.7414.

Braintree Autism Network meeting

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will meet **Monday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.**, at Emmanuel Parish, Washington Street, Braintree. The meeting is open to all parents or guardians of children who live in Braintree and have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or live elsewhere but attend school in Braintree and have an ASD. There is no cost or obligation; membership is confidential. For more information, call Natasha Chomas (781.356.4740).

New Braintree Farmers Market

We're looking forward to the new Braintree Farmers Market! There will be a Sustainable Braintree Community Meeting **Thursday, May 14, 7 p.m.**, in the Logan Auditorium at Thayer Public Library, Braintree. Guest speaker Jeff Cole, Executive Director of the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets, will discuss the many benefits a farmers market will bring to our community. **Saturday, June 27** will open the inaugural season of the Braintree Farmers Market at the Town Hall Mall. For more information, call 781.794.8338 or visit www.sustainablebraintree.org.

AARP meeting on May 19

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting **Tuesday, May 19, 1:30 p.m.**, at the D.A.V. Hall on Liberty Street. The guest speaker will be Peter Connelly, Regional Development Manager of the MERCY SHIPS Organization, who will provide a video presentation of the worldwide charitable and medical volunteer work brought to developing countries by way of hospital ships. AARP will prepare and serve lunch at Father Bill's Place on Friday, May 22. For additional information, call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293.

Free evening legal clinic

The Bar Association of Norfolk County will sponsor a free legal clinic at the Quincy District Court on **Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 p.m.** Area residents seeking legal advice can meet with an attorney in a confidential, one-on-one consultation. Contact Adrienne Clarke at 617.471.9693.

Thayer Public Library Book Sale

The Friends of Thayer Public Library will hold their Annual Book Sale on **Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at the library on Washington Street. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. There will be a preview event for members of the Friends of Thayer Public Library on **Friday, May 29, 4-7 p.m.** Call 781.843.8123 for more info.

Spring leaf pickup May 23 & June 6

Spring leaf pickup will take place **Saturday, May 23 and Saturday, June 6 only**. Materials must be in biodegradable bags or containers by 7 a.m.—no plastic bags, please! For more details, contact the DPW at 781.794.8950 or Capitol Waste at 617.569.1718.

BELD

www.beld.com
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Bright Ideas Editor/Designer

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PAYMENT LOCATIONS

150 Potter Road

Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customer Service is open until 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Drop boxes

Top of Potter Road
Beside Town Hall

Braintree Cooperative Bank

1010 Washington St.
372 Washington St.
505 Quincy Avenue

Direct Payment

Call BELD at 781.348.2353.

Online payments

www.beld.com

BROADBAND HELP DESK

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Public meetings are usually held monthly. Call 781.348.2353 or check www.beld.com to confirm time and date.

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Reynolds, Chair
Anthony Agnitti, Vice Chair
James Regan, Secretary

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, April 20
Patriot's Day
Monday, May 25
Memorial Day



Electric tools and water don't mix!

While working in the yard this spring, remember that electric tools—such as clippers, hedgers, and trimmers—should not be used on wet surfaces. And never mow the lawn with an electric mower if the grass is wet.