

# BRIGHT IDEAS

A monthly newsletter for BELD & BELD Broadband customers, published October 2009

**BELD**  
Braintree Electric  
Light Department  
and  
BELD Broadband

## Get a 50% rebate\* (up to \$500) on qualifying energy-efficient home improvements

**T**hinking about making energy-efficient improvements to your home? BELD's Energy Advisor (781.348.1032) can provide you with the answers to many of your home energy use questions by scheduling an Energy Audit and then making specific recommendations on how you can save energy dollars throughout your home.

And the best news is, through BELD's Energy Smart Home program, customers who (1) have a BELD Energy Audit and (2) implement specific measures recommended during the audit are **eligible for a 50% rebate—up to \$500**. (BELD customers with gas heat should contact MassSave or their gas company for information about rebate programs.)

### The following measures qualify for the Energy Smart Home program:

- Attic insulation, including ventilation
- Wall insulation
- Rim joist insulation
- Air sealing measures
- Heating system pipe & duct insulation
- Hot water pipe insulation
- Heating system upgrades
- Domestic hot water heating upgrades
- Passive/photovoltaic solar installations  
(*Sorry, replacement doors and windows are not eligible under this program*)

Work may be done by the homeowner, a contractor, or a combination of the two. **For more information on program guidelines and how to apply for a rebate, call our Energy Advisor at 781.348.1032.**

*\*Rebates are limited based on annual budget*

## Are you sending email ads for offshore gambling and male "enhancements"?

**Y**OU MAY BE! What's going on? Could Braintree be a hotbed of illicit computer activity? No. In fact, most of the people sending spam are blissfully unaware of what they're doing. Your computer is infected with any of a hundred different viruses that just sit in the background undetected and send spam while you surf the Internet.

Besides sending out ads for dubious services, BELD Broadband customers unknowingly attempt to send viruses and Trojan horse programs all over the world. How prevalent are these infections? Estimates are all over the map because most infections go undetected for months, and some of them turn your computer into an automatic spam-sending machine.

How does BELD Broadband handle this problem? **We are obliged to turn off a subscriber's Internet access until the computer has been cleaned.** If we don't, the whole Internet Service Provider (ISP) ends up on a nasty list, and none of our customers get their email. We regularly receive complaints from AOL and other ISPs about our customers sending spam, and as a result we may have to make radical changes in the way we authenticate email in the near future.

What can our subscribers do? New viruses are emerging constantly—several new ones crop up every week. You must have a **good antivirus program, of course**, but it is also extremely important to subscribe to the program vendor's service for automated updates. Keeping your anti-virus definitions up to date will help protect all of us from many spam-related problems.

## BELD ANNOUNCES A REDUCTION IN OUR POWER COST ADJUSTMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 1

**Braintree Electric Light Department is pleased to announce a reduction in our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of 0.50 cents/kWh, beginning November 1.**

**With moderating energy prices and the new Thomas A. Watson Generating Station now on line, BELD is positioned to pass these benefits on to our customers.**

**The decrease will reduce our electric rate by close to 3.33%—saving our average customer approximately \$3.25/month.**

## Tony & Betty DiBisceglia "can't say enough" about their recent experience with BELD Broadband's service crew

Betty DiBisceglia spends a lot of time on the Internet, and she was getting frustrated because she kept losing her connection. Her husband Tony called BELD Broadband, and a technician came to the house to check things out. Tony has a lot of wiring coming into his house, so it was a challenge for the technician to pinpoint the source of the problem. "Several times we thought we had the problem resolved, and few days later we'd be back where we started," said Tony. "I had to make a number of calls, and three different technicians were involved at different times. It was a personal challenge for them—they were determined to find the cause of the problem, which they were finally able to do through the process of elimination. Thank you, BELD Broadband!"



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Real Estate taxes due November 2

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2010 are due **November 2**. These bills, mailed on or before July 1, must be paid by November 2 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. Our drop box is located in the Town Hall parking lot next to the former Water Department building.

### Braintree Choral Society performance

The Braintree Choral Society will begin the new season with "It's a Grand Night for Singing," a Night of Cabaret, **Friday, November 6**, at Emerald Hall, Braintree with Broadway show tunes and songs from the American songbook. The evening offers dinner, a show, a singalong, a cash bar and a raffle. For more information, contact them at [www.braintreechoral@yahoo.com](mailto:www.braintreechoral@yahoo.com) or 781.710.5020.

### Braintree Autism Network meeting

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will meet **Monday, November 9**, 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. For more information, call Natasha Chomas at 781.356.4740.

### AARP meeting on November 17

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will meet **Tuesday, November 17**, 1:30 p.m., at the D.A.V. Hall on Liberty Street. The featured speaker will be Shamila Biswas, Director of the Braintree Council on Aging. AARP will prepare and serve lunch at Father Bill's Place on Friday, November 20.

### Magic show at St. Clare Parish

A family event in celebration of St. Clare Parish Jubilee Year, John Henry's World of Magic Show will take place **Sunday, November 22**, 3:30 p.m., at St. Clare Church, 1244 Liberty Street, Braintree.

Light refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall. A free-will offering will be appreciated. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to showtime—no seating will take place during the performance. For more information, please call 781.848.7481.

### Braintree Park Department trips

**Sunday, December 6: Christmas in Newport**, visit two mansions and have brunch at the Atlantic Beach Club, visit the LaSalette Shrine holiday lights on return trip, \$89 pp.

**Sunday, December 13: Bright Lights at Forest Park**, two-mile drive through Forest Park, lunch and Christmas show at He Ke Lau restaurant plus visit the Yankee Candle Factory, \$89 pp.

**Boston Celtics games: Friday, December 18: vs. 76ers, \$54 pp.; Monday, January 18: vs. Dallas Mavericks, \$69 pp.; and Wednesday, March 17: vs. NY Knicks, \$69 pp.;** all seats in Halo section and include transportation from Town Hall.

**Wednesday, December 30: Boston Bruins vs. Atlanta Thrashers, \$59 pp.**

**Thursday, February 18: The Lion King during February school vacation**, The Opera House at 7:30 p.m., \$85.50/ticket, includes transportation.

For more information about these upcoming trips, Call the Recreation Office at 781.794.8901 or visit their office at 85 Quincy Avenue.

### 27th Annual BHS Florida Reunion

Mark your calendar for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual BHS All-Class Florida Reunion, to take place the weekend of **February 5, 2010** at the Ramada Plaza Hotel & Inn Gateway in Kissimmee, Florida. The Reunion Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, February 6; the cost is \$30/person (includes noon social hour with cash bar followed by a luncheon at 1 p.m.). **Luncheon tickets must be purchased by Dec. 30.** The Ramada's Hospitality Suite will be available to alumni throughout the weekend, and there will be a pizza party Friday night at approximately 6 p.m. Rooms are \$57 (plus tax) per night, and **reservations must be made by Jan. 7, 2010.** Contact Don Blunt, chairman, at 781.848.0226 or [dbluntrs@beld.net](mailto:dbluntrs@beld.net).

# BELD

[www.beld.com](http://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](http://www.beld.com)

### BROADBAND HELP DESK

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### COMMISSION MEETINGS

Public meetings are usually held monthly. Call 781.348.2353 or check [www.beld.com](http://www.beld.com) to confirm time and date.

### COMMISSIONERS

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

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, October 12  
Columbus Day  
Wednesday, November 11  
Veterans' Day



**Are you taking advantage of our senior discount?**

**BELD offers a senior discount to electric customers who are 65 and over. For cable and Internet customers, the discount begins at age 62. Call BELD Customer Service at 781.348.BELD to sign up.**