

BRIGHT IDEAS

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, March 2006

BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

BELD is partnering with The Salvation Army to "Give the Gift of Warmth"

Administered by The Salvation Army, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) helped more than 3,000 families pay an electric, gas or oil bill last year. The fund is often the last resort for families who have not qualified for other energy assistance programs, and this year the need for help is even greater.

BELD is partnering with the Salvation Army and other Massachusetts energy companies to bring assistance to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance. **Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$12.6 million and assisted over 62,500 needy families.**

Donations come from participating energy companies, corporations and the general public. **We hope you'll consider giving the "Gift of Warmth" by sending a contribution in the enclosed green donation envelope.** Your tax-deductible donation (made payable to the "Good Neighbor Energy Fund") goes straight to the Fund, and the Salvation Army sees that your contribution helps a family in need of energy assistance.

For more information about donating, call BELD at 781/348-BELD (2353) or the Salvation Army at 617/542-5420. If you're unable to pay your electric bill because of financial hardship and you'd like to request energy assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, please call 800/334-3047.

Home carbon monoxide detectors now required by Massachusetts State Law

As of March 31, 2006, Massachusetts will become the ninth state in the country to require the installation of working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in residential dwellings. The law applies to all residences that have enclosed parking or equipment such as boilers, furnaces and hot water heaters powered by gas, coal, oil or wood.

Often called the silent killer, CO is an odorless, colorless gas that is present in the exhaust of internal-combustion engines. It can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces, causing sudden illness and death. **According to the Centers for Disease Control, CO poisoning is the most common type of accidental poisoning.**

The first step in protecting yourself is to install CO detectors outside each separate sleeping area in your home—and **test them at least once a month.** Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood and coal stoves, space or portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year.

If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. **CO from a running vehicle inside an attached garage can get inside the house, even with the garage door open.** During the winter months, make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.

In most cases of accidental poisonings, victims do not realize that CO is building up in the air they are breathing. Knowledge and awareness are the keys to prevention of CO poisoning.

BELD's Budget Plan makes bill-paying a bit more bearable

BELD works hard to keep your electric rates affordable, but we understand that high energy costs this winter are making it difficult for many customers to manage their monthly bills.

Our Budget Plan can make that burden a bit more bearable by evenly spreading out your payments over the year. We'll look at your past electricity use and come up with a plan that lets you pay equal installments over 12 months. If there's a difference between our estimate and your actual use, that difference will be settled in the twelfth month.

Questions? Call BELD Customer Service at 781/348-BELD (2353) for more information.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Donna Fabiano, Town Clerk, reminds residents that they should return their 2006 TOWN CENSUS as soon as possible. Failure to respond may result in removal from the active voting list.

Campaign to expand library parking

Library users are acutely aware of the critical need for more parking spaces. Now there is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to increase parking by 70%**. A campaign by The Friends of Thayer Public Library is underway to raise \$750,000 to purchase property adjacent to the Library—to add 28 spaces—and more than \$300,000 has been raised to date. Participation by all who use and value the Library is vital to the campaign's success. Can we count on you? Please make checks payable to The TPL Development Fund, P.O. Box 850473, Braintree, MA 02185. For more information call 781/848-1489 or email jcc@beld.net. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Braintree Women's Club fashion show

The Braintree Women's Club will hold its annual fashion show on **Sunday, April 2**, 12 noon-4 p.m., at the Sheraton, Braintree. Luncheon will be served, and there will be many prizes and gifts. Fashions shown will be by J. Jill and Lane Bryant from the South Shore Plaza. Tickets are \$30, and all proceeds will benefit the BWC Scholarship Fund and charitable community groups. For tickets, call Rose Farrell at 781/848-0278.

AARP Meeting April 18

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, April 18**, 1:30 p.m., at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree. The guest speaker will be Joseph Driscoll, State Representative for Braintree, who'll address current issues. Call Frank Bocchino at 781/848-4293 for more information.

Old Colony Hospice Memorial Walk

Join Old Colony Hospice for the 8th Annual Memorial Walk, "Stepping out for Hospice," on **Sunday, April 23**, at 12 noon. This community-wide celebration will benefit Old Colony Hospice's services, as well as their bereavement, spiritual and volunteer programs. **Registration begins at 11 a.m. at the Martin Institute on the Stonehill College Campus in Easton, MA.** Walkers will take a two-mile loop around the campus. No minimum pledge amount is required. There'll be a DJ, refreshments and kid's corner for all to enjoy. For more information, contact El Mulligan at 781/341-4145 or emulligan@oldcolonyhospice.com.

Morrissey Roast planned for April 24

To benefit the Marge Crispin Center, a lively roasting of Senator Michael Morrissey will take place **Monday, April 24**, at the Sons of Italy, Braintree. A pre-dinner social is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner—catered by Fasano's—at 7. Tickets are \$50 each or only \$400 for a table of 10! Reserve early for this one!! Call Carolyn Loud at 781/843-4912.

Braintree Public Schools Art Exhibit

Braintree Public Schools Spring Art Exhibit will be held at South Coastal Bank, 405 Washington Street, from **Wednesday, April 26 through Tuesday, May 9**. Showcasing student artwork from the Braintree Public Schools, art exhibit viewing hours are Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Artwork will be judged by a professional artist. Top artists in four categories (grades 1-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12) will receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond. In addition, the public is invited to cast a vote for their favorite piece in the "Popular Vote" category. The "Popular Vote" winner will receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond as well as a pizza or ice cream party for his or her classroom. An awards ceremony to honor student artists will take place **Tuesday, May 9**, 6-7 p.m. Call 781/356-4666 for additional information.

Curbside recycling reminders

Residents are reminded that newspaper is to be put in paper bags or tied—**not** put in plastic bags. Cardboard (2 ft. X 2 ft.) should be bagged or bundled. Both items can be placed in or near your recycling bins. If you run out of room in your bin, use any rigid container. Need a bin? Contact the Highway Department for a new or replacement bin. The more we recycle paper and paper products, the more we control rising disposal costs. Call 781/794-8237 for more information.

Morrison School fundraising programs

The Archie T. Morrison Elementary School is participating in four fundraising programs that earn cash and free merchandise for the school. **Campbell's Labels for Education** collects labels from food products; **General Mills' Box Tops for Education** collects box top proofs; **Tyson's Project A+** collects Tyson product labels; and the **Staples Recycle for Education** program collects used laser and inkjet cartridges. For information on how you can support these programs, please contact Janice Weitbrecht at janicew@beld.net.

St. Francis of Assisi School fundraiser

A "Treasure Chest" raffle fundraiser will be held **Friday, May 5**, 7 p.m.-12 midnight, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Braintree. Proceeds will benefit St. Francis of Assisi students. Tickets are \$100 each and include one dinner. (An additional dinner ticket can be purchased for \$25.) **A maximum of 300 tickets will be sold.**

Raffle prizes will be awarded throughout the event, and the evening will culminate with the grand prize drawing. Attendance is not required to win. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for various theme baskets and donated prizes. For more information, sponsorship and/or to purchase a ticket for the event, please contact St. Francis of Assisi School at 781/848-0842, ext.12.

BELD

www.beld.com
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781/348-BELD (2353)

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 & Town Hall.

Braintree Cooperative Bank

1010 Washington St.
372 Washington St.

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
Guy Luke, Vice Chair
Anthony Agnitti, Secretary

HOLIDAY CLOSING

Monday, April 17
Patriot's Day



Are you taking advantage of our senior discount?

We put our customers first at BELD, and one way we do it is by offering a senior discount. For electric customers, those who are 65 and over can receive a discount on service. For cable and Internet customers, the discount begins at age 62. Call BELD Customer Service at 781/348-BELD (2353) to sign up.