

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, April 2006

BELD to request Town Meeting approval of funding for proposed power plant

After two years of studying the industry, evaluating technologies and filing for special legislation, Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) will ask Town Meeting Members to vote for funding of a new power plant at the 2006 Town Meeting on May 1. If funding for the project is approved, BELD will build a simple-cycle gas-fired power plant on land currently occupied by the retired Potter I Generating Station on Potter Road.

Deficit in capacity

BELD reached the decision to add new generating capacity after studying the energy markets in New England. The regulators are projecting a deficit in capacity and possible brownouts as early as 2008.

If this trend continues, the likelihood of brownouts—and eventually blackouts—increases as energy use grows with the development of available land and the increased use of electric appliances.

Currently there is no new generation in the development stage in this area other than BELD's proposed power plant. Diminished generating capacity results in increased electrical costs. As the use of electricity grows, less efficient power plants are called on to run more often in order to meet the demands placed on the system. **The proposed**

plant will help stabilize Braintree's electric rates for years to come.

Major changes in the industry

The electric utility industry will undergo a major change over the next four years. Starting in 2007, electric utilities will be required to begin making payments to companies with generation in order to encourage the construction of new power plants.

The regulators are projecting a deficit in capacity and possible brownouts as early as 2008.

This "Forward Capacity Market" will place a significant burden on electric utilities that do not own power plants. With our existing Potter II plant and the addition of a new power plant, BELD will be protected from these anticipated high-capacity payments. A new power plant also has the benefit of significantly increased efficiency—a stable source of electricity.

These are complex issues, and we have planned a detailed presentation for Town Meeting. In the meantime, we are making every attempt to inform residents and Town Meeting Members of our plans.

If you are interested in learning more about the proposed power plant, please call BELD at 781/348-BELD (2353) or visit our website at www.beld.com.

Spring has sprung, and our thoughts are turning to outside activities. Before you plan an excavation project, call Dig Safe® at 1-888-DIG-SAFE!

Underground utilities exist everywhere, and—depending on the degree of soil erosion—lines on your property may be 18" deep or less.

One phone call to 1-888-DIG-SAFE 72 hours in advance of excavating starts the process of alerting all appropriate utilities of your plans. The member utilities will then locate and mark their pipes, cables and other conduits.

The service is easy to use—and it's free! Visit the Dig Safe website at www.digsafe.com for more information, and remember to call before you dig—it's the law!

FREE TREES!!

For the price of a phone call, BELD will plant two free maple trees in your yard. Call our Energy Advisor at 781/348-1032 for all the details.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

What do you think about open space, natural areas, and recreational opportunities in Braintree?

The Open Space and Recreation Plan committee wants to know. Please take a minute to share your opinion by filling out a short survey that is posted at www.townofbraintreegov.org or may be picked up at Thayer Public Library, Town Hall, the Council on Aging, 90 Pond Street, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Pond Meadow Park. Completed surveys can be returned to the Planning and Conservation Department, 90 Pond Street, or put in a return box at one of the above locations.

BEMA C.E.R.T. Day is planned

Braintree Emergency Management Agency (BEMA) will hold a Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Day—for volunteers wishing to help their community during an emergency or disaster—**Saturday, April 29**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Braintree High School field.

Sixth Annual Walk for Animals

Ce-Ce & Friends Humane Society will sponsor a Walk for Animals on **Sunday, April 30**, 12-3 p.m., Caddy Memorial Park, Wollaston Beach, Quincy. All proceeds will benefit homeless animals. Call 781/331-6115 for more information.

Real estate taxes are due May 1

To avoid late charges, fourth quarter real estate taxes **must be paid by May 1**. (Bills were mailed on or before January 1.) If you need a copy of your bill or have questions, call the Tax Collector's office at 781/794-8130, Monday-Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Braintree Choral Society concerts

Braintree Choral Society and the Nashoba Valley Chorale (totaling almost 100 members) will perform two spring concerts—on **Saturday, May 6**, 8 p.m., at the Littleton High School Arts Center and **Sunday, May 7**, 4 p.m., at Old South Congregational Church, Weymouth. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door (senior and student tickets are \$10). To reserve tickets, contact Donna Morrison at 617/472-7906 or braintreechoral@yahoo.com.

South Shore Habitat Gala & Auction

South Shore Habitat for Humanity will hold its 13th Annual Gala & Auction **Saturday, May 6**, at Reebok World Headquarters in Canton. Please join us for food, music, and great auction items—all proceeds go to 2006 construction projects. To purchase tickets (\$50 each), call 781/843-9080.

Annual Rabies Clinic is May 13

The annual Rabies Clinic will be held **Saturday, May 13**, 10 a.m.-noon outside Town Hall. Local Veterinarian Dr. Richard Harris, DVM, will inoculate the animals for a fee of \$10/animal. All proceeds go toward Jaycee scholarships awarded each year to a graduating BHS student. For more information, call 781/843-7414.

Spring leaf pickup

Waste Management will pick up leaves and grass clippings **two weeks only: May 15-19 and May 30-June 3** (Memorial Day excluded). For more details, contact the Highway Department at 781/794-8950 or Waste Management at 1 800/262-5633.

AARP Meeting May 16

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, May 16**, 1:30 p.m., at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree. The guest speaker will be William Patton, who will show slides of famous New Englanders and the homes in which they lived. Call Frank Bocchino at 781/848-4293 for more information.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Household hazardous waste will be collected **Saturday, May 20**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Ivory Street Recycling Center (across from the MBTA station). Call the Recycling Hotline at 781/794-8237 for information on what is acceptable. There will be a \$10 fee per car. The League of Women Voters will collect car or boat trailer tires and batteries (\$4 each) and truck tires (\$12 each). Thayer Public Library will collect computer monitors, TVs, dehumidifiers, small appliances (\$10-\$15/item.)

Hockey game will benefit Jimmy Fund

Enjoy an evening of great hockey between the Jimmy Fund's Little Angels and Boston Bruins Alumni **Saturday, May 20**, 5:45-7:45 p.m., at the Rockland Ice Arena. All proceeds from the event, which honors the memory of Paul McLaughlin, will go directly to the Jimmy Fund to help fight cancer. Adult tickets: \$15; children under 12: \$6 (under 2: free). Contact Sean McLaughlin at 781/843-1887 or smclaughlin@beld.com.

Dog licenses now available

2006 dog licenses are available **April 15-June 30** at the Town Clerk's office. **Dogs six months or older must be licensed yearly**. If your dog is not already on file, or if its rabies vaccination has expired, please bring proof of the animal's active rabies shot with you. Charges are \$6 for neutered male or spayed female and \$10 for animals not altered. Licenses obtained after June 30 will be assessed a \$15 late fee for each year missed in addition other fees. For additional information (including how to license dogs by mail), call the Town Clerk's Office at 781/794-8241.

10th Annual BHS All Night Grad Party

The 10th Annual BHS All Night Grad Party, to be held **Saturday, June 3**, will provide a safe, fun environment for our BHS graduates enjoying their last day together. Many families have already generously donated funds, but the cost to organize this annual event is over \$10,000—and **we are in need of additional support**. Please send your tax-free donation to: BHS All Night Grad Party, c/o Laura Hamilton, 61 Windemere Circle, Braintree, MA 02184. Call 781/843-4347 for more information.

BELD

www.beld.com
150 Potter Road
Braintree, MA 02184
781/348-BELD (2353)

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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 CLOSINGS

Monday, April 17

Patriot's Day

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day



BELD On Demand has launched!

BELD Broadband's Video On Demand (VOD) is TV on your schedule—use your remote to pause, rewind and fast-forward movies, kid's shows, sports, music and more. Many programs are FREE for BELD Digital customers. Tune to channel 01 or look for the Hollywood clacker icon on your on-screen menus. And stay tuned as we add programmers to our lineup!