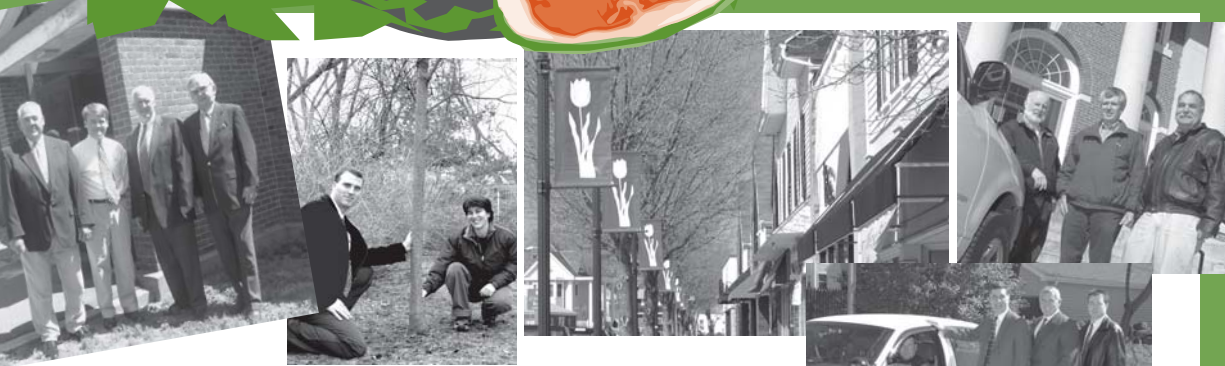


# BRIGHTE IDEAS

A monthly newsletter, August 2006

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



## **YOUR TOWN-OWNED ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT DOES A LOT MORE THAN KEEP YOUR LIGHTS ON!**

*Braintree Electric Light Department—a public power utility—has been providing low-cost, reliable, and safe electric service to Braintree residents since 1892. But we do more than keep your lights on.*

*Unlike private power companies that serve stockholders, the mission of public power utilities is to **serve their customers**. We measure success by how much money **stays within the community**—through lower rates and contributions to the town budget.*

BELD has a long tradition of contributing many services to the Town of Braintree, from hanging banners to planting trees to overseeing an MIS upgrade at the Police Station. **During 2005 we worked on many such projects, and we thought you, our customers, might be interested in reading about just a few of them.**

**Police Station MIS work**— Since 2004, we have been overseeing a complete upgrade of the Management Information System at the Police Department.

**GIS system**— We created Braintree's web-based Geographical Information System (GIS).

**Watson Library & Research Center**— We replaced an antiquated system with a new, more efficient electric service.

**Braintree Re-leaf program**— Since 1992, we've planted over 3,000 maple trees in Braintree yards, at no cost to residents.

**Neighborhood Link**— BELD sponsors the Braintree Neighborhood Link website ([www.neighborhoodlink.com/Braintree](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Braintree)).

**Braintree schools**— We've been working with the Braintree schools to improve the quality and speed of their computer systems.

**Athletic fields**— We've installed scoreboards and/or repaired circuits at several town athletic fields.

Coupled with BELD's annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes, we contributed well over \$1,000,000 in support to the Town of Braintree during 2005.

On average, public power systems return to state and local governments payments and contributions that are 18 percent greater than state and local taxes paid by private power companies. We're proud to be part of a tradition of giving back to the community.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO TWO BRAINTREE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

*Heading for Johns Hopkins University in the fall— where she'll major in Engineering—**KATHRYN SMITH** was the recipient of Braintree Electric Light Department's 2006 scholarship.*

*Utility Workers' Union, Local #379 also awarded a scholarship, this one to **JACLYN SMITH**, who will attend Northeastern University with a major in Architecture.*

**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO KATHRYN AND JACLYN!**

*Pictured above at the recent awards ceremony (l to r) are: **Tom Reynolds**, Municipal Light Board Chairman; **Kathryn Smith**; **Jaclyn Smith**; and **Mike Ford**, representing Utility Workers' Union, Local #379.*

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

## **Watson Library & Research Center welcomes your continued support**

The Braintree Historical Society recently completed Phase 1 of its campaign to convert the former Watson Branch of the Thayer Public Library into a library, museum, and research center. This community-oriented building—now open to the public—houses not only the society's extensive library collection, but books, documents, maps, artifacts, and other items that relate to the region's maritime history in general and Braintree history in particular. As we continue with Phase 2 of this large project, the Historical Society, a private, non-profit organization, needs your ongoing help. **If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Watson project, you may do so in the enclosed envelope.** Thank you for your support.

## **Come sing with us!**

Love to sing? Braintree Choral Society is looking for new members—tenors and basses especially welcome! We are a non-auditioned community chorus made up of dedicated amateur singers. We love the challenge of learning new work and love to have fun too! We sing a winter and spring concert each year, with a major classical choral piece in the first half and lighter, shorter works in the second half. **Open rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 5,** and continue throughout September, 7:30 p.m. at Braintree High School. Check us out at [www.braintreesings.org](http://www.braintreesings.org).

## **Fall Tire and Battery Collection...**

The Braintree League of Women Voters will hold their Fall Tire and Battery Collection on **Saturday, September 9,** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Recycling Center on Ivory Street. League members will collect automobile tires (\$4), rims (\$2), truck tires (\$12), and batteries (\$4). Call 781/843-8123 for more information.

## **...and hazardous waste drop-off**

Clean Harbors is once again accepting hazardous waste at the Hill Street facility—**on Saturdays, 8 a.m.-Noon only** (Wednesday service has been discontinued). All hazardous waste, TVs, and CRTs will be accepted, but NO tires, batteries, appliances, or propane tanks. There is a disposal fee for all materials. Call Clean Harbors for fees and directions—877/333-4244.

## **Braintree Youth Basketball registration**

Registration for Braintree Youth Basketball will take place in September at the following locations:

- **Braintree Town Hall (lobby):** Wednesdays, **September 13, 20 & 27** (6:30-8:30 p.m.)
  - **East Middle School Soccer Field (beside the concession stand):** Saturdays, **September 16, 23 & 30** (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)
  - **Thayer Soccer Field (1515 Washington Street):** Saturdays, **September 16, 23 & 30** (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- Registration forms will also be handed out at the elementary and middle schools—they can be

mailed in. Forms can be created online as well, at [www.braintree-byb.org](http://www.braintree-byb.org). For more information, call 781/849-1035.

## **Book sale September 15-16**

The Friends of Thayer Public Library will hold their Annual Book Sale at Thayer Public Library **Friday and Saturday, September 15 & 16,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A large selection of books (including children's) will be available, as well as CDs, tapes, and audio books. To donate books or volunteer to assist, please call 781/843-8123.

## **Flea Market & Craft Fair**

Mark your calendar for the Flea Market & Craft Fair to take place **Saturday, September 16,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., on the church grounds at the Heritage United Methodist Church, 236 Grove Street, Braintree. Table spaces are \$30. The rain date is Saturday, September 23. Contact Maureen (evenings) at 781/337-5881 for more information.

## **Flaherty School's Annual 5k Fun Run**

Please join us on **Sunday, September 17,** at 10 a.m., for the Flaherty School's 3rd Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk. Registration for the event—which starts and ends at Braintree High School—opens at 8:30 a.m., and the run commences at 10. In addition to the 5k run and a (shorter distance) walk, there will be kids' races, face painting, raffles, music, and more. We hope the community will join us for this family-friendly event that benefits the Flaherty School. Please contact Kristin Houlihan at [jkhoul@comcast.net](mailto:jkhoul@comcast.net) or call 781/848-1519 for more information.

## **AARP begins new season September 19**

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its first meeting of the 2006-2007 season on **Tuesday, September 19,** 1:30 p.m., at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree. The guest speaker will be Richard Hughes, who will entertain the group with silent movies accompanied by his piano background. Call Frank Bocchino at 781/848-4293 for additional information.

## **Quincy Community Action Head Start Program accepting applications**

The Quincy Community Action Head Start Program is now accepting applications for our Toddler program in Quincy and our Preschool program in Braintree. Applicants must be low- to moderate-income. Please call Nancy Dean at 617/479-8181, ext. 152, for more information and/or an application.

## **BHS All-Class Reunion is October 21**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Braintree High School All-Class Reunion will take place **Saturday, October 21,** at the Sons of Italy Hall in Braintree. Cost is \$30 per person. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7, catered by Fasano's. Reservations may be made by calling Barbara Norris at 781/335-7567.

# BELD

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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 & Town Hall.

### **Braintree Cooperative Bank**

1010 Washington St.

372 Washington St.

### **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.-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](http://www.beld.com) to confirm time and date.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

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

## **HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

Friday, September 22

Employee Appreciation Day  
(Office will close at 10:45 a.m.)



## **GET INTO THE FAST LANE WITH BELD BROADBAND**

**You can wait 45 minutes for a DVD to download using DSL or get into the fast lane with BELD Broadband—where it takes just seconds to download a 60-second video clip and 25 minutes to download a DVD!**

**Contact BELD Broadband at 781/348-BELD (2353) to sign up for Internet service with speeds of 5 Mbps downstream and 386 Kbps upstream—nearly twice as fast as the others, at no extra charge.**