

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, February 2007

BELD partners with Quincy Community Action Programs to assist low-income Braintree families

A new partnership between Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) and Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP) is helping low-income families save money on their energy bills

For the second consecutive year, BELD has committed \$10,000 to helping Braintree families pay for energy conservation measures, including replacement of heating systems, attic insulation, wall insulation, and air sealing. Last year, 11 Braintree families received help through the partnership.

QCAP, the fuel assistance agency serving Braintree, also delivers a range of energy conservation services. For each dollar BELD invested in these 11 families, an additional \$3.82 was leveraged through other program funds administered by QCAP. **This means that for the \$9,088 invested by BELD, energy conservation measures valued at \$34,716 have been installed.**

"Not only will these families save on their heating costs, they will be warmer this winter while using less energy. This will add up to real savings over time. What a great way to help those in our community who are finding it difficult to heat their homes," said Ruth Slater, BELD's Energy Advisor.

There are 41 Municipal Electric Utilities in Massachusetts, and BELD is one of 8 who have

partnered with the Weatherization Network to deliver comprehensive residential energy efficiency services to low-income customers.

"Not only will these families save on their heating costs, they will be warmer this winter while using less energy. What a great way to help those in our community who are finding it difficult to heat their homes."

"We are very grateful to have a partner like BELD that is committed to supporting services to low-income families in Braintree," said Anne Gross Shannon, QCAP's Energy Program Director. *"These additional funds have been a tremendous resource for QCAP and our Braintree clients."*

Residents interested in learning more about QCAP's low-income energy programs should call 617.479.8181, ext. 101. QCAP's programs, which include fuel assistance and weatherization, are available to families and individuals who meet QCAP's guidelines for eligibility.

Braintree residents who are not eligible for QCAP's programs can call Ruth Slater, BELD's Energy Advisor, at 781.348.1032, to get information about other programs and services offered by Braintree Electric Light Department that can help you save dollars and conserve energy this winter heating season.

You can "Give the Gift of Warmth" by donating to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund

BELD has partnered with the Salvation Army and other Massachusetts energy companies to bring assistance to any Massachusetts resident who—due to temporary financial difficulty—cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

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.

Get a free set of DVDs from BELD Broadband!

Sign up for Showtime Unlimited for \$5.95 a month for six months and receive *The Longest Yard* and Season 1 of *Weeds* FREE on DVD. Subscription includes eight digital channels plus Showtime on Demand. Watch critically acclaimed original series like *Dexter*, *Weeds* and *Sleeper Cell*; see Hollywood blockbusters like *Capote*, *The Pink Panther* and *Beauty Shop*; and enjoy America's number-one boxing network.

To take advantage of this offer, print your name and address on a 3X5 card and mail it with your **first two month's paid service bills dated between 2/1/07 and 5/31/07** indicating your new Showtime subscription to: Showtime's DVD Offer, P.O. Box 1096, Grand Rapids, MN 55745-1096. **Contact customer service at 348.BELD (2353) for complete details on this offer. But hurry—it expires February 28.**

Limited offer expires 2/28/07. Available to new Showtime subscribers only. Proof of purchase required. Limit one DVD set per household. This offer cannot be combined with any other Showtime offer. DVDs will be mailed within 8-10 weeks after the receipt of the necessary documents. Keep a copy for your files. Your response must be postmarked by 6/15/07 and received by 6/30/07. Does not include postage. Nominal shipping and handling fees may also apply. All rights reserved. Not all services available in all areas. Other restrictions may apply.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

See the Celtics play the Supersonics

The Braintree Park Department is sponsoring a trip to the Garden on **Friday, March 9**: Boston Celtics vs. the Seattle Supersonics. Seats are in the exclusive "Halo Section" and are \$36/ticket, which includes round-trip transportation from Town Hall. For more information, call the Park Department at 781.794.8901.

AARP meeting March 20

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting **Tuesday, March 20**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree. The guest speaker will be a representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers, who will talk about the history and operation of our own Cape Cod Canal. Call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293 for more information.

Braintree Women's Club fashion show

The Braintree Women's Club will hold its annual fashion show on **Sunday, March 25**, 12 noon to 4 p.m., at the Elk's Hall in Weymouth. Tickets, which include a complete luncheon, are \$30. Fashions will be by Talbots and Talbots Kids, and gifts and prizes will be given out. All proceeds will benefit the BWC scholarship fund and other charitable organizations. For ticket information, call Marta Googins (781.848.4768) or Carolyn Loud (781.843.4912).

Meeting House Montessori School Annual Auction

This year's Meeting House Montessori School Annual Auction, "Oh the Places We Will Go," will be held **Saturday, March 31**, at The Lantana in Randolph. Please support the school by attending the auction, donating an auction item, or making a donation. This year's fundraising is for improvements to the playground area. Auction updates and more information can be

found at www.mhmontessori.org. Meeting House Montessori is non-profit preschool and elementary school located at 25 Brow Avenue in Braintree. The school's philosophy includes creating an environment where trust, respect, responsibility, community and cooperation can flourish. For further information please contact Caren Chevalier Putnam, Administrative Director, at 781.356.7877 or at mhms@beld.net.

Hazardous waste collection

The Clean Harbors facility remains closed for the winter months and will reopen around April 1. The next **Town Household Hazardous Waste Day** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 19**, at the Ivory Street Drop-off, across from the T Station—where oil paint and fluorescent bulbs are collected all year on Saturdays at no charge. They will take cell phones on Saturdays as well, but NO tires, batteries, gas, oil or other household chemicals. Propane tanks can be disposed of at the COVANTA-SEMMASS drop-off area at no charge during regular business hours. Call 781.794.8237 for more information.

Catholic Women's Club scholarship

The Braintree Catholic Women's Club has two scholarships available to Braintree residents who are graduating this year. One will be awarded to a student from Braintree High School and the other to a graduate of a catholic high school. Notices have been sent to all participating schools—please contact your guidance department for an application. **Applications are due April 1**. Call Marie Connelly at 781.843.1965 for more information.

BHS reunion for Class of 1952

BHS Class of 1952 will hold its 55th Reunion at the Neighborhood Club in Quincy on **June 12**. Tickets are \$30. For further information, call Claire DeLorey Whitten at 508.540.5738.

BELD

www.beld.com
150 Potter Road
Braintree, MA 02184
781.348.BELD (2353)

Bright Ideas Editor/Designer
Joan Marson
jmarson@beld.com

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
Anthony Agnitti, Vice Chair
James Regan, Secretary

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day



Turn down your heat and save \$\$

Turning down your heat at night and/or when you're not at home can cut your heating bill by up to 10%. If you'll be out of the house or sleeping for more than four hours, remember to turn your thermostat down.