

BRIGHT IDEAS

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, April 2007

BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

Thank you for your understanding while we've been experiencing rising energy costs

A message from **Bill Bottiggi, BELD General Manager**



As we come to the close of another season of high energy costs, Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) would like to take this opportunity to thank

our residents for their patience and understanding. We, too, have been frustrated by increases which have been driven primarily by rising natural gas prices. As you may be aware, natural gas has become the fuel of choice for the generation of electricity in New England and in many places throughout the country.

As a public power utility, BELD continually strives to provide you with an excellent value for the money you spend on electricity. We are driven to provide the best possible service at the lowest reasonable cost. To help demonstrate this, we have provided a comparison (below) of what a typical

customer would pay monthly as a resident of Braintree (BELD), Weymouth (National Grid), and Milton (NSTAR).

BELD is currently serving our residential customers at a rate that is 24.3% less than National Grid and 44.1% less than NSTAR.

Based on NSTAR's rate, that means BELD is saving our residential customers a total of \$5,846,700/year, and all rate payers in the Town of Braintree \$19,952,325/year. (Residential customers make up 29% of sales.)

More than 2,000 cities and towns in the United States light up their homes, businesses and streets with public power—electricity that comes from a community-owned-and-operated utility.

Unlike private power companies, public power utilities are public service institutions and do not serve stockholders. Instead, their mission is to serve their customers. They measure success by how much money stays within the community through low rates and contributions to the city budget, not how much goes out to stockholders across the country and around the world.

BELD is always looking for ways to pass on more savings to our customers—including the construction of a new power plant (scheduled for completion in 2009) that will help stabilize future rates.

RATE COMPARISON

Residential customers consuming 750 kWh per month, as of 3/1/07

BELD
(Braintree) **\$102.16**

NATIONAL GRID
(Weymouth) **\$127.04**

NSTAR
(Milton) **\$147.18**

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!

BELD Broadband adds Hallmark and Anime!

The Hallmark Channel has been added to BELD Broadband's Digital tier (channel 118).

The Hallmark Channel offers a diverse mix of family-friendly programming featuring great actors, original movies, events, series, dramas, comedies and real-life programs. Programming includes *M*A*S*H*; *Walker, Texas Ranger*; *Matlock*; *Little House on the Prairie*; *Diagnosis Murder*; *The Waltons*; *The Pretender* and more.

The Anime Network has been added to BELD Broadband's Digital Plus tier (channel 620).

This new channel is America's number one Anime channel, offering shows like *Girl Power*, *Giant Robots* and *Bento Beat Box*. Also, check out Anime's new subscription Video On Demand content by tuning to channel 1 or selecting the VOD icon in your on-screen menus.

Both of these channels have been added to their respective packages at no extra charge to customers. Tune to channels 118 or 620 to watch the new channels, or call 781.348.BELD (2353) to upgrade to digital cable today!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Flea Market

The VFW 1702 Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a Flea Market on **Sunday, April 29**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the VFW Post, 356 Washington Street. Tables are \$20 each—to reserve one, contact Ethel Spano at 781.843.6569. Proceeds will benefit veteran's services and community charities.

Real Estate taxes due May 1

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes are due for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2007 on **May 1**. These bills were mailed on or before January 1 and must be paid by May 1 in order 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. A drop box is located in front of Town Hall for your convenience.

Dog licenses now available

2007 dog licenses are available **April 13-June 29** at the Town Clerk's office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **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. The fee is \$10 per dog. Licenses obtained after June 30 will be assessed a \$15 late fee for each year missed in addition to other applicable fees. For more information (including how to license dogs by mail), call the Town Clerk's Office at 781.794.8241. Forms are available on the Town of Braintree website, www.townofbraintreegov.org.

Braintree Choral Society Concerts

Braintree Choral Society announces its spring program of music by French composers to be performed **Saturday and Sunday, May 5 & 6**. Performances will take place on **Saturday**, 8 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, Elm Street, Braintree, and **Sunday**, 4 p.m., at the Old South

Union Congregational Church, Columbian Street, Weymouth. The Saturday evening performance is part of a series of events celebrating the 300th anniversary of the First Congregational Church in Braintree. Tickets in advance \$12, at the door \$15, seniors and students always \$10. Reserve by calling Paula Tennant at 781.848.7544 or e-mail braintreechoral@yahoo.com.

Annual Rabies Clinic is May 12

The annual Rabies Clinic will be held **Saturday, May 12**, 10 a.m.-noon, outside Town Hall. Local Veterinarian Dr. Richard Harris will inoculate the animals for a fee of \$12/animal. All proceeds go toward the Jaycee scholarship, awarded each year to a graduating BHS student. For more information, call 781.843.7414.

AARP meeting May 15

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its May meeting **Tuesday, May 15**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree. Guest speaker Sister Pat Norton, Chaplain with the area HOSPICE group, will make a presentation titled "Feeling good through humor and spirituality." For more information, call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293.

Chemotherapy-related materials should not be placed in your trash

If a member of your household is in the unfortunate position of being on chemotherapy, you should not dispose of diapers, tissues, or any other material that comes in contact with body fluids in your trash. In order to work, most medications used in this process contain low levels of radiation that will not pass the detectors installed in waste processing facilities to safeguard the downstream processes. Please contact the Health Department for disposal information at 781.794.8090 or the Recycling Office at 781.794.8237.

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, April 16
Patriot's Day
Monday, May 28
Memorial Day



FREE MAPLE 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.