

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A month

April 2008



Spring has sprung, and you're planning outdoor projects. But before you start digging, you must call 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 free! Visit the Dig Safe® website www.digsafe.com for more information, and remember to call before you dig—it's the law!

BELD will plant two maple trees in your yard—and they're free!

BELD will soon be out planting trees again for town residents. Since we began the Braintree Re-leaf program in 1992, we've planted over 3,000 maple trees at no cost to the recipients.

The young trees begin to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere right away, and in a few years their shade will help lower your home cooling costs.

BELD residential customers are eligible for two FREE maple trees—sorry, no repeat customers. To sign up for the Braintree Re-leaf program, call our Energy Advisor at 781.348.1032, and we'll add you to our 2008 spring planting schedule!

How will BELD Broadband customers be affected by the transformation to digital TV next year? Not to worry...

On February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the U.S. will stop broadcasting in analog and will switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

How does the analog-to-digital transformation affect you? Every household in the U.S. will need a digital TV, a TV converter box, or a cable subscription in order to watch television. So, if you are already a BELD Broadband subscriber, you can relax and continue to enjoy the same high-level of quality programming and service without any interruptions.

If you are watching an analog television without cable service, here are three things you can do...

1. Subscribe to BELD Broadband and continue to use your analog television.
2. Purchase a TV converter box and keep your existing analog television. You can visit www.dtv2009.gov to apply for a \$40 coupon from the federal government that you can use toward the purchase of a converter box.
3. Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

Got questions about the transformation? Give us a call at 781.348.BELD (2353).



Another satisfied BELD Broadband customer weighs in!

DENNIS DYER had this to say about his BELD Broadband experience...

"I love BELD Broadband! I have had BELD since they first launched cable. Then I signed up for the Internet service, and now I am in the Triple-Play bundle.

"The phone service is clearer than Verizon, and my Internet is fast. The customer service is great—I can talk to them like I know them, and they remember me.

"Verizon tried to get me to switch back, and I asked them what they give back to the town—they said nothing. Why would I switch? BELD IS MY COMPANY WITH THE BEST RATE AROUND."

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Real Estate taxes due May 1

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 are due **May 1**. These bills, mailed on or before January 1, 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. **Please note that our drop box has been moved to the drive-up area on the side of the old Water & Sewer building.**

Dog licenses now available

Braintree dog licenses for 2008 are available **April 7-June 30** 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.

Shift of income and wealth is subject of workshop hosted by All Souls Church

The Growing Divide: Inequality and the Roots of Economic Insecurity will be presented **Saturday, May 3, 2-4 p.m.**, at the Thayer Public Library. Does it seem that it's harder than ever to make ends meet? Find out about the massive shift of income and wealth that has taken place in the U.S. over the last twenty-five years. Consider what we can do to reverse this trend. This workshop, presented by United for a Fair Economy (www.faireconomy.org), has been presented in more than a thousand settings around the nation. Hosted by the Social Action/Environmental Committee of All Souls Church. For more information, call 781.380.3574 or visit www.allsoulsbraintree.org. Donations will be accepted to provide a fee for the speaker.

Annual Rabies Clinic is May 10

The annual Rabies Clinic will be held **Saturday, May 10, 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.

Giant Spring Yard & Bake Sale

The First Congregational Church, 12 Elm Street, will hold a Giant Spring Yard & Bake Sale at the church on **Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** For additional information, please call the church at 781.843.3616.

AARP meeting April 15

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, May 20, 1:30 p.m.**, at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street. The guest speaker will be Mary Fontana of Braintree's Emergency Management Response Agency. She'll talk about the work the agency is responsible for—including flood, storm, and electrical disaster relief and general community emergency response assistance. Call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293 for additional information.

Braintree Autism Network workshop

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will host a free workshop, *Learning about Sensory, Behavioral Strengths, and Challenges in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, **Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.**, at the Thayer Public Library. The workshop will be presented by Community Autism Resources. Please call Natasha Chomas at 781.356.4740 for more information.

Guidelines for recycling

Braintree's recycling efforts are focused on providing strong curbside access as well as additional drop-off options. The **enclosed recycling flyer** will help you sort through these options, hopefully making recycling easier and more productive—an achievable goal if we work together. As we move through the spring, watch for more exciting news on our programs. For additional information on recycling call 781.794.8237.

Braintree Park Department trips

May 24-27: Washington, D.C. tour, includes 3 nights at the Quality Inn in College Park, MD, 5 meals, and admission to many Washington sites (\$499/person, double occupancy).

Sunday, June 1: Lake Winnepesaukee cruise, depart Town Hall at 8 a.m. for a 2½-hour cruise that includes a champagne Sunday Brunch. There will be time for shopping at the local outlet stores. Return 7:30 p.m. (\$89/person).

Saturday, June 14: Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, roundtrip motorcoach departs Town Hall 6 a.m., refreshments served on board, board a ferry at Liberty Park in New Jersey and visit the recently restored Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty, does not include meals, return to Braintree approximately 11 p.m. (\$79/person).

Sunday, June 29: Block Island day trip, depart Town Hall 7 a.m. and return 6:30 p.m., after being ferried from Point Judith, lunch at one of Block Island's harbor restaurants, narrated tour of the island and free time for shopping (\$89/person).

Tuesday, July 1: Boston Pops Take Me Out to the Ballgame at Symphony Hall, Keith Lockhart conducting, transportation from Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. (\$57/person, first balcony center seating).

Visit the Park Department at 249 Union Street for individual itineraries or call 781.794.8901.

BELD

www.beld.com
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Braintree, MA 02184
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
Beside 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 21
Patriot's Day
Monday, May 26
Memorial Day



Our drop box at Town Hall has moved!

The drop boxes formerly located in front of Town Hall have been moved—to the side of the old Water & Sewer building.

And now you can use them without getting out of your car—just drive right up. Enjoy!