

BRIGHT IDEAS



BELD
Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, June 2008

BELD makes \$1,000,000 Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Town of Braintree

Many public power systems like Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) support their communities by making an annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). BELD's payment to the Town of Braintree this year—\$1,000,000—is the largest we have made to date.

It's a common misconception that investor-owned utilities pay taxes that publicly-owned utilities do not. In a study conducted by the American Public Power Association (APPA), when all taxes and other contributions to state and local government are considered, the median amount contributed by public power systems (as a percentage of electric operating revenues) was 19% higher than investor-owned utilities.

And BELD makes other contributions to the town as well—in the form of free or reduced-cost services. During 2007 we contributed services valued at nearly \$500,000—ranging from providing Internet access for the schools to planting trees to providing GIS support for town departments.

Serving the Town of Braintree since 1892, Braintree Electric Light Department is proud to be part of a long-standing tradition of giving back to the community. We do a lot more than keep your lights on!

Save a total of \$150 when you purchase ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances

BELD customers who take advantage of our energy-efficient appliance rebate program can save up to \$150 on ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.

To participate, download an application at <http://www.beld.com/SiteDocuments/ApplianceRebateForm.pdf> or pick one up



at our office at 150 Potter Road. Then purchase an ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator (\$75 rebate), front-loading washing machine (\$50 rebate), or air conditioner (\$50 rebate). Be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR logo on the yellow EnergyGuide label on the appliance.

Return the completed form to our office, along with a sales receipt and a copy of the EnergyGuide label. Once BELD has received your form and verified eligibility, we'll credit your electric account the rebated amount. You'll receive a letter notifying you when the credit will appear on your bill.

Questions? Call our Energy Advisor at 781.348.1032. And be sure to ask about some of the other ways BELD promotes energy efficiency—we'll help you make the right choices about your home energy use and save you some money as well.

View our 2007 ANNUAL REPORT at www.beld.com

BELD's 2007 Annual Report, A Visible Means of Support, features employees making a commitment to the community by volunteering their time and effort to a worthy cause.

Visit our website at www.beld.com and select the "About BELD" tab, then "Annual Reports."

If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at our Customer Service office at 150 Potter Road during regular office hours.

I have had a wonderful experience with BELD Broadband for the past five years as an Internet and cable customer. Whenever I have called customer service they have personally walked me through my issues to ensure that my needs are met. They are on the ball and have always called me back within an hour. I give BELD Broadband an A+.

—Kathy Walker



BELD Broadband delivers the winning double play!

Compare BELD Broadband's double-play package—high-speed Internet and digital phone service—with Comcast's bundled package and the winner is clear: BELD Broadband's double-play package costs less and gives you more.

For only \$65 a month, BELD Broadband gives you **high-speed Internet with speeds of 15 Mbps** and **digital phone service with unlimited calls throughout the U.S. and Canada.** Comcast charges \$69 a month for high-speed Internet and digital phone service with Internet speeds of only 6 Mbps. Plus, Comcast charges an extra \$10 per month for Internet speeds that are comparable to BELD Broadband's!

And BELD Broadband's digital phone service comes with a feature-rich web-based account management tool. **You can manage your digital phone service online, view long-distance rates and billing history, know who's calling before you answer, set call forwarding and blocking options, and lots more.** And while Comcast charges \$32.95 an hour for service calls, BELD Broadband's service calls are always FREE. When you tally the final score, BELD Broadband clearly delivers the winning double play.

Call us at 781.348.BELD (2353) by June 30 to sign up for BELD Broadband's high-speed Internet and digital phone service bundle at \$65—the clear winner!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Please support the 35th Annual Independence Day Celebration!

This year's event will take place **Saturday, June 28**, at the Braintree High School grounds and feature an Open-air Flea Market (8:30 a.m.), a parade starting at Hollis School at 11:45 a.m., North American Amusement (12 noon), Touch-a-Truck display (12 noon-4 p.m.), live entertainment (6-9 p.m.), 50/50 Cash Raffle Drawing & Prizes (9:40 p.m.), Salute to our Troops featuring Braintree veterans (9:45 p.m.), and Annual Gala Fireworks Display (10 p.m.). **Please help offset the cost of this long-time tradition by mailing your contribution in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. The Friends of the 4th Committee appreciates your support!**

Time Capsule Inspection Ceremony

Come celebrate the Fourth of July at the Town Hall Mall on **Friday, July 4**, 9-10:15 a.m. The Time Capsule Inspection Ceremony is a special occasion for remembering our past and looking ahead to the future. Representatives of 16 Braintree groups will be in attendance, as will State Senator Brian A. Joyce. The 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry will set up a typical Civil War campsite and participate in the ceremony. For additional information, call Carol Morley at 781.848.5393.

Braintree Autism Network meeting

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will meet **Monday, July 14**, 7:30 p.m., at Emmanuel Parish, 519 Washington Street, Braintree. The meeting is open to all parents or guardians of children who live in Braintree and have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or live elsewhere but attend school in Braintree and have an ASD. There is no cost or obligation, and membership is confidential. Call Natasha Chomas at 781.356.4740 for more information.

Braintree Park Department trips

Sunday, July 13: Cape Cod Canal Cruise, depart Town Hall at 10 a.m. for a 3-hour cruise of the Cape Cod Canal, featuring the Dixieland music of Lee Childs and the Bourbon St. Paraders, lunch at Bailey's Surf N Turf Restaurant in Wareham (\$79/person).

Thursday, July 17 or Wednesday, August 20: box seats for Pawtucket Red Sox/McCoy Stadium (\$15/person includes transportation from Town Hall).

Sunday, July 20: Narragansett Bay Cruise, narrated luncheon cruise aboard the M/V Vista Jubilee sailing Narragansett Bay, 2 hours to browse historic Newport R.I. (\$89/person).

Sunday, July 27: Foxwoods, beat the heat on the air-conditioned motor coach leaving Town Hall at 8 a.m., enjoy 7 hours of casino games, bonus includes \$10 food and \$15 Keno (\$29/person).

Saturday, August 2: Cabbage Island Clambake, travel to Boothbay Harbor, ME for a harbor tour, traditional clambake including two Maine lobsters and all the fixins, time for shopping in Freeport, ME (\$99/person).

Call 781.794.8901 for more trip information.

Second Annual B.A.S.E. and Roselyn Karll Charity Golf Tournament

The Second Annual Braintree After School Enrichment (B.A.S.E.) and Roselyn Karll Charity Golf Tournament will be held **Monday, September 15**, at the Braintree Municipal Golf Course. We are raising money for the B.A.S.E. program and the Roselyn Karll Memorial Scholarship—to be given to a Braintree H.S. senior continuing their education in the Early Childhood field. For more information about B.A.S.E. and the golf tournament application (**deadline: September 8**), please visit our website at www.basekids.com or call Alysa Rynne or Meridith Duffy at 781.849.3484.

BELD

www.beld.com
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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
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

Friday, July 4
Independence Day



Always ask for IDENTIFICATION!

All Braintree Electric Light Department personnel carry photo identification cards. Never let anyone claiming to represent your utility company enter your home without first showing his or her I.D. If you have a question about a BELD I.D., call our office at 781.348.BELD (2353)