

# BRICKS & BEAMS

A monthly newsletter for BELD May 2007

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

## **May is National Electrical Safety Month—an ideal time to address potential electrical hazards in the home!**

**Installing a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) in every home and workplace could prevent nearly 70% of the electrocutions that occur each year**

A GFCI—whether an electrical receptacle, a circuit breaker, or a portable device—is a safety device that trips an electrical circuit when it detects ground faults or leakage currents. Of the estimated millions installed nationwide, many are the standard wall or receptacle-type—especially suitable for cord-connected appliances and equipment used outdoors or near water.

### **Circuit breakers aren't enough**

Some homeowners may question the need for GFCI receptacles, believing that the circuit breakers or fuses in their electrical panel box provide all the protection they need. But circuit breakers are designed to protect homes from an electrical fire caused by overheated wires. **GFCIs, on the other hand, are designed to protect people from potentially fatal electrical shocks.**

GFCIs work by comparing the current on the “hot” lead (the wire carrying the current into the receptacle) and the current on the “neutral” lead (the return wire). If the currents are mismatched, it means current is leaking somewhere along the circuit. **When a leak is detected, the GFCI will shut off the power almost immediately, virtually eliminating the risk of electrocution.**

### **GFCIs must be tested regularly**

Voltage surges from lightning and other sources take their toll on GFCIs and can render them inoperative. Industry studies suggest that as many as 10% of those in use

may be damaged. **Yet a recent survey found that nearly one-half of U.S. families never test the GFCIs in their homes.** The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) recommends performing a simple test—at least once a month and after storms—to determine if GFCIs are functioning properly.

### **Testing is simple**

To test your GFCIs, follow this simple procedure:

- Push the “reset” button of the GFCI receptacle to prepare the unit for testing.
- Plug a light into the GFCI and turn it on—the light should now be ON.
- Push the “test” button of the GFCI—the light should go OFF.
- Push the “reset” button again—the light should again turn ON.

The light should go out when the test button is pushed. If the light does not go out, the GFCI is not working or has been installed incorrectly. If the reset button pops out during the test but the light does not go out, the GFCI may have been improperly wired. In this case, the receptacle may have been damaged and does not offer shock protection. Contact a qualified electrician to check the GFCI and correct the problem.

**Eliminating electrical hazards begins with education and awareness. A focus on electrical safety at home and in the workplace can prevent hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries each year.**

## **Guidelines for electrical safety in the home**

**Braintree Electric Light Department joins the Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) this month to remind you that May is National Electrical Safety Month.**

**Each year thousands of people are injured or die from electrical fires and electric shock. Visit ESFI's website at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) to learn about the steps you can take to avoid electrical accidents in the home.**

## **Our 2006 Annual Report is now available on line**

**BELD's 2006 Annual Report features our Turbine Overhaul project and how a dedicated team got the work done in spite of unavoidable delays. Visit our website at [www.beld.com](http://www.beld.com) and select the “About BELD” tab and “Annual Reports.”**

## **BELD Broadband offers a better value for high-speed Internet service!**

Did you know that BELD Broadband offers Internet download speeds of 15 Mbps? You can access our high-speed Internet service for just \$33.25 a month—that's only \$2.22 per Mbps. This is our **lowest monthly rate**, and you don't even have to sign a yearly contract! The service includes 6 e-mail boxes and a generous 14 MB of mail and Web space. And seniors can save even more if they take our cable television service.

Some of our competitors have begun to introduce bandwidth caps, charging you extra if you download more than a certain amount of data. This means you would need to monitor your downloads in order to avoid additional costs. **BELD Broadband's High-Speed Internet service imposes no bandwidth caps and includes unlimited broadband connection time.**

Our recent upgrades to BELD's hybrid fiber coaxial (HFC) cable network pave the way for even faster broadband speeds and enhanced upstream capabilities in the future. **Located right here in Braintree, our friendly customer service staff is eager to assist you. Call us at 781.348.BELD (2353) to sign up for service today!**

## **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

### **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](http://www.townofbraintreegov.org).

### **BHS Reunion—Class of 1952**

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

### **AARP luncheon June 19**

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will end the 2006-2007 year with a luncheon on **Tuesday, June 19.** The event will be held at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street, Braintree, at 1 p.m. The meal will be catered by Fasano's, and entertainment will be provided by Paul Duffy and his "Cranberry Jam" musical group, playing oldies and contemporary favorites. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information, call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293.

**The Community Bulletin Board section of this newsletter provides free listings for events sponsored by local non-profit organizations. Information must be submitted by the 5th of the month before the newsletter is mailed—for example, the listing of an event scheduled for December 15 would appear in the November issue, the deadline for which is October 5. Need more details? Call 781.348.2332 for additional information.**

### **Always wanted to learn Italian?**

The Italian American Cultural Organization is offering Italian classes for adults and children at Braintree High School. For available dates and times, please contact Dominic Candelieri at 617.842.4222 (days) or 781.848.9222 (evenings).

### **The American Red Cross is looking for platelet donors**

The Red Cross Donor Center on Forbes Road in Braintree invites you to become part of their "pheresis" program—a specific type of donation that uses updated medical technology to collect donor platelets and then return the remaining blood components, including the red cells, to the donor. **The entire process takes about two hours,** including registration, medical history, and post-donation refreshments.

Pheresis donors can give platelets every two weeks, as opposed to eight weeks for a whole blood donation, and many of our donors come in on a regular basis. **There is a constant need for platelets, as they can be stored for only five days.** Type A donors are especially valuable, as they are the universal donor for platelets.

The American Red Cross relies heavily on their volunteer donors. For more information on how you can participate, please call the Donor Center at 781.794.1800 or Recruitment Representative Diane Donnarumma at 781.710.2450.

# **BELD**

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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 CLOSING**

Monday, May 28  
Memorial Day



**Electric tools and water don't mix!**

**While working in the yard this spring, remember that electric tools—such as clippers, hedgers, and trimmers—should not be used on wet surfaces.**

**And never mow the lawn with an electric mower if the grass is wet.**