



BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, January 2008

BELD has partnered with two local agencies to help Braintree residents save on their energy bills

For the third year, Braintree Electric Light Department will partner with Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP) to help low-income families save on their energy bills.

BELD has again committed \$10,000 to help Braintree families pay for energy conservation measures—including heating system replacements, attic insulation, wall insulation, and air sealing. In 2007, twelve Braintree families received help through the partnership.

Partnering with QCAP enabled the BELD program to be combined with other QCAP program funds—maximizing the impact of the funds contributed by BELD. For the \$9,670 invested by BELD, an additional \$36,230 was leveraged through other program funds, resulting in a total of \$45,900 in energy conservation measures for these twelve families.

“QCAP is grateful to have a partner like BELD who is committed to supporting services for Braintree’s low-income families,” said Anne Gross Shannon, QCAP’s Energy Program Director.

Braintree residents interested in learning more about low-income energy programs administered through QCAP can call 617.479.8181, ext. 101. Call BELD’s Energy Advisor at 781.348.1032 for information about other energy conservation programs available through Braintree Electric Light Department.

Along with 21 other Massachusetts energy companies, Braintree Electric Light Department is a sponsor of the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF).

Administered by The Salvation Army, the fund brings 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.

Last year the Massachusetts GNEF helped more than 2,725 families pay an electric, gas or oil bill. The fund’s goal for 2007-08 is \$600,000, and The Salvation Army is already beginning to see a rise in the number of phone calls from families in need.

To further assist those in need this winter, BELD participated in a blanket drive in the fall, collecting 75 blankets from employees and delivering them to The Salvation Army.

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 800.334.3047. You may also visit www.magoodneighbor.org.

A 5% holiday prompt payment discount has been added to your January 2008 residential bill

We know that many Braintree residents are trying to cope with the current high cost of fuel and energy. BELD HAS THEREFORE ADDED A 5% HOLIDAY PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNT to your January residential electric bill. (This discount applies to the transmission and distribution charges for electricity used during the month of December 2007.)

BELD employees work hard to keep your rates affordable, and it is because of their hard work and dedication that this discount is possible. We are happy to share our efforts with you this holiday season.

—Bill Bottiggi, BELD GM

It was a very good year for BELD Broadband— YOUR hometown broadband department!

Now offering a complete package of communications services, BELD Broadband has wrapped up another great year! Our digital phone service took off, and we made some exciting changes to both our cable television and high-speed Internet services.

- ✔ **We added new Digital** (Lifetime Real Women, Hallmark and SoapNet), **Digital Plus** (Fuel and Anime Network) and **sports pay-per-view channels** (NBA League Pass). BELD Broadband now offers more than 260 cable channels.
- ✔ **We added new high-definition channels**—Universal HD and Showtime HD. BELD Broadband currently carries **21 HDTV channels**.
- ✔ **We added new VOD categories** (Kids Unlimited, Three-Day Movies and BELD On Demand) and SVOD (Anime).
- ✔ **We added more Web and email space at no additional charge (up to 50 MB)**, plus a new kids' section on BELD.com.

The year may be changing, but BELD Broadband's special offers are still available—**\$99 a month for digital phone, digital cable and high-speed Internet for a year and \$50 a month for digital phone and high-speed Internet for three months**. We're looking forward to another year of quality service and affordable rates in 2008—Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Annual Town Census is in the mail

Donna Fabiano, Town Clerk, would like to remind residents that the Annual Town Census will be mailed out to all residents in January. Please fill out the census form—making any changes for your household, sign the form, and return it as soon as possible. Failure to respond may result in removal from the active voting list.

Real Estate taxes due February 1

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 are due **February 1**. These bills, mailed on or before January 1, must be paid by February 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. There is a drop box in front of Town Hall for your convenience.

Braintree Autism Network meeting

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will meet on **Monday, February 11**, 7:30 p.m., at Emmanuel Parish in 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. Call 781.356.4740 for more information.

AARP meeting February 19

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, February 19**, 1:30 p.m., at

the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street. The guest speaker will be James Cooke, presenting some interesting insight on four famous historical figures—John Q. Adams, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett and Calvin Coolidge. Call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293 for more information.

New recycling website

Sponsored by SEMASS, a new town website, www.braintreerecycling.org, is now up and running. We'll refresh the site frequently to keep the answers you need at your fingertips and to update you on new programs/resources in the rapidly changing world of recycling.

Our hotline at 781.794.8237 will continue to provide an additional resource.

Braintree Fund for Education fundraiser

The Braintree Fund for Education, Inc. (BFFE) is a non-profit organization comprised of members from all 10 Parent Teacher Organizations whose mission is to raise funds for all the schools in the Braintree Public School System. The BFFE has planned "**An Evening of Entertainment**," at Florian Hall, Dorchester, **Friday, March 14**, 7:30 p.m.-midnight.

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased through each school's PTO or by contacting Pam Kiley at pamk@beld.net or 781.843.3392. The event will feature DJ Jim Plunkett in the main hall and Braintree's own Kathy Porter (vocalist) and Kathy Clancy (on the keys), known as the group "Twice as Nice," in the Piano Bar Café.



www.beld.com
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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

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

Tuesday, January 1
New Year's Day
Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 18
Presidents' Day



**Want to spread out
your bill payments? Ask
about our Budget Plan**

**We'll look at your past
electricity use and come
up with a plan that lets
you pay equal
installments over 12
months. If there's a
difference between our
estimate and your actual
use, that difference will
be settled in the twelfth
month. Call BELD
Customer Service at
781.348.BELD (2353) for
more information.**