

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, May 2008


BELD's General Manager announces increase in Power Cost Adjustment

Driven by sky-high oil and natural gas prices, Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) has been forced to increase our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) by .5 cent per kWh—as of May 1, 2008. The result is an increase of 3.6% on the average residential bill, or \$3.25 for a customer using 650 kWh per month.

Most of the electricity consumed by our customers is purchased through the regional electric system, and the PCA is tied directly to those costs. BELD holds down costs by effectively negotiating power supply contracts, but **energy costs are directly affected by changes in oil and gas prices. When we last adjusted the PCA (in the fall of 2006), oil was \$60/barrel, and gasoline at the pump was \$2.35/gallon!**

The good news is that after four years of project development—including engineering analysis, environmental permitting, and contract negotiations—we broke ground on the new Thomas A. Watson Generating Station last month (see related story). **This state-of-the-art power plant will help us contain future energy costs because we will be able to run the plant whenever that is more economical than buying power off the open market.**

We thank you for your understanding and assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep our electricity costs as low as possible during this time of high energy prices.


William Bottiggi, BELD GM

Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony are (l to r): Tony Agnitti (Municipal Light Board), State Senator Michael Morrissey, Mayor Joseph Sullivan, BELD GM Bill Bottiggi, State Representative Joseph Driscoll, Tom Reynolds and Jim Regan (both of the Municipal Light Board)

BELD breaks ground for the Thomas A. Watson Generating Station

After years of acquiring permits and lining up contracts, Braintree Electric Light Department broke ground in April for the Thomas A. Watson Generating Station on Potter Road.

"It was an exciting day," said BELD GM Bill Bottiggi. "We kicked off the last stage of the project—the actual construction of the power plant. **It will be the final phase of BELD's plan to insure stable electric rates for our residential and commercial customers.**"

Among the guests at the groundbreaking ceremony: State Senator Michael Morrissey; State Representative Joseph Driscoll; Mayor Joseph Sullivan; Municipal Light Board members Tom Reynolds, Tony Agnitti and Jim Regan; Town Council President Leland Dingee; and Town Councilors Harold Randolph and Thomas Bowes.

"If all goes according to plan," said Bottiggi, "in approximately one year we'll be producing electricity." Start-up testing is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2009.



Harold Randolph is another satisfied BELD Broadband customer

"I am extremely pleased with my BELD Broadband service. The Internet is always up and running and waiting for us. When I do have a rare glitch, BELD Broadband is able to help us over the phone. We have had minimal interruption in service, and I have found the broadband people courteous and helpful."



If it sounds too good to be true... (you know the rest)

Beware of INTERNET CHECK SCAMS: There is no legitimate reason why someone would send you a check or money order and then ask you to wire money to an account in return!!

Internet check scams are everywhere—and they appear in several disguises. Here are just a few examples...

- You were overpaid for an item you sold on the Internet and you're asked to wire-transfer back the extra dollars.

- You receive a check and notification that you've won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes. You're instructed to deposit the check

More information regarding these scams can be found at <http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>. Contact BELD Broadband's Help Desk at 348.BELD (2353) or support@beld.com if you receive a suspicious email.



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.

End-of-year AARP meeting June 17

Braintree AARP Chapter #4042 will end the year with a luncheon on **Tuesday, June 17, 1:00 p.m.**, at the D.A.V. Hall, 788 Liberty Street. Fasano's will provide the catering, and Dick Mandell, the one-man orchestra at the keyboard, will provide the entertainment. Cost is \$25 per person. Call Frank Bocchino at 781.848.4293 for additional information.

Super Saturdays Golf Tournament

The Ninth Annual Charity Golf Tournament sponsored by the Braintree Super Saturdays Recreational Program is **Wednesday, June 25.** Super Saturdays is a program for special needs children in Braintree which is supported by donations. Those interested in supporting us with auction items, raffle prizes, or monetary donations should contact Jayne Olivere at 781.843.6555.

(representing a portion of your winnings) and wire-transfer dollars back "to cover the taxes" so you can collect the rest of your winnings.

- A work-at-home offer promises that, in return for depositing a money order or check to your bank account, you can keep a percentage of the money after wire-transferring the rest.

- Someone in a chat room asks you to **cash a check** and wire-transfer the money.

The check or money order you receive for deposit WILL be counterfeit. It WILL be returned to your bank unpaid, and the full amount will be deducted from your account.

Gently-used books needed

The Friends of Thayer Public Library need your discarded, gently-used books for their year-round book sale, held on the Library's ground level. The proceeds support many of the programs and services the Friends provide to the Library. The book sale is also a wonderful opportunity for residents to purchase the donated books at reasonable prices. For further information, please call Adele at 781.843.8123.

Guidelines for recycling cardboard

We continue to fill landfills with cardboard—and paper—when it's actually easier to recycle it! Taking a few moments to break down cardboard boxes, put them in bags or bundles (2'x 3' pieces), and place them in or next to your recycling container saves resources and money. **Anything** you can tear or rip can be recycled. We're working on new resources to help us achieve our State goals for recycling—watch this space for more news in the coming months.

Spring leaf pickup is two weeks only

Waste Management will pick up leaves and grass clippings **May 27-31** and **June 2-6**, the same day as trash pickup. Materials must be in biodegradable bags or containers such as boxes or barrels (no plastic bags, please). They must be curbside, separate from household trash, by 7 a.m. Branches and other yard waste must be brought to the Plain Street Cemetery leaf site for disposal. For more information, contact the Highway Department at 781.794.8950 or Waste Management at 1.800.262.5633 (after 5 p.m., 508.337.1287.)

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
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, May 26
Memorial 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)