

# BRIGHT IDEAS



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

A monthly newsletter for BELD customers, July 2008

**BELD works hard to provide you an excellent value for the money you spend on electricity...**

Public power utilities are driven to provide the best possible service at the lowest reasonable cost. To bring this concept closer to home, we've drawn up a comparison (below) of what typical customers are paying each month as residents of **Braintree** (BELD), **Weymouth** (National Grid), and **Milton** (NSTAR).

Unlike private power companies, public power utilities are public service institutions that do not serve stockholders. Instead, our mission is to serve our customers—and we measure success by how much money stays within the community through low rates and contributions to the town budget, not how much goes out to stockholders across the country and around the world.

## COMPARING ELECTRIC RATES

for residential customers consuming 650 kWh per month, as of July 1, 2008

<b>BELD</b> (Braintree)	\$94.65
<b>NATIONAL GRID</b> (Weymouth)	\$110.34
<b>NSTAR</b> (Milton)	\$132.22

BELD is always looking for ways to pass on more savings to our customers, including the construction of a new power plant that will help stabilize future rates. The Thomas A. Watson Generating Station on Potter Road is now under construction and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

**...and BELD Broadband's Internet and cable rates for Braintree seniors aren't too shabby either.**

When compared to Comcast's service, Braintree seniors can save more than \$200 a year with BELD Broadband's high-speed Internet service. For \$42.55 a month, seniors can enjoy surfing the Internet with BELD.net at speeds of up to 15 Mbps. Comcast charges \$59.95 per month for Internet service with speeds up to 6 Mbps. BELD Broadband saves seniors \$17.40 per month over Comcast—an annual savings of \$208.80!

Seniors can save even more by bundling BELD Broadband's high-speed Internet service with BELD Digital cable television. BELD Digital cable comes with 161 channels, including 50 crystal-clear digital channels, 46 digital audio channels from Music Choice, and the ability to order Video On Demand.

The senior rate for bundling BELD.net and BELD Digital is just \$83.65 per month—a savings of \$18.85 per month or \$226 a year when compared with similar services from Comcast. And, while Comcast charges \$32.95 an hour for service calls, BELD Broadband's service calls are always free. Call BELD Broadband today at 348.BELD!

*Analysis based on current published rates and information which are subject to change. For residential customers in wired and serviceable areas only. Applicable equipment and installation fees are additional. Prices shown are subject to taxes and franchise fees. Home visits relating to wiring, equipment and customer education are free; additional services are charged regular service rates. BELD.net high-speed Internet: Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. A cable modem is required. BELD Digital cable TV: A digital cable box and remote control are required. Additional programming may be purchased at regular service rates. Service not available in all areas. Other restrictions may apply.*



**WE  
ARE  
VERY  
FORTUNATE  
TO HAVE YOU!**

**DON LEVY has some nice things to say about BELD Broadband...**

**"I recently had a visit from BELD Broadband to clear up kind of a sticky problem I had with the phone and Internet service.**

**It took more than one call, but what impressed me most about these people was their professional conduct, their work ethic, their teamwork, and their bulldog tenacity to get it done and done right. There was also a stubborn "stick-to-it-iveness" approach to the problem that was most amazing.**

**And so, I want you to know that I have nothing but the highest praise for these folks and for all of BELD. We are very fortunate to have you!"**



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Real Estate taxes due August 1

Braintree taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate Taxes for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 are due **August 1**. These bills, mailed on or before July 1, must be paid by August 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 side of the old Water & Sewer building.**

### Emergency response plan exercise drill planned for early August

The Braintree Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will conduct a full-scale exercise of the town's emergency response plan in **early August**. The purpose of the exercise is to provide town departments and agencies the opportunity to practice the emergency response plan, which is required to maintain full certification through the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

The exercise will take place at the Mary E. Flaherty Elementary School at 99 Lakeside Drive. Mayor Sullivan and the LEPC recognize that there may be inconveniences during the exercise and would like to thank Braintree residents and the general public for their understanding and cooperation. Call Marybeth McGrath at 781.794.8095 for additional information.

### Curbside collection of appliances and scrap metal

Under the new trash contract, effective July 7, residents can dispose of additional items curbside such as swing sets, grills (no tanks), lawn mowers (no gasoline), and other metal items that do not contain hazardous materials. A separate truck will collect the items—please separate them from your regular trash. Collection will take place once a month (during the first full week of the month) regardless of whether it is a holiday week. Contact Rosemary Nolan at 781.794.8060 with questions.

### Braintree Autism Network meeting

Braintree Autism Network for our Daughters and Sons, BANDS Together, will meet **Monday, August 11, 7:30 p.m.**, at Emmanuel Parish, 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; membership is confidential. For more information, Call Natasha Chomas (781.356.4740).

### Free evening legal clinic

The Bar Association of Norfolk County will sponsor a free legal clinic at the Quincy District Court on **Tuesday, August 26, 6-8 p.m.** Area residents seeking legal advice can meet with an attorney in a confidential, one-on-one consultation. Contact Adrienne Clarke at 617.471.9693

### Quincy Community Action Head Start Program

The Quincy Community Action Head Start Program is now accepting applications for the **Head Start Pre-School Program**. Call Nancy Dean at 617.479.8181, X352, for eligibility information and/or to request an application.

### Braintree High School Classes of 1958 and 1959 plan 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Braintree High School Classes of 1958 and 1959 are planning a combined 50th Reunion the **weekend of September 12-14** at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth. Join us for dinner, dancing, reminiscing, and socializing during the planned weekend events. For more information, call Ted Lang at 508.947.8125 (Class of 1958) or Jerry Goldberg at 781.749.0477 (Class of 1959). If you have not received our first mailing, we need to hear from you to update our mailing list.

### 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 B.H.S. senior continuing his/her 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](http://www.basekids.com) or call Alysya Rynne or Meridith Duffy at 781.849.3484.

### Braintree Park Department trips

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

**Sunday, September 21: Bourne Scallop Festival**, 39th Annual Festival includes a narrated cruise on the Cape Cod Canal, dinner along the banks of the canal, and time for shopping at the famous Christmas Tree Shop in Bourne (\$79/person).

**Sunday, October 5: Vermont Day Trip**, two-hour scenic train ride aboard the Green Mountain Flyer, a Vermont luncheon feast at the Putney Inn, time for shopping and browsing and a visit to the Red Apple Orchard (\$99/person).

**Sunday, October 19: Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad**, new this year, enjoy lunch aboard the "Turkey Train" during a two-hour ride on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad, depart Town Hall at 7 a.m. and return approximately 7 p.m. (\$79/person).

All tour trips include round-trip deluxe motor coach (lav- & video-equipped); refreshments served on board. Call Maryanne at 781.794.8901 for more trip information or visit the Park Department at 249 Union Street.

# BELD

[www.beld.com](http://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](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 CLOSINGS

Friday, July 4

Independence Day



## It's a jungle out there!!

**Overgrown shrubs in the vicinity of electric meters can create a problem for BELD's meter readers. You can help ensure that your electricity usage will be read accurately by trimming the bushes and shrubs near your meter.**