

# BRIGHT IDEAS

**BELD**

Braintree Electric  
Light Department  
and  
BELD Broadband



A monthly newsletter for BELD & BELD Broadband customers, published March 2017

## BELD employees hit the road in EVs

Last summer BELD launched Braintree Drives Electric to teach residents about the benefits of electric vehicles (EVs) and the incentives to make acquiring an EV affordable. We're practicing what we preach by leasing three plug-in vehicles for our own fleet.

BELD received a \$27,500 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to lease two Volkswagen e-Golfs and a Chevrolet Volt, and to install two charging stations at our Potter Road location. The leasing company received a \$7,500 federal tax credit for each vehicle and passed those savings on to BELD through reduced lease payments. The charging stations are open to the public and offer free charging Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Town of Braintree took advantage of the same state grant to acquire two Ford C-Max plug-in hybrids and an all-electric Nissan Leaf, and to install a public charging station at Town Hall.

Keep your eyes peeled for the vehicles that have been wrapped with the BELD and Braintree Drives Electric logos. The all-electric e-Golfs are being used by BELD employees to make trips within Braintree, while the plug-in hybrid Volt can be used to travel to meetings throughout

the Northeast. BELD's courier Mary Hobart uses an electric vehicle every day.

"I was skeptical of the EVs at first," Mary said, "but I quickly got comfortable with the e-Golf and now I love taking it on all of my deliveries."

Other BELD employees who drive the cars have been similarly impressed and are happy to answer the ques-

tions they get from residents when they take the vehicles around town.

**Want to test drive an e-Golf, Volt or other EV yourself? Sign up for a free, no obligation test drive that starts and ends at your home at [BraintreeDrivesElectric.com](http://BraintreeDrivesElectric.com).**



## How to dispose of used Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)

Many of our customers have converted their high-energy use standard light bulbs to CFLs, resulting in significant energy savings and greatly increased operating life. But concerns about small amounts of mercury in CFLs have led to special guidelines for disposal. Braintree's Recycling Committee instructs users to handle used CFLs as hazardous waste and NOT put them in the trash.



These bulbs—along with the old fluorescent type—can be dropped off at the Braintree Recycling Center on Ivory Street Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays between 1 and 4 p.m., and Saturdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Or they can be turned in at any household hazardous waste event.

Call the Recycling Office at 781.794.8088, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with your recycling questions.

# State Senator John F. Keenan visits BELD



Massachusetts Senator John F. Keenan and his legislative aide Ellen Fleming visited BELD in early January. The pair met with Municipal Light Board Chairman Tom Reynolds, General Manager Bill Bottiggi and Executive VP of Energy New England Vincent Ragucci to discuss

current light department initiatives and energy issues affecting New England municipal utilities. After reviewing such items as BELD's potential new power plant project, renewable energy, energy storage, electric vehicles and LED street lights, Bill led Sen. Keenan and Ellen on a quick tour of the Braintree facility.



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**PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
[www.beld.com](http://www.beld.com) for  
online BillPay,  
or call 781.348.1001  
(sign up for AutoPay  
to save time & money!)

**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.  
505 Quincy Avenue

**BROADBAND HELPDESK**  
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m.–4 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.

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**  
**Monday, April 17**  
Patriots' Day

## Why did my electric bill go up?

During the cold winter months' electric bills increase. Dealing with higher bills can be frustrating, but knowing what factors influence usage patterns can help you use electricity more efficiently:

- Earlier darkness means fewer hours of natural light inside and out, so electric lights are on longer.
- Hot meals—which are popular when it's cold outside—take longer to cook.
- Regardless of what fuel they use, heating systems require significant amount of electricity to power burners, circulators and fans—sometimes as much as \$20–\$40 per month during the heating season.
- People tend to take longer, hotter showers during the cold winter months. The cost of heating

water increases as the temperature of supply water decreases.

- Many people use heat tape to prevent water from freezing in pipes or forming ice dams. If you do, remember to unplug or switch off the tape when it's no longer needed.

Still concerned about your bill? **You can receive instant notifications if your usage exceeds a specified kWh or dollar amount—or create goals for your household to reduce your electricity consumption and monthly bill—by registering for Customer|Connect. You can even view your usage based on local weather patterns. Visit [connect.beld.com](http://connect.beld.com) to register today!** If you want to discuss other ways you to save, give our Energy Advisor a call at 781.348.1032.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Braintree Recycling update

Cardboard boxes are recyclable but should be flattened & loosely placed inside your recycling cart to save space & ease the recycling processing plant's job. The unsoiled top part of a pizza box can be recycled; if there is no liner on the bottom of the box & it has absorbed oil, place it in the trash. And a friendly reminder: please don't place plastic bags in recycling carts.

### Braintree women's club

\$1,000 scholarship to a Braintree woman who has either delayed entering college for a specific reason or would like to return to college & become part of an academic program to re-enter the work force. [TROUVALIS@msn.com](mailto:TROUVALIS@msn.com) or 781.849.6025 for details.

### Braintree AARP

Tue. 4/18, 1:30 p.m., Sons of Italy Hall on King Hill Rd. A speaker will discuss drug problems on the South Shore.

### All Souls Church English Tea

Sat. 4/22, 3 p.m., 196 Elm St, advance tickets \$15/\$20 at the door. Parking on Charles Street and in the lot behind the church, off Charles Street. Enter through handicap access ramp doors. [allsouls-braintree.org](http://allsouls-braintree.org) 781.843.1388.

### Run for Charlotte 5K/10K Race & Walk

Sun. 4/23, 10 a.m., 24 Plain Street, to honor 5-year old Charlotte who lost her battle with neuroblastoma. Post-race celebration at Joe's American Bar & Grill. [www.prayersforcharlotte.org](http://www.prayersforcharlotte.org), [gracekelly-white@beld.net](mailto:gracekelly-white@beld.net) or 617.501.1669.

### Thayer Public Library Friends concerts

Sun. 4/23, 3 p.m., Logan Auditorium, 798 Washington St, free concert. Moby Dick and the Wailers will play selections from The Great American Songbook.

## COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Reynolds  
Chairman



Anthony Agnitti  
Vice Chair



James Regan  
Secretary



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