

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband



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

Busy year ahead at BELD

Light department employees have already started several projects this spring, including an overhaul of Potter Station's steam turbine. We are currently in a six-week plant outage, during which time the turbine will be inspected and maintained to keep it active for another 10 years,

preserving your low electric rates for years to come.

Our engineers are conducting a five-year study of the distribution system—and a similar study of the 115 KV transmission system—to help guide future projects.

In addition, BELD is committed to ongoing maintenance to ensure the integrity and reli-



ability of the entire network. Other projects on the horizon include 115 KV Gas-Insulated Switchgear (GIS) maintenance at Station 8 near South Shore Plaza and the creation of a new main distribution circuit for the Grove Street area.

Plans to upgrade our internal technology will enable us to continue operating the electric system using the most up-to-date tools. In turn, this will ensure that we stay current with industry standards and meet all applicable compliance requirements.

We hope you're as excited as we are about the impact these projects will have on Braintree's future.

Dig Safely this April

Before you start digging for spring projects, you must call **888.DIG.SAFE (or 811) 72 hours in advance** to start the process of alerting all utilities in your area of your plans.

Dig Safe is a communications network that assists excavators, contractors, and property owners in complying with state law by notifying utilities before digging begins. Member utilities will then mark the locations of their underground equipment. And the service is free!

Underground utilities are everywhere, and—depending on the degree of soil erosion on your property—they may be located 18" deep or less. A number of digging accidents in our

area in recent years have underscored the importance of marking the locations of underground facilities.

Dig Safe was established as a not-for-profit corporation—funded entirely by member utility companies—to promote public safety, protect vital utility services, and safeguard against property and environmental damage. Visit www.digsafe.com for additional information.

We'll plant two trees in your yard—and they're **FREE**

As a participant in American Public Power Association's Tree Power initiative created in 1991, BELD is committed to beautifying our community while helping our customers save energy. That means we'll be planting trees again for Braintree residents later this year. Since we began

the Braintree Re-leaf program, we've planted more than 4,100 maple trees at no cost to recipients. The young trees begin

to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere right

away, and in a few years their shade will help lower your home cooling costs.

Interested?

Contact our Energy Advisor Ruth Slater at 781.348.1032 or rslater@beld.com. Sorry, no repeat customers.



Braintree Drives Electric in new vehicles

BELD has been promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) through the Braintree Drives Electric program. Since last summer we added three EVs to BELD's own fleet, and helped grow the number of charging stations throughout town. According to the MOR-EV state rebate program, **Braintree is the number one EV adopter on the South Shore!** See for yourself how to reap the financial and environmental benefits of buying or leasing an EV. Several new vehicles offer greater range, different body styles and lower prices to the EV market:

The **Chevrolet Bolt** combines Tesla-like range— up to 238 miles per charge— with a more affordable sticker price, starting at \$36,620. Additionally, as with most EVs, it's eligible for both the \$2,500 state rebate and the \$7,500 federal tax credit. The Bolt has an interior the size of a small SUV (16.9 cubic feet), yet fits into a compact package. Thanks to the powerful 200-horsepower (hp) electric motor, the Bolt can get to highway speeds in 6.5 seconds!

The **Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid** is the first plug-in hybrid minivan. With space for your whole family, the Pacifica will run about 30 miles on battery before switching to gasoline mode, and it gets a combined range of more than 500 miles. Using fast level 2 at-home charging, it can charge fully in just two hours. Beyond its 260 hp, the Pacifica is equipped with new technology, including an

8.4-inch touchscreen and dedicated data connection. This hybrid starts at \$41,995, and it qualifies for the federal tax credit (\$7,500) and largest state rebate (\$2,500).

Hyundai has a variety of new EVs this year. The **Ioniq** is a line of relatively inexpensive electric vehicles that includes both all-electric and plug-in hybrid models. The all-electric Ioniq has a 120-hp motor and a 124-mile range, while the plug-in has a 104-hp engine and a 60-hp electric motor. Hyundai also has a plug-in hybrid version of its slightly more expensive **Sonata**, with a combined range of just under 600 miles (roughly 30 of which is on battery alone). No matter which you choose, the sticker price won't shock, and the incentives and rebates will bring the cost of the car down to a fraction of what EVs cost a year or two ago.

These additions are only a few on the ever-growing list of practical and affordable EV options on the market. Most major automakers are actively designing and producing new models. With an EV for any purpose, there's no reason not to consider doing some good for your wallet and the environment, and having some fun in the process.

Contact Braintree Drives Electric (www.braintreedriveselectric.com, braintreedriveselectric@BELD.com, or 781.303.4994) for more information, or to schedule an at-home test drive.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Spring hazardous waste dropoff

Sat. 4/29, 9 a.m.–noon, Recycling Center, 257 Ivory St. Acceptable items: oil-based paints (NO water-based latex paint—kitty litter or sawdust speeds up drying); mercury items; auto, household, & marine items; pool chemicals; flea/rat/slug poisons; solvents & turpentine; gasoline/kerosene/fertilizers. \$5 per 5 gallons or per 5 pounds. Cash only, www.braintreema.gov/recycling, 781.794.8088.

\$2,000 performing arts scholarship

Given by the Gregory Curtis Performing Arts Charitable Trust, to be awarded to a Braintree high school senior who will attend a 4-year college. Contact your high school guidance counselor, the Curtis family (781.843.6365) or Kelly (781.736.9134 or almachgr4@beld.net) for applications and complete details. Must be received by 5/5.

Annual rabies clinic

Sat. 5/13, 10 a.m.–noon, outside Town Hall, \$14, sponsored by the Braintree Jaycees & the Braintree Board of

Health. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund awarded to a graduating Braintree High School senior. 781.843.7414.

Pond Meadow Park plant sale

Sat. 5/13, 9:30–4 p.m., pavilion at Pond Meadow Park. Hangers, annuals, tomato and pepper plants will be on sale; 781.843.7663.

Braintree AARP Chapter 4042

Sat. 5/13, 6 p.m., Great Pond Hall, Bay State Rd., tickets \$20pp, food, entertainment by "Kathy on the Key." Tue. 5/16, 1:30 p.m., Sons of Italy Hall, Al Varraso will speak on Veterans' affairs. All are welcome.

Thayer Public Library Friends concerts

Sun. 5/21, 3 p.m., Logan Auditorium, 798 Washington St, free concert. Fred Moyer, a pianist who surrounds himself with a MoyerCam projection system that allows the audience to see his hands as he plays classical masterpieces.



www.beld.com
150 Potter Road
Braintree, MA 02184
781.348.BELD (2353)

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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.

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 to confirm time and date.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, April 17
Patriots' Day

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Reynolds
Chairman



Anthony Agnitti
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Secretary



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