

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

VOTED BEST
10+
INTERNET PROVIDER
BestOfSurveys.com

A monthly newsletter for BELD & BELD Broadband customers, published November 2018

Time flies, and technology goes along for the ride!

Fifteen years ago, BELD Broadband's fastest Internet speed offering was 5 Megabits, and we had only one 15 Mbit connection ourselves. Today, we offer up to 300 Mbps and we have dual 5 Gigabyte connections to serve our subscribers. We've supported four generations of modems since the year 2000, each faster and with more features than the last. The one constant in technology is how quickly it becomes obsolete as it's replaced by solutions that are cheaper, faster and better.

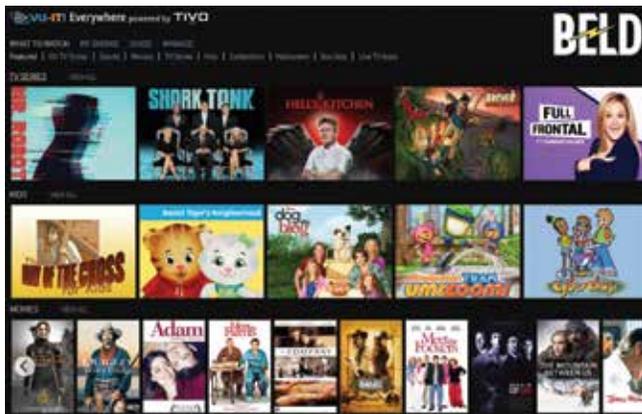
Just as our Internet has evolved with technology, so have our video offerings. Our legacy Video On Demand (VOD) system has a lot of limitations on how much it can hold (especially when it comes to high-definition content), which in turn seriously limits choices for subscribers. So we're replacing it with a dramatically larger Vu-It! system that makes a larger array of free and subscription content available—much of it in HD. The Vu-It! system uses TCP/IP technology, which improves the

interface and navigation and integrates streaming services from Netflix, Hulu, YouTube and other providers as well—all in a single eBOX!

Our vendor is ending the support and maintenance for our original VOD system, so Nov. 30 is the last day it will be available to customers. But we think the variety of streaming content and additional on-demand offerings on the Vu-It system will ease the transition. Note that our new eBOXes don't have integrated DVRs, so customers who like the ability to record content can continue using digital video recorders on other TVs in their home.

With the rapid advances of technology, the only thing constant is change. We are excited about the new technologies and improvements in service we've delivered over time, and continue to deliver for our subscribers.

For more information on this transition, please call us at 781.348.BELD (2353). We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to continuing to serve you.



Looking for a unique holiday gift?

Give a BELD gift certificate to a family member to be applied to an electric bill, or surprise a neighbor with one



to cover the cost of some BELD Broadband On Demand movies. Our gift certificates can be used as payment on any BELD or BELD Broadband account and are available for purchase in any amount at our Customer Service office. Call 781.348.BELD (2353) for more information.

BELD Broadband is (still) Best of Braintree

Thank you for naming BELD Broadband the "Best of Greater Braintree" in 2018! For the tenth time in a row you voted us Best Cable TV Service, and this is the eleventh year we've accepted the Best Internet Service Provider award.



Each year, Market Surveys of America conducts this online survey. Log in to bestofsurveys.com for complete details ... and to vote for us in 2019. Thank you so much for your continued support!

BELD linemen compete at annual rodeo

A three-man team from BELD placed second overall in the 11th annual NEPPA Linemen's Rodeo in Littleton, Mass., in September. The rodeo offers unique opportunities to participating utilities to enhance skills and job knowledge and to foster strong working relationships. The event encourages teamwork and provides a better understanding of utility work for families and other spectators.



BELD's team (Jon Kincaid, J.T. Greenleaf and Kevin Miller) competed in six events: hurtman rescue, cutout replacement, obstacle course, rope toss and guy wire installation, speed climb and transformer changeout. Ten other teams from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut rounded out the field, and foreman Brian Ostiguy served as one of the event judges.

Congratulations, everyone!

The story behind electric vehicles

While electric vehicles seem like a recent phenomenon, you might be surprised to learn that EVs have a rich history spanning more than 150 years.

Early electric vehicles from the mid 1800s either rode on tracks or used disposable batteries—not exactly the go-anywhere, do-anything EVs of today. Several decades later, rechargeable batteries made electric vehicles a viable option.

Thomas Parker built the first production electric car in London in 1884 after receiving a patent for an improved rechargeable battery, and this set off a flurry of EV innovation. Speed records—exceeding 60 miles an hour!—were recorded by EVs in the 1890s, and Ferdinand Porsche (founder of the Porsche car company) even created an all-wheel drive electric car in 1898.

In 1900, more than a quarter of the 4,000 cars built in the United States were electric, including a third of the cars in cities like New York, Chicago, and Boston. Early EVs were seen as the

clean, quiet alternative to gasoline cars. However, over the next 20 years, inventions surrounding the gasoline-powered vehicle made driving with gas more convenient and practical than driving electric, and the EV market mostly collapsed.

Since the early 1990s, interest in EVs has surged once again, starting with the General Motors EV1. A combination of increasing gas prices and a stronger commitment to the environment has resulted in accelerated technological development and safer, more affordable vehicles. Today, every major automaker produces at least one plug-in model, and many are as affordable and accessible as the average gas-powered car.

EV history is richly intertwined with some of modern history's greatest inventions and achievements. Joining that story starts with a simple test drive at your local car dealership. To learn more, visit www.BraintreeDrivesElectric.com, email braintreedriveselectric@beld.com, or call 781.303.4994.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Santa visits Pond Meadow Park for wreath sale

Sat. 12/1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Pond Meadow Park. Hayrides, and wreaths available for purchase—bring a camera for great pictures! Call 781.843.7663 for questions.

Gardeners' Guild of Braintree Annual Christmas House Tour & Boutique

Sun. 12/2, 1-5 p.m., 72 Mount Vernon Ave (house tour); 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Hall (boutique). Tickets \$16 in advance, \$20 that day. Gail Rotondi, President of the Guild, 781.356.7771.

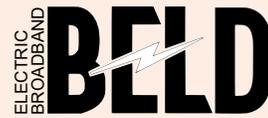
Braintree's stormwater utility

Due to new federal requirements, Braintree must reduce the amount of pollution in the stormwater runoff it dis-

charges to waterways. The new stormwater utility assesses user fees based on the amount of hardened or impervious surface that creates stormwater runoff on each residential, commercial, government and non-profit parcel in Town. Questions? Contact DPW's Stormwater Division at 781.794.8947 or braintreema.gov/stormwater.

Braintree recycling update

The State has new rules for recycling so the following are no longer acceptable because of the amount of contamination left in them and due to declining demand: plastic prescription and vitamin bottles, takeout food containers (Styrofoam & plastic), foil tops from yogurt containers and aerosol cans & canisters such as the ones that hold Pringles chips.



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

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Sign up for AutoPay at beld.com, or call 781.348.1001 to make a one-time payment.

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
Cash accepted only at South Shore Bank
1010 Washington St.
372 Washington St.

BROADBAND HELPDESK

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
S-S & holidays: 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, November 12
Veterans Day

Thursday & Friday
November 22 & 23
Thanksgiving holiday

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Reynolds
Chairman



Anthony Agnitti
Vice Chair



James Regan
Secretary



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