



THE 02184

From the Desk of the Mayor

November and December are such busy months, with the hustle and bustle of holidays and year end activities. We are combining our monthly newsletters and the 02184 crew will see you again in January! Of course that is not to say that work pauses, but hopefully I can find some time to decorate my home, cook some yummy foods, and spend time with my family this holiday season. I hope your calendars are marked for our special **Thanksgiving Day Farmers Market on November 23** and I am really looking forward to seeing you at our **Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on Thursday, December 5 at 5 PM**. If you are looking for ways to stay informed of upcoming Town events, we've added a new resource to our Town Hall website, called 'The Weekly Snapshot,' where we will be providing a look ahead each week – check it out!

The holidays are such an awesome time to pause and reflect on the past year and I am especially thankful for so many of you who have supported me in my first year as your Mayor. From students nodding and smiling at me in hallways during school visits, to neighbors stopping me trick-or-treating to say hello, to local leaders offering help at every turn of the way – I am so thankful for you!

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Mayor Joyce was honored to attend the annual Thanksgiving Feast at Hollis Elementary School on Thursday, November 21. The entire student body enjoyed their turkey dinner in the company of distinguished guests from the Braintree community: members of the fire department, police department, school committee, school advisory council, and other special guests. As Hollis Principal Tim MacDonald stated when he introduced the Mayor: "She may be known as Mayor Joyce in the community, but around here we call her Pearson's Mom." Pictured above, second-grader Pearson Joyce proudly smiles with his hand-made turkey hat and mother.

BRAINTREE WATER DEPARTMENT

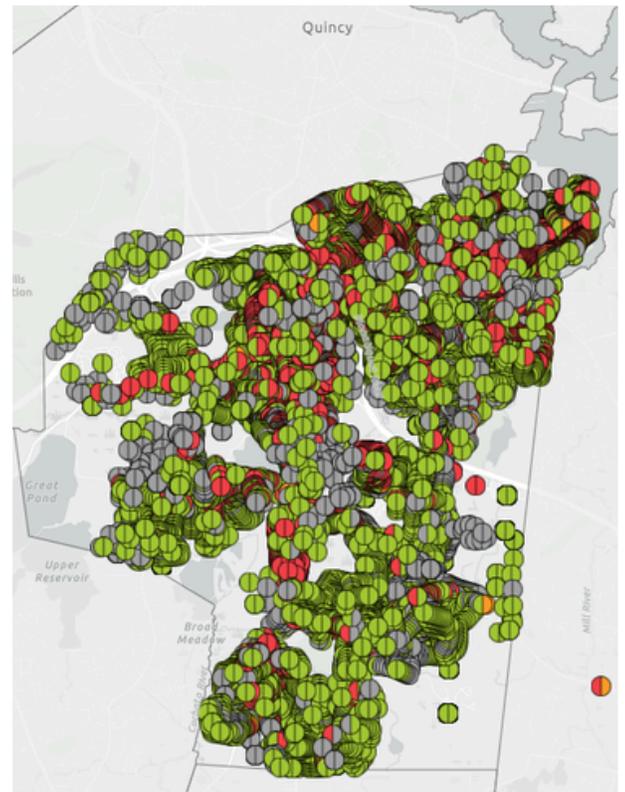
The Braintree Water Department is taking steps to comply with EPA's new Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. To support this compliance, the Water Department has reviewed our system records and identified lead or galvanized water services.

If your property has been identified as having a lead or galvanized water service, you will receive a letter from the Water Department that includes steps you can take to reduce your risks of lead exposure. If we have been unsuccessful in identifying your service line material based on our records review, we will send you a letter requesting your assistance in determining your water service material. If you do not receive a letter, you should assume you do not have a lead or galvanized service, and no action is required. Letters have been sent out as of November 15, 2024.



We have prepared an interactive map of all water service classifications for public use.

**PLEASE CLICK HERE
TO ACCESS THE MAP
SHOWN TO THE RIGHT.**



There is no lead in our source water. Small concentrations of lead can be introduced to water by sitting in lead containing service pipes and plumbing. Corrosion control treatment is used to prevent lead from leaching out of the pipes into the water.

We routinely test the water quality at specific customer services to ensure our corrosion control treatment is effective in accordance with current regulations and the Town remains in compliance with the lead and copper rule.

KNOW THE FACTS

Is my water safe to drink?

Yes, your water is currently safe to drink. However, as part of our commitment to ensuring the highest water quality standards and to maintain compliance with new regulations, we were required to inform you via mail that you have a lead, galvanized, or unknown material

water service. In accordance with regulations and guidelines set forth by the state of Massachusetts and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regular testing and monitoring of water quality are conducted at specific water services to ensure compliance with safety standards. Our water system is monitored and treated to meet these stringent requirements, and no lead action level exceedance has been identified. To help reduce your lead exposure, run your water before drinking and cooking. Water that sits stagnant in a lead pipe for a prolonged period is most likely to contain lead.

Why am I only finding out about this now?

Historically, regulations have required water systems to utilize corrosion control treatment to prevent the dissolution of lead from legacy pipes into the water. Regulations and guidelines set forth by the state of Massachusetts and the EPA require regular testing and monitoring of water quality at specific water services to ensure compliance with safety standards. Our water system is monitored and treated to meet these stringent requirements. And no lead action level exceedance has been identified. The EPA and the state of Massachusetts have recently released new regulations requiring water systems to identify water service materials and inform customers who have lead, galvanized, or unknown-material water services that they could be at an increased risk of lead exposure than someone without a lead service.

Do I need to take action?

You are not required to take any action. This information is being provided for your benefit and awareness. Our website has links to government websites that provide tips and tricks for minimizing your potential exposure to lead.



LEARN MORE

For more information on the lead and copper rule, including some additional questions and answers, sample letters, and useful links, please click [here](https://braintreema.gov/1259/Lead-and-Copper-Rule) or visit our website: <https://braintreema.gov/1259/Lead-and-Copper-Rule>



HONORING OUR VETERANS

On Monday, November 11th, Braintree came together to honor the courageous men and women who have served our country, especially those who call Braintree home. The Town Hall Auditorium was filled with community members gathered to recognize both current and past veterans. Students from Flaherty Elementary School filled the room with heartfelt messages for the veterans.

RECOGNITION AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

Ellen M. Drogo Award

Karma Warsheski (Member of DAVA Braintree Unit 29)

Veterans Organization of the Year

Braintree Women's Club (Lauren Durgin, Chairperson)

Veteran of the Year

Paul Marshall, Retired Command Master Chief, US Navy veterans and supporting organizations

Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made—not only for our freedom but for the communities they've helped shape. We are deeply grateful for your service.

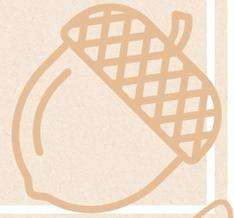




Farmers Market

TOWN HALL 9AM-1PM

*Special Thanksgiving
Holiday Market
November 23, 2024*



Curbside Yard Waste Pickups

FALL 2024

The Fall 2024 Curbside Yard Waste collection will be on your regular collection day during the weeks of:

*November 25
December 2*



Superintendent Search & Town Wide Redistricting Efforts

Keep an eye out for two important BPS initiatives at the beginning of the new year! The Superintendent Search Committee will be putting forth applicants for superintendent to the School Committee in January, as Jim Lee has announced his retirement effective at the end of this school year.

If you're interested in following this process, visit the school committee's website for superintendent search: www.braintreeschools.org/school-committee/superintendent-search-sy24-25.

The School Committee is also evaluating a **town-wide redistricting effort** with more information available in early 2025. We look forward to working with our BPS families during these endeavors.

Attention Plow Drivers!

The Town of Braintree is looking for additional Snow Plow Contractors for the 2024/2025 season.

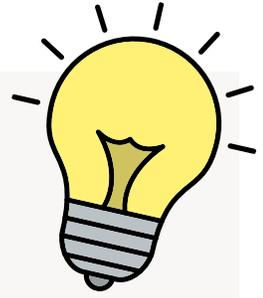
The contract is available on the Town Website or you can reach out to the Highway Department at 781-795-8959 for additional information.



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS



Coyotes are most active in winter (preparing for mating season) and spring (caring for pups), which often leads to more daytime sightings. During these times, they extend their hunting and foraging hours.



TIPS TO PREVENT COYOTE ACTIVITY

- **Motion-Sensored Lights:** Use around food sources or areas they may enter.
- **Scent Deterrents:** Spray synthetic predator urine around your yard's perimeter.
- **Secure Food Sources:** Lock trash cans and avoid open compost piles.
- **Don't Feed Coyotes:** Ensure neighbors aren't feeding them — it's a major cause of negative interactions.
- **Keep Pets Indoors:** Don't feed pets or feral cats outside.
- **Hazing:** Use noise (airhorn) or water (spray bottle) to deter coyotes when spotted.

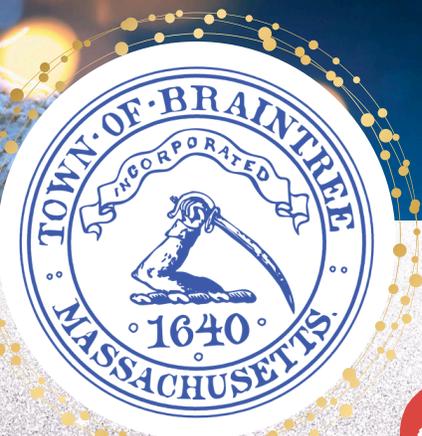
Rodent populations, including mice and rats, can increase in colder months as they seek shelter and food.

TIPS TO PREVENT RODENT ACTIVITY

- **Rodent-Proof Your Home:** Seal openings the size of a quarter or larger around your property.
- **Mechanical Traps:** Snap traps, air-powered traps, and electric traps are effective and safer for pets and wildlife.
- **Eliminate Food Sources:** Secure trash bins, remove compost piles, and take down bird feeders.
- **Mow Grass:** Keep grass short to reduce hiding spots near your home.
- **Scent Deterrents:** Use mint or peppermint sprays around the home.
- **Let Nature Help:** Install owl boxes — owls can consume large numbers of rodents.
- **Chemical Choices:** Avoid harmful rodenticides (like SGARs) that can poison wildlife. Use safer alternatives, if necessary.

By taking these steps, you can help keep your yard safe from coyotes and rodents while protecting local wildlife.

For more information, please contact the New England Wildlife Center at 781-682-4878.



Braintree TREE LIGHTING

12/5 | 5 PM

Gathering at Town Hall
Songs by High School Choir
Fire Truck Arrival with Santa
Tree Lighting




The Annual
Braintree
Christmas Party

Benefiting
the Children of Braintree
In Memory of Reverend Robert Ripley

Thursday 12.05.24
Starting at 6:30pm
Sons of Italy
161 King Hill Road

 **Appetizers & Cash Bar**
Admission is a new unwrapped toy
or gift cards to local stores 

Also needed are items for 11-16 years old

Coats Gloves, Scarves & Hats Socks <i>(Size adult S-XXL)</i>	Sweatshirts Hoodies Sweatpants <i>(Size adult S-XXL)</i>	Makeup Face Masks Perfume/Cologne Basic Toiletries
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*All contributions will be donated to the Marge Crispin Social Services
For more information contact Sean Powers 781-727-4408*

BRAINTREE'S Festival of TREES



December 5 – 8, 2024

Braintree's Festival of Trees will take over Town Hall with almost 50 beautifully decorated trees donated by creative people and generous companies.

-  **12/5 @ 5:30 PM:** Town Hall Opens to Unveil Trees; \$5 entry includes raffle ticket. 10 and under, FREE!
-  **12/6 @ 5 PM:** Cocoa and Candy Canes
-  **12/7 @ 3 PM:** Cocoa, Cookies and **Santa at 5 PM!**
-  **12/8 @ 10 AM:** Senior Day (65+ Free); Raffle Winners Announced

For more information email bfortrees@gmail.com.
Braintree's Festival of Trees is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization.

Braintree Recreation

02184

11/25 - 1/13: Code Wiz 6-Week Coding Sessions; Mondays at BCAC

12/13: Kids Art Night Out at BCAC
Registration opens 11/12

11/26: Open Studio Adult Art Class
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM, at BCAC

12/16: Registration Opens for
January 10th Kids Art Night Out

12/10: Trip to the Holiday Pops

12/19: Half Day Fun Day
Location TBD

12/12: Bingo Night at Town Hall
Time: 6:00 PM

Click [here](#) for more information about Braintree Parks and Recreation, or contact Brendan Croak at bcroak@braintreema.gov

Help Shape the Future of Thayer Public Library

After 150 years of service to the community, Thayer Public Library is looking ahead! We've partnered with Aaron Cohen Associates for a comprehensive space needs assessment to ensure we continue to meet the evolving needs of our community. Using a process called "appreciative inquiry," we'll gather community input to identify what's working well and build on those strengths to plan for the future.

How You Can Help:

We need volunteers to complete a brief survey. Your feedback will be essential in shaping the library's future.

Link to survey:

[www.thayerpubliclibrary.org/
community-engagement/](http://www.thayerpubliclibrary.org/community-engagement/)



**THAYER PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

TOWN ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS



As of July 2024, the town is using a new Civic Alert System for residents. To ensure you receive important emergency and town-wide alerts, make sure all your contact information is complete — including your address, phone number, and email. Incomplete info can prevent you from receiving alerts specific to your neighborhood or the town.

Ensure the following information is up to date and accurate:

- Current phone numbers (for calls and texts)
- Email address
- Complete physical address (e.g., 40 Smith Road)

These alerts include emergencies (e.g., evacuations, boil water orders) and non-emergency incidents (e.g., major traffic issues).

Alerts are free, but standard messaging rates may apply.

Update your info today to stay informed and safe!

Sign Up



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I'd also like to take a moment to highlight a few special organizations in Town that have been working hard behind the scenes for our families this month: Super Saturdays Board of Directors for their generous donation of \$75,000 to our schools – their organization, over the years, has raised almost \$1M for Braintree families! Our Veterans Service Office – welcoming our new VSO Tim Forti and thanking Mary Ficociello and Paul Marshal for helping us host a lovely Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall! The Andrade Family from Dunkin Donuts along with Fasanos Marketplace – for quickly donating coffee and snacks for our firefighters battling wildfires behind Ross School! And of course Braintree Fire Department and Acting Chief Freddie Viola – it has been a busy month with round-the-clock efforts to protect neighborhoods in East Braintree from wildfires and through their diligent efforts, as I write this note, we have protected all adjacent structures from damage while nearly 30 acres have burned.

Erin V. Joyce
Mayor of Braintree

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY TEXTS ONLY:

If you wish to subscribe to Emergency SMS text messages only: text BraintreeMA to 38276

SIGN UP FOR PHONE, EMAIL, AND/OR TEXT UPDATES:

Or for alerts via phone, email and/or text, please click [here](#).

MEETINGS AROUND TOWN



Community Preservation Monthly Meeting

November 25, 2024, 5:00 PM
@Currently meeting virtually
via Zoom.

Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting

November 25, 2024, 7:00 PM
@Johnson Chambers

Town Council Meeting

December 3, 2024, 7:30 PM
@Cahill Auditorium

Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting

December 5, 2024, 7:00 PM
@Johnson Chambers

Planning Board Monthly Meeting

December 10, 2024, 7:00 PM
@Cahill Auditorium

Community Preservation Monthly Meeting

December 16, 2024, 5:00 PM
@Currently meeting virtually
via Zoom.

Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting

December 16, 2024, 7:00 PM
@Johnson Chambers

Town Council Meeting

December 17, 2024, 7:30 PM
@Cahill Auditorium

Braintree Town Hall

1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive
Braintree, MA 02184
781-794-8000
www.braintreema.gov

Town Hall is open
Mon, Wed, Thur: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tue: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Fri: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Town Hall & Non Emergency Buildings Holiday Hours:
November 28th and 29th - Closed
December 24th and 31st - Closes at 12 PM
December 25th and January 1st - Closed

To reach out to Mayor Joyce directly, please contact
mayorsoffice@braintreema.gov call 781-794-8100.

