

THE 02184

From the Desk of the Mayor

Happy New Year Braintree! January 2nd marked ONE official year in office for me and my team and to say that the time has flown – would be a major understatement! January has been off to a quick start with many school and town initiatives underway and we are busy at work on our budget. Did you know that throughout most of the year we are working on three budgets simultaneously?! Our finance teams are currently working on closing out FY24, monitoring closely FY25 and last week we officially kicked off planning for FY26! My team will spend much of February and March planning for town department needs and funding sources to put together our budget presentation in the Spring. This year we are also working with the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management to share our budget in a user-friendly format – we can't wait for you to check it out!

I'm happy to announce too that the School Committee voted last week to select Mr. Timothy MacDonald as our new Superintendent of Schools beginning in July 2025. Many of you may know Mr. MacDonald from his time as

Hollis Principal – go Hollis Hawks! – but he was selected during a lengthy search that has been going on since November. We wish Mr. MacDonald the best of luck over the next few months as he works to transition into this new role in our District and I look forward to collaborating with him in the years ahead as he leads Braintree Public Schools forward. I also want to especially thank all our school families, educators, and residents who were able to take part in the search process – from online surveys to community forums we were able to hear from many voices on the direction we want to see our schools go and I'm sure Mr. MacDonald will be quick to get started.

January is a good time to remember how to be a helpful winter neighbor! In this month's newsletter we have tips on how to help our Town be pedestrian friendly in winter months. We also ask that you check on your friends and neighbors who may have difficulty in colder months with getting out and about and offer a hand, if you are able, in keeping our sidewalks clear. The DPW is also looking at how to improve sidewalk clearing after snow events and we are testing a few monitoring programs in our squares and at our most utilized MBTA

bus stops. As always, we do encourage residents to use See-Click-Fix or to contact the Mayor's office if you do see snow issues on our streets and sidewalks.

I am looking forward to so many events coming up too and I hope to see you at our Martin Luther King Jr. Citizen of the Year Celebration on January 30 at Town Hall where we will be honoring CAAB's Justine Huang for her work hosting the Lunar New Year Celebration and the Mid Autumn Festival, promoting cultural exchange within the Town, and providing support in the Chinese language for Braintree residents as well as assisting new Chinese residents to integrate into Braintree.

If you see me about – don't be shy, come say hi!



Mayor Joyce accepts gifts of Good Fortune and Prosperity at the 3rd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration hosted by the Chinese American Association of Braintree (CAAB).

Erin V. Joyce
Mayor of Braintree

BRAINTREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS REDISTRICTING EFFORTS

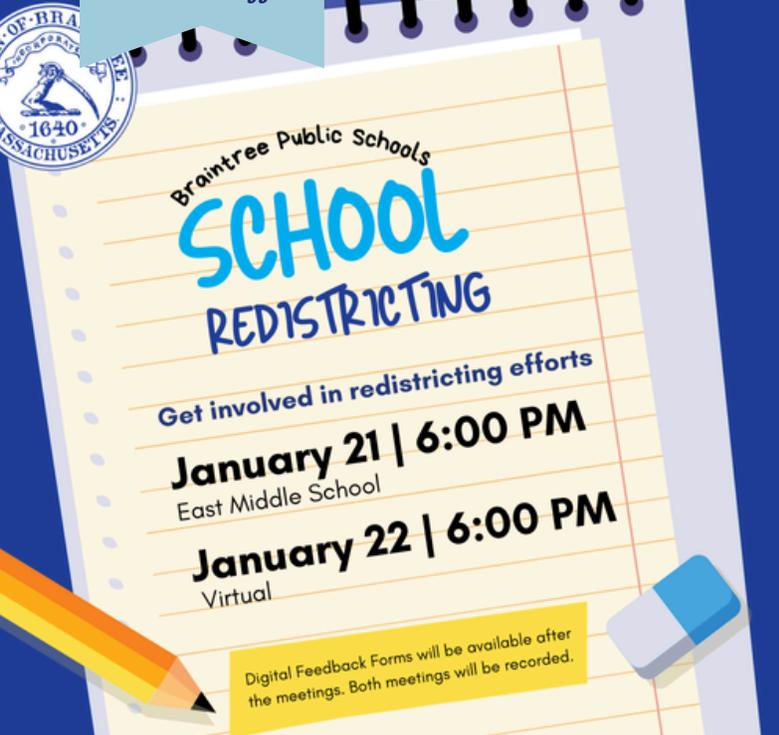
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The Braintree School Committee, in collaboration with AppGeo has begun work on potential redistricting efforts for the public schools beginning in Fall 2025. Braintree Public Schools will hold community meetings on redistricting efforts this week where representatives from AppGeo will join district leaders to provide the public with background on why this work was initiated. Presentations will include an introduction to AppGeo as a company, the work they have done to this point, and a look at multiple scenarios that have been explored. Scenarios presented at these meetings remain conceptual redistricting and do not represent any finished product or recommendation.

There will be a final presentation to the School Committee by AppGeo, in February. AppGeo has no decision-making ability and any decisions to either redistrict or consolidate remain the sole purview of the School Committee. The School Committee will hold additional Public Hearings to discuss recommendations before voting on any redistricting effort.

LEARN MORE

about the effort



ANTICIPATED REDISTRICTING TIMELINE

**JAN 21,
JAN 22**

Host
Community Meetings and
collect community
feedback

FEB 2025

Hear
Final Presentation by
AppGeo to School
Committee

FALL 2025

Implement
Potential redistricting for
the new school year

*Digital Feedback Forms will be available following
these meetings for feedback and questions*

WINTER IS HERE



WINTER READY TIPS

Help keep streets and sidewalks accessible for all pedestrians during winter by removing snow and ice and reporting unshoveled or icy sidewalks. If you are able, **please do your part to shovel out fire hydrants of snow and debris.**

- Shovel your sidewalk and clear it of ice on all sides of your property, down to bare pavement.
- Make the path wide enough for someone using a wheelchair, walker or stroller.
- Clear snow to curb so trash/recycle crews can access your trash barrels.
- Stock up on ice melter before a storm. Use ice melter with calcium chloride (CaCl₂) if able.
- Consider helping neighbors who may have difficulty clearing their walk and shovel for them.
- Clear ramps at corners and crosswalks.

For information on snow emergencies and snow parking bans, keep an eye on civic alert, the town website, and social media accounts!

What does a Cleared Sidewalk Look Like?

TRY AGAIN...



GOOD JOB!



INTERESTED IN GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Help those in need with shoveling and snow removal!

Send your name and contact information to Recreation Director Brendan Croak, to be added to a list of snow removal resources for those in need in the Town.



bcroak@braintree.ma.gov
781-794-8910



Please note that it is prohibited to push, plow, remove, dump or unload snow into any public or commonly used travel way within the Town. Fines of up to **\$300** per offense are possible, if snow is not cleared promptly and pedestrian pathways are not maintained.

Attention Plow Drivers!

The Town of Braintree is looking for additional snow plow contractors for the 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.





CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Justine Huang

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Citizen of the Year Celebration honoring Justine Huang will take place on Thursday January 30 at 6:30PM in the Cahill Auditorium. All are invited to attend.

Braintree's Martin Luther King Jr. Citizen of the Year Award honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and annually recognizes a member in the community for their commitment to fostering an inclusive community for our residents.

This year Justine Huang will be recognized for her efforts in fostering community through her consistent work with the Chinese American Association of Braintree where she promotes cultural exchange within the Town through events like the Lunar New Year Celebration and Mid Autumn Festival. Justine also provides support to residents with the Chinese language as well as assists new Chinese residents in integrating into the community of Braintree through community education information sessions.



MEET THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF BRAINTREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The School Committee voted on Thursday, January 16 for our new Superintendent of Schools after a lengthy search process that began last Fall



We welcome you to get to know...

TIMOTHY MACDONALD

M. Ed.

Principal, Hollis Elementary School, Braintree, MA

Mr. Tim MacDonald has been the principal of Hollis Elementary in Braintree since July 2004. During his time as principal, Mr. MacDonald has sat in on various school related items including the Vision of a Graduate Committee, Strategic Plan development Committee, School Building Committee, BEA Negotiations Committee and the Sanborn Redistricting Committee. Prior to his current role, Mr. MacDonald was an elementary teacher in Braintree and North Carolina.



CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE SERIES

at Thayer Public Library

MISS ARI'S FAMILY TREE SING-A-LONG

Thursday February 6

10:15-10:45AM

MAMASTEPH CONCERT

Thursday February 13

10:15-11:00AM

MUSIC AT THE BLISSFUL

Tuesday February 18

4:00-5:00PM

Author Hour in Massachusetts

Author Hour in Massachusetts

Series of virtual author talks this winter featuring some of the publishing industry's top trending writers. These webinars -- held from 7pm (ET) to 8pm (ET), Monday through Friday -- are free and open to all. This series, which runs through March 20, 2025, is being promoted by more than 50 public libraries in Massachusetts including Braintree.

More information:

For more information on Author Hour in Massachusetts, visit the Library Calendar

<https://www.thayerpubliclibrary.org/events/>



**THAYER PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Tax-Aide For Seniors

Braintree Elder Affairs is working again with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to provide in-person tax assistance free of charge with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low-to-moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year. Both federal and Massachusetts state tax returns can be included.

Beginning January 22, 2025, Elder Affairs will accept calls for appointments. Please call **The Department of Elder Affairs at (781) 848-1963** to make your appointment.

Tax-Aide volunteers will be available on Tuesdays from February 4th, 2025 through April 1st, 2025. Appointments are required; no walk-ins allowed.



South Shore Elder Services and Braintree Elder Affairs BingoCise

Incorporating: Exercise, Nutrition, and Bingo

Positive outcomes include increased mobility, strength and endurance, fall reduction, and increased social engagement.

10 Week Program | Weeks of February 10 to March 14

One Hour sessions hosted on Tuesdays and Fridays | Time TBD.

Please call The Department of Elder Affairs 781-848-1963 to sign up

Braintree Recreation



Programs and Opportunities

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT
CODE WIZ | JAN 27-MARCH 10**

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

FREE SOCCER STARS CLASS | FEB 1

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

KIDS ART NIGHT OUT | FEB 7

Registration closes January 13

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

SCHOOL VACATION BINGO | FEB 20

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

HALF DAY FUN DAY | FEB 27

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

OPEN STUDIO | JAN 14 - MARCH 10

Click [here](#) or visit the Recreation Website for more information

For more information please reach out to Recreation Director: Brendan Croak

BCROAK@BRAINTREEMA.GOV | 781-794-8910

MEETINGS AROUND TOWN



Town Council Meeting
January 21, 2024, 7:30 PM
@Cahill Auditorium

Board of Registrars
January 23, 2024, 9:00 AM
@Town Clerk's Office

School Committee
January 21, 2024, 6:00 PM
@East Middle School

Zoning Board of Appeals
January 27, 2024, 7:00 PM
@Johnson Chambers

School Committee
January 22, 2024, 6:00 PM
@Virtual



The Tri-Town Water Treatment Plant is expected to be online January 2026. Learn more about the project here:

<https://hub.tritownwaterdistrict.com/>

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

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