



# THE 02184

## From the Desk of the Mayor

With little league baseball season around the corner, I'm certainly praying for less rain and more sun – which I know my DPW and Parks team would second! I want to offer a special thanks to our DPW crews this month for getting our parks and fields cleaned up and ready for nicer weather. If you are looking for ways to help get Braintree looking its best – please mark your calendars for May 3<sup>rd</sup> which will be our annual Beautification Day. As in years past we are cohosting with our friends at Rotary – who are the original founders of Beautification Day here in Braintree. As you can read more in this month's newsletter, Beautification Day will also be a time to celebrate our nearly completed Dam Removal and Fish Ladder Project along the Monatiquot River near the old Armstrong-Cork Factory site. Keep your eyes out for more information related to the Herring Run in the weeks ahead and maybe you will be lucky enough to spot the wonderful Beautification Day and Herring Run Celebration posters made by one of our favorite local artists Heidi Hurley!

For our Budget Watchers out there – April 29<sup>th</sup> marks my presentation of next year's budget to the Town Council. Not to ruin the suspense, but if you were following budget season last year we are generally tracking the 5-year plan – but the 5-year plan WITH an override. The override was a first for our town – adding \$8M of additional levy capacity to hold onto so many of services and programs that have made Braintree one of the most desirable and convenient locations to live on the South Shore. However, as we discussed last year, and as we continue to talk about the future, we too are continuing to feel the pressure of inflation, the pressure of looming capital project needs and wants, and the unknown of unsettled union contracts. This year though, unlike many neighboring communities talking about overrides to stay alive, we are steady and stable and we will continue to talk about ways in which Braintree can optimize resources to achieve long-term stability in the face of economic pressures.

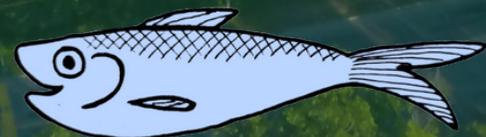
If you still have your calendars out – I'm also hoping to see you at our new Food Truck Rodeos on Wednesday nights beginning on May 7. Food Trucks will be hanging out at the 'blue playground' near South Street and CATS Academy up in the Highlands beginning at 5pm. We are happy to be working with the South Shore Food Truck Association to bring you this fun event on Wednesday evenings –be sure to pack a picnic blanket to enjoy some DIY lawn seating.

There is so much to look forward to this spring – I can't wait to see you and your family out and about in Town.

**Erin V. Joyce**  
Mayor of Braintree

## Herring Hunt!

We're hosting a scavenger hunt throughout our newsletter for Penni, Braintree's newest Herring friend. Penni is hidden within the newsletter, 10 times, waiting to be discovered by residents. Once you find all 10, bring your newsletter to Town Hall to claim a special prize before Beautification Day!





# BRAINTREE BEAUTIFICATION DAY

*and our first Herring Run Celebration!*

Braintree Beautification Day will take place on Saturday, May 3 (rain date of Saturday, May 10.) The day will begin at 8:30AM at Sunset Lake where we will gather to collect materials and head out to different areas around Braintree, like Town Hall, the Historical Society grounds, Sunset Lake, Penniman Park, Smith Beach, and Braintree High School.

This longtime event continues to be an opportunity for Braintree residents to come together and get involved in the community and work with fellow Braintree residents and organizations.

This year Braintree Beautification Day will incorporate our first Herring Run celebration at the newly constructed Monatiquot River Restoration Project! The River Herring will now for the first time in 200 years reach the Great Pond Reservoir in a historic event which combines the work and determination of many groups including the Town the Braintree.

This event will occur after a lengthy construction process with the removal of the Ames and Armstrong Dams, which allowed for Hollingsworth Pond to drain and the river to be restored to a natural channel, with the installation of a fish ladder for the herring to migrate upstream.

This construction included the fish ladder, a viewing platform and a boardwalk coming by June 2025 that will be available to the public!

**Be sure to come check out the fish ladder and other fun fish surprises on Beautification Day this year!**

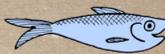


## THE BLUE BAG PROGRAM

*is back for it's 2nd year!*

Join Mayor Joyce and the Braintree Beautification Committee by taking part in our Blue Bag Program! Pick up a Blue Bag in the Mayor's Office and collect trash anywhere in Town! When the bag is full just leave it securely tied and near the curb. Alert the Mayor's Office where you left it and the DPW will swing by and pick it up

Want to learn more about the Blue Bag Program? Call the Mayor's Office at 781-794-8000 or Join us at Beautification Day!



## THE LEAF COMPOST SITE

The leaf compost site is open Wednesday through Sunday from 7:15AM to 2:45PM. The site is closed to residents on Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays.

The leaf compost site is open to contractors on Mondays and Tuesdays, only when staffing permits.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard Waste Curbside Collection begins the week of April 14 and continues until the week of May 19. To participate in Yard Waste collection, bag your yard waste and leave it out with your trash on your trash pickup day during these weeks.



### Looking for a Summer Job?

Braintree DPW is looking to hire Summer Help/Student Laborers! Summer help positions start at \$14.50/hr. Minimum 18 years of age. For more information on how to apply, contact Human Resources at 781-794-8260 or email [jobs@braintreema.gov](mailto:jobs@braintreema.gov)

## TEMPORARY SPEED HUMPS

Temporary Speed Humps will return to the street beginning the end of March through April.

Have questions about when your speed hump will return?

Call the Highway Department at 781-794-8950.

## ELECTRONIC WASTE DAY

Rotary Club of Braintree is hosting an **Electronic Waste Day** for Braintree and Surrounding Towns on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00am-12:00pm at 74 Pond Street.

Click [here](#) for more information on pricing and what is accepted.



## HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

South Shore Recycling Cooperative is hosting a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** in different towns in Spring 2025.

This includes adhesives, flammable liquids, aerosols, poisons, rechargeable batteries, and more!

Click [here](#) for more information on dates and locations.

## Meet Director Jacques

Matt Jacques has joined the Town of Braintree as the new **Director of Public Works**. Matt brings extensive experience in municipal operations and facilities management, most recently serving as Director of Facilities for Mansfield Public Schools. He has overseen major capital improvement projects and infrastructure upgrades and is committed to enhancing public works services in Braintree. As DPW Director, Matt will focus on maintaining and improving the town's roads, parks, and facilities while ensuring efficient operations.

Matt can be reached via email at [mjacques@braintreema.gov](mailto:mjacques@braintreema.gov) or by phone at 781-794-8254.



Are you following us on social media? Click the icons below to stay up to date with all things Braintree!



### Trash Fee Updates

The Treasurer/Collector's Office, along with the Trash & Recycle and Water & Sewer Departments, have increased their fees to help reduce their budget shortfalls over the next few years.

UPDATED TRASH FEES beginning July 1, 2025	
Curbside Collection	\$250
Senior Discount	\$65
Additional Trash Cart	\$100
Additional Recycle Cart	\$100
Sticker for Compost Center	\$25
One-Load Permit for use at Recycle Center	\$30/ Load
Compost Bins	\$60

The water and curbside trash bill will continue to be a combined Town utility bill on the Water & Sewer Department's quarterly billing cycle.

Have questions about the fee changes? Call the Treasurer/Collector's Office at 781-794-8130.



# STATE OF THE TOWN

## Thursday, March 27, 2025



Mayor Joyce gave her First State of the Town Address on Thursday, March 27 at Braintree Town Hall where she highlighted the great work and accomplishments by the Town over the past year as well as the challenges and opportunities for Braintree that lie ahead.

The night began with a welcome video produced by Hawk Visuals, followed with Presenting of the Colors by Boy Scout Troop 19, the Pledge of Allegiance by Loretta and Ellenora Truelson, the National Anthem performed by Noel Sierra, an invocation given by Father Robert Blaney and the State of the Town Address by Mayor Erin V. Joyce.

[To check out the welcome video and watch the State of the Town Address click here.](#)

**"A HISTORIC TOWN WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE, I THINK IS A REALLY SOLID WAY TO DESCRIBE BRAINTREE THESE DAYS."**

**-Mayor Erin V. Joyce**





# RODENT PREVENTION

## EVIDENCE OF RAT ACTIVITY

- Burrows: Rats create 1-4 inch wide burrows near trees and bushes.
- Droppings: Rat droppings accumulate around trashcans or dumpsters.
- Runways: Rats tend to leave greasy worn down track marks along frequently used paths - especially at dusk and nighttime.
- Chewing: Rats often chew holes in dumpsters on lids of trash cans and gnaw wood, outdoor furniture and trash barrels. If you observe teeth marks you may want to take action.

In most cases, the Town of Braintree recommends reporting observed activity to our Health Department (781-794-8090) and then contacting a licensed extermination company to carry out integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.



## QUICK TIPS

Rats like to burrow near shrubs, trees, and weeds. Don't give rats a home.

- Maintain yard and avoid vegetation overgrowth through mowing and trimming.
- Plant vegetation away from buildings, six inches is recommended.
- Fill in burrow holes with soil when you see them
- Close/seal cracks in paved areas

## ELIMINATE RODENT HABITATS:

- Clear out any debris pile up from your yard
- Store any items away from walls and above ground
- Remove and contain any trash and recycling from accessible areas
- Elevate trash off the ground
- Shut dumpster and trash lids properly
- Give compost bins proper lids
- Close compost containers
- Store pet food indoors

## SPECIAL AWARENESS:

Squirrels, rats, and mice will enjoy feasting on bird feeders. Be mindful of displaying bird feeders as they can lead to an uptick in rodent activity.



## TAKE ACTION:

The Town of Braintree is actively working towards making Braintree a rodent controlled town and is raising awareness so you can be part of the effort. Join us in taking action against rats in your neighborhood

Please reach out to the Braintree Health Department at 781-794-8090 with further questions and to report activity so that we can continue to monitor rat activity and plan for future control efforts.

# Meet Jon Brace

## SENIOR TECHNOLOGY MANAGER AT BRAINTREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jon graduated from Rockland High School in January 2000 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Jon served from 2000 to 2002, when he was medically retired due to injuries suffered in an accident, eventually leading to a lower limb amputation of his left leg. After the Marines, Jon attended Drexel University in Philadelphia, and started a career in IT. He moved back to Massachusetts in 2016, and started working in the Braintree Public Schools (BPS) Technology Department in 2018. Jon is in his fifth year running the Technology Department as the Senior Technology Manager for BPS. The BPS Technology Department covers all school buildings and Colbert, and assists over seven thousand staff and students, maintains over twenty thousand devices, and covers twelve buildings with a team of nine techs and system admins.

In Spring of 2024, Jon joined the New England Patriots Wheelchair football team, becoming a captain and the quarterback for the team for the 2024 season. The team is sponsored by The Patriots Foundation and Adaptive Sports New England, and plays in the Move United USA Wheelchair Football league, run in partnership with the NFL and The Bob Woodruff Foundation. Jon recently played in the USA Wheelchair Football League's 2nd Annual Veteran All-Star game as part of the Super Bowl LIX fan festivities in New Orleans. He was the quarterback for the Stars All-Star team, securing a 20-19 double overtime victory against the Stripes All-Star team.

This spring starts the 2025 USA Wheelchair Football league season. The Patriots will be practicing at South Middle School Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. The team will also be visiting Archie T. Morrison Elementary School on May 23 to help raise awareness for adaptive sports. Teachers, students, and community leaders will be getting in sports wheelchairs and learning how to play football and use the chairs, under the tutelage of some of the Wheelchair Patriots team players.

Want to learn more about Jon and Adaptive Sports? Check out his feature in the Adaptive Sports New England Blog from January, [here](#).



## FOR BRAINTREE'S FURRY FRIENDS:

### ***Rabies Clinic for Cats and Dogs***

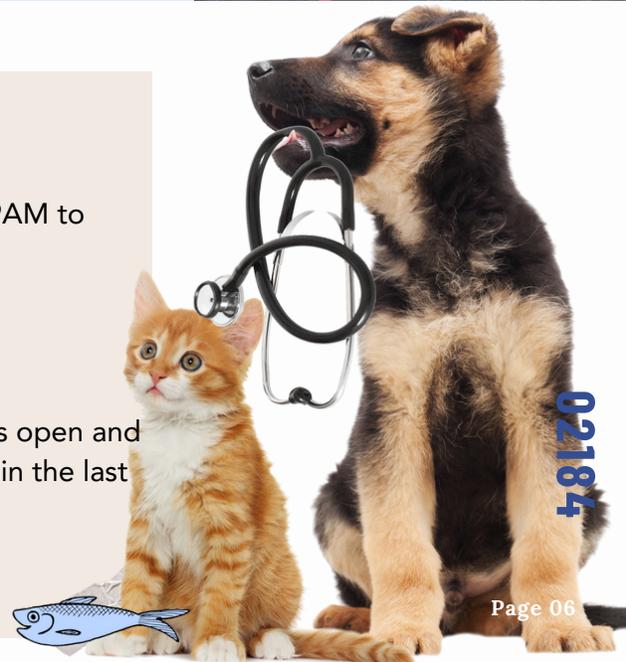
The Town of Braintree will be hosting a Rabies Clinic on May 3 from 9AM to 12PM in the parking lot of Town Hall.

Swing by to get your pet vaccinated. Cost is \$15 per pet.

### ***Dog Licensing***

All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed annually. Registration is open and continues until June 30. Your dog must have a rabies vaccination within the last 3 years to be licensed. Register online by clicking [here](#).

Need assistance registering your dog? Call the Clerks office at 781-794-8240



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# APRIL SCHOOL VACATION

activities with Thayer Library, Recreation and Elder Affairs

### Tuesday, April 21

Colonial Life presentation by Historic New England  
2:00PM-3:00PM | Thayer Library

### Thursday, April 24

Rosalita's Puppet Show  
10:15AM-11:00AM | Thayer Library

### Wednesday, April 23

Miss Ari's Family Tree Sing-a-Long for Children  
10:15AM-11:00AM | Thayer Library

### Thursday, April 24

Starland Fun Park  
9:00AM-3:00PM | Starland Fun Park in Hanover

### Wednesday, April 23

Public Safety Day  
9:00AM-3:00PM | 74 Pond Street

### Thursday, April 24

Engineering Marble Raceways  
2:00PM-3:00PM | Thayer Library

### Wednesday, April 23

Candy Bar Bingo  
6:00PM | Braintree Golf Course

### Friday, April 25

Board Games and Family Play  
10:00AM-12:00PM | Thayer Library

### Wednesday, April 23

Teen Cookie Decorating  
5:00PM-6:00PM | Thayer Library

### Friday, April 25

Grandparents and Grandchildren Flying High Dogs  
1:00PM | Elder Affairs



## RECREATION

- Mini Sports Clinic FAST Athletics**  
April 3 - May 15
- Flag Football Clinic FAST Athletics**  
April 3 - May 15
- Super Soccer Stars Saturday Clinic**  
May 3 - June 21
- Spring Climbing Clinic**  
May 7 - June 11
- Frozen in Concert Trip**  
May 31

## ELDER AFFAIRS

- Benefits Specialist**  
April 15 | Appointment Only
- Easter Luncheon and Entertainment**  
April 18 | 12:30PM
- Legal Advice for Seniors**  
April 18 | Appointment Only
- Spa Day**  
April 25 | Appointment Only

## LIBRARY

- Hockey Themed Story Time**  
April 15 | 10:00AM
- Teen Craft and Chat**  
April 15 | 3:30PM
- Hands on History**  
April 22 | 2:00PM
- Pop Up Art School**  
April 19 | 2:30PM
- Mushrooms, Mushrooms, Mushrooms!**  
April 30 | 7:00PM
- Spring Concert Series**  
May 3 | 3:00PM



Click [here](#) for more information

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# MEETINGS AROUND TOWN

**Board of Library Trustees**  
**April 14, 2025, 6:00 PM**  
@Thayer Library

**Community Preservation**  
**April 15, 2025, 5:00 PM**  
@Cahill Auditorium

**School Committee**  
**April 14, 2025, 6:30 PM**  
@Colbert Building

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
**April 28, 2025, 7:00 PM**  
@Johnson Chambers

**Public Shade Tree Hearing**  
**April 15, 2025, 1:00 PM**  
@85 Quincy Ave

**Town Council**  
**April 29, 2025, 7:30 PM**  
@Cahill Auditorium



*We are looking for feedback on The 02184 Newsletter. Click the link below or visit The 02184 page of our website to let us know your feedback!*



[\*\*The 02184 Feedback Form\*\*](#)



## 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 [mayorsoffice@braintreema.gov](mailto:mayorsoffice@braintreema.gov) or call 781-794-8100.