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Pipe Dream

District enlists local plumbers in pinhole problem

BY HERALD STAFF

PLAINVIEW@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

The Plainview Water District (PWD) is seeking the assistance of local plumbers for a new, information-gathering initiative as an expansion of the district's Pinhole Pilot Program. This effort, with the participation of plumbing partners, establishes a simple reporting system that will help the water district collect valuable information about the effectiveness of recent efforts to reduce the occurrence of pinhole leaks.

"When we launched the Pinhole Pilot Program in

2016, we set out to implement a plan of action that would significantly reduce the number of pinhole leaks," said PWD Board Chairman Marc Laykind. "Several months ago we made treatment changes to the water and reports of pinhole leaks have since been on the decline. However, we don't want to rely solely on reports to the district to ensure the changes are having the intended results. We want to hear directly from the plumbers. They are on the front lines doing the repairs."

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From left: Superintendent Stephen Moriarty and Licensed Water Plant Operator Joseph DiGregorio inspect the copper pipes of a customer's home last year as part of the district's ongoing effort to collect data on pinhole leaks.

PIPE DREAM from page 1

To participate in the program, plumbers must be licensed and insured and willing to provide feedback to the district on a monthly basis. To help simplify the reporting process, the district has created a form for plumbers to fill out. The district is seeking to learn more about the date of the repair, street and cross street, number of leaks repaired, whether the repair occurred on hot or cold water piping, the location of the leak within the home and approximate distance from the hot water heater.

"The goal was to make this program very simple and easy for plumbers to actively participate," added Plainview Water District Commissioner Amanda Field.

"We are well aware that time is money, and it's exactly why we created a streamlined reporting process that will take just a few minutes per month to be an active participant. The last thing we want is for this to be a burden."

A list of participating plumbers will be kept on the district's website that will display the program participants' name and contact information. This list will remain up-to-date as new participants sign-up for the program to provide residents quick and easy access to a qualified plumber.

"We encourage plumbers in our area to participate in this program because it will not only help bring more attention to their business, but help us learn more about our efforts," said PWD Commissioner Andrew Bader. "Any plumber interested in participating in this program should reach out to us at their earliest convenience."

Last November, the Plainview Water District released an in-depth report on the local pinhole leak issue plaguing some local residents. The report found that increasing the

alkalinity in water might help to reduce the frequency of pinholes in pipes. As of the October preceding the report, the entire district was running at a higher-than-usual alkalinity.

If you are a plumber that

is interested in participating in the Plainview Water District's program, you are encouraged to reach out to the district at 516-931-6469 or info@plainviewwater.org. Residents or plumbers looking to learn more about the program or the district's effort to combat pinhole leaks should visit www.plainviewwater.org. Residents can also visit the district's website to learn more about the Preserve Plainview water conservation campaign as well as sign up for updates to learn more about the district's activities.

"We want to hear directly from the plumbers. They are on the front lines doing the repairs."

— Chairman Marc Laykind