



PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE HERALD

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Water District Urges Drain Safety

BY HERALD STAFF

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As part of its Preserve Plainview campaign, the Plainview Water District reminds residents about the dangers posed by improperly storing or disposing of household products.

"Many people don't realize how environmentally hazardous many common household items can be," said chairman Marc Laykind.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers a substance hazardous if it can catch fire, react or explode when mixed with other substances; if it is corrosive; or if it is toxic. Examples of hazardous substances include drain cleaners, oven cleaners, pesticides, paints, anti-freeze, aerosol sprays and furniture polish.

"Our water comes from beneath our feet, so we must be conscious that whatever we pour into our drains and onto our lawns can make its way into our water supply," said commissioner Amanda Field. "We hope that with some additional awareness of these potential dangers, our residents can make better choices when purchasing certain products."

Pouring solutions down the drain is one of the worst ways to dispose of hazardous materials, as wastewater

treatment plants are not designed to filter out every one of these substances. Disposing of hazardous wastes in trashcans is prohibited as most landfills are not equipped to accept hazardous waste material. Burying and pouring the materials out in the yard are just as detrimental, if not more so, than disposing the materials down the drain.

"Before our residents buy these products, they should read the labels and learn more about how to handle proper disposal," said commissioner Andrew Bader. The district recommends residents be proactive and bring hazardous materials to the Town of Oyster Bay's S.T.O.P (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) collection days. For 2018, the collection days are as follows: Saturday, July 14; Saturday, Aug. 11; Saturday, Sept. 8; and Saturday, Oct. 28. The Town of Oyster Bay Solid Waste Disposal Complex, located at 101 Bethpage-Sweet Hollow Rd., Old Bethpage, is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on these specified days.

For more information, call the district at 516-931-6469 or visit www.plainviewwater.org. Residents can also sign up to receive information to stay up-to-date with district activities by following the link on the district's homepage.