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WATER DISTRICT

Start Preserving Plainview This Earth Day

BY HERALD STAFF

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As we celebrate Earth Day, the Plainview Water District (PWD) is encouraging all residents to adopt the goals of the “Preserve Plainview” initiative. Last spring, PWD launched it as a way to remind residents of the important role they play in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of the drinking water supply and overall environment.

“While Earth Day is only celebrated once a year, we hope that our residents carry the sentiment surrounding it into each and every day of their lives,” said PWD Chairman Marc Laykind. “Every drop of water saved is helping to keep our aquifer plentiful and every plastic water bottle replaced with a reusable one keeps hundreds—if not thousands—of plastic bottles from polluting our environment.”

Over the past five years, the PWD pumped—on average—more than

1.84 billion gallons of water each year. However, 1.1 billion gallons—or 60 percent—of this water was pumped during the five months between May and September. The Preserve Plainview initiative, among other things, aims to draw more attention to this reality and provide residents with the knowledge and tools needed to affect change.

“This initiative is not about telling people to stop watering their lawns, it’s about empowering them to make a change to their watering habits to reduce their overall usage while still having a green lawn,” said PWD Commissioner Amanda Field. “We invest millions of dollars to pump and treat hundreds of millions of gallons of water just to meet the supply needs of our irrigation systems and by educating our consumers to make simple changes

to watering schedules, together we can make a big impact on conserving water. With so much water currently being wasted, we really hope to provide the information people need to more efficiently use water.”

As part of the Preserve Plainview initiative, the Plainview Water District has been working hard to promote the benefits of water-saving tools and habits. With irrigation systems posing the greatest opportunity for significant savings, the district has been prioritizing dissemination of information about smart irrigation controllers, rain sensors, Nassau County’s Lawn Watering Ordinance and overall summertime watering practices.

“We too often take for granted that we have a seemingly effortless and unlimited access to our most precious natural resource,” said PWD

Commissioner Andrew Bader. “Simply because water is relatively inexpensive and available on demand, we should not and cannot take this luxury for granted.”

The district would also remind residents to be mindful of their plastic bottle use. The typical American uses more than 160 plastic water bottles each year, with only 20 percent of these bottles being recycled. Having an over-utilized product that can take between 400 and 1,000 years to decompose filling landfills has become hugely problematic for the environment.

“Reusable water bottles are much more eco-friendly and provide the same level of convenience at a fraction of the cost,” said Field.

For more information about water conservation or Preserve Plainview, visit www.plainviewwater.org, email info@plainviewwater.org or call 516-931-6469.

