

WATER RESOURCE

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A Publication of the Plainview Water District



Pinhole Pilot Program

A Responsive Timeline To Our Community's Concerns

The Plainview Water District (PWD) is working diligently to safeguard our precious water supply. Late in 2016, the District was made aware of a growing number of pinhole leaks affecting our residents. Extremely concerned, the District immediately implemented a pinhole leak investigation, surveying all residents to gauge the cause of this problem. While water suppliers nationwide experience such problems, PWD is taking action to mitigate the issue on behalf of our residents.

A BRIEF HISTORY

What causes pinhole leaks?

Pinhole leaks are a complex issue and multiple factors are currently being evaluated by the District:

- Stray electrical current (faulty grounding of electrical systems) in the home.
- Low alkalinity in the water (see *Raising Alkalinity* below).
- Aging hot water heaters and/or sacrificial anode erosion (Approximately 80% of leaks occur on the hot water side).

- Dissimilar metals in plumbing materials causing galvanic corrosion.
- pH levels in the water (see *Water Quality*, page 5).
- Water treatment such as chlorine, lime and VOC removal (see *Water Quality*, page 5).



PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT TAKES ACTION

Pinhole Pilot Program

Immediately upon learning about the pinhole issue, the District launched a Pinhole Pilot Program, surveying all 10,500 residents. Presently, the District has received back over 1,600 surveys. This data was analyzed and mapped by our engineers. The District will continue to compile surveys from residents as they are received.

Raising Alkalinity

Although there is no current standard for alkalinity in drinking water, the District has taken steps to raise the alkalinity at our production plants in an attempt to minimize the pinhole leaks. The first step was taken after receiving a long-awaited approval from the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH).

Expert Consultant

To further combat this issue, the District has engaged an independent third-party consultant, Dr. Marc Edwards, to assist us with possible solutions. "We are working together with the assistance of Dr. Edwards, a professor at Virginia Tech University and a world-renowned expert on water treatment and material corrosion of copper piping," stated Water Commissioner Amanda Field.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Summer is here and it's the perfect time for new beginnings! With that in mind, it is my pleasure to announce that our new Board and Superintendent are fully committed to meeting and to supporting the needs of our consumers.



Marc Laykind

We are moving full speed ahead with our Pinhole Pilot Program in an effort to research possible causes for our residents experiencing problems with pinhole leaks. This strategic program addresses the concerns of our residents head on and provides innovative and sustainable solutions for the future. Please take a look at our Pinhole Pilot Program article on the cover of this edition of *Water Resource* for more detailed information on the steps taken by the District.

As always, the District's core mission is to protect our most precious natural resource and to deliver the highest quality water to our consumers. We are pleased to announce that our water is safe to drink and continues to meet and exceed all local and federal drinking standards. In the coming year, our new team of leaders will continue to work together to create a Water District environment that is not only proactive but also transparent in our communications with residents.

Whether you are new to the community or have been a longtime resident or business owner, I encourage you to contact our Superintendent or me with any questions or concerns you may have. The Plainview Water District Board and staff are here to serve you as we always have for almost 90 years.

Enjoy your summer!

Marc B. Laykind, Chairman



Plainview Water District attended the 2017 Long Island Water Conference Legislative Forum to discuss critical policy changes and issues that affect local water suppliers. Pictured left to right: Commissioner Andrew Bader, Commissioner Amanda Field, Carrie Meek Gallagher, Region 1 Director, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Commissioner Marc Laykind.

New Leadership Takes Charge at Plainview Water District

Amanda Field, Water Commissioner

Amanda Field's passion for health-related issues, the environment and her community prompted her successful run for Plainview Water District Commissioner in 2016. The longtime Plainview-Old Bethpage resident believes that clean, safe drinking water is essential to making "our community the best place to live and raise a family."

Commissioner Field is a Syracuse University graduate and a seasoned business executive. Her leadership experience has carried over into her new role. In collaborating with fellow Commissioners, many positive changes have been enacted to give the District a clear, positive direction.



"Being able to work closely with the District's engineering firm and water industry leaders, including Dr. Marc Edwards, has put us at the forefront of water quality programs and initiatives," commented Commissioner Field. "I look forward to continuing an open dialogue with the community and increasing transparency and engagement with other water suppliers and government leaders."

Stephen Moriarty, P.E., Superintendent

Stephen Moriarty brings extensive public service experience to his post, having served as Assistant Superintendent at the Water Authority of Great Neck North for over six years and prior to that as Project Engineer at the Incorporated Village of Garden City for 10 years. Mr. Moriarty's engineering experience and his dedication to customer service are precisely what the Board sought in a new Superintendent.

As Superintendent, Mr. Moriarty is responsible for day-to-day District operations, managing administrative staff and field operators, and oversight of wells and treatment facilities.

Mr. Moriarty enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served aboard a nuclear fast attack submarine during the Persian Gulf War. Later, he re-enlisted in the Naval Reserve, serving with the Seabees and working with the U.S. Marines. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and is a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer.



1,4-Dioxane UPDATE

What You Need To Know

Plainview Water District has always taken a proactive approach to testing and to reporting on potential emerging contaminants, specifically with 1,4-Dioxane. In fact, Commissioner Andrew Bader was selected to be a part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Round Table discussions about 1,4-Dioxane this past spring.

Initial testing was conducted during 2014, and the District volunteered to conduct a repeat sampling in 2016. Resampling and testing will continue to take place in the coming months. Recent media coverage on the detection of 1,4-Dioxane in various Long Island drinking water wells has heightened public awareness of the issue.

What is 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic chemical used as a solvent and a chlorinated solvent stabilizer for industrial chemicals. It is used in a variety of applications such as inks and adhesives. This is an issue that reaches far beyond drinking water because its presence is so pervasive in everyday household products at much higher levels. It is commonly found in:

- Cosmetics • Sunscreen
- Shampoos • Hair Care
- Detergents • And More
- Deodorants

What Levels of 1,4-Dioxane are Found in Our Water?

There is currently no chemical-specific Federal or New York State drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane. However, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level (standard) of 50 parts per billion (ppb). Our 1,4-Dioxane point of entry test results ranged from 0.59 to 5.80 parts per billion (PPB). These results are far lower than the NYSDOH standard. Levels of 1,4-Dioxane do not appear to be increasing on Long Island. Resampling of this compound has been fairly stable, not trending upward. The Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission continues to monitor for 1,4-Dioxane in consumer products, and legislation has been proposed to regulate and to restrict chemicals such as 1,4-Dioxane.

Plainview Water District will continue to monitor this topic and update consumers on the District website.



KIDS CORNER

EDUCATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Local Girl Scouts Visit PWD



This past April, the Girl Scouts stopped by the District to learn more about where their drinking water comes from and how Plainview Water District delivers it to their tap. This visit included a classroom session to discuss the hydrological system, water conservation and how water is treated.

The Girl Scouts showed outstanding participation and enthusiasm during a question and answer session, which gave them a better understanding of how the District supplies water to its consumers. Additionally, a tour was given to show them what a well looks like and how water is pumped and treated before it gets delivered to their homes at a certain pressure for everyday use.

"We love spending time with our local Girl Scout Troops. It is especially important to teach future generations about our precious natural resource and the importance of water conservation," stated Commissioner Amanda Field.

PWD Congratulates All 2017 Poster Contest Winners

The Plainview Water District recently announced the winners of this year's poster contest at the District office. The theme of the poster contest was *"What Do I Like About Plainview Water and How Can We Conserve This Precious Resource?"*

Plainview Water District received 170 posters from the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District (grades one through six), and 17 winners were selected by the Board of Commissioners.

"This is a fun way for our local students to participate in a creative and engaging project," said Marc Laykind, Chairman of the Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners.

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Backflow Testing

It's Important...And It's The Law!

The Plainview Water District has the responsibility to supply clean, safe potable water to its consumers. To fulfill this responsibility, the District must implement, administer and maintain ongoing backflow prevention programs to protect the public water system from the potential hazards originating on the premises of our consumers. This requirement comes from the New York State Sanitary Code and is enforced by the NCDOH.

There are two types of backflow devices that are approved by the Plainview Water District: Double Check Valves and Reduce Zone Pressure (RPZ) devices. RPZs are required for all commercial customers for whom the degree of hazard is greater than that of a residential application. However, Double Check Valves are required for all residential customers that have a potential cross connection.

This safety device is required because there is a connection between our drinking water and possible sources of contamination from irrigation systems, hot tubs and pools to name a few. For example, should a drastic or severe drop in water pressure occur within our water mains out at the street from either firefighting or a water main break, the potential for a back siphonage or vacuum effect could



occur, thus drawing contaminated water into our drinking water supply.

Drinking water typically flows in one direction from the water mains to your tap, hose connection, etc. The term backflow refers to the backwards flow of water. A backflow device acts as a check valve in protecting our public water supply from potentially hazardous conditions.

Other examples of potentially hazardous backflow situations include:

Irrigation Systems: Water puddling around sprinkler heads could be pulled back into the drinking water mains, thus carrying lawn chemicals, dirt and bacteria into the water supply.

Swimming Pools: Leaving a hose in a pool while filling the pool with water could possibly draw pool water into the water supply.

New York State law mandates that all backflow prevention devices be tested annually by a certified backflow tester. Additionally, for your protection, PWD encourages consumers to inquire if a tester is both licensed and insured.

What is backflow?

Backflow means a flow condition induced by a differential in pressure that causes the flow of water or other liquids and/or gases into the distribution pipes of a public water supply from any source other than the intended source. Backflow can threaten the safety of the public water supply, which is why New York State has required the usage of prevention devices in certain instances.

A backflow condition may arise when very low or negative street pressure occurs due to water main breaks, hydrants knocked over, firefighting, etc. When these infrequent events present themselves, water in homes and commercial plumbing systems might be siphoned backwards towards the street water main in the absence of a backflow prevention device (BPD).

"It is important for all of us to safeguard our drinking water together, and Plainview Water District appreciates the efforts of all of our residents in this regard," stated Commissioner Andrew Bader.

Additional information regarding backflow devices can be found on our website www.plainviewwater.org/documents/crossconnectionclarification-letter_72115.pdf or contact our Cross Connection Control Department at (516) 931-6469.



Annual Water Quality Report

Available Online at www.plainviewwater.org

In accordance with Federal and State regulations, the Plainview Water District produces an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This in-depth report is filled with important information regarding water quality, cost, sources, treatment and more. The District provides an uninterrupted water supply that meets all Federal, State and Local drinking water standards. Please read our report online at www.plainviewwater.org/documents/2016PLWDAWQR.pdf.

Printed copies of the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report are available at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview, or at the Plainview Water District business office, 10 Manetto Hill Road, Plainview. If you wish to have a copy mailed to your home, please contact the District at (516) 931-6469.

Pinhole Pilot Program

Continued from page 1

"Plainview Water District appears to be encountering a new type of pitting corrosion for which all potential causes are currently being investigated," Dr. Edwards said. "On the basis of prior knowledge, the water would not normally be expected to be corrosive to copper, but Plainview Water District is actively considering how modifications might reduce the frequency of leaks that residents are experiencing. The higher the quality of water, the more likely certain types of copper pitting corrosion will take place. Organic matter, if present in the water at sufficient levels, can be a natural inhibitor of pinhole leaks and it is sometimes not present in sufficient quantities in groundwater."



Dr. Marc Edwards

Dr. Edwards has gained international praise for his ongoing work in Flint, Michigan. More information will be available on our website as we continue to work with him.

Ongoing Inspections

The District will continue to inspect the homes of residents who are experiencing pinhole leaks and will continue to gather data to help our residents. It is important that residents experiencing pinhole leaks visit our website and fill out the pinhole leak collection survey.

The Board of Water Commissioners and District personnel are available to speak directly with residents regarding the Pinhole Pilot Program or any other issues they may have. Please visit our website www.plainviewwater.org and click on the "Pinhole Update" tab for more information.

WATER QUALITY

Is our water safe to drink?

Yes. Water samples are taken throughout the District on a daily basis to monitor quality and there have been no violations. Our water is regulated by the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Any treatment changes made by the District must be approved by the NCDOH.

All water districts on Long Island chlorinate their drinking water as a means to disinfect against bacteria. Plainview Water District maintains an average chlorine residual of 0.8 ppm, which is standard. Additionally, we maintain an average pH level of 8, which is considered to be non-corrosive throughout the water industry.

The Board of Water Commissioners and Superintendent remain committed to this program and will continue to take action and work tirelessly on behalf of our residents.

KIDS CORNER

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Poster contest contestants share their artwork with PWD Commissioners Andrew Bader, Marc Laykind and Amanda Field (back row, left to right)

"We wish to thank every child who submitted a poster for their hard work and extremely thoughtful ideas and concepts. All the children did an excellent job showing their artwork and their knowledge about where our water comes from and how we can work together to conserve our precious resource."



(Left to right) Commissioner Marc Laykind, Commissioner Amanda Field and Maria Albano, Clerk to the Board, speak with poster contest contestants and their families.

This year the District held one of the largest poster contest ceremonies in its history. Winning posters will be displayed in the Plainview Old-Bethpage Library this summer and then returned to the students.

"The poster contest is a proud tradition of the Plainview Water District, and the Board is consistently impressed with the creativity and knowledge that students express through their artwork. We congratulate the winners and look forward to hosting next year's contest," added Commissioner Laykind.



Plainview Water District
10 Manetto Hill Road
Plainview, NY 11803

Board of Commissioners

Marc B. Laykind, Chairman
Andrew N. Bader, Treasurer
Amanda R. Field, Secretary

Superintendent

Stephen M. Moriarty, P.E.

Hours

Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Phone

(516) 931-6469

Emergency Phone Number

If you are calling after normal business hours and this is a true water related emergency, please call our emergency response number at (516) 640-2185. If you have a billing or administrative related question, please call our main phone number (516) 931-6469 during normal business hours.

Website

www.plainviewwater.org

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Save Money and Water Usage This Summer

WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO SAVE?

During the summer months, sprinkler systems account for the largest amount of water consumption, often doubling during this time of year.

DID YOU KNOW?

A residential rotary lawn sprinkler head at *65 psi can use almost 3 gallons per minute (*per sprinkler head*). If your rotary lawn sprinkler runs for 60 minutes at each watering, that equates to 180 gallons per day (*per sprinkler head*).

If you follow the Nassau County ordinance of only watering on odd or even days for the summer months, that can amount to 13,500 gallons (*per sprinkler head*). Do the math and save.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Best When Dark

Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day. Irrigating during the day can lead to evaporation. The best practice is to water overnight to conserve water. Your flowers and lawn will thank you for it.

Blades in the Air Because You Really Care

Longer grass promotes deeper root growth, resulting in a more drought resistant lawn, reduced evaporation and fewer weeds.

It Makes Sense to Save CENTS

Irrigation systems should include a rain sensor. If enough rain falls, it shuts off automatically...saving you money and conserving water usage. Please be mindful during periods of rainfall and suspend watering.

Plan(t) Ahead

When designing your landscape, consider water efficient plants.

Timing is Everything

Most gardens and lawns do not need to be watered much before early June or after September 15. May is usually eight or nine degrees cooler than June and averages more rainfall than any other month. October is generally 10 degrees cooler than September and still gets enough rain.

Check Your Clocks and Timers

Make sure your clocks and timers are set properly.

