

# WATER RESOURCE

Volume 10 • Number 2

A Publication of the Plainview Water District



## Plainview Water District *Awarded \$2.6 Million For Treatment*



### GRANT WILL FUND VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Plainview Water District (PWD) is pleased to announce the award of \$2.6 million in grant money to improve water quality in our service territory under New York State's landmark Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA). These funds will be used 100% for infrastructure improvements within the District to improve water quality specifically by addressing increased levels of nitrates.

The grant by the Governor was in response to the efforts of Plainview Water District's Board of Commissioners and Superintendent Stephen Moriarty, and many elected officials and advocates including support from NYS Senators Carl Marcellino and Kemp Hannon, and NYS Assemblymen Michael Montesano and Charles Lavine. We want to thank all elected officials involved in the support of this grant program to aid water suppliers throughout New York State. Most importantly, the Governor's decisive action jumpstarted the District's plans for the construction of an ion exchange water treatment facility to combat increasing nitrate levels.

The District has been effectively managing all of its wells to keep nitrates below regulator limits set forth by State and Local Health Departments. "This grant will provide much needed funding to continue to maintain water quality for the foreseeable future," stated Plainview Water District Commissioner Amanda Field. "We have been investigating and planning the best route to treatment, and this grant funding will enable the District to construct a much-needed treatment facility that will improve our water quality while holding the line on water rates."

On Long Island, sewage, septic systems and runoff from lawns carry nitrates into the groundwater. Consequently, many areas are experiencing a significant rise in nitrate levels, which must be carefully monitored and in many cases, managed through nitrate treatment processes. This has become a challenge in recent years for Long Island's sole source aquifer.

Superintendent Moriarty agreed. "The presence of nitrates is common in many areas of the country, including Long Island. They can occur under a wide variety of environmental conditions. Nitrate levels have been trending upwards over many years within the District. The addition of an ion exchange treatment system to reduce nitrates from our water directly at the pumping station before distribution is essential. We will continue to seek grants applicable to improving our infrastructure and overall water quality."

PWD's project is one of 13 applications receiving funding from New York State. Under the leadership and dedication of Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature, more than \$2.5 billion has been committed to fund water infrastructure projects throughout the State. New York State leads the U.S. with the largest annual investment in water quality infrastructure of any state.

### What Are Nitrates?

Nitrates ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) are inorganic compounds that occur under a variety of environmental conditions, both naturally and synthetically. An essential source of nitrogen (N) for plants, nitrates are key ingredients in many fertilizers for soil enrichment, and they are often highly concentrated in farm and rural areas. Nitrates not absorbed by plants and crops can be carried by rain, irrigation and other surface waters through the soil, recharge areas, wells, etc., and eventually show up in groundwater. Human and animal wastes can also contribute to nitrate contamination of groundwater. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NYS Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) establish standards and limits for nitrates in public water supplies.



## Pinhole Leak Program **UPDATE**

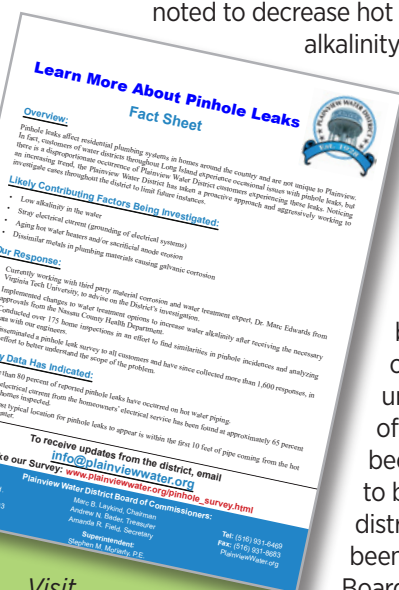
### *District Continues To Take Action*

As you may know, Plainview Water District (PWD) launched a pilot program earlier this year to address the pinhole leak issues reported by consumers within the District. In order to better understand why the issue persists, the District has taken an aggressive, multipronged approach and has developed a proactive response program. This includes the hiring of Dr. Marc A. Edwards – water treatment professional and the foremost material corrosion expert in his field – to help consult and advise the District.

Dr. Edwards has provided an evaluation of copper pitting report to the District in which he states, “Higher alkalinity has been noted to decrease hot water pitting” and “Increasing alkalinity, which is known to benefit other aspects of water quality, has sometimes reduced the severity of hot water pitting.”

Many of the actions taken by the District up to this point have been reviewed by industry experts, professional engineers and approved by the Nassau County Department of Health. “The Pilot Program is fully underway as construction at one of our major facilities (Plant 5) has been completed. We expect this issue to begin to subside over time since distribution system water alkalinity has been significantly raised,” stated the Board of Commissioners.

Customers experiencing an issue with pinhole leaks are asked to fill out the Pinhole Survey on the District’s new website under “Pinhole Program” and can contact the District at (516) 931-6469.



#### Visit

[www.plainviewwater.org](http://www.plainviewwater.org)  
and enter the “Pinhole Pilot Program” section. Download a PDF of PWD’s new “Pinhole Fact Sheet and FAQ” for more information.

## PWD Welcomes New Business Manager



**Dina Scott, CPA**

One of the numerous core responsibilities of every water district is to be fiscally responsible and to manage budgetary accounting. Water utilities typically rely on highly trained, experienced business professionals to collaborate with the Superintendent and the Board of Commissioners. When the Plainview Water District sought such a candidate, Ms. Dina Scott, CPA was the right person for the job.

In the summer of 2017, the District announced the appointment of Ms. Scott as Business Manager. She brings nearly 13 years of qualified experience in governmental accounting and auditing having served as a supervisor for the well-respected Long Island accounting firm Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., P.C.

“We’re thrilled to have Dina Scott join our team,” commented Stephen Moriarty, Plainview Water District Superintendent. “As a CPA, she’s qualified to perform accounting services for the District, and she will be a huge asset as we continue to advance our program of improving our infrastructure.”

Ms. Scott holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from St. Joseph’s College (Patchogue, NY), and her professional affiliations include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Government Finance Officers’ Association.

## Civil Engineering Expert Lends Support as PWD Meets with NSWCA

PWD Board of Water Commissioners met with Dr. Harold Walker, Professor and Chair, Stony Brook University Department of Civil Engineering and Co-Director, Stony Brook Center for Clean Water Technology and Arjun K. Venkatesan, Ph.D., Research Scientist, NYS Center for Clean Water Technology at a recent Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners’ Association (NSWCA) meeting this Fall to discuss 1,4-Dioxane and treatment methods. Dr. Walker was recently appointed by Governor Cuomo to his 12-member Drinking Water Quality Council to address emerging water quality issues.



Pictured (left to right): PWD Commissioners Andrew Bader and Amanda Field; Dr. Harold Walker, Professor and Chair, Stony Brook University Department of Civil Engineering and Co-Director, Stony Brook Center for Clean Water Technology; PWD Commissioner Marc Laykind; PWD Superintendent Stephen Moriarty and Arjun K. Venkatesan Ph.D., Research Scientist, NYS Center for Clean Water Technology.



## No Rate Increase For 2017

Plainview Water District's policy of cost containment resulted in no water rate increase for 2017. This achievement demonstrates the immediate benefits of fiscal responsibility and how the District has successfully managed the budget with no rate increase to its residents.

Residents can rest assured that all current projects to improve efficiency and maintain the highest water quality standards are in place without compromise. In a continuing effort to contain costs of infrastructure upgrades, the District is proud to announce it has been awarded \$2.6 million from New York State, which will be the primary source of funding for a vital infrastructure project (see page 1). Additionally, the District will continue to seek out grants, where attainable, to assist in the financing of improved infrastructure project costs.

Plainview Water District Commissioner Amanda Field noted, "It is our fiscal responsibility to work within our budgets. As public servants and residents of the District, it is our duty to protect our fellow ratepayers and to deliver the safest and best water possible."

PWD water rates are about 2 percent below the national average\*.

Should you have any questions about rates or your bill, please refer to the "Rates and Billing Schedule" under the "Billing" tab on our website, or contact the District at (516) 931-6469.

\* Source: American Water Works Association

## PWD Attends Long Island Water Conference Annual Drinking Water Symposium

The Board of Water Commissioners took part in discussions about infrastructure improvements and water conservation during the October 19, 2017 Annual Drinking Water Symposium.



Pictured (left to right): Plainview Water District Commissioner Amanda Field; Brock Rogers, P. E., Bureau of Water Supply Protection New York State Department of Health; Plainview Water District Commissioners Marc Laykind and Andrew Bader.

## PWD Has a New Home Online... PlainviewWater.org

To better serve consumers with information and timely news, PWD proudly launched its new website this fall. Visitors can now easily access [www.plainviewwater.org](http://www.plainviewwater.org) by desktop, tablet or smartphone. The new site includes a "What's Happening" section, which features the latest news and developments throughout the District, as well as updates on construction and infrastructure. The website also provides access to important fact sheets so consumers can receive the latest information on our water quality and other related topics.

The new responsive website was designed and developed to provide a more streamlined, user-friendly experience for consumers, and additional navigational features include information on "Conservation" and



"Billing." Public notices, ordinances and helpful resources can be found quickly and easily, and consumers can continue to pay their bill online through the District's third-party provider.

PWD also launched a new Facebook page for consumers to stay in touch with PWD. The Board of Commissioners commented, "It is important that we stay up to date with emerging technologies and provide easy access to pertinent information and services. Our goal is to provide valuable digital tools and reliable resources for all consumers."

## District Water Safety Update

The Plainview Water District is committed to keeping residents updated and informed regarding the state of the water in our community. Providing an uninterrupted supply of healthy and safe drinking water is our top priority. Each District well site is continuously sampled and tested to ensure ongoing water safety and quality. The conditions of the water currently meet all standards set by New York State Department of Health, Nassau County Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. Plainview residents were recently notified that testing at one of the District's twelve wells (Well 1-1), indicated slightly elevated levels of contaminants; however, the well was promptly shut down and did not pose any immediate concern. Well 1-1 will remain out of service until treatment is in full effect, the system is tested, and it meets all safety standards. We will continue to keep the community informed and are always happy to answer any questions from our residents. Please visit our website for more information about your drinking water: [plainviewwater.org](http://plainviewwater.org).



Sign up for updates:  
Email us at [info@plainviewwater.org](mailto:info@plainviewwater.org)



**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](http://www.plainviewwater.org)

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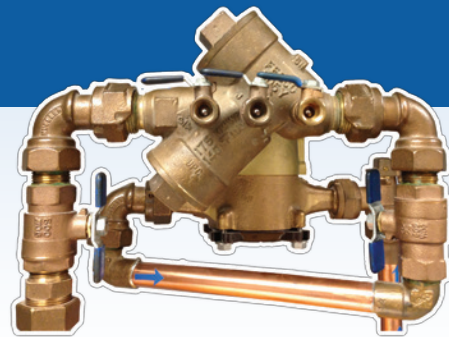
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## Important Reminder About Backflow Testing

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 designed to protect the public water system from the potential hazards originating on the premises of consumers.

Some of the requirements of the NYS Sanitary Code and the District pertaining to backflow devices are as follows:

- All new residential services must be equipped with, at the very least, an approved double check valve assembly (DCVA).
- All non-residential services must be equipped with an approved reduced pressure zone (RPZ) device.
- All fire service and by-pass lines must be equipped with an approved DCVA.
- All underground sprinkler systems and swimming pools with direct fill capability must have a minimum of a DCVA installed.



NYS and the Nassau County Department of Health require that backflow devices be tested annually for compliance by NYS certified backflow testers. In order to better assist consumers in completing the needed tests and to avoid unnecessary fines, the PWD provides an up-to-date list of certified backflow testers on our website. The District also maintains its own cross-connection department to assist residents with compliance questions.

For more information about backflow and backflow testing, call District headquarters at (516) 931-6469 or email [info@plainviewwater.org](mailto:info@plainviewwater.org). Additional information on backflow can be found by visiting the "Backflow" page on the PWD website at [www.plainviewwater.org/backflow](http://www.plainviewwater.org/backflow).