

WATER RESOURCE

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A Publication of the Plainview Water District



District Launches Conservation Campaign

Preserve Plainview Helps To Reduce Water Usage Within District

In an effort to better protect our most precious resource, Plainview Water District (PWD) has announced a new water conservation campaign, *Preserve Plainview*, aimed at reducing water usage during the irrigation season. The campaign focuses on educating consumers on the ways they can conserve water in their everyday lives, help to protect our water supply and save money on water bills.

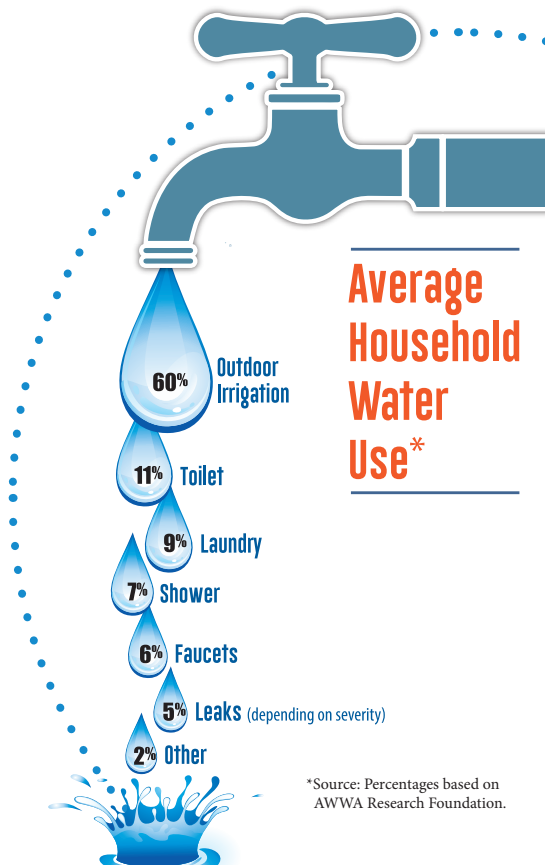


The *Preserve Plainview* water conservation campaign's primary focus is reducing water consumption between the months of May and September. Water usage increases by more than 60 percent during these five months and can almost singlehandedly be attributed to irrigation systems. "On average, we pumped more than 1.84 billion gallons of water each of the last four years, with 1.14 billion gallons pumped between May through September," commented Commissioner Amanda Field. "By implementing this education and sustainability program, we're confident that we can start to drive these numbers down."

As part of the campaign, the District plans to offer incentives such as rebates to customers who install smart irrigation controllers at their home. We have developed an incentive program whereby customers can obtain a rebate of up to \$100 for the purchase of a weather-based smart irrigation controller. PWD customers can learn more about the

Preserve Plainview initiative and conserving water at their home or business by visiting the District's website at www.plainviewwater.org/conservation.

There is a misconception that Long Island has seemingly effortless access to an unlimited supply of drinking water, but that is just not the case. To meet the needs of the community involves the use of many resources such as electricity to pump and process water. By adopting some of these conservation methods, Plainview residents can help sustain our most precious natural resource for future generations and helps us reduce our impact on the environment.



Average Household Water Use*

*Source: Percentages based on AWWA Research Foundation.

DISTRICT TAKES CRITICAL STEP TOWARD TREATING 1,4-DIOXANE

PWD Applies for a Stony Brook University Pilot Grant Program.

Plainview Water District, in partnership with the Greenlawn Water District (GWD), has submitted a joint proposal for the New York State Center for Clean Water Technology (CCWT) at Stony Brook University's Pilot Grant Program: *Removal of 1,4-dioxane from Long Island's Drinking Water*. Although the District reports far lower levels of 1,4-dioxane than other Districts, this contaminant has been found in many LI groundwater wells. 1,4-dioxane is currently an unregulated contaminant with no maximum level established. PWD has proactively partnered with GWD to gain the support that the CCWT's pilot program provides.

"Our pivotal alignment with Greenlawn Water District is the first of many steps to ensure the quality of our water as it pertains to 1,4-dioxane," stated PWD Chairman Marc Laykind. PWD Commissioner Amanda Field also added, "Programs such as the CCWT's pilot program are necessary to propel the industry forward and find meaningful, lasting solutions to these types of contaminants. We are excited to be one of the leaders in this endeavor and introduce a new form of water treatment technology to Long Island that will help shape and improve the future of our drinking water."

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic chemical used as a solvent and a chlorinated solvent stabilizer for industrial chemicals. Its presence extends far beyond drinking water and is very pervasive in everyday household products including cosmetics, shampoos, detergents, and deodorants. The US FDA does not regulate the use of 1,4-dioxane or its byproducts in consumer products, so it's important that consumers are aware of what products they are using.

For further updates, visit: plainviewwater.org



A Message from the Chairman of the Board

Marc B. Laykind

Thank you for reading our Spring issue of Water Resource. It's an exciting yet challenging time to be a water provider. Our new management staff, under the watchful eyes of the Board of Commissioners, is working very hard to fulfill these challenges and needs of our customers.

As water suppliers we have the vital responsibility to protect public health and safety. With this comes the need for water infrastructure capital projects, enhancements and upgrades. We are excited about the planned build-out of our new nitrate and perchlorate treatment facility at Plant No. 4.

While our levels were below NYS standards, following the districts proactive approach, the PWD Board nevertheless undertook exploration of treatment options and funding to tackle this issue. Additionally, I am pleased to report we were instrumental in obtaining \$2.6 million dollars in NYS grant funding towards this necessary project, which will significantly offset the involved costs of design and construction.

In line with our continuing conservation efforts, we launched a "Preserve Plainview" campaign, focusing on water conservation and environmental concerns as it relates to our water supply. We are partnering with the POB School District to help educate our students on these important conservation issues.

Speaking of conservation, with the spring snow behind us, as we embrace warmer weather, please be mindful of water consumption during peak pumping summer months. Water conservation is a responsibility we all share, and helpful tips are provided in the new Preserve Plainview section of our website.

All of these highlights are featured in this newsletter and can be found on our newly designed website, www.plainviewwater.org. If you have any water related issues or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to our superintendent or contact me directly.

Enjoy the springtime!

Marc B. Laykind

Consumer Rates Update

In an ongoing effort to improve upon and replace existing and aging infrastructure, a nominal rate adjustment has been implemented. The additional revenue will fund various capital improvement projects needed to ensure the delivery of high-quality water throughout the District at the lowest rate possible to customers.

As of January 1, 2018, a new Water Conservation Tier has been implemented into our water-rate structure. Customers that use over 125,000 gallons of water per quarter will be charged \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons. Other changes to the rate structure are minor and include adjusting minimum usage from 10,000 gallons per quarter to 8,000 gallons followed by a nominal \$2.00 increase of the minimum charge per quarter (from \$14.00 to \$16.00).

In 2018, the District will be embarking on a number of infrastructure projects that will sustain and in some instances improve the quality of the drinking water provided to our customers. Some of these projects include:

- New nitrate & perchlorate treatment facility at Plant No. 4
- New Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) treatment at Plant 1
- Replacement of aging infrastructure
- Ongoing maintenance of tanks & facilities
- 1,4-dioxane pilot

The PWD Board of Commissioners understands that no one likes to see a rate adjustment of any kind, yet electric and material costs continue to increase. It's also the District's responsibility to protect our drinking water supply and treat new and emerging contaminants that enter the aquifer system. Aside from modifying the minimum gallon use (tier one) and creating a Water Conservation Tier aimed at promoting conservation, water rates will remain the same.

Irrigation Updates for Consumers

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Simple Irrigation Tips For Home and Business

As crocus and hosta plants begin to bloom, the days are getting longer and Long Islanders are ready for warmer weather. And while we may want to forge ahead, starting up your lawn irrigation system while the ground is still hard can cause damage to underground pipes. It never fails that a deep frost still comes through before we celebrate Mother's Day, so here's a few helpful tips for your irrigation system with conservation in mind:

- Test each zone for leaks and have your irrigation system reviewed and tested by a professional. Many leaks are underground and go undetected.
- If you spring a leak or find a busted line, don't hesitate to fix it. Irrigation leaks create enormous amounts of water loss and can cause a significant increase in your water bill. A telltale sign of a leak would be noticeable soggy areas of your lawn.

- Turn the system on during the day to see what you're watering. Re-adjust sprinkler heads that may be spraying water onto unwanted areas such as sidewalks, driveways or other concrete areas.
- Nassau County Ordinance prohibits lawn watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Even-numbered homes may water on even-numbered days, odd-numbered homes may water on odd-numbered days.
- If you operate your irrigation system with an automatic timer, don't just set it and forget it. Be sure to provide for seasonal adjustments.



Emergency Notifications

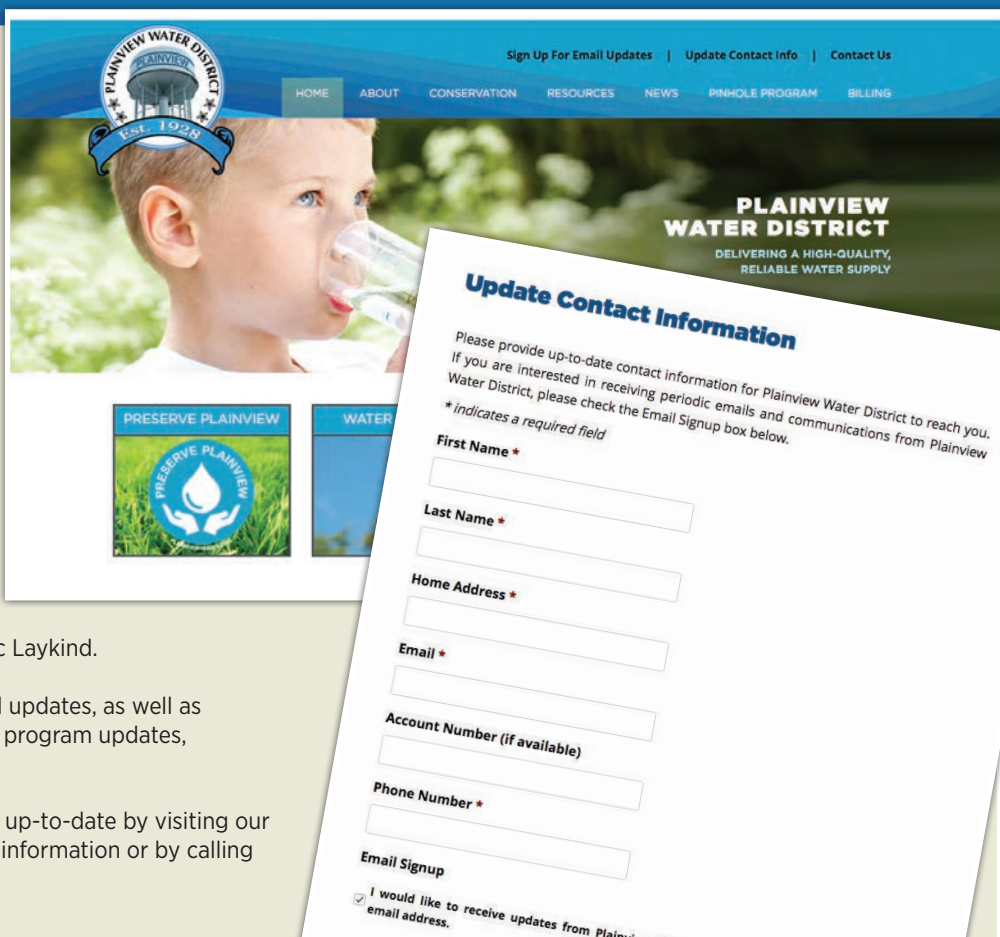
Visit Our New Website

As a public utility, our responsibility includes emergency preparedness and notifying our customers with important information. We are continuously working to update our emergency response plan and we need our customers' assistance in obtaining customer contact information.

By clicking on the "Update Contact Info" page, you can fill out your name, address, email address and phone number. "We pride ourselves on the level of communication we have with our residents. If we don't have your current emergency contact information at our fingertips, it makes it difficult for the District to effectively broadcast vital emergency information," stated PWD Chairman Marc Laykind.

Visit our new website for the latest District news and updates, as well as information regarding conservation tips, our pinhole program updates, backflow information, billing, and more.

We encourage you to keep your contact information up-to-date by visiting our website at www.plainviewwater.org/update-contact-information or by calling the District at (516) 931-6469.



The screenshot shows the Plainview Water District website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT, CONSERVATION, RESOURCES, NEWS, PINHOLE PROGRAM, and BILLING. A sign-up link for email updates is also present. The main header features the Plainview Water District logo, which includes a water tower and the text "PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT" and "Est. 1928". Below the header is a large image of a young boy drinking water from a glass. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a form titled "Update Contact Information". The form includes instructions: "Please provide up-to-date contact information for Plainview Water District to reach you. If you are interested in receiving periodic emails and communications from Plainview Water District, please check the Email Signup box below." It also notes that an asterisk indicates a required field. The form fields are: First Name *, Last Name *, Home Address *, Email *, Account Number (if available), and Phone Number *. At the bottom, there is an "Email Signup" section with a checkbox and the text "I would like to receive updates from Plainview Water District at my email address."

Nitrate and Perchlorate Treatment Underway AT PLANT NO. 4

Nitrates are a natural compound formed by manmade activities and has been slowly increasing in concentration throughout our sole-source aquifer. Since 1998, PWD has been experiencing elevated levels of nitrate and perchlorate in two of its water supply wells (Well 4-2 and Well 4-3 at Plant No. 4). While these wells produce water that meets all water quality standards, the District is anticipating a continued increase in nitrates to the point where the water will need to be treated with more advanced methods.

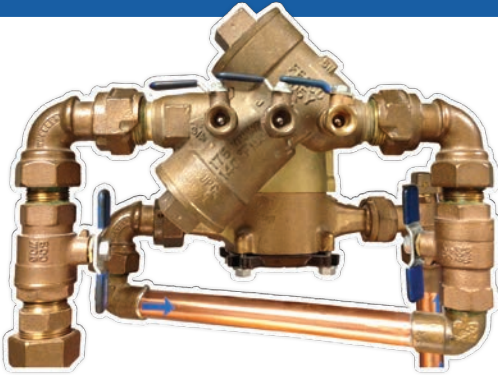
To ease the financial burden on our customers, the District applied for and was awarded a \$2.6 million grant from New York State to

build a new nitrate and perchlorate treatment system at Plant No. 4. "Our District was one of only 13 districts that were awarded funding through the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. The \$2.6 million that was awarded to our District will be used exclusively to build treatment systems to remove nitrates and perchlorate," commented Commissioner Amanda Field. The Board has taken proactive measures directed at treating not only for nitrates, but also perchlorate removal at this site. Even though it's not currently regulated, the District believes removing perchlorate at the same time as nitrate is the best course of action to improve public health.



(L to R): Superintendent Stephen Moriarty and Commissioners Amanda Field, Marc Laykind and Andrew Bader gathered together to announce the construction of the new nitrate and perchlorate treatment plant.

Backflow Regulations. What You Need To Know



New York State and Nassau County Department of Health require that backflow devices be installed in all homes equipped with an in-ground sprinkler system as well as all new construction. New York State and Nassau County Health Departments also require backflow devices be tested annually for compliance by a New York State certified backflow tester.

PWD Superintendent Stephen Moriarty explains, "Backflow prevention devices, when properly installed and maintained, guard against contamination coming back into the public water supply. Normal water flow is typically from the water main out in the street to your home or business. Backflow can occur because of reduced pressure in the distribution system (i.e., water main breaks or fire fighting) or the presence of increased pressure from a non-potable source (termed, 'backpressure'). A properly operating and maintained backflow device provides protection to the public water supply and safeguards the community drinking water."

Backflow

Plainview Water District has the responsibility to supply clean, safe, potable water to consumers. We must implement, administer, and maintain ongoing backflow prevention and cross-connection control programs to protect the public water system from hazards originating on the premises of our customers and from temporary connections that may impair or alter the quality of the water in the public water system. The return of any water to the public water system after the water has been used for any purpose on a customer's premises or within the customer's piping system is unacceptable.

In addition, Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners has adopted Article VII of the Ordinances regarding our cross-connection control program. It is the policy of the District to protect the public water system by containing potential contamination within the premises of the user. Consumers are required to follow the applicable provisions of the New York State Sanitary Code, as well as the requirements set forth in the [District's Ordinances](#) and all applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements.

Visit the [Forms and Applications](#) page for further information and applicable forms.

Resources

- Emergency Notification System
- Forms & Applications
- Backflow**
- Ordinances
- Links
- Gallery
- Kids Corner
- About Your Meter
- Fact Sheets

What's Happening

Use Caution With Lawn Chemicals

For more information about backflow and backflow testing:

Call: **(516) 931-6469**

Email: info@plainviewwater.org

Additional information on backflow can be found by visiting the "Backflow" page on the new PWD website at:

www.plainviewwater.org/backflow

Congratulations Commissioner Laykind!



Commissioner Marc B. Laykind sworn in by Mike Ingham

Congratulations to Marc Laykind on his re-election as water commissioner of Plainview Water District. Serving as commissioner since 2014, Commissioner Laykind will serve a three-year term as Chairman of the Board.

The results of this past year's special district election provides Commissioner Laykind with an opportunity to continue to represent the community. "I want to thank the residents of POB for their continued support and trust in me to serve for the next three years. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the community where I have lived and raised a family over the past 24 years."

NYS Senator Elaine Philips Meets with Commissioners



Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners (L to R): Andrew Bader, Amanda Field, (far right) Marc Laykind meet with NY State Senator Elaine Philips at the 2018 Long Island Water Conference Legislative Symposium to discuss funding for water treatment.

Senator Philips has been an instrumental asset to the water community on Long Island. We look forward to continuing our partnership and thank the Senator for her dedication to protecting our water supply.



PINHOLE LEAK UPDATE

Decrease in Leaks Reported

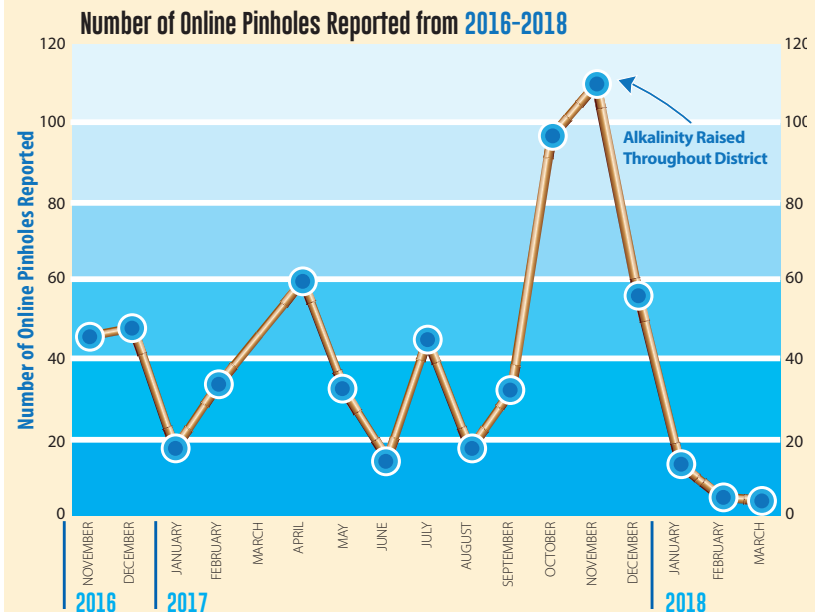
Since November of 2016, PWD has been working to mitigate the copper pinhole issues affecting many of our customers.

It has been determined that the vast majority of pinhole leaks were occurring in hot water pipes located in close proximity to the hot water heaters in residential homes. As a result of analysis performed by third-party experts, engineers and district staff, we took several measures to combat against pinhole leaks. This endeavor included customer surveys, home inspections, water testing and treatment adjustments. These efforts have resulted in the District raising the alkalinity of the water in the distribution system as a means of mitigating copper pitting.

"We've been working long and hard on this issue for quite some time now," stated Commissioner Andrew Bader. "The treatment modification included changing the location of our pH adjustment at four plants. Several other plants needed more extensive work such as laying large diameter pipes and changing some treatment controls."

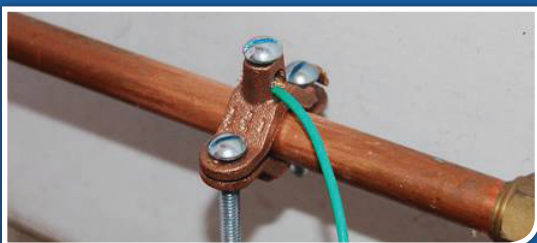
PWD is pleased to announce that we've been experiencing a much lower volume of reported pinhole leaks since the treatment changes have been implemented. The monthly average number of surveys reported in 2017 was 45. In March 2018, the number of surveys reported was six, which is an 87 percent decrease.

There are many factors that contribute to pinhole leaks. In



fact, it was determined that stray electrical current (or faulty grounding) can contribute to copper pitting situations. "We are excited and encouraged to see that the alkalinity adjustment throughout distribution since late October 2017 has had its intended result," said Commissioner Amanda Field. The District is optimistic that we'll continue to see improvement as a result of the treatment changes implemented last fall.

ELECTRICAL GROUNDING TO WATER SERVICES



Stray electrical current from grounding wires to water service piping has been detected in more than 60 percent of homes inspected by the District for pinhole leaks. The District strongly advises customers to have a licensed electrician check for stray amperage on their water service pipes and correct any electrical issues they may have.

Additionally, residents are reminded to service and maintain their hot water heaters. Separate hot water heaters contain a sacrificial anode that if changed about every five years can significantly add to the life expectancy of your hot water heater. Typically hot water heaters last 10 years depending on use.

2017 Annual Water Quality Report

In accordance with federal and state regulations, 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 performed and more.

The latest report has been posted online at:

www.plainviewwater.org/documents/2017PLWDAWQR.pdf

Printed copies of the report are available at Plainview Water District's Business Office, 10 Manetto Hill Road, Plainview or at Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview. To request a copy mailed to your home or place of business, please contact the District at (516) 931-6469.



90 YEARS YOUNG!

District Celebrates Milestone Anniversary.

Celebrating 90 years of reliable stewardship to the community, Plainview Water District is one of Long Island's oldest public water districts. The municipality was first created as a special improvement district in the Town of Oyster Bay in 1928, with water being purchased from a neighboring district. PWD began to modernize in 1953 and has evolved to include 12 wells, one 2-million-gallon and two 1.5-million-gallon ground water storage tanks, as well as one 1.25-million-gallon elevated storage tank.

At 90 years, the District is proud to celebrate this milestone. We encourage you to visit our website to view some historic and nostalgic photos from the District's archives.



The Early Days of the District



Plant No.4 1950s



Technology Turnback in Time



Elevated Storage Tank 1954



The District 1957



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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