

# WATER RESOURCE

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FALL 2018

## Working Together To Preserve Our Greatest Natural Resource

### Preserve Plainview Campaign Gains Community Support

This past spring Plainview Water District (PWD) launched a new water conservation campaign, *Preserve Plainview*, aimed at reducing peak water usage between the months of May and September. The campaign focuses on educating consumers about water conservation—with specific regard to irrigation systems—and how it relates to the protection of the community's only water source. Water conservation is also a great way for customers to save money on their third quarter water bill, which is typically the highest bill of the year.

The goal of *Preserve Plainview* is to continue to reduce water pumped during the peak season by 15 percent. Not only does summertime pumpage put a strain on our aquifer, but every component of the supply and distribution system must be engineered to handle the significant capacity fluctuation. In addition, pumping less water also means the District will save on electricity costs as well as materials for treatment. By implementing conservation tactics into their everyday lives, Plainview residents can help preserve their water supply, reduce their impact on the environment, lower the cost of materials and treatment and save money on their water bills.

Over the past four years, PWD pumped, on average, more than 1.84 billion gallons of water each year—with 1.14 billion gallons pumped between May and September. This translates to more than 60 percent of water consumption during the summer months. More specially, the District will pump as much as 10 million gallons of water on a given day during the peak season.

All of this extra pumping during the warmer months can almost exclusively be attributed to irrigation systems.

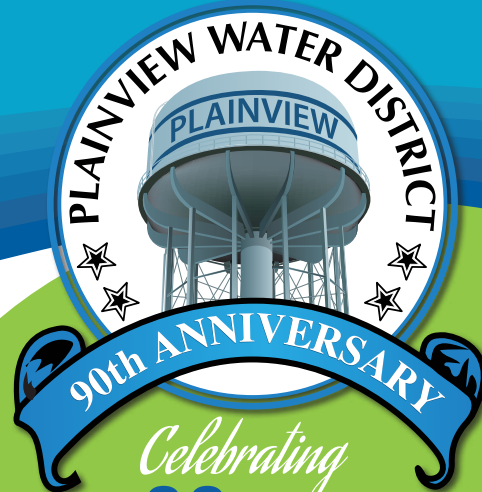
"It's important for us to work together as a community to reduce district-wide water consumption, not just for today but for tomorrow as well," said Chairman of the Board Marc Laykind. "We take great pride in delivering an uninterrupted supply of high quality drinking water, and it's our responsibility as a water supplier to continually educate our consumers about the effects of excessive water use. This campaign has been designed to educate residents to effortlessly reduce their water consumption. Keeping an abundant supply of water is part of our mission, and we need the support of the entire community to ensure our success."

The cooler and wetter summer conditions from 2016-2017, coupled with the District's conservation efforts, have factored into a reduction of pumpage.

**Pumpage was down  
9.5% in 2017**



**Pumpage was down  
13% May 2017 –  
September 2017**








*Celebrating*  
**90** years

**of Plainview Water!**

Proudly serving the community  
for nearly a century.

**Anniversary Retrospective inside. >>**

## WINTERIZING TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

-  Know where your emergency shutoff valve is located. If you do not have one, install one immediately. This may be your saving grace should you have a pipe burst from freezing conditions.
-  Drain garden hoses and store them indoors during the winter to prevent cracking.
-  Shut off outside hose bibs from inside the home and leave the outside valve open. This prevents water from freezing and damaging hose bibs.
-  Wrap or insulate all pipes that are located on the exterior of your home to help prevent freezing.
-  Adopt a Hydrant! Keep the hydrant on your property free of snow and weather debris at all times. This will save first responders valuable time when responding to an emergency.

**For more winter tips, visit:**  
[www.plainviewwater.org/conservation/winter](http://www.plainviewwater.org/conservation/winter)



## A Message from the Chairman of the Board

### Marc B. Laykind

It is with great pleasure that the Plainview Water District provides you with the latest news and updates about our activities.

2018 marks the 90th anniversary of the District's dedication to delivering high-quality water and service to the POB community. As we celebrate this special milestone, it was important for us to look back and recognize many of the achievements we've accomplished throughout the decades. Since our establishment in 1928, we have transformed significantly as our population grew. Our first well was put into service in 1954, with our landmark elevated storage tank being completed shortly after. Today, we have twelve wells located throughout seven plant sites that possess some of the most sophisticated treatment methods available. We're proud to share a snapshot of the District's history with the accompanying insert of photos from years ago.

Speaking of history, we are cautiously optimistic that the pinhole problem affecting numerous residents has been curtailed with the district-wide adjustments in our water's alkalinity. Educating our residents to check for proper grounding and maintenance of hot water tanks has proven to correct many anomalies

found within household plumbing. Surveys submitted by residents and participating local plumbers are indicating a drastic decline of homes experiencing leaks. Notwithstanding the progress made, our staff and outside consultants continue to keep a close eye on our initiative.

Our mission to deliver the highest-quality water to our residents continues as we begin to design and implement two new treatment facilities. The Board of Commissioners has secured \$2.6 million in grant funding and we recently applied for another State grant to help fund these projects and lessen the burden on our residents. We will continue to provide updates on these necessary projects.

As a proud resident of this community for 26 years, it's my pleasure, along with Commissioners Andrew Bader and Amanda Field, to continue serving you in the best way we can. Not many things in life are more important than water and that's why we do not take our roles and responsibilities as the protectors of our water source lightly.

*Wishing you all an enjoyable fall season.*

Marc B. Laykind

## Reduce Your Nitrate Footprint

Homeowners are prideful of their lawns and landscapes, but we must be mindful of the types of fertilizers we use. Everything placed on the ground has the opportunity to make its way into our ground water. Most fertilizers use excessive amounts of nitrates, which are harmful. The effects of these types of fertilizers have increased five times since the 1950s. Moderating your fertilization or applying low nitrate fertilizers will help protect the future quality of our water supply and the environment.

### Helpful Tips for Homeowners

Individual efforts to protect our environment might seem insignificant, but when they are multiplied across an entire community, their impact won't go unnoticed.

- **Avoid using pesticides on your lawn.**
- **Research natural and organic lawn products to help grow vibrant lawns and landscapes.**
- **Work with your landscapers and nurseries to create a non-chemical plan to treat your lawn throughout the year.**

## District Takes Aim at Removing Nitrates and Perchlorate with New Treatment System



Nitrate Perchlorate Treatment tanks currently being installed at similar treatment facility in California.

As part of its mission to improve and protect the safety of Plainview's drinking water, the District has taken major steps in its commitment and responsibility to build a new treatment facility at Plant No. 4. This new treatment facility will address concerns from increasing detection levels of nitrates and perchlorate at this well site. Currently, the District has been effectively managing all of its wells to keep nitrates below regulatory limits.

In 2017, Plainview Water District applied for and was one of only 13 water districts to be awarded funding through the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA). A \$2.6 million grant was awarded to assist PWD to pilot, design and construct a new treatment facility at Plant No. 4. Taking a proactive approach and thinking about the long-term preservation of the community's water supply, the Board of Commissioners resolved to build a new facility that will treat for both nitrates and perchlorate.

This state-of-the-art facility is expected to be one of only two like it in the country. "By using funding we were awarded by the State, we will be able to complete this much-needed treatment facility and improve water quality throughout our service territory," stated Water Commissioner Amanda Field. "It's a huge win for our community, and we're extremely proud to be implementing a system that goes well beyond local, state and federal regulations to protect our water."



# BOTTLED WATER VS. TAP WATER



*Did you know that tap water is tested and regulated much more rigorously than bottled water?*

## Tap Water – Best Choice Over Bottled Water

Plainview Water District is proud to deliver high quality drinking water to every home and business within its service territory. Tap water goes through an intensive quality-assurance process as required by the Nassau County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. Bottled water, on the other hand, is only regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. These are two very different sets of criteria when it comes to regulations and testing of water.

## Bottled Water Costs How Much?

Think about this: For the price of one 16oz. water bottle from your local convenience store, you could purchase up to 1,000 gallons of tap water! And tap water is available 24/7/365. Don't be fooled by Madison Avenue advertising the next time you need to quench your thirst. Save your money, drink tap water.

## Protecting Our Environment

According to the AWWA, Americans are currently consuming 12 billion gallons of bottled water in more than 50 billion plastic bottles annually. Less than 30 percent of those bottles are recycled and about 70 percent end up in landfills, waterways and along our roadways. Plastic water bottles can take up to 450 years to decompose, and manufacturers are using 20 million barrels of fossil fuels annually to meet the U.S. demand for bottled water. That's enough to fuel 1.5 million cars for one year!

In most taste tests, Long Island's tap water was preferred over bottled water. Another interesting fact, some bottled water companies have been found to process and package tap water, put their label on it and sell it to the consumer as something different.

So when you're thinking about drinking a nice cold glass of water, consider filling the glass from your tap. Better yet, fill a pitcher of water and leave it in your refrigerator for future use. It will quench your thirst, save you money, conserve resources and protect planet earth.

# Smart Clocks Help Save In More Ways Than One



As part of the *Preserve Plainview* initiative, the District allocated funding to support a rebate program aimed at incentivizing the wider adoption of smart irrigation controllers. The wider adoption of smart irrigation controllers is the single greatest way to reduce overall pumpage during the summer months. This program offered rebates of up to \$100 to customers who replaced their standard irrigation timer with an EPA approved weather-based smart irrigation controller. Smart or weather-based irrigation controllers apply the correct amount of water to various landscaping components, resulting in a healthier lawn and garden, as well as a noticeable difference in your water bill.

The program was so successful that PWD plans to continue the rebate program in the spring 2019. For more information, please visit the PWD website in early 2019 for future rebate opportunities at: [www.plainviewwater.org/conservation/preserve-plainview](http://www.plainviewwater.org/conservation/preserve-plainview).

# PINHOLE UPDATE

## Mitigating Copper Pitting Throughout The District

Between 2016 and 2017, reports of pinhole leaks in copper piping across the District reached a disproportionate level. Since then, the Board of Commissioners has taken action through independent studies, treatment changes, home inspections and expert analysis. "We are seeing as much as a 90 percent decrease in the number of pinhole leaks reported to date," stated Commissioner Andrew Bader.

One major step taken by the District was increasing its alkalinity levels within the distribution system. Alkalinity is the water's ability to neutralize acids. While not regulated by the State and local Health Departments, alkalinity levels were noted as being naturally lower than surrounding Districts. As part of the District's Pinhole Pilot Program, alkalinity levels were increased as the lower levels were determined to be a contributing factor.

The District continues to reach out to plumbers across Nassau County and has found that pinhole leaks are a common problem amongst homeowner piping systems with many possible factors contributing to the issue. Finding the exact cause of copper pipe pinholes in homes is a challenge, but we are optimistic that the number of pinhole leaks will continue to decline.

If you have experienced a pinhole leak in 2018, please contact the District or fill out a survey located on the District's website at [plainviewwater.org](http://plainviewwater.org).

# KIDS CORNER

## Poster Contest is a Hit with Plainview-Old Bethpage!



This past spring, Water Commissioners Andrew Bader, Marc Laykind and Amanda Field invited over 30 students from Plainview-Old Bethpage to District Headquarters for an award ceremony recognizing their artistic representations of the importance of conserving water. We admire the amazing talents of these future community leaders. *Well done boys and girls!*

## Educating Our Next Great Generation

"The Plainview Water District is excited to be partnering with the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District in an initiative to educate elementary, middle, and high school students about water – our most precious resource," said Water Commissioner Amanda Field. "Students will learn all about where their water comes from, water conservation, sustainability, and the day-to-day operations and engineering that go into delivering water to their homes. We will also share fun conservation tips that students can apply at home with their families."

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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# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!

## ■ 2018 Marks the 90th Anniversary of the Plainview Water District.

This is a special milestone for the District as we look back at some of the many achievements we've accomplished throughout the decades.

A lot has changed since 1928, yet our mission has always remained strong...

***To deliver high-quality water and service to the members of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community.***

To put time in perspective, our municipality was created one year before the great depression! Back then, we were purchasing water from a neighboring district. As the population in Plainview grew, the District began to modernize. In 1954, we built our first elevated storage tank to deliver water directly to the Plainview community.

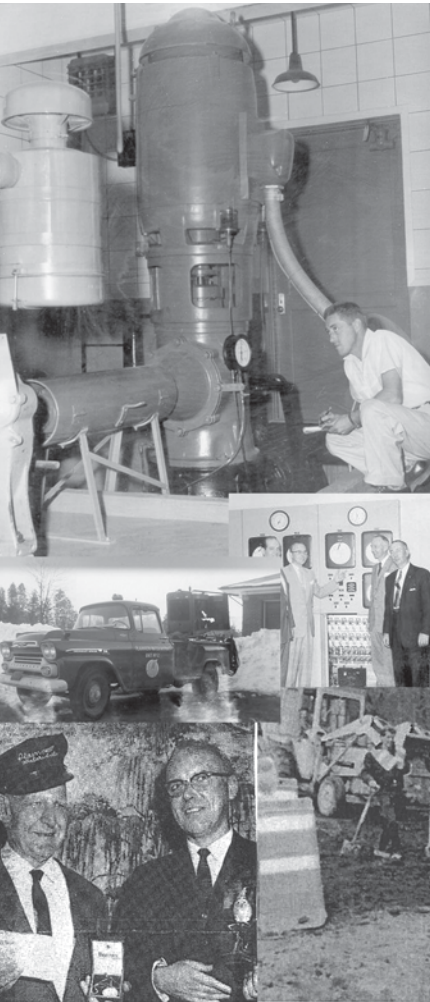
A historical perspective on the District has been cataloged by our dedicated staff, and most of the artifacts, archives and photos of years past can also be viewed on our website at [PlainviewWater.org](http://PlainviewWater.org) or [facebook.com/PlainviewWaterDistrict](https://facebook.com/PlainviewWaterDistrict).

## ■ Here's a look-back at our District...from years past through current administration.

“

It's important to stop and take time to reflect on the moments that helped shape the present. Our District's past accomplishments will always be remembered, and it is upon us to keep the torch of success moving into the future.”

- Board of Water Commissioners 2018







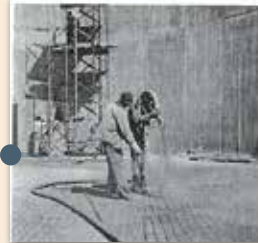
1928

Petition to establish the Plainview Water District in the Town of Oyster Bay



1954

After 25 years of purchasing water from Jericho Water District, former Commissioner John Harbes closes a value declaring "Plainview on its Own"



### Boy Vandal's Almost Flood 6,000 Homes

Plainview—Three Bethpage High School students were charged yesterday with tampering with the controls of the water district's storage tank—about 6,000 homes were saved by the district.

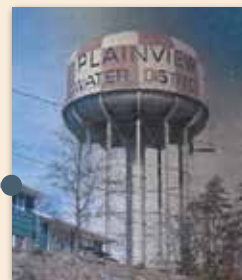
Second liquid district had the keys, but 14 and out 17, broke into the district's control tank on Monday 11th at 4 PM. Police said they destroyed a few boxes that controls caused to the system warning lights stop the 140-foot tank and then about closed the main pressure valve.

Chief superintendent John Trunk told police that if the boys had closed the valve another two inches, pressure would have been water pipes and flooded the lines of 6,000 homes were saved by the district. Trunk also said that a reasonably closed valve could have kept the district's water main because of the high pressure built up inside them.

Trunk said he received a call from a person from a nearby area and they saw how the top of the tank. But Trunk said they were gone when he arrived. One resident, however, told Second Liquid Tank, Ray Spier and Andrew Hildner, who were investigating Trunk's complaint, that he had recognized one of the boys. Trunk, however, said that the boys had recognized one of the boys. Trunk, however, said that the boys had recognized one of the boys.

1956

Placing concrete during construction of 1.5 million gallon ground storage tank at Plant 4



1960

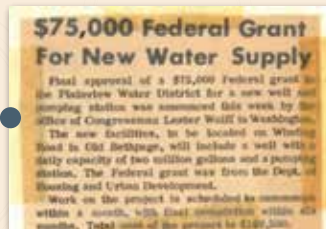
District continues to build well site facilities

1962

Original 1.25 million gallon elevated storage tank

1964

Former Chairman John Edwards received recognition for utility safety record



1966

Taking advantage of grant opportunities to improve water infrastructure



1969

District continues to expand and drill new wells

1989

District personnel installing hydrants to expand fire flow capabilities



1990

District operations office showing water system control charts



2009-Present

System Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA), advanced technology for water system operations

2017

District awarded grant for future treatment facility



2018

The Board of Water Commissioners: Andrew Bader, Marc Laykind and Amanda Field

