

WATER RESOURCE

A Publication of the Plainview Water District

FALL 2019



New Treatment Facility Breaks Ground



Thanks in part to more than \$2.6 million in grant funding, the Plainview Water District has been awarded over the past 18 months, the District has broken ground on a brand new water treatment plant. This state-of-the-art facility—that will be located at the District's headquarters at 10 Manetto Hill Road—will utilize Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) equipment. This treatment combination has been proven to remove both volatile organic compounds and the trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane from our groundwater. This treatment plant is expected to be up and running by the spring of 2020.

See Page 3 for More on 1,4-dioxane

L-R: Commissioners Marc Laykind, Amanda Field and Andrew Bader celebrate the start of construction on a state-of-the-art treatment plant for the removal of 1,4-dioxane and other volatile organic compounds.

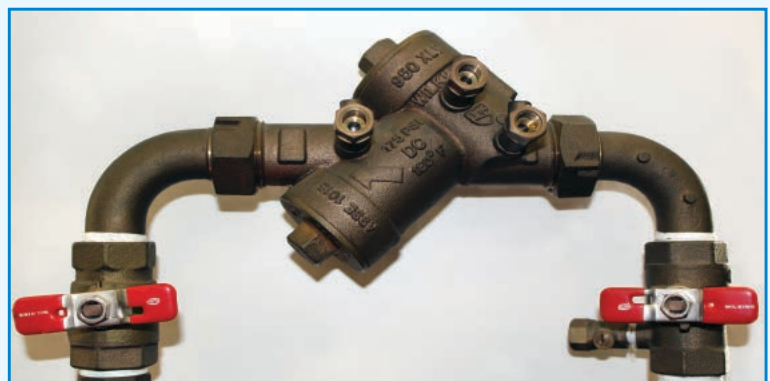
Have a Sprinkler? Pool? Test Your Backflow Device

Deadline for Test Compliance Submission is December 31, 2019; For a list of backflow testers, visit <https://plainviewwater.org/resources/forms-applications>

Don't forget: Each year, New York State and Nassau County health departments require that all backflow devices be tested for compliance by a certified backflow tester. This annual testing is vitally important to ensure the continued health and safety of our community's water supply and distribution system. A properly functioning backflow device is crucial in keeping potentially harmful contaminants out of the community's water system. Backflow devices ensure products like fertilizers and weed killers placed on residents' lawns do not find their way back into the water distribution system after a period of low pressure.

A backflow prevention device is a mechanical double-check valve that prevents the reversal of water flow that may occur when there is a loss of water pressure in distribution systems due to factors such as firefighter usage or a water main break. All backflow devices must be tested annually as required by New York State law to ensure they are properly installed and functioning as a measure to protect the public water supply from pollution and contamination.

The Plainview Water District keeps an up-to-date list of local, New York State licensed backflow testers on its website, www.plainviewwater.org/resources/forms-applications. Additionally, for customer protection, the District encourages customers to inquire if a tester is both licensed and insured. For questions, please contact customer service at 516-931-6469.



Do I need a backflow device?
YES, IF YOU YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Inground sprinklers
- Fire lines
- Swimming pool
- Private wells interconnected with public water supply

A Message from the Chairman of the Board Marc B. Laykind

Taking Action Against 1,4-Dioxane



Fall is here and with great pride so is our District newsletter. We publish this informational piece twice a year to inform the residents of Plainview Old Bethpage about PWD, and what we are doing to provide the best product we can to our residents. This includes improving our infrastructure with state-of-the-art water treatment,

anticipating and complying with new regulations, and providing prompt emergency and extraordinary customer service our residents have come to expect. POB residents can take comfort in knowing that the number one priority of the Board of Commissioners and the staff of the Plainview Water District is to provide our community with high quality water. We have taken significant actions and are working aggressively upgrading our infrastructure to implement treatment to remove 1,4-dioxane from our drinking water.

Some perspective on the recent discussions surrounding 1,4-dioxane and emerging contaminants is important. Although 1,4-dioxane currently falls under the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule, everything we are doing today is to protect public health over the long term. There are not many consumer products more closely monitored and tested for quality than your tap water. In fact, we are regulated by local and state health departments much more stringently than bottled water manufacturers. We will continue to only deliver water to our customers that meets all of the local, state and federal standards set by health officials. While New York will soon implement the strictest drinking water standards in the country, the Plainview Water District has already developed a detailed action plan with many components already in motion way ahead of the impending regulation. As Chairman of the District, I am fortunate and thankful to have dedicated co-commissioners, as well as a highly skilled staff and team of experts that enable us to provide the best possible water and service to the Plainview-Old Bethpage community.

Sincerely,

Marc B. Laykind

Get Ready for Winter!

While it's not quite winter yet, cold winter weather is right around the corner. Now is the time to make preparations: get your car ready, dust off those holiday decorations, and maybe go shopping for a stylish new jacket. One step you should not overlook is preparing your in-home water systems. As temperatures begin to drop, water systems, when left exposed to the elements, can become very susceptible to breaks and leaks. Don't know where to get started? Not to fear; we here in the Plainview Water District have some easy cold weather tips to help protect your homes from disruptions or damages caused by frozen pipes.

Indoor Maintenance

- If your water service is in a boiler room or basement, check the area for damaged windows or drafts. In preparation, locate the main water shutoff valve in your home in case of an emergency and make sure pipes in unheated areas—like crawl spaces—are properly insulated.
- Clearly label the main water shutoff valve in your home so you are prepared in the event of a water leak emergency. Shutoff valves are typically located where the water service enters the house through the foundation.
- If you do not have a main shut off valve at your home, the District encourages you to contact a licensed and insured plumber to have one installed.

Water Lines Leading to Unheated Structures

- Be sure to shut off and drain service lines leading to unheated structures until spring to prevent breaks.

Outdoor Water Systems

- Turn off hose spigots from inside the house and leave the outside valves open to prevent freezing. This allows any trapped water to expand in freezing temperatures and prevents pipes from bursting.
- Disconnect and drain all hoses.
- Check your water meter pit covers and make sure they are bolted tightly in place and secured.

Sprinkler Systems

- Sprinkler systems should be properly winterized to prevent possible leaks and damage.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear

- Be a good neighbor this winter during any snowstorms and clear a path to your nearest fire hydrant. In the event of a fire, precious time is lost when firefighters have to locate and shovel out fire hydrants.



Second Annual Plainview Water District Pharmaceutical Take Back Day Once Again Provides Community Opportunity to Safely Dispose Unwanted Medications

When someone flushes medications down the toilet or throws them in the garbage, there is the likelihood that the medications' contents will ultimately enter the water supply. If there is an elevated presence of toxins from pharmaceuticals in the groundwater, the District will have no choice but to invest in expensive treatment systems so the impurities can be removed before they reach customers' homes. Because of this concern, the Plainview Water District goes to great lengths to encourage the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals, including holding an annual Pharmaceutical Take Back Day,

This vital event, PWD's Preserve Plainview initiative, allowed Plainview-Old Bethpage community members to easily and safely dispose of more than 200 lbs. of unwanted or expired medications. Thank you to all who participated!

Plainview Water District Combats 1,4-Dioxane

What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic, or man-made, industrial chemical that has been used primarily as a solvent in manufacturing and in a laboratory setting. Due to decades of neglect and negligence on the part of large-scale manufacturers in the region, traces of 1,4-dioxane have been discovered to be present in more than 70 percent of the water wells across Long Island. Unfortunately, the Plainview–Old Bethpage community is also among these wells having detections of this legacy contaminant.

PILOT TESTING

The District is actively engaged in the required pilot studies needed to determine the scope of the treatment systems for 1,4-dioxane. Each pilot study uses a small-scale version of an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment system to test its ability to remove 1,4-dioxane at impacted wells. Pilot studies are required by New York State before any final treatment system can be approved. It is important to note that water produced through the pilot systems are put to waste. None of this water is placed into the public distribution system.

TREATING FOR 1,4-DIOXANE – ADVANCED OXIDATION PROCESS (AOP)

The most promising form of treatment for removing 1,4-dioxane from drinking water is the Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP). AOP treatment blends raw groundwater with a low concentration of an oxidant—most commonly hydrogen peroxide—that then goes through a sophisticated ultraviolet light reactor to destroy the 1,4-dioxane molecules.

Once groundwater goes through the AOP process, water is then piped into Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) vessels. GAC vessels—which are industrial-sized carbon filters—remove any remaining hydrogen peroxide and other volatile organic compounds (VOC) from the water. After GAC treatment, water is chlorinated for disinfection, pH is adjusted, then tested before being delivered to your tap.

HOME FILTRATION

Please don't be misinformed by filtration sales companies. Currently, there are no NSF or UL certified home water treatment devices available for the removal of 1,4-dioxane.

Recent Actions Undertaken by the PWD

- Actively piloting multiple treatment technologies at Plant 7 for the removal of 1,4-dioxane through the Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University in addition to three other pilot studies being done at other plant sites within our community. Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOP) is the only approved treatment for the removal of 1,4-dioxane from potable water systems.
- Continuing communication with residents regarding 1,4-dioxane through the production of consumer fact sheets, newsletters, website content and social media resources.
- Filed a lawsuit to hold the manufacturers of 1,4-dioxane accountable because the District firmly believes residents should not be held liable for the expense of cleaning up the mess left behind by polluters.
- In total, the District has been awarded more than \$5 million in grant funding for water treatment projects, which includes treatment pilots for the removal of 1,4-dioxane, but does not include money for ongoing operations, maintenance, testing and upgrades.
- Pursuing additional grants to help fund future treatment projects.
- District commissioners are working with elected officials and water quality experts, both locally and regionally, to ensure the needs of the Plainview community are being met.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW 1,4-DIOXANE RESOURCE PAGE – PLAINVIEWWATER.ORG/RESOURCES



L-R: Commissioners Andrew Bader, Amanda Field and Marc Laykind. Plainview Water District is hands-on when it comes to piloting effective treatment. The equipment is being deployed at several District plant sites.

KIDS CORNER

Plainview Water District Promotes Responsible Water Use Through Annual Poster Contest

This past June, the Plainview Water District Commissioners Marc Laykind, Amanda Field and Andrew Bader welcomed more than 30 students and their families to announce the winners of the District's 2019 Water Conservation Poster Contest. During the award ceremony, students of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District received recognition for conveying the importance of water conservation through their artistic abilities. First, second, and third place winners all received a reward to strengthen their education about water use, as well as other Plainview Water District-branded items to encourage responsible water conservation practices.

The 2019 Water Conservation Poster Contest seeks to educate the community's local youth about the importance of responsible water usage through conservation. The District's Preserve Plainview campaign aims to educate residents on the importance of protecting and preserving Long Island sole-source aquifer. The District's commissioners feel it is extremely important to engage the community on this invaluable topic. This is why the District partners with the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District on bolstering water education and curriculum for all grades.



“We pride ourselves in our ability to offer our youngest residents with the chance to learn more about conserving one of our most precious resources: water. Beginning this education at a young age is so crucial. We hope to instill these important values in our children to guarantee that our community's water supply is stable for many years to come.”

-Commissioner Marc 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