

WATER RESOURCE

A Publication of the Plainview Water District

FALL 2020



Plainview Water District's First 1,4-Dioxane Treatment System is Operational

Plant #2 is the First of Four District Facilities to Operate the State-of-the-Art Advanced Oxidation Treatment Process

We are pleased to announce that our first advanced oxidation process (AOP) treatment system is operational after receiving approval from the New York State Department of Health. AOP treatment, along with granular activated carbon (GAC), is the only treatment combination proven to remove 1,4-dioxane from drinking water. PWD's Plant #2 is the first of four production facilities to receive this treatment duo that is now producing water to non-detectable levels of 1,4-dioxane ahead of the State's compliance deadline.

This is a watershed moment for the Plainview Water District and our community as a whole.

- PWD Chairman Marc Laykind

"We have been dedicated to the development of these AOP treatment projects each and every day for more than two years," said PWD Chairman Marc Laykind. "It is extremely gratifying to have our first system up and running. Being in this position today is no small feat—this came together because of this District's comprehensive planning and execution all in the name of providing higher-quality water to the Plainview-Old Bethpage community."

This past August, the New York State Health Department finalized regulations that established maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for the emerging compounds 1,4-dioxane, PFOA and PFOS. This action makes New York the first and only state in the country with an enforceable MCL for 1,4-dioxane at one part per billion. The District has been working tirelessly for the past several years to formulate an aggressive action plan to have the required treatment systems constructed and secure the funding for these necessary capital improvements.



PWD commissioners (L-R) Andrew Bader, Marc Laykind & Amanda Field in front of the new AOP treatment facility at the District's Plant 2.

"We are proud to be one of the first Nassau County water providers to have an operational AOP system," said PWD Commissioner Amanda Field. "The Plainview Water District staff has dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to put us in the position we are in today."

"Even though there is a provision that would grant water providers an additional three years to be in compliance with the new regulations, our plan was always to have treatment up and running as soon as possible," said PWD Commissioner Andrew Bader. "Water quality is, and will always be, our foremost concern, and we will continue to make whatever infrastructure improvements are necessary to deliver water to our residents that meets or surpasses all water quality guidelines."

For further information, please visit plainviewwater.org/resources/emerging-contaminants/

**WATER SUPPLY REMAINS TOTALLY UNAFFECTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 3.**

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



I truly hope all reading this fall 2020 newsletter find themselves, family and friends healthy and well during these difficult times. I will share with you that the Plainview Water District—which is deemed essential by NYS—has fared well throughout the pandemic. Our staff has taken extreme precautions since the early onset of the crisis. I am proud to report that we have been successful in preventing any spread of COVID-19 within the District. We have always remained fully operational with very minor limitations in the customer service we provide.

Despite the challenges of 2020, this year marks another milestone in the Plainview Water District. We have implemented, in advance of the NYS regulation, Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment for the removal of 1,4-dioxane from our water supply. 1,4-dioxane removal presents a unique challenge to water suppliers as there is only one approved treatment method to remediate this legacy contaminant. Additionally, treatment cannot be accomplished with the traditional “tools in our toolbox”. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, our staff and consultants were able to have our systems up and running, well in advance of the regulatory deadlines and will now be providing water that is of even higher quality to our customers.

The construction of this AOP treatment does not come without a significant price tag. I am pleased, however, to recognize that the

District has secured nearly \$9 million in grant funding to help offset the costs of these treatment enhancements. Rest assured, we are not stopping here! We will continue to pursue all avenues of funding assistance available to continue our commitment to provide the highest quality water to you at the lowest possible cost.

Follow us on our website, Facebook and subscribe to our email list to follow the improvements taking place at the Plainview Water District. There will be more exciting developments to come in the weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, please continue to recognize and thank our first responders and health care workers, but let us not forget our water suppliers who keep the essential water flowing 24/7 throughout crisis, storms and whatever comes our way. Thank you Plainview-Old Bethpage! As a proud resident of this community for 26 years, it's my pleasure along with the rest of the Plainview Water District staff to continue serving you, in the absolute best way we can.

Wishing you all safety and good health in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Marc B. Laykind, Chairman of the Plainview Water District

Backflow Compliance Keeps our Water Safe

New York State law mandates that residential and commercial backflow devices must be tested and certified to be in working order each and every year. All commercial properties—as well as residential properties with an in-ground irrigation system, swimming pool, fire lines or a private well interconnected to the public water supply—are required to have a backflow device.

“A properly functioning backflow device is crucial in keeping potentially harmful contaminants out of the community's water system,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Marc Laykind. “Backflow devices ensure substances such as fertilizers, pesticides and other harmful chemicals don't find their way back into the water distribution system in the event of a fire emergency or a water main break.”

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 system due to factors such as firefighter usage or a water main break.

“We know that this has been an unusually challenging and stressful year for us all. We have made a concerted effort to make complying with backflow regulations as simple as possible,” said Commissioner Amanda Field. “If any one of our customers has a question or concern, they are encouraged to reach out to us for help so they can remain in compliance while also helping to safeguard the water quality in their neighborhoods.”

To learn more about backflow requirements and required testing, as well as how to contact a certified backflow inspector, visit plainviewwater.org/resources/backflow.

Residents should be aware that backflow regulations enforced by New York State and Nassau County health departments are still in effect despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



A reduced pressure zone device typically installed at commercial properties.



A double-check valve device typically installed at residential properties.

Working Through the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us, and certainly this is true for our workspaces. The Plainview Water District, being an essential entity, has worked without interruption over these last 8 months, and we have implemented a number of measures to keep everyone safe and productive.

First and foremost, it bears repeating: As we stated at the start of the pandemic and which holds true now, the public water source is and will continue to be unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts of this virus are far-reaching and scary, but residents can take some comfort in the reliability of their drinking water.

One way the Plainview Water District has kept our constituents safe has been by being pragmatic and proactive in our efforts to protect our employees and the public while also maintaining the reliability of our water system. Our water supply and delivery services have been and will continue to operate uninhibited throughout the duration of the pandemic and beyond. When the pandemic began, we stopped all non-emergency residential services to help curtail the spread of COVID-19; we suspended all person-to-person bill payments; and offered alternative forms of payment, including a drop box at our office as well as mail-in payments, online payments, and automatic bill payments. As a result of protective efforts, we have been able to resume all of these services in a manner compliant with all CDC-recommended safety measures.

Over the summer, the Plainview Water District was honored to celebrate the renaming of Heroes Way. Legislator Arnold Drucker spearheaded the creation of this lasting tribute along Old Country Road to the first responders, hospital staff and frontline healthcare workers that empowered the region to emerge from the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. “We are proud to honor the heroes that put our community’s safety above their own,” said Legislator Drucker. “Essential employees deserve this recognition for their efforts to keep our community together during these unprecedented times.”



Nassau County Executive Laura Curran with PWD Commissioners Andrew Bader and Amanda Field



Nassau County Legislator Arnie Drucker with PWD Commissioner Marc Laykind

Like all of us, we at the Plainview Water District do not know when this will end and how our new normal will look when the pandemic ends. However, we promise until that time to do whatever we can to keep the public and community safe and keep the water flowing.



PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT.

“Always On”

Hurricane Isaias this past summer reminded Long Islanders that we are vulnerable year round to damaging weather and storms that can create power outages. With hurricane seasons still underway—and the winter season just about to begin—the Plainview Water District wants to remind our customers that we maintain emergency generators to allow us to provide an uninterrupted supply of drinking water in the event of potential outages.

One of our generators, shown here, is routinely maintained by the District and periodically tested throughout the year to ensure its operation to supply electrical power to our well facilities. This is just another way that the Plainview Water District remains at the ready to provide our customers with the service and commitment that they expect and deserve. No matter the weather, no matter circumstance, know that we are on it.

Plainview Water District's Decades-Long Poster Contest Tradition Carries On Virtually in 2020!

The pandemic has interrupted all of us in so many ways and on so many different levels. Aside from having to deal with the operational challenges the pandemic caused, our 30-plus year water conservation poster contest was also in jeopardy of not being held. One of our favorite events of the year, the poster contest gives the Plainview Water District an opportunity to interact with the youngest members of our community and teach them valuable lessons about our public water supply. However, thanks to the perseverance of our staff and the assistance of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, we were able to hold this year's contest virtually. Though it looked nothing like years past, as it was held safely and distantly online, the poster contest encouraged children within the school district to come up with creative ways to visually convey what water conservation means to them.



Every year, we are impressed with the creativity and talent displayed by our contestants who range from grades 1-6. The artwork that the children of our community submit never ceases to amaze us here at the Plainview Water District. This year was certainly no different. We would like to congratulate all of those who participated this year. We would also like to thank the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District for helping to coordinate the program so that we can continue this tradition even through these challenging times. To view the video of the poster contest ceremony, we encourage you all to visit the Plainview Water District website, under the Kid's Corner section at plainviewwater.org/resources/kids-corner



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

