

WATER RESOURCE

A Publication of the Plainview Water District

FALL 2021



PWD Leading the Way in Emerging Contaminant Treatment

The Plainview Water District (PWD) was recently granted approval from both the New York State and Nassau County Health Departments to bring its sixth Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment system online. The PWD's AOP treatment facilities, which were constructed over the last two years to remove 1,4-dioxane from the drinking water supply, comprise of more systems than any other water supplier on Long Island.

The latest treatment facility to come online—Plant 3, located on Orchard Street—is a \$2.2 million system specifically designed to produce up to two million gallons of water per day that meets some of the strictest requirements in the nation for water quality. We now have the ability to treat more than 11 million gallons of water every day for 1,4-dioxane throughout the District.

We began planning for the construction of these treatment facilities back in 2018, two years before the State's regulations were put into effect. Due to the tireless efforts of our commissioners, staff and engineers, the District was able to ensure all water being distributed to the community was in compliance with the regulations without needing a compliance exemption, which was offered by the New York State Health Department.

The Plainview Water District has also obtained nearly \$9 million in infrastructure grants from New York State to construct these state-of-the-art treatment facilities. Currently, we are also in the process of applying for another round of grant funding. The Plainview Water District is not alone in this fight against emerging contaminants. The removal of 1,4-dioxane from wells across Long Island is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion, with an additional tens of millions of dollars per year expected in increased operating and maintenance costs.

How the Treatment Works:

AOP treatment systems work by adding a small amount of an oxidant (hydrogen peroxide) to the raw water to create a reaction as it passes through an ultraviolet light system, which ultimately destroys the synthetic chemical 1,4-dioxane. Once the reaction takes place, the water then travels into large Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration vessels to remove any remaining trace amounts of the oxidant as well as organic and inorganic compounds before reaching your tap. This treatment combination of AOP and GAC is the only approved method in New York State for the removal of 1,4-dioxane from our drinking water. It is also effective at removing perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) to non-detect levels.



Photo: (L-R) Chairman Marc Laykind, Commissioner Amanda Field, and Commissioner Andrew Bader welcomed the District's sixth Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment facility to remove trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane from drinking water.

2021 Capital Improvement Construction Projects Completed:

- Plant 2 AOP Interim Treatment Facility
- Plant 3 AOP Interim Treatment Facility
- Plant 3 Drainage Piping Project
- Plant 7 AOP Interim Treatment Facility
- Plant 1 Roof Replacement
- Three Buildings

2022 Ongoing Capital Improvement Projects:

- Plant 2 – Permanent AOP Treatment Facility
- Plant 4 – AOP, Nitrate and Perchlorate Treatment Facility
- Plant 5 – Permanent AOP Treatment Facility
- Plant 7 – AOP / VOC Permanent Treatment Facility



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

I hope all of our residents—
along with their family
and friends—find

themselves healthy and happy this fall. Despite the challenges of the pandemic over the last year and a half, the Plainview Water District has not missed a beat. We've continued to serve our customers and fortify our infrastructure and treatment systems for our community. The progress we've made on many fronts—progress that you'll read about in this edition of our fall newsletter—are a particular source of pride for myself, my fellow commissioners and our staff.

As we continue to move forward in pursuit of our extensive capital improvement plan with a specific focus on treating for emerging contaminants, the PWD is committed to limiting the financial impact on residents as much as possible. We have already secured nearly \$9 million in infrastructure grants and are currently pursuing new rounds of funding for millions more. Advanced Oxidation and Granular Activated Carbon treatment systems are costly improvements, but we will do whatever is necessary when it comes to providing our residents with the highest-quality water possible.

As always, there is a lot happening at the District, and we do our best to communicate our progress with our residents. If you're interested in staying up-to-date with the District's activities, we encourage you to visit our website and sign up for email updates as well as follow us on Facebook. There will be plenty of more developments on our progress to improve infrastructure and treatment capabilities in the months ahead.

Before signing off for this edition, I'd like to take a moment to personally thank all of our dedicated employees who ensure our water continues to flow 24/7/365. Whether it is a pandemic, forces of nature, or power outages, nothing will stop the PWD from delivering high-quality water. As a proud Plainview resident for more than 28 years, I am very thankful for our team, and sleep well at night knowing our community's water supply is in extremely capable hands.

Wishing all of our residents a very happy holiday season and a New Year filled with health and prosperity.

Sincerely,

*Marc B. Laykind
Chairman of the Plainview Water District*



Photo: (L-R) Chairman Marc Laykind, New York League of Conservation Voters President Julie Tighe, Commissioner Amanda Field, and Commissioner Andrew Bader at the 2021 Long Island Water Conference Symposium to discuss water infrastructure and conservation.

Plainview Water District's leadership recently attended and participated in the Long Island Water Conference's 2021 Drinking Water Symposium!

PWD Commissioner and Chairman of the LIWC, Andrew Bader, along with PWD Commissioner and President of the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association, Amanda Field, provided remarks about the progress being made by water suppliers on many different fronts. The Symposium, an annual event, always serves as an opportunity to get together with our region's water providers and other industry and elected officials to discuss topics such as emerging contaminants, infrastructure investments and water conservation.

We look forward to collaborating with the event's keynote speaker, Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters, as well as industry representatives during these unprecedented times. Collectively, we will find new ways to deliver funding and other grant opportunities to ensure water providers can continue advancing needed projects with the lowest possible financial impact to residents.

We're proud to support the work of this organization which benefits water quality for all our residents.

Prepare Your Water System for the Winter!

Cold air and winter weather will be here before you know it, and the PWD wants to ensure residents' water systems are prepared. When exposed to cold weather, systems that are not properly winterized are subject to breaks and/or leaks—which waste water and can lead to costly repairs. Please look at these tips to help prepare your system today!

Outdoor Water Systems: Don't forget to turn off those hose spigots from inside the house and leave the outside valves open to prevent freezing. This prevents pipes from bursting during freezing temperatures. Disconnect and drain all garden hoses and keep in a warm, dry place for reuse in the spring.

PWD Collects ~320 Pounds of Expired or Unused Medications at its Pharmaceutical Take Back Day!

The Plainview Water District (PWD), in partnership with the Nassau County Police Department, recently held its fourth annual Pharmaceutical Take Back Day on Saturday, October 23, where residents had an opportunity to bring any unwanted or expired medications for proper disposal. As part of the PWD's Preserve Plainview initiative, this annual drive-thru event helps to protect our sole-source aquifer and helps provide quality drinking water.

If someone flushes medications down the toilet or throws them in the garbage, there is a 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 heavily invest in expensive treatment systems so the impurities can be removed.

We thank all of the residents who came out to take advantage of this program, as we have collected more than 1,100 pounds of pharmaceuticals since this annual tradition started four years ago.



Attention Residents: Annual Backflow Testing is Required by New York State!



A reduced pressure zone device typically installed at commercial properties.



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

The PWD would like to remind residents and local business owners that the New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) and Nassau County Department of Health require the installation and annual testing of backflow devices. This compliance testing must be performed by a certified backflow tester, and is extremely important in ensuring the safety of Plainview-Old Bethpage's water supply. The annual deadline for test compliance submission is December 31, 2021.

What is a backflow device?

Backflow devices are mechanical double-check valves that prevent the water flow from reversing during a loss of water pressure. This loss can be caused by firefighter use or a water main break. These devices must be tested annually to make certain they are functioning properly.

Backflow devices protect against potential contamination of the public water supply during times of fluctuating pressure.

The District encourages residents to arrange for a NYSDOH certified backflow tester to conduct their annual backflow test and avoid any penalties for noncompliance. Residents must submit a copy of the backflow report to the District. The Plainview Water District keeps an up-to-date list of New York State licensed backflow testers on its website, www.plainviewwater.org/resources/backflow/. Please contact the PWD at 516-931-6469 with any questions you may have regarding backflow.

You are required to have a backflow device should you have: in-ground sprinklers, fire lines, in-ground swimming pool, or a private well that is interconnected with the public water supply.

Sprinkler Systems: Sprinkler systems should be winterized to prevent possible leaks and damage to the system. Leaks in sprinkler systems caused by burst pipes can be hard to identify when the systems return back on line, leading to increased water usage and decreased functionality.

Indoor Maintenance: If a customer's water service is in the boiler room or basement, check the area for broken windows or drafts. Brisk winds and freezing temperatures can cause pipes and water

meters to freeze or break. In preparation, locate the main water shutoff valve in your home and make sure it is operable in case of an emergency. Make sure pipes in unheated areas—like crawl spaces—are properly insulated to prevent freezing. It is also advised that all customers clearly label the main water shutoff valve in their home so they 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.

Water Lines Leading to Unheated Structures: Be sure to shut off and drain service lines leading to any unheated structures until spring to prevent breaks.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear: Be a good neighbor this winter and clear a path to and around your nearest fire hydrant. In the event of a fire, precious time is lost when firefighters have to locate hydrants buried in the snow.

Congratulations to This Year's Poster Contest Winners!



PWD's Board of Commissioners Marc Laykind, Amanda Field, and Andrew Bader congratulate the 18 winners from the POB School District for this year's water conservation poster contest!

To view this year's winning posters, please visit: <https://plainviewwater.org/resources/kids-corner/2021-water-conservation-poster-contest-winning-entries/>.

An annual tradition at the Plainview Water District for more than 30 years, the water conservation poster contest is held in partnership with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District for students in grades 1 through 6. This poster contest is designed to be a fun activity that also provides an opportunity for students to learn about the importance of water conservation and our region's sole-source aquifer.

This year, we received more than 300 entries, which made it particularly difficult to pick the three winners from each grade. Thank you to all the students and educators who participated, and congratulations to all of the winners!

"The Plainview Water District is extremely proud of the POB students for their participation in this year's contest," said PWD Commissioner Andrew Bader. "We're grateful for our continued partnership with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District as their enthusiasm for this program is what makes it such a success. The students' creativity is inspiring and reminds us all to be better stewards of our most precious natural resource. From the looks of these posters, the future of our water supply is in good hands."

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.)
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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

