

# WATER RESOURCE

A Publication of the Plainview Water District

SPRING 2022



## Infrastructure Upgrades Are Underway for POB's Current and Future Residents

### District Awarded Additional \$19.2 Million in State Grants

Construction of a new, state-of-the-art water treatment facility located on Donna Drive in Plainview is underway. This new facility will house the current treatment equipment being used to remove 1,4-dioxane from the groundwater, which includes an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) system and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration. This permanent facility will allow the District to treat drinking water year-round as opposed to the temporary spring/summer treatment that is currently operational. The new facility is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022. Please be assured that the District will not provide water to the community that does not meet drinking water standards.

#### How the Treatment Works

AOP treatment systems work by adding a small amount of oxidant (in this case, hydrogen peroxide) to the water to create a reaction as it passes through ultraviolet light, which ultimately destroys 1,4-dioxane. Once the reaction takes place, the water then travels into large GAC filtration vessels to remove any trace amounts of oxidant that remain as well as organic and inorganic compounds (such as PFOA and PFOS). Currently, the treatment combination of AOP and GAC is the only New York State approved method to remove 1,4-dioxane from drinking water.



In August of 2020, the New York State Health Department finalized maximum contaminant levels for 1,4-dioxane, PFOA and PFOS. The Plainview Water District began planning for the new treatment systems to remove these contaminants back in 2017 to ensure they were ahead of the potential regulations. Across Long Island, it is estimated that more than \$840 million in capital investments, with an additional \$50 million per year in increased operating and maintenance costs, will be needed to treat wells impacted by 1,4-dioxane.



The Plainview Water District is regarded as a regional leader in these efforts, as we already have six AOP systems up and running, which is the most of any water provider on Long Island. To help alleviate the costs associated with constructing the new treatment systems, the District has been awarded more than \$28 million in grants from New York State. The grant amount includes a recent award to the District of more than \$19.2 million through the state's Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. This grant funding is crucial to help absorb the more than \$50 million in capital costs needed to construct permanent AOP treatment facilities at four of our additional plant sites.

#### Additional Projects for 2022

Plant 4: AOP, Nitrate, and Perchlorate Treatment Facility.  
Expected to start in 4th Quarter 2022.

Plant 5: AOP Treatment Facility.  
Expected to start in 4th Quarter 2022.

Plant 7: AOP/Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Treatment Facility.  
Expected to start in 2nd Quarter of 2022.

#### Learn More About Our Water Infrastructure Improvements

Since 2017, the District has been committed to developing and constructing treatment systems to help rid the public water supply of the emerging contaminant 1,4-dioxane. With direction from the Board of Commissioners and the implementation of daily operations from our Superintendent, staff and professional engineers, the District has tackled numerous, large-scale infrastructure improvements that will benefit our community for generations to come.

To learn more about our journey these past couple years, we encourage you to visit our new Projects Page under the "About" section at [www.plainviewwater.org](http://www.plainviewwater.org).





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

I hope all of our residents are doing well and staying healthy as we look forward to a beautiful spring and summer

here in Plainview-Old Bethpage.

It has been another busy year at the Plainview Water District with many significant upgrades continuing at water plant sites throughout the community. The improvements being made to our treatment facilities today are not only improving upon our already high-quality water, but will protect the future generations of our community against the man-made chemicals such as 1,4-dioxane, PFOA and PFOS that have been detected in low concentrations in groundwater across Long Island. We have six of the most sophisticated treatment systems for these contaminants already in operation here in Plainview.

As Chairman and a 28-year resident of this community, I take an immense amount of pride in the infrastructure improvements we have made and will continue to make in the years ahead. I am also proud of the men and women in this District that work hard each and every day to ensure we receive the highest quality of water and customer service that our residents expect and deserve.

Our hope is that by providing you with the information in this newsletter, you will have a better understanding of your drinking water and all that goes into this precious natural resource being available on demand, 24/7/365. I also hope this information lends itself to everyone being more mindful of their usage—particularly in these warmer months.

The fact is everyone in this community, myself included, could make slight changes to our daily habits that allow us to conserve more water—especially with regards to irrigation systems. We encourage everyone reading this to set a personal goal this summer and implement one new water-saving tactic into their daily practices, whether it be switching to a smart irrigation controller, installing a rain barrel, adjusting to an odd/even watering schedule or simply watering our lawns a little less than last year. It will help our environment, our community's sustainability, and keep a bit more money in your pocket.

Your water is our one and only priority, so please never hesitate to reach out to us with questions or for more information.

Hope you have a great spring and summer.

Sincerely,

Marc B. Laykind  
Chairman of the Plainview Water District

## Thousands of Water Samples Ensure Water Quality

### Water Filters May Have Little or No Impact on Water Quality

For 95 years, the Plainview Water District has prided itself on its ability to serve the Plainview-Old Bethpage community with nothing but the highest quality water possible. In addition to continuous investments into our infrastructure, the District maintains aggressive sampling and testing procedures that often go above and beyond required parameters.

There are many companies and organizations that try to use scare tactics in getting residents to purchase expensive water filtration systems for their home that may ultimately have little or no impact on their water quality. Treatment is performed, as needed, at each of the District's supply wells to ensure regulatory compliance with all federal, state and local standards. Each one of the District's treatment facilities are designed by professional engineers and approved by the state and local health departments. New York State Health Department Certified Water Plant Operators are employed by the District to operate and maintain the water treatment systems. Water system operations are also monitored 24/7/365 to ensure treatment remains continuous and functions as it was designed.

If a resident is considering the installation of a home water filter, please be aware that home filtration systems must be properly designed and maintained to the manufacturers' specifications. Failure to do so could actually make water quality worse. Any water quality testing that is performed in your home must be completed by a New York State Health Department certified laboratory for accuracy. A home test kit will often provide inaccurate results and cause unwarranted concern.



## Backflow Testing Compliance Reminder



A reduced pressure zone device typically installed at commercial properties.

Now is the perfect time to comply with New York State law and get your backflow device tested. This annual testing, which must be completed by a certified backflow tester, is vitally important to ensuring the continued health and safety of the community's water supply and distribution system. A copy of your completed test must be submitted to the District each calendar year.

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. 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.



# New Water Rates Went Into Effect January 1, 2022

## Lower Your Costs and Protect Our Environment with Conservation!

The Plainview Water District is in the process of investing more than \$54.5 million as part of our five-year capital plan to improve the community's drinking water infrastructure by constructing state-of-the-art treatment systems needed to remove emerging contaminants, such as 1,4-dioxane. In order for the District to perform these necessary tasks, additional revenues are needed to pay for these investments and the significant increases in operating costs associated with them. For the average household using 30,000 gallons of water per quarter, the new rates will result in an increase of \$8.82 per quarter, \$2.94 per month or less than \$0.10 per day.

### Ideas for Water and Cost Savings

- **Replace your standard irrigation timer with a smart irrigation controller.**
- **Follow Nassau County's Lawn Watering Ordinance:**
  - Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
  - Odd-numbered homes can only water on odd-numbered days.
  - Even and non-numbered homes can only water on even-numbered days.
  - Must have a functioning rain sensor or other automatic shutoff capabilities.
- **Confirm your rain sensor is installed correctly and is functioning properly.**
- **Mulch around flower beds to retain additional water.**
- **Use a drip irrigation system to limit water lost through evaporation and improve the amount of water delivered to root systems.**
- **Consider planting drought-resistant shrubs and flowers in your garden.**
- **Avoid watering on rainy days.**

With spring here and the summer months upon us, we want to ensure our residents have the tools needed to help offset these costs by participating in our Preserve Plainview initiative and increase water conservation efforts. Reducing your home's water consumption will help protect our environment and will save you money while keeping your lawn green and healthy.

### Quarterly Water Rates

Consumption (gallons)	2021 Charges	2022 Charges
Up to 8,000	\$16.00	\$18.00
9,000-30,000	\$1.99	\$2.30
31,000-50,000	\$2.40	\$2.60
51,000-70,000	\$2.70	\$2.90
71,000-125,000	\$3.00	\$3.20
Over 125,000	\$3.25	\$3.50
Over 175,000		\$3.80

When irrigation season is in full swing, the number of gallons pumped increases drastically. These increases are directly correlated with excessive use of lawn irrigation systems. We ask our residents to commit to implementing one or several water conservation measures to help us minimize water demand that occurs during the warmer months.

Protecting public health has always been the District's priority. Aside from the capital costs associated with building Advanced Oxidation Process treatment facilities, which are needed to remove 1,4-dioxane, our operating budget associated with running these facilities has increased significantly.

Over the last two years—and projecting for 2022—the increased costs for operating these systems is more than \$2.3 million, or approximately \$766,000 per year. Electricity costs alone have increased by more than a half million dollars per year due to the significant demand for power these systems require and rising costs. Despite these increasing costs, water continues to be the lowest utility bill residents have to pay.

## Sign Up for Automatic Bill Pay

We would like to take a moment to remind our residents about the advantages of signing up for automatic bill pay. Avoid the worry of potentially missing a due date by signing up today. Enrollment is quick, easy, and without a service fee or charge.

For more information, please visit <https://plainviewwater.org/billing/pay-your-bill/>.

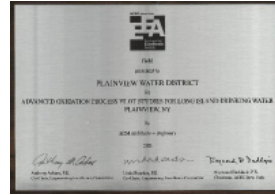


## District and Commissioners Take Home Prestigious Awards

The Plainview Water District is proud to announce that it has received the Gold Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies New York for its work on Advanced Oxidation Process pilot studies done in conjunction with its consulting engineers from H2M architects + engineers. This award stems from all of the hard work put in over the past several years to pilot AOP treatment systems aimed at effective removal of 1,4-dioxane from our groundwater. The initial pilot studies completed allowed the District to expedite the construction of our first, and now sixth, AOP system.

Commissioner Amanda Field was recently recognized by the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association for her tenacity in moving the organization's mission forward during her time as president. In addition to her duties at the PWD, Commissioner Field was instrumental in being a central voice for Long Island water providers as they overcame many challenges presented throughout 2021.

Commissioner Andrew Bader was sworn in following his reelection to the Board of Commissioners for another three years. Commissioner Bader, who first started serving on the Board in 2010, has been committed to serving the highest quality water possible to all of Plainview-Old Bethpage's residents.



## 2021 Annual Water Quality Statement is Available

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 <https://www.plainviewwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/22.04.27-2021-PLWD-Drinking-Water-Quality-Report-FINAL1-3.pdf>. Copies of the report are also 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.

Website  
[www.plainviewwater.org](http://www.plainviewwater.org)

Emergency Phone Number  
(516) 931-6469  
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.

Phone  
(516) 931-6469  
Hours  
Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Superintendent  
Stephen M. Moriarty, P.E.  
Board of Commissioners  
Marc B. Laykind, Chairman  
Andrew N. Bader, Treasurer  
Amanda R. Field, Secretary



PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HICKSVILLE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 175