



# Newsletter

August 2021

## Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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## Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: [hpwatersewer.com](http://hpwatersewer.com)

By Phone: 360-427-2413

## Billing Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm


Thursdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm


Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm via teleconference. Visit our website or contact the office for instructions on how to join. All meetings are open to the public.

*Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is not associated with or governed by the Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association. Please direct water-sewer service related questions to the District.*

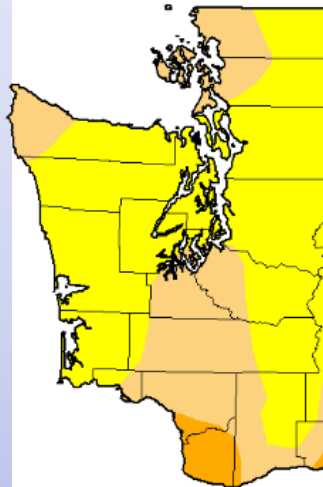
*Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Drought Declared for Mason County

 D0 (Abnormally Dry)

 D1 (Moderate Drought)

 D2 (Severe Drought)



Drought season is here and Mason County was included in the Department of Ecology's drought advisory, along with most counties in Washington State.

There are a number of things we would like the community to be aware of as we push through the upcoming months.

1. Drought brings with it an increased fire risk. Please be careful and help keep the Pointe safe.
2. A drought can leave an aquifer with considerably low water levels. While we believe that the District's aquifer will have adequate supply to withstand the Pointe's usual summer usage, we always urge residents to prudently conserve water.

Learn more at:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?WA>

## Non-Flushable Wipes Fall Under Increased Mislabeling Scrutiny

"Flushable" wipes continue to be a problem dealt with regularly at the wastewater treatment plant. This is a world-wide headache for sewer systems. "Flushable" wipes are such a problem, legislation is being crafted to restrict manufacturers from labeling with the term "flushable."

The State of Oregon has already enacted legislation that requires manufacturers to label wipes as "Disposable" and to add the prominent label, "**DO NOT FLUSH.**"

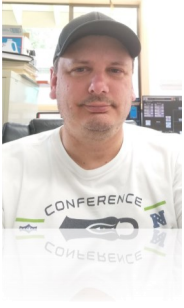
"Flushable" wipes do not dissolve in water the way toilet paper does. It remains intact throughout its journey through the sewer system. Should a wipe make its way to the wastewater plant (wipes often get stuck somewhere, even at a toilet drain connection), treatment staff must pull them out of the headworks and transfer them to the garbage.

Please be part of the solution, dispose of wipes in your wastebasket.

Read NPR's article, *Behold The Fatberg: London's 130-Ton, 'Rock-Solid' Sewer Blockage*, to learn about the magnitude of problems caused by wipes.

# General Manager's Report

## Conserving Water



Most people don't associate the word "drought" with Washington State. We're known for being the Evergreen State, where it "rains 365 days a year." We do experience significant rainfall; we keep track of it and see the impact of increased flows at the wastewater treatment plant (*especially* this last winter!).

But even so, we are now in a State-declared "Drought Emergency." Hopefully, you've noticed our sign regarding it as you enter the Pointe. We are now in the dry time of the year and have experienced record heat recently. So drought was a matter of when, not if.

It's not just here. Places across the country and world are experiencing water shortages. Some areas are already hot, dry climates, but many areas are also seeing strains on their water supply due to population growth, booming development and global warming. Many of these areas are already enforcing water restrictions.

This brings me back to our water system at the Pointe. We are seeing a lot of excess water use. We check our system usage each day. We see what the wells produce daily and we also see how much goes into the wastewater treatment plant, which includes drains inside your homes. Since putting out the sign about the drought, there is approx. 20,000 – 40,000 gallons a day from the wells that is *not* making it to the WWTP. So where is it going? It can be undetected leaks in our lines or in your home, excess watering of plants, pressure washing, washing a vehicle, etc.

The excess use of water, through any means, causes our wells to pump more throughout the day. It's important to remember that water is not infinite. Many areas are seeing wells run dry. While we may like to feel that this is unlikely in our area, no one wants to be in a situation where we find it can happen to us.

So please keep all this in mind as you go about your daily activities. Find ways to cut back on water usage, whether you live here full-time or part-time. If you would like a water audit conducted at your home, please contact our office.

Thanks and enjoy your summer!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

## Look Out for Rate Structure Changes

Commissioners have at length discussed the need to promote conservation and build reserves by way of a change in the District's billing policies.

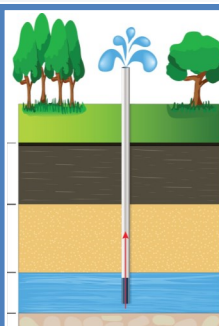
Many residents in the community are great at conserving water, only using what is needed. Still, there are a number of meter connections that regularly consume egregious amounts of water. A change in rate structure will hopefully encourage such residents to take a look at their water usage habits, rather than having surcharges imposed. District staff have noticed increases in the amount of time well pumps are running in order to keep up water levels in the reservoir.

Based on discussions at Board of Commissioners meetings, here's what you can expect:

- **When:** September is the target for billing changes
- **What will change:** Households that consume more than 400 cubic feet of water in a given month will be charged \$5 for each additional 100 cubic foot of water consumed
- **What will not change:** Base Water & Sewer Rates

So, for example, if your household consumes 700 cubic feet of water throughout September, a \$15 surcharge will be assessed on your October bill. If, however, your household consumed 2,000 cubic feet, the surcharge would be \$80, hence there would be an incentive to conserve.

The office received a lot of phone calls inquiring about their typical household's consumption—thank you for your interest in partnering with us to conserve!



### What is an Aquifer?

An aquifer is an underground body of saturated rock through which water can easily move. Groundwater from aquifers can be extracted using a water well. Stressors that deplete aquifers include high water usage, changes in snowmelt patterns, irrigation and other human uses.

### NEED A NOTARY PUBLIC?

Drop by our office!

Many Pointe residents have taken advantage of the District's complimentary notary services.

If you have documents that you need notarized, please don't hesitate to contact us!