



Newsletter

September 2021

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: 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.

District Staff, Commissioners Participate in CPR & Basic First Aid Training

An instructor from Mason General Hospital visited the Pointe to teach CPR and basic first aid to District staff and commissioners. As part of the two-hour course, staff first took an intensive online course in preparation for the class.

Due to the special nature of working in and around water and sewer systems, there is always potential for hazardous situations to occur. The General Manager wanted to ensure everyone received training to learn how to best respond in an emergency situation.

The training was done as part of the District's *Safety Program*. At least once per month, the General Manager leads a safety meeting (typically between 30-60 minutes). These safety meetings are important to promote safety in the workplace (not to mention it's required by Labor & Industries).

The water and wastewater industries present a wide array of potential hazards. Some of the previous safety meetings focused on:

- 1) Safe Handling of Chemicals and How to Identify Potential Hazards
- 2) Confined Space Entry (the District has a number of "confined spaces")
- 3) Operating an Excavator Safely and Properly
- 4) Ladder Safety / Working from High Heights / When to Wear a Hard Hat
- 5) Safety when Working Around High-Voltage Electricity

District staff have a good track record for working safely and see safety training as a tool to keep safety on everyone's mind and to improve safety conditions.

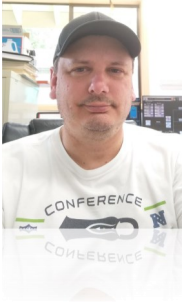
Late Fees & Shut-off Notices to Resume October

Pursuant to the Governor's moratorium on utility late fees and shut-off notices, the District has not assessed late fees or posted shut-off notices since March 2020. This moratorium expires September 30. Beginning in the October 1st bill cycle, the District will resume assessing 10% late fees on accounts with a past-due balance. Shut-off notices with an accompanying \$20 Shut-off notice fee will resume as well.

Should you need time to bring a delinquent account current, please reach out to the District office to make arrangements.

General Manager's Report

Collaborating with ERWoW



As certified operators, we strive to learn as much as possible to perform our job as best we can. But, we must humbly admit, sometimes we need outside assistance. Thankfully, this is available to us from Evergreen Rural Water of WA (ERWoW). What is ERWoW?

From www.erwow.org:

ERWoW provides training and technical assistance to water & wastewater systems throughout Washington State. The field staff works *directly* with systems to solve operational, regulatory, administrative and financial challenges faced by water systems. Our field staff are professionals in the fields of water and wastewater systems operation and maintenance, and source water protection.

The District loves their support and sings their praise. The assistance they offer us is invaluable. We have regular on-site visits from their wastewater tech, Loren, who assists in troubleshooting and repairs. Another tech assists in water treatment and another helps identify how to save electricity. And the Apprenticeship Training Supervisor, who serves many different roles, has even attended board meetings to assist us on a wide variety of issues that water/wastewater districts face and share solutions to address them.

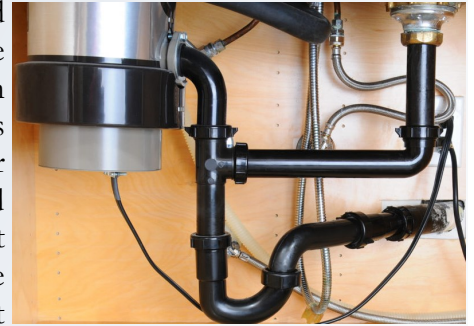
In addition, ERWoW also teaches training classes that we attend, in order to keep our certifications up-to-date. While these classes are not free, they cost much less than similar classes from other organizations.

Recently, I had a phone conversation with Ernie, a senior tech. It turns out, they are also praising us. Surprisingly, not all systems are interested in ERWoW's assistance. We gladly accept their help, listen to their advice and try to make use of their programs. Our Water Manager, Lorenzo, is enrolled in their apprenticeship program, and is able to fast-track getting certifications. Due to all this and ERWoW's direct observation of District Operations, Ernie said we are called their "star children!" We're not looking to brag; we just want to do our job the best way possible. But it was nice to hear.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Protect Your Plumbing: What Should & Should Not Go Down Your Kitchen Disposal

Many household kitchens have garbage disposals installed on their sinks—perhaps you use one at your home regularly. Used properly, this gadget can last a long time and offer convenient




disposal of certain food waste. Although if used improperly, the appliance could be damaged and can cause problems to your plumbing.

While we do not encourage use of disposals (cold water is required and thus wasted to operate), we *do* wish them to be used properly. Here's how:

1. Be careful of what you dispose down the drain—only biodegradables!
2. No greases, oils, fats should go down any drain—including bones to which they stick. They will build up over time and clog pipes.
3. Avoid fibrous materials (e.g. celery, onion skins, et. al.) or potato peels that can bind a disposal's motor.
4. Note: Coffee grounds also can clog pipes!
5. Use a natural sink cleaner/sanitizer to clean (no bleach or other chemicals!). Keeping your disposal clean will keep odors from emitting.
6. Consider composting coffee grounds, egg shells, peels/rinds, husks, etc.
7. Above all, be careful, be safe!

LEARN MORE >>

<https://www.horizonservices.com/about-us/blog/garbage-disposal-dos-and-donts/>



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Reuse/Repurpose dishwater, rinse water, bathtub water for other tasks, such as watering flowerbeds and house plants!"

Look for opportunities to reuse to conserve!"