



Newsletter

We ♥ serving the Pointe!

January/February 2022

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.

“Everyday Chemicals Found @ the Bottom of Puget Sound

Eyes Under Puget Sound — Chemicals in Sediments

Truncated from ecology.wa.gov/Blog/Posts/January-2022/Everyday-chemicals%E2%80%9D-found-at-the-bottom-of-Puget-S

Good morning! Time to get up and wiggle your toes through the carpet, wash up with soap and shampoo, take your daily vitamins, cook your eggs in a non-stick frying pan, and brush your teeth. Later, you pull on your water-repellant jacket and boots and make your way out into the rainy Washington winter wonderland.

In Puget Sound watershed, most contaminants are eventually washed into the Sound’s ecosystem, accumulating over time in water, sediment, and critters. Surveys conducted in the early 2000s indicated that PPCPs & PFASs were indeed present in surface-, ground-, and wastewater. No measurements had been taken from the sand and mud at the bottom of the Sound, so we collected sediments from 2010 through 2019, measuring concentrations and mapping the distribution of 118 PPCPs and 24 PFAS in six urban bays and Sound-wide.

PPCPs include thousands of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, cleaning products, and cosmetics, which are often improperly disposed into sewerage. Forty-three of 118 PPCPs were detected in 3% of all results. Detected PPCPs belonged to 23 chemical action classes.

As citizens, we can each help by learning to identify products which contain chemicals, choosing safer products, and using the most appropriate disposal and waste-handling methods available.

Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

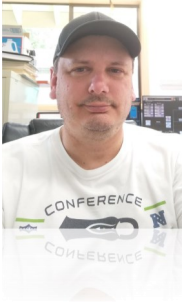
“Keep your home heated, even when away, to avoid freezing pipe bursts—55° is the recommended temperature to be on the safe side.”

Craig Milanowski Welcomed to the Team

Hi, my name is Craig Milanowski. I relocated to beautiful Harstine Island four years ago from Virginia Beach, VA with my wife & 2 beautiful beagles. I worked for Timberlakes HOA from the time we moved here as a Water Distribution Manager and am excited to bring what I learned while working there as I grow into my career here at Hartstene Pointe. I have received such a warm welcome from the commissioners, my co-workers as well as the homeowners & look forward to getting to know the community. I truly look forward to a long career with HPWSD.

General Manager's Report

Controlled Wastewater Spill



Perhaps some of you noticed signs down at the Spit recently about beach closures. Or maybe you saw a news blurb about a “sewage spill.” This irked me a little, as it left out details and so is a little misleading.

You may be familiar with I&I (Inflow & Infiltration). It's when rainwater finds it's way into the sewer system via improperly installed pipes, cracked pipes, illegally plumbed-in sump pumps, etc. The excess water drastically increases the flow into the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Without the rain, daily flows into the WWTP would be around 50,000 gallons; two days the flows were at or over 500,000. Over these 2 days, we had 3.5” of rain along with all the melting snow. Due to this, the flow was coming into the WWTP faster than it could go out. We came out the night of the 6th to keep the basins from flooding over and wiping out the plant. The only thing we could do was a “controlled spill.” This required pumping some of the treated effluent into a storm drain, emptying out into the Sound. This lasted all night long, with a total of 64,000 gallons being pumped out. We don't ever want to do this, however there was no alternative option.

At no point was raw sewage pumped out. It was only our treated effluent, which is mostly rain, disinfected with chlorine. It is what the WWTP normally discharges. The difference is the outfall is 1800' off-shore and 100' deep, and this “spill” was at the beach. That being the case, it had to be reported as a spill to Dept. of Ecology, WA DOH, Shellfish and Mason County DOH. Out of an abundance of safety precaution, they closed off the beach.

Each year, during the rainy season, we have to deal with I&I. Thankfully, this extreme situation is rare. And the good news is, the WWTP didn't get flooded out, saving money in costly repairs.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Staff to Upgrade Security at District Facilities

It is unfortunate that we must think of keeping District facilities and resources safe from vandalism and theft. In recent weeks, there has been such criminal activity reported at various sites in the pointe, including property destruction, breaking/entering and theft of gasoline and other items.



The District already upgraded security across all of its facilities in years past by examining areas of risk and addressing potential vulnerabilities. As part of this, staff installed commercial-grade locks on all points of entry across the facilities. It is especially important that only authorized personnel have access to the water and wastewater systems as they are critical to community health and dangerous chemicals and infrastructure demand proper knowledge of working in these environments and demand proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Security cameras are slated to be purchased and installed. Cameras are not only beneficial to see what's going on when we're not around, but also act as a deterrent.

We encourage everyone to be alert and be safe!

Accountability Audit Report



Office of the Washington State Auditor

Pat McCarthy

The WA State Auditor's Office performs an accountability audit of the District every two years. Two auditors presented the results of the audit of fiscal years 2020-21 to the board of commissioners and administrative staff. The purpose of the audits is to ensure public funds are handled properly and transparently and that business is transacted in accordance with state laws. Auditors are also great educators and look for ways to improve practices. They also look at internal controls and ensure that internal policies are being adhered to.

When auditors discover improper transactions of business or procedures, they issue “findings” in their report and follow up to make sure corrections are made. District staff are proud that the auditors yet again issued no findings. In the report, April writes under *Audit Highlights*, “This audit was conducted remotely, which is challenging for an audit this size. Fortunately you have Joe, who is courteous, prompt, and efficient. It has been a pleasure working with Joe.”