



Newsletter

hello,

JUNE

2022

*it's been a while since
i've seen you last*

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.

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FLUSHING



District staff make sure to set out a sign at the Pointe entrance when flushing of the drinking water system is planned. The crew follows a procedure that sends rapid flows of water through the mains. The process is directional—flushing begins at the District's reservoir and the crew moves through the system until completing the multi-day project at North Beach. This is accomplished by closing off water supply one street at a time, from one end, then opening a fire hydrant or blow off valve to draw water through the main lines rapidly, flushing out sediments that build up over time. The drinking water that initially enters the distribution system is of high quality, but water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. System flushing is a good method of routinely keeping these distribution mains as clean as they can be. Many other water utilities have regular flushing on their preventative maintenance schedules too.

Flushing with great force creates safety hazards, so please keep your distance from a hydrant when operators are exercising one. Staff are only permitted to operate fire hydrants after attending fire hydrant safety training and always practice safety precautions when operating hydrants and blow off valves.

The District is committed to doing its part to provide the best drinking water it can with what it has—if you would like further information on water system flushing, ask us!

What Makes HPWSD Different Than a Private Water Company?

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is a municipal government, more specifically a *special purpose water-sewer district*. Like other government entities (e.g. Mason County, Fire Districts, Cemetery Districts, etc.), an elected board of commissioners governs the population within its boundaries under authority of state law. This District's authority is primarily defined in RCW Title 57.

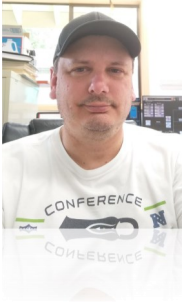
Elected officials craft policy and transact business on behalf of the community they serve. They also budget and monitor finances to ensure the District's enterprise funds are appropriately receipted and expensed. Elected officials, however, are distinctly separate from staff; staff are responsible for day-to-day operations as defined by their certifications and job descriptions. Staff report to the General Manager, not to commissioners.

An important component of government entities is the separation of duties, which helps ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility. As a government, robust auditing and reporting protocols must be followed and the WA State Auditor's Office routinely performs accountability audits to verify that each person, whether commissioner or staff, exercises their duties to the extent of the powers each individual role is permitted.

Reporting tools for each government entity in the state are available with data for you to review @ www.sao.wa.gov

General Manager's Report

What a Year!



It's hard to believe, but May 1st marked my one-year anniversary as GM. And what a year it's been! While still in the middle of the pandemic, we struggled with personnel shortages & transitions. The role of GM is a new experience for me, but I'm glad I took it on. We have challenges here, on both water and wastewater sides. I feel very strongly about bringing these challenges under control.

Of course, I'm not doing this on my own. We have a Board of Commissioners that is very supportive. Joe's been here with me the whole time and I would be utterly lost without him. Craig joined us late last year and has proven to be a great hire. Although unable to find someone to fill the wastewater operator position, we utilize Marty as a contract operator, who provides much needed help. And I don't dare forget to mention the fantastic volunteers that willingly offer assistance.

Over this past year, we have also strengthened our relationship with HPMA. While we are separate entities, we try to cooperate on projects where we can. We even hold monthly safety meetings that Alan and Mark join us for, and we love it!

Looking ahead, we're working to get things operating even better. We're still collaborating with our engineering firm, trying to secure funding to upgrade our water mains, and repair our decades old problem of I&I in the sewer system. We will keep you informed on any progress.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Food from Community Donated to Local Food Bank



Thank you generous contributors to our food drive! Together we collected non-perishable food and other useful items that were donated to the local Pioneer Food Bank.


Let's Talk Lead!

Lead in drinking water became the hot topic in 2014, as the country learned of Flint, Michigan's water crisis. The problem is, little education was offered to inform homeowners of the root cause of lead contamination and how to address the problem when the presence of lead is discovered.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in *household* plumbing. The more time water sits in pipes, the more dissolved metals—such as lead—it may contain, so it may be of particular concern to owners of vacation homes with older pipes (pre-1986).

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking.

You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Remember, most vegetation within the Hartstene Pointe community is drought resistant and requires little to no watering. Please be mindful when outdoor watering and never water the common areas."



Community members shred archives, meet with District commissioners & HPMA committees, donate to local food bank—May 14th