



Newsletter



Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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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 Office Improvements

District staff, commissioners and volunteers continue making improvements across District facilities, particularly to the District office. Our goal is to make the District office feel professional, welcoming and functional. Some of the improvements include replacing fluorescent lighting with energy efficient LEDs, installing an efficient heating/cooling unit and focusing on how to improve office flow.

We also strive to make information as accessible as possible. Pictured at the office entrance, the District's bulletin board was installed, providing contact information, business hours and newsletters. While administrative staff attempt to maintain the posted office hours, due to the nature of working for a utility with a small, cross-trained crew, staff are regularly required to work in the field and may not always be at their desks. If this is the case, please call and leave a voicemail, so that we can assist you.



Staff Complete Q.U.E.S.T. 2.0 Program, Attend ERWoW Conference

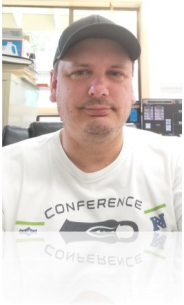
Two staff members who have been studying for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certifications completed all their coursework, taught through Evergreen Rural Water's (ERWoW) Q.U.E.S.T. 2.0 program. ERWoW's teachers are experts in their fields and enjoy sharing their knowledge with newer operators. The program taught about the wastewater treatment industry through intensive classes (virtual and in-person), textbook assignments and on-site tours of multiple treatment facilities to show different types of real-life treatment infrastructures. Students in the program included utility workers looking for cross-training opportunities and also high school students or adults looking to work in utilities.

If you or someone you know might be interested in learning drinking water treatment or wastewater treatment, visit www.erwow.org for more information on their training programs

Staff Attend ERWoW Fall Conference

District staff attended ERWoW's 2022 Fall Conference last week. The conference featured a wide variety of workshops and training. Water and wastewater courses included topics such as cross connection control hazards, revolutionizing sludge dewatering, lead & copper control, control valve hydraulics & control systems, lab accreditation renewal and others. This was not only a great learning opportunity for the staff, but provides Continuing Education Units (CEUs), which are required for operators to retain their certifications. The conference is also a way for operators across the state to network and share ideas with each other. The conference includes a trade show, where industry vendors display the latest technology available to improve operations.

General Manager's Report



I'm sure most of you know that the District purchased a used mini excavator last year. You may have seen one of our operators driving it or using it to dig up a leak. This has proven to be a useful piece of equipment. It has saved money from having to rent one repeatedly, and saves us time, since we always have it nearby. We have used it quite a lot over the past year.

While this is great, there are still occasions when we must contract out to have leak repairs done. This can get expensive. Plus, it's not always easy to find a contractor who has the time.

You may wonder, why do we still contract out some jobs? There can be different reasons for this. We are still a small crew and the scope of work may be too much for us to tackle. We have our day-to-day tasks that must be done to keep the water, sewer and office running. We have a list of to-do items, of varying priority, that we are working on ourselves. And sometimes, the excavation that needs to be done to reach the underground leak is too deep for us to safely attempt.

In July, two workers in Shoreline were repairing a sewer line and were killed when the trench collapsed on them. Just prior to that, in June, a trench collapsed and killed two workers. If proper safety procedures aren't followed, it can cost lives. At this point, we do not have the shoring material to safely do any deep excavations. I've been told "there's so much clay in the soil here, it's stable enough not to need shoring." However, that's not a risk I'm willing to take. I'm not going to risk the lives of my employees, or risk a fine from OSHA. Eventually, I plan to have all the needed equipment to safely do deeper digs ourselves. Until then, we will still use our mini to do some of the shallower digs.

Please be assured, we want to save money where we can. Unfortunately, there will always be those times when we have to spend more money to have work done properly.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Safety on the Job

Many residents are aware that all District staff attend safety meetings at least once per month. The District teams up with HPMA's maintenance crew to educate on working safely and ensuring the workplace is a safe place. Most recently, small brushfire management training was conducted.



In addition to these regular safety meetings, staff actively look for improvements that promote safety. Just installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the pictured life ring. As staff work around the wastewater basins on a daily basis, this could potentially save a life.

At the drinking well treatment facilities, safety signs were recently installed to identify the chemicals used on site. These signs provide more detail about each chemical, how to handle/transport them properly and the potential fire/safety hazards of each.

If you see an opportunity for safety improvements, let us know! We will continue to promote safety at the Pointe.

Water System Flushing



The crew will be performing quarterly flushing September 5-9. A reminder: please give the crew plenty of space so that they can safely perform this task.

You may experience a brief period of low water pressure when flushing is taking place near your property. Flushing is a common practice in a lot of older water distribution systems and helps clean the water main lines, so that we can deliver the best drinking water to your home.



Drippy the Droplet's

Water-Saving Tip:

"If you need to water outdoor plants, consider purchasing a hose timer. This small investment can help conserve drinking water. Plus, you don't

have to remember to turn off your faucet!"