



Dedicated to Service

# Newsletter



## Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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### Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: [hpwsd.org](http://hpwsd.org)

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 in the District Office, 119 E Liberty Rd. 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.*

## 2023 Drinking Water Week: May 7-13

There are approximately 300,000 water professionals employed in the US, and many work both day and night. We may notice these operators repairing a leak or reading meters, but the bulk of their work is performed out of public view – at Well Houses, Chemical Rooms, or at other system facilities. These operators may often feel invisible, or under-valued, even though the work they do is perhaps the most essential for our well-being, for our survival. Nothing was more important during the COVID pandemic than washing our hands...

In 1988, with the support of the League of Women Voters and the EPA, National Drinking Water Week was founded to recognize the work of these men and women who provide safe, reliable drinking water on demand. Much of the 341 billion gallons of fresh water used in the US each day has been treated and delivered by these folks.

Ever since waterborne diseases were recognized and overcome during the 1800's, there's been underwhelming public awareness of a need for, and a demand for, further investment in waterworks – including stormwater and wastewater management. This has made the job of the water operator and system manager more difficult. With pipes buried out of sight and treatment facilities off in the distance, there's rarely a constituency that advocates for upgrades to these systems.

Many significant advancements in the industry go unnoticed and underfunded, although they advance public health in critical ways. Everyone learns about the technological advancements of the newest iPhone, earbuds or Tesla. Advancements in water or wastewater treatment, which are of the utmost importance in everyone's daily life, rarely make it out of the industry trade journals. For decades, the cost of providing clean water to protect health and the environment has risen sharply. **This** is what gets noticed. Yet, implementing federal, state and local regulations (which also address environmental threats) along with the installation of newer technology and replacement of outdated or deteriorated infrastructure, comes with a high price tag. These costs ultimately must be managed by the utility and its ratepayers.

The District is encouraged by federal initiatives to invest in critical infrastructure projects and by the potential for new technology and innovative new jobs in the water industry, along with increased water quality protection. Our community will benefit from all of these.

Clean water remains the key to healthy communities and controlling of the spread of disease. Our District water professionals provide this essential element for our use 24/7!

Thanks team!

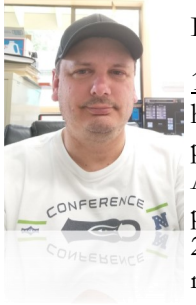
—Submitted by S. Swart as an edited version of Guest Column from Water Online

**Commissioner Seat #1 Term Beginning 2024**

**Candidacy Filing Open May 15-19, 2023**

**More Info: [masoncountywaelections.gov](http://masoncountywaelections.gov)**

## Gratitude for Water Quality



I recently read some facts that surprised me:

1.4 million people die annually and 74 million will have their lives shortened by diseases related to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WHO 2022). Almost *half* of the global population - 3.6 billion people - lack safe sanitation (WHO / UNICEF 2021). Globally, 44% of household wastewater is not safely treated (UN-Water 2021).

Of course, I knew there are poor countries that suffer from this, but these numbers were really shocking. And it's not just other countries: every year from 1982 to 2015, between 9 million and 45 million Americans got their drinking water from a source that violated EPA standards. And for sewage, the EPA estimates that at least 23,000 to 75,000 sanitary sewer overflows occur every year. This is raw sewage that spills before it gets to the treatment plant (not including sewage backups into buildings).

It's hard to believe, in this day and age, that these problems still occur. While the reasons for them vary, it makes me thankful that I live in an area where it rarely occurs. As with many things, it's easy to take this security for granted.

This information makes me more determined not to have it happen here. As with many areas, we have aging systems that we work with. While we are trying to do something about that, it takes time and money. In the meantime, we will continue doing our best with what we have, working to provide water that meets EPA standards, to prevent raw sewage from flowing all over the ground or into Case Inlet.

I am committed to giving you access to these luxuries, that so many lack, but I hope folks won't take these services for granted!

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager

## Is Your Toilet Leaking?

Toilet leaks are not only common, but commonly go unnoticed. You may not see or hear a leak in your toilet, but one can waste more than 200 gallons of water per day. Checking for a leak is easy—here's how:

- 💧 **Remove the lid from the back of the toilet**
- 💧 **Add some food coloring into the reservoir tank**
- 💧 **Wait fifteen minutes, or so, making sure not to flush**
- 💧 **If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak**

A more serious loss of water can occur if a flapper occasionally doesn't fully seat, especially if left unseated while away for an extended period. This leads to increases in water bills. It's worth the time to check for a leak. Fortunately, toilet leaks are oftentimes easily fixed and at marginal costs. Consider checking your toilets for leaks to save water and money.

## Looking for Sewer Cleanouts

Do you know if your home has a sewer cleanout? Today, cleanouts are considered an important part of a plumbing system and is usually required by code for new construction. HPWSD requires installation on all new plumbing systems.



A homeowner's cleanout, or *Sewer Tee*, is an access point between the home's plumbing and the sewer line. Generally, it is a PVC pipe capped six to eighteen inches above ground near the foundation.

If a blockage builds up in the sewer line from a home to the sewer main, a snake or other device can be used through the cleanout to clear the blockage. Without a cleanout, plumbers have to clear sewer lines from a point inside the home, usually a toilet. This is much more inconvenient and costly.

Take a look on your property to see if your home has a cleanout. If a backup occurs in your home, a cleanout is the best point to investigate the problem and clear any blockage.

A lot of older homes don't have cleanouts installed. If this is the case, consider hiring a plumber to install one—it adds value to the home and can prevent future headaches that can result from backups.



Sue's daughter & grandchildren enjoy the GM's tour of Wastewater Treatment Plant last month during their visit to the Pointe ☺



### Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

**"When waiting for hot water to flow from your faucet—whether for hand washing, showering, doing dishes—collect the initial cold water for use**

**later (e.g. plant watering)"**